

THE GRAPEVINE

Faithful Disciples of Jesus,

I pray you are all having a wonderful summer and taking some time to just relax. I love flowers, and about a month ago I had this huge plant growing in my landscape and I wasn't sure what it was. The leaves were huge, the stalks were getting taller and taller and finally blooms began to come out. Once it flowered, I remembered that I had planted Holly Hock bulbs in fall, and this was the fruit of my labor. They are beautiful and I enjoy looking at them every chance I get.

Today I'd like to visit with you about the question I wrestle with, "Why Church?" Why do people attend church? Obviously, there are a multitude of reasons but let me share a few thoughts. Here are scripture passages that shed some light on this question.

Hebrews 10:25, *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

The number one reason to encourage Christians to find a good church is because the Bible instructs us to be in relationship with other believers. If we are part of Christ's body, we will recognize our need to fit into the body of believers. The church is the place where we come together to encourage one another as members of Christ's body. Together we fulfill an important purpose on the Earth. As members of the body of Christ, we belong to each other.

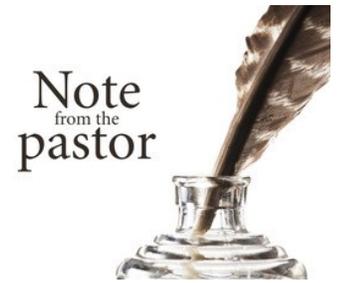
Romans 12:5, *... so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. It is for our own good that God want us in fellowship with other believers. We need each other to grow up in the faith, to learn to serve, to love one another, to exercise our spiritual gifts, and to practice forgiveness. Although we are individuals, we still belong to one another.*

When you give up on attending church, what's at stake? Well, to put it in a nutshell: the unity of the body. Your own spiritual growth, protection, and blessing are all at risk when you're disconnected from the body of Christ. With Christ, there's no such thing as a Lone Ranger Christian.

Jesus Christ, our living example, went to church as a regular practice. Luke 4:16 says, *"He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom."* It was Jesus' custom—his regular practice—to go to church. The Bible puts it like this, *"As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place."* If Jesus made it a priority to meet together with other believers, shouldn't we, as his followers, do so also?

Brothers and sisters, when you are in town, I pray you are coming to church. I can only speak for myself, I come to praise the Lord and I also come because I truly love seeing each of you. Why do you come to church?

Blessings+
Pastor Don



Inside this issue:

Pastor's Note	1
Church News	2
Birthdays	2
Small Groups	3
Music	3
Prayers	4
Shut Ins	4
Ministry Schedule	5



There's a place for you!

Lunch Crew

The Lunch Crew will meet **July 15 at 12:00 pm at Friendship Diner** on Tutor Lane. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your church family outside of the church walls. Join us for good food and great fellowship. All are welcome!

Youth Group

Youth Group meets most Fridays from 6:00-7:30 pm. Please join us as we have dinner, hang out and discuss topics that are important to our youth. All youth, age 11-18 are welcome to attend. Invite a friend!

Youth Group will not meet on Friday July 5. Have a happy and safe Fourth of July!



Evening Bible Study

The Evening Bible Study will meet again **August 6 at 6:30 pm**. We will continue studying the book of Acts. Please contact Diane Meier for more information on joining the Bible Study.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

7/6—Christian Lejman

7/7—Jason Borg

7/7—Christopher Lejman

7/9—Anthony Conapinski

7/12—Aaron Ferley

7/19—Julie Weyer

7/22—Arlene Sellers

7/23—Robert Parker

7/30—Mackenzie Bryant





We Remember In Our Prayers

The family of Myrtle
Sigler
Denise Lane,
George Quarles &
family,
Jennifer Lathrop,
Ken McDonald,
Charlie Littlepage,
Jordan Ivy,
David Mowrey,
Donna Myers,

Sue Boyles,
Lynne Mowrey,
Deb Schade,
June Coslett,
Alice Aiken,
Lynn Wahoski,
Debby Tartell,
Gary Rew,
Kenny Clark,
Leon Meyer,
Darrell M.,

Clifford Schmidt,
Dottie Peteritas,
Jim Brogan,
Kelcie Richart,
John Williams,
Skip Herrera & family,
Arlene Sellers,
Sharon Bieber,
Sharon Cota,
Mary Lou Thayer
& Jan Heugel



Let Us Pray...

Heavenly Father,

This world would deny you and rely on human wisdom in its search for answers, but we will praise you and exalt your name, for we know that you are Alpha, the beginning of all things, and Omega, the end of all things, and everything between.

We have known your healing. We have known your provision. We have known your victory. Our sorrow has turned into dancing and our tears to songs of joy. You are the answer to all who need to know, and we shall bring to you our praise.

Amen.

—Birch, John. The Act of Prayer: Praying through the Lectionary, Bible Reading Fellowship.

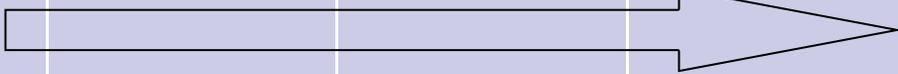
Please Remember Our Shut-Ins and Homebound Members

Arthur Aarstad—*Newburgh Healthcare*
Norma Cobb—*Home*
Jan Heugel—*Protestant Home*
Dottie Peteritas—*Oasis Dementia Care*



July Ministry Schedule

	7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28
Altar Guild	J— Deb Schade T— Linda Larsen & Sue Stuckemeyer			
Usher	Mark Zeller & Bob Parker	Bob Parker & Jim Weitzel	Mike & Judi Chase	Mark & Velda Iverson
Greeter	J— Jon & Sara Watson T— Mark Zeller & Bob Parker	J— Margaret Boyles & Cathy Goller T— Bob Parker & Jim Weitzel	J— Terry & Debbie Garoutte T— Mike & Judi Chase	J— Lee & Judy Hodoval T— Mark & Velda Iverson
Communion Assistant	J— T—	J— T—	J— T—	J— T—
Nursery Attendant	J— Margaret Boyles T—	J— Diane Hawkins T—	J— Sharon Arvidson T—	J— Maria Dennis T—
Lector	LaVon Niehaus		LaVon Niehaus	
Assisting Minister	Sherri Zeller	Mark Zeller	Sherri Zeller	Karen Dunlap
Coffee Hour	Mehne/Johnson	Larsen		Geary
Kids' Church	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray	J— Susan Gray T— Susan Gray
Media Ministry	J— Don Rodd & Barbara Rendleman T— Mike Myers			





St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2300 Washington Avenue
Evansville, IN 47714



Please join us for worship each Sunday
9 am Contemporary Service, 11 am Traditional Service
10 am Coffee Hour/Sunday School