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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

July Events:

- Wed, July 3rd 11:30am – 12:30pm **Picnic in the Park @ Town Square**
- Sat, July 13th 4:00pm Bader Christian Fundraiser with Saved by Grace Concert and meal **(see bulletin board for details)**
- Sun, July 14th 6:00pm Board Meeting
- Mon, July 15th 6:00pm Camp Fellowship @ **Summum**
- Sat, July 27th 4:30pm Peoria **Chiefs Game & Concert**




**WHERE
THE SPIRIT
OF THE *Lord* IS
THERE IS
FREEDOM**



Do you wonder how others view you?

I know for a fact that all of us do this from time to time, while others of us do it all the time. And in some ways I would say that it's okay to wonder that. I mean, would our personal hygiene change if we didn't wonder that? And I think sometimes we make better choices because we wonder about how our actions will affect other's perception of us. But then there is the obviously negative side to this, too. And that is when we make all of our choices be about what someone else might think or someone else might say. And again, there's a certain amount of positive peer pressure that helps guide us, but when we get so caught up into what others might think or how others might react, we don't make good or right choices, either.

I was watching "Instant Family" last night, and I really enjoyed it. I appreciated that it attempted to portray some reality into the situation along with some more emotional 'Hollywood' moments. I related to it, though, as a parent. One particular scene hit me that, as instant parents of three children, the parents in the movie found themselves incredibly overwhelmed.

And as they sit in their bedroom discussing how they're overwhelmed, the dad brings up the idea that they haven't officially adopted these kids yet and they could just put them back into the system. But then the mom mentions how they would look like the worst people in the world and how she loved the part about everyone thinking they were saints now and she didn't want to lose that. To which the dad says they could make a story about how the family of these kids stepped up and took them back and there was nothing they could do about it and then they wouldn't look so awful.

And I'll let you watch the movie yourself to see how it plays out, but it's interesting in that scene how

the pressure of what others think impacts so many of our decisions. And, again, there are good times for that and bad times as well. But it gets tricky sometimes, too, because in watching that movie, I'm not sure whether their decisions was good or bad.

I mean, was it best for them to put the kids back into the system? It might have not looked good, but in the long run, it might have been best for everyone. And so, then, they shouldn't have worried about what others thought.

But maybe what others thought gave them the nudge to keep the kids a little longer and make them love a little harder so that things worked out for everyone.

And I guess that's where our life can maybe intersect with this movie. We need to, ultimately, make decisions that we feel are best for ourselves and our family. They may not be popular, we may look like fools or even wrong, but very seldom are decisions as black and white as we'd like. There is always a story to the decision, and I think it's important for us to remember that.

And so, what I want to leave you with is that above all else, regardless of what we think is right or best in someone else's life, we choose to love. We show grace and we show empathy, not because we agree with them necessarily, but because they are a child of God and they deserve love and respect.

Paul writes in Colossians 3.12, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience." (ESV)

And hearing a person's story allows for these traits (compassion, kindness, humility, etc) to shine the brightest.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Peoria Chiefs Game

We are planning to attend a Peoria Chiefs Ball Game with concert by Austin French on **Saturday, July 27th**. This is for ALL AGES and costs \$9 per seat and only if we have 15 participants (otherwise we'll cancel). We will leave approximately 4:30pm and return home late. Children under 10 need a parent to attend with them (and anyone under 18 needs a permission slip). **Forms and money are due by July 14th.**

LCSC Junior I Camp

Matthew is again co-leading a group of 5th and 6th graders at LaMoine Camp on July 7th-12th. He is asking if anyone would be interested in providing snacks/treats to support the faculty that will be serving along with him (frosted sugar cookies and Red Vine licorice, for example). **Please have items here by Sunday, July 7th by 1:00pm.** Thank you!

Prison Ministry

Brandon Llewellyn is the senior chaplain at Western Illinois Correctional Center and has contacted the church requesting donations for specific items to help his ministry in the prison. The board has agreed to help with a financial donation but we wanted to let others have the opportunity to give as well. Please contact Matthew if you would like more details about how to help.

June Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Jun 2	\$1,301.00	\$26,987.24	\$29,289.38
Jun 9	\$925.55	\$28,288.24	\$30,620.67
Jun 16	\$943.54	\$29,231.78	\$31,951.96
Jun 23	\$1,547.00	\$30,778.78	\$33,283.25
Jun 30	\$1,370.50	\$32,149.28	\$34,614.54
Totals	\$6,087.59		

Prayer List

Tina Althiser (Judy B's friend) – cancer spreading
Tammy Bowman – stage 4 liver cancer
Betty Davis (Joe S' mother) – no procedure
Ashley Griffin – continued back issues, waiting tests
Todd Hamm – cancer treatments
Laurie Martin – hip replacement July 10th
Paul McQuillin (Amy Rice's brother) – hospitalized with infections after surgery
Bill Palmer – eye surgery July 8th
Lori Rodriguez – pain, needs hip replacement, consultation July 3rd
Brandi Rudd – cancer treatments
The Thiner family – relational issues
Terry & Brenda Watkins – treatment recovery
Nora Willis – car accident (doing fine)
Marissa – cancer (Letha Stambaugh's friend)
Hailey (14 y/o friend of Carlocks) – cancer
Patty Chockley's friend – broken back
All law enforcement and emergency services

Condolences:

Family of Terry Lehman
Family of Rosie Grove
Family of mother of niece and nephew of Margaret Miller
Family of Lisa Timmons
Family of Troy Chisum
Ozark Bible College student

Praises:

Sharon Jones – no surgery appointment for a year

Summer Youth Attending Camp*:

July 7-12: Xander Thiner (Matthew Thiner)
July 14-19: Jude Thiner, Jonah Shaw
July 21-25: Madalyn Carlock

*We apologize if we missed any campers