

January 2020

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More Blessed

It's not about you. Or, me. I think we can all agree to that, at least in theory. But in practice? This will be the new theme for the beginning of the new year. We live in a self-centered culture which promotes a lifestyle that does not reflect the Christian faith. It's important for us to see this, for it is very easy to simply become part of the culture. This is an area of life in which we should be counter-culture, it should be obvious to those around us, and lived in an attractive way.

James warned about selfish ambition, "But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. ¹⁵This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing." (*James 3:14-16*). Paul urged unselfishness, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." (*Philippians 2:3-4*).

Here's some areas in which it might be good to ask ourselves if we need a reminder, "It's not about you."

1. Bible reading and prayer in devotions. Whether it's personal or family devotions, if we approach this time with an, "I need to get something out of it," attitude, where do you think we'll end up? What if our attitude was, "I need to give God my undivided attention, and it doesn't matter whether I get moved by a good feeling or not.?"

2. Sunday morning worship service. Some of us, who are hurting, overwhelmed, or feeling beat up, need to just come and drink in from God. I've been there. Others of us may not even realize that we come primarily for what we can get out of it for ourselves. If that's how we come, week after week, we will likely be unhappy with the music, the volume, the lights, the sermon, the people, the temperature, or something else. Shouldn't we come thinking, "God, I come to give thanks and worship to You, to allow You to correct or direct my life in whatever way You choose, and to build up others in their faith.?"

3. Life Group. It's natural to expect to get something out of going to Life Group. What if every person came to bless others? What would your experience be if you chose to be a blessing by praying for each group member, by calling to check up, sharing from your bounty, giving a helping hand, being prepared to share at the weekly meeting, and giving encouragement while there?

4. Ministries. Our brothers and sisters in Christ work hard to provide classes, training, fellowship, and outreach events. It isn't that we need to attend every event that is offered. However, if what we did choose to go to, and our mindset were, "How can I build up and encourage those who are here?", what effect might it have on the impact of our ministries?

5. Christian service. Every week I hear it, "I'm soooo busy." I'm busy too, too busy. I just try not to say it because it's my fault. If I don't have time to show the love of Christ to a needy hurting church member or outsider, I have to ask myself who I'm serving, who I'm pleasing, and who I'm exalting.

Imagine with me what our church would be like if the words of John the Baptist, "He must increase, but I must decrease." (*John 3:30*) dominated our church culture? Don't you think people would feel compelled to return? And then to get involved? I'm all for fun and enjoyment of life. I believe God is pleased to see His people joyful. However, when looking out for our fun takes the place of His will in our lives, it should probably be called idolatry. To the Elders at Ephesus Paul wrote, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (*Acts 20:35*). I have to ask myself if I'm experiencing this blessing? How about you?

Learning the Blessing,

Pastor Dan



January '20

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		December 31st New Year's Eve Party at 18 & 8th 7 pm—midnight Table games for families and those you invite!	1 New Year's Day Office Closed No Awana	2 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg.- 6 pm, NC NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	3 Fusion ~ Districts in Green Bay, WI Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC	4 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K Fusion ~ Districts in Green Bay, WI Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC
5 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1) ~ 9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica Service ~ 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 No Fusion ~ returning from Districts	6 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon	8 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	9 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg.- 6 pm, NC NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	10 Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC	11 Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC
12 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline ~ 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2) ~ 9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica Service ~ 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	13 VBS Leader's Mtg. ~ TBA, NC Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	14 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon	15 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	16 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg ~ 6 pm, LL NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	17 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch ~ 11:15 am T & T Girl's Event	18 T & T Girl's Event Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC
19 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline ~ 9 am Iglesia Biblica Service ~ 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	20 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	21 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon	22 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	23 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg ~ 6 pm, NC NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	24 T & T Boy's Event	25 T & T Boy's Event Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC
26 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline ~ 9 am Iglesia Biblica Service ~ 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	27 Elder Board Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	28 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Library Hours: 10 am- Noon Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	29 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	30 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg ~ 6 pm, NC NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	31 Iglesia Biblica worship practice ~ 5:30 pm, NC	

Happy Birthday!

1 Victor Paske
Bernie Roidt
2 Jeff Wunschel
Crystal Zimmerman
5 Cheryl Hartwig
6 Annie Ranum
7 Craig Tuttle
8 Rachel Jensen
Margie Johnson
10 Kevin Geiwitz
11 Deb Meyer
12 Ronald Bernhagen
Jodi Kegebein
13 Tess Nafzger
14 Carson Montgomery
15 Curt Wyttenbach
16 Shane Figi
18 Sarah Ragan

20 Julia Figi
Amy Haworth
Joram Hurlbert
Erich Krahenbuhl
21 Richard Thoman
Larry Young
23 Gene Schultz
24 Lynn Klitzke
Brinley Roidt
25 Angie Geiwitz
26 Deb Hendrickson
27 Avery Bartelt
28 Tyler Hartwig
Braeleigh Schout
29 Mike Brandenburg
Andrew Ragan
Griffin Ragan
31 Kay Bloom



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6 Tom & Jill Skoumal
17 John & Nicole Bartelt
18 Kevin & Linda Samson
29 Duane & Crystal Zimmerman
31 Ron & Joan Coppes

January 4th
Men's Breakfast
8:00 AM
Nehemiah Center



NEXT STEPS

*Step 2 (2 parts)
"Our Core Beliefs"*

*Sunday, January 5th &
Sunday, January 12th ~ 9 am,
Lower Level Room 100 (room directly
at the bottom of the stairs)*

**This class is required
for membership.*

Sign up at the Welcome Center!



Pizza Hut
Birthday Lunch:
Friday,
January 17th
11:15 AM



Currently Missions Ministry has started preparations for our short-term mission trip to Guatemala in July, 2020. This year our team will construct a playground, coordinated through *Kids Around The World*, at a church in Aldea Los Gonzalez, Montana Xalapan. This has become a reality only because of your hard work and financial investment during several years of various fundraisers to pay for the playground. THANK YOU! Please continue to pray for this mission trip. Only a few can physically go, but we all can play a part in spreading the Gospel through prayer and support of the team.

January is often a time when we reflect on our lives and resolve to make improvements. Perhaps you are being nudged by the Holy Spirit to do better at carrying out the Great Commission by supporting missionaries who have answered the call to serve God. But, after looking at your family responsibilities, checkbook, and calendar, you wonder what you can do. One of the ministries supported by MBC is Shepherd's Home in Union Grove, WI. They recently suggested some very simple ways we can help their ministry. Perhaps one or more of these ideas will work for you. If you shop on Amazon, register with AmazonSmile.com, and select Shepherds Ministries. A portion of your purchases will be donated to Shepherds at no additional cost to you! If you are a Thrivent Financial member with Choice Dollars to direct, Shepherds College is an eligible option. Call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice". And finally, if you need to purchase a gift for someone, consider a succulent gift box at diyflowermaven.etsy.com. DIY Flower Maven now donates \$1 to Shepherds per gift ordered. A lot of us doing a little can make a difference for ministries like Shepherds Foundation.

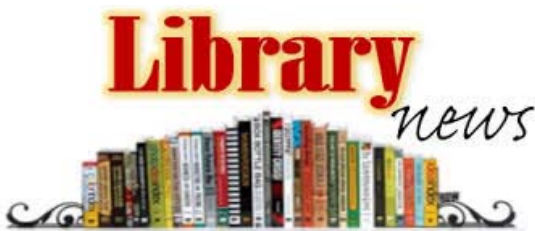
If you are interested in joining the Missions Ministry, we meet once a month. Please contact Crystal Zimmerman at 608-214-6794, or searezimmerman@yahoo.com if you'd like to come to a meeting.



Pipeline Marriage Class Begins January 19th

The primary purpose of marriage is to reflect God's glory to a watching world. How are you doing? While we may try repeatedly to do our best, this is not always an easy thing to do with our natural bent to sin. With the added demands and daily stresses placed on each of us, our spouse and our marriage relationship too often gets neglected. That's why we need regular fellowship and encouragement from our brothers and sisters in Christ, and an occasional reminder and a boost from special biblical resources to keep us on a God honoring path.

For 6 weeks, January 19th through February 23rd, we will discuss a variety of marriage and relationship related topics. Our top priority must be maintaining an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. We will discuss how to resist the all too common marital drift toward isolation, how to maintain good communication, ideas to help with the resolution of inevitable conflict, granting forgiveness, and several more. Please mark you calendar and plan to join us for this class at 9 am in the Nehemiah Center. Be encouraged, God is faithful!



A reading program will be implemented in the library soon! It will be a read aloud, with a twist. We'll have kids reading to adults. We'll need two different sets of volunteers—children volunteers to read to the adults, and adult volunteers willing to be read to. Please sign up at the Welcome Center starting January 1st if you would like to be read to, or if you have a child who would like to read. Please contact Amanda Ohlrich with any questions: 719-339-5366.

Israel 2020

Interested in touring Israel with Pastor Dan and Jennifer? Visit <https://www.israelbibletrips.com/monroebiblechurch> for trip details. Choose the 9 or 12 trip and click View itinerary to see what's included. From there you can sign up for either the 1 payment or monthly payment option.

Women's Get Together

Saturday, February 1st, 10 am—2 pm

Cheryl Hartwig will give the speech she shared at the 2019 Women's Retreat, "Love Over Offenses".

Come for a time of fellowship, lunch will be provided.

Contact Jane Thoman at 608-214-9660 with questions

Mark Your Calendars!

Kid's Page

Winter Word Search



COAT
COLD
FROST
ICE

IGLOO
SCARF
SNOW
WINTER



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“STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God's many blessings.



What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God's continued goodness.



Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.



So _____ the _____.
 the _____ the _____.

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV