



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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All volleyball-heads are invited to head for the LSCA gym this Sunday after youth groups and adult study. Adults will have priority on the court, but we'll make sure kids have fun too.

Which is more important: listening to a biblical sermon, personal Bible study, or studying the Bible in a small group? Trick question.

Obviously I believe in the importance of good biblical sermons. I've spent over forty years trying to craft them and deliver them. When Paul asks, "How shall they hear without a preacher," I believe he's stressing the importance of hearing the Word of God proclaimed.

However, when he tells Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved to God," I think he has personal Bible study in mind. And when Luke commended the Bereans for "Examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so," he was commending them for studying the Scriptures together. So all are important, and the question that needs to be asked is, are you doing all three?

The value of group Bible study was again made very evident at last week's Wednesday night Bible Study. We are studying Romans, and are currently in the 7th chapter. When we got to the statement, "When the commandment came, sin became alive, and I died; and this commandment, which was to result in life, proved to result in death for me;" Casey spoke for most of us when he said, "I don't get it!"

That led to a lot of productive discussion about what it meant, and a conclusion that did make sense. That discussion then led to a discussion about the distinction between the Law and commandments, which was concluded when Chris noted that Paul was still talking about a specific commandment, "You shall not covet," not making a general statement about the Law and commandments. And that led to Carole sharing something she found online about the supposed distinction between God's Law and the Mosaic Law. We agreed the statement was off-based because it ignored the fact that Moses didn't write laws, he simply relayed God's Law to His people.

I hope you get the point. If you are not currently studying in a group, you need to get in one.

God Bless, Rick

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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School

9:15 AM
10:45 AM

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

STATISTICS

Worship 115
Offering \$5,578.17

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – 2/26/17

Greeters Will & Sara Bartels
Visitors' Stand.... Lee & Schar Zimmerman
Communion Meditation..... Paul Hunley
Mark Huber
Ushers..... Jeff Edmiston
Bill Carroll
Chris Luzio
Scott Bales
Will Bartels
Rich Mann

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Kristin Polley
..... Courtney Bales
Infants Nikki & Anna Hunley
Sunday School
Toddlers Julie Divjak
Infants Dixie Williamson

Let Us Pray For...

--Bob & Dixie Williamson's grandson having MRI.
--Darrin Burdinsky and family at the passing of an uncle.
--Beryl Reese's neighbor in hospital with blood clot in lung after heart surgery.
--Brad Stirmell and family at the passing of his grandmother.
--Customer and friend of Gary Gredzieleski with cancer.

Life of Christ

We discussed the events of one banquet held in Galilee last week, and this Sunday at 6:30 we move on to another, even larger banquet. In chapter 14 of *Life of Christ* we will be looking at the loaves and fish that were multiplied, and The Bread of Life who performed the miracle.



Junior High Students

Tina and I are so looking forward to our time together at this year's Believe Conference which is a week from Friday! So far, we have 10 from our class who have registered. What a great group! So, here are some details concerning the weekend of March 3rd & 4th.

For all who are going, let's meet at the Huber house at 4:30pm on the 3rd. Please bring any overnight supplies you will need along with a sleeping bag and pillow. We will drop them off at the house where we will be crashing that night and then start our journey towards the conference. Along the way, we will stop for a bite to eat at a fast food restaurant, most likely Dairy Queen, which is our tradition. After being energized with tons of sugar, we will go praise our Lord at the Prairie Capital Convention Center with over a thousand other believers! Woo Hoo!!!!!!!

We will have breakfast for you at the house Saturday morning, but you will also need money for our lunch out together on Saturday after our praise, worship and learning time that morning. The afternoon session concludes at 4pm so assuming they are on time, please have your ride ready to pick you up at our house around 4:30.

Then, we get to live out what we have learned. This year, we will be studying the 9th chapter in 1 Corinthians. I would encourage you to read it a couple times through before our conference so we can thoughtfully discuss and then apply our learning to our lives!



4th & 5th Grade Students

Your weekend is fast approaching too...Our exciting weekend of worship is scheduled for March 10 & 11 in Bloomington. The cost is \$45 plus money for meals, a recreational activity currently in the planning stages, and souvenirs if something catches your eye.

We will be leaving the church at 4:30 on the 10th and returning by 5pm on the 11th. If you haven't signed up yet, there is still plenty of room! Also, feel free to invite a friend from school, I would love to meet them!



High School Students

After trying to coordinate everyone's busy summer schedule, the best option for our week long summer conference is July 23-29 in Cleveland, Tennessee. It will be our longest road trip to a MOVE conference (8 hour drive) but it will be worth it! We will just speed through the familiar cornfield of Illinois and get to the beautiful hills of Tennessee. It will be a great trip!

I do know that we will be leaving that Sunday after church and returning the afternoon of the 29th. Other than that, we can wait for more details as we get closer. I just wanted you to hold that week in your schedule so you can participate in this great week of worship with us. Please be thinking about attending and let me know over the next few weeks so I can make reservations. This particular MOVE conference is \$299 for the week. I'm looking forward to working through the details with you as we get closer to CIY MOVE!

GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

On one hand, everyone is enjoying this warm spell for February. On the other hand, we had some bummed out High School kids who wanted to go snow skiing this past Monday. I was so pleased that our alternative adventure, a day trip to St. Louis, proved to be a suitable replacement. It might not have quite reached the level of snow skiing, but boy did our group have a good time.

Our first stop was the Galleria where a couple individuals proved to have some serious skills when it comes to finding bargains, except for Connor who paid full price for some sneakers. But hey, it was an impulse buy, we've all done that! Then, we were off to try an Escape Room....

This proved to be the highlight of the day. Our task was to gather clues throughout a room, unlock a series of drawers and cabinets until we finally saved the day at Busch stadium by turning the lights back on. In this scenario, the lights mysteriously went out during a Cardinal/Cub game and if we didn't get them on within an hour, the game would be moved to Wrigley Field which would be HORRIBLE!!!!!!

We successfully turned the lights back on with 5 minutes to spare. Afterwards, everyone was raving about how much fun they had solving the puzzles and working together as a team. As one body, we talked through different clues. Within the group, everyone had a voice and every idea was explored. No thought was brushed off as insignificant and there was no individual superstar. Instead, we worked together as one unified group to meet our goal.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul has also directed the church to be unified under the Lordship of Christ. He stresses this in 1 Corinthians 1:1-17 and again in Ephesians 4: 1-6. Together, all of us perform the functions of various body parts united under the headship of Christ. We are stronger together and can accomplish more for the kingdom as a unified body with Christ leading the way. I am thankful for the local body of Christ.