

CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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Sunday Worship Service
Bible School
9:15 AM
10:45 AM

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

I certainly didn't expect 12 inches of snow on Saturday when last week I encouraged you to make the decision to come to church every Sunday, and not just decide on Sunday mornings whether to come or not. Obviously there are times when prudence calls for a decision not to come on a Sunday. I certainly wouldn't want you to throw caution to the wind and put yourself or your family in danger by coming to church if the weather is such that you wouldn't go to work if it were a Monday. There is a time to just stay home, and thank God for a safe place to be.

And let me assure you that if the parking lot hadn't been cleared, and we thought it wasn't safe for you to come, we would have added the name of our church to the list of cancellations, and I would have found someone who knows how to post it on Facebook.

As it was, however, I was certainly delighted by the 78 hearty souls who ventured out last Sunday. And in spite of the fact that I forgot prayer time, left many scratching their heads and sent Jeni to the internet in the middle of my sermon searching for the meaning of "sanforized", and we got the wrong words on the wall for the second verse of the communion hymn, we had a great time in worship on a snowy Sunday morning. And Dixie actually thought my "You can be circumcised, baptized, and sanforized, and still not get into heaven" comment was funny.

Attendance on Sunday night was also less than usual, but it may not have been entirely the snow's fault. I announced on Sunday morning that we would be looking at an article from *Touchstone* on how to talk with your kids about the birds and bees in my adult class. Obviously those without kids or grandkids had a good reason to stay home on a cold Sunday night. If you do have them, however, and weren't here, I've got copies of the article in my office.

As you know, I often find good articles in *Touchstone*, and I've included another one I found while on the elliptical at FitClub last week inside. Be sure to check out the observation that was included in the Quodlibet (Whatever) department.

God Bless, Rick



THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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MidWinter Retreat 2019

MULTIPLY

High School Students from around Central Illinois will gathering at LSCA this weekend. Please keep them in your prayers as they worship, learn and fellowship together.

STATISTICS

Worship 78
Offering \$2,860.79

SERVING THIS SUNDAY-1/20/19

Greeters	Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Visitors' Stand	Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation	Chris Luzio
Ushers	Kirk Polley Jake Divjak Otto Huber Paul Hunley Kent Ballard Jeff Edmiston Gary Gredzieleski
WORSHIP NURSERY	
Toddlers	Nikki & Carter Hunley
Infants	Janice McLaughlin Nicole Moore Abbie Divjak
Sunday School	
Toddlers	Rhonda Luzio
Infants	Julie Divjak Dixie Williamson

The Hidden Word

EXODUS 20:2-3

"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before Me."

DON'T PHONE HOME

Rick and Marilyn have finally unplugged their home phone, so they can no longer be reached at 483-3693. Rick's cell is 836-4971 and Marilyn's is 725-3692.

love Thy Body

"The average age that a boy encounters pornography is nine years old. By the time he is an adult, he has been consuming porn for more than a decade. How does that affect his relationships with real women?"

This and other related concerns will be discussed this Sunday evening at 6:30.

QUODLIBET

(Whatever)

"Although others have doubtless made this observation, I haven't found it, so I put it down here: There is too much written about what the partners *bring to* marriage in terms of their previously developed individualities, as though these were a permanent feature of the union. It's not good to look at it that way, for once married, the two individualities are subsumed in a unity described in the Bible as 'one flesh.' Once the marriage is accomplished, they are *one* and the unitary organism is *new*. The husband and wife would do well to think of it that way as much as they can.

Every post-nuptial action of each toward the other is part of a new beginning, the laying of a foundation and erection of a superstructure of something that will have more or less beauty and stability, depending on the care that goes into the work. For the married, the individualism of their former lives should be reckoned as over, and they should concentrate on the new work. There is the likelihood, if marriage is done well, for a result much greater than the potentialities carried into it on the two original pieces."

—S. M. Hutchens
Touchstone



There has been a glitch in plans for our annual Sweetheart Banquet. Corey and Nicole had such a good time planning our program last year that they planned on doing it again this year. But Corey is now going to be out of town the week of the 14th, and the date for Aden's impending surgery is unknown. We are therefore looking for a couple to plan the after dinner program. Two free meals will go the first couple to volunteer.



PAINT NIGHT PARTY



Jr. High & High School Girls

Jeni Sperry is hosting a painting party on February 15th at 7pm. It will be either at the Sperry home or the church depending on the size of the group. The picture is still to be determined, but you will be painting on a 11 x 14 canvas and the cost will be \$15 per person. If you are interested in attending, please text Jeni as soon as possible so she can make the necessary arrangements.



There are sign up sheets on the wall for the student spring conferences. Both Believe (Jr. High) and SuperStart (4th & 5th Grade) will be held over the weekend of March 1 & 2. The discounted early registration fee is good through February 1st. Also, there are opportunities for kids to earn scholarship money to offset costs as fees continue to rise. Please see me if you would like to discuss this further.



Even though the beloved Chicago Bears will not be in the Super Bowl this year, we still plan to gather at LSCA for fellowship, food and games on February 3rd. Mark it in your calendars and hope to see you there!

GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

I don't know if I like snow or not. It sure is beautiful to wake up to a fresh blanket of undisturbed snow across the yard and neighborhood. A snow covered mountain or scene in the countryside is breathtaking, pure and a pleasure to observe.

But then I think of shoveling. Many of us spent hours outside this weekend shoveling the beautiful white stuff into piles in our front yard. And then there are the snowplows which deposit a formidable snow barrier at the end of the driveway causing even more work to do in the cold. It's a lot of work to clean up after a snow, but necessary.

Sin, like an occasional snowfall in Central Illinois, is inevitable. It is going to happen at some point. Romans 3:23 makes that clear, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The sin often looks beautiful, tempting at first, but behind that beauty is nothing but pain and sorrow.

Like the snow on our driveway, we have to get sin out of our life as soon as possible. The more you leave it unattended, the worse it gets. It starts to harden the heart. We become used to the sin and before we know it, we are falling away from God. We can even get to the point where we stop noticing the sin and it becomes a normal part of our life.

So, let's shovel it right out of our lives as soon as possible! Let's get it out of our lives before it turns to ice and hardens our heart. The warmth of God's love, His forgiveness through Jesus, can thaw any freezing heart. If you have identified any sin accumulation in your life and are ready to shovel it out, repent! This is exactly what Peter told the crowd to do in Acts Chapter 2. "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Occasionally, we all need to get out our shovels.