

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

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Chatham, IL
Permit No. 9

One of the greatest blessings of group Bible study is gaining insight from one another. And I was surely blessed last Wednesday.

We were studying in the 14th chapter of Romans, which begins: "Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions." At first the general feeling was that Paul was talking about someone who is new to Christianity, and whose faith is therefore immature. One who perhaps might not understand there is no longer a need to observe some of the restrictions found in the Old Testament.

Eventually we broadened it a bit, and focused on the fact it had to do with opinions, and that perhaps the point had less to do with the immaturity of one's faith, and more on the matter of personal convictions. Those convictions might come from a lack of understanding of what the Bible has to say, or they may simply come from a feeling that something might not be pleasing to God. Either way we are to accept the brother or sister without passing judgement on their opinion, or looking on them with contempt for refusing to eat something or observing a day differently than we do. And vice versa. Bottom line is that we're not to sit in judgment over how someone chooses to honor the Lord.

That seemed to answer most of the questions that arose from the first 12 verses, but I still had a question about verses 7-9. Sure, it is true that if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord, but why did Paul insert that in the midst of a passage about accepting a brother whose opinions differ from our own? I had tentatively decided that perhaps he was simply indicating that these weren't matters of life and death, and we shouldn't make such a big deal about them. But before I could share my thoughts, Rich asked Caroline to share something she had gone through with a friend.

Caroline proceeded to tell about the death of good friend who refused blood transfusions because of her Jehovah's Witness beliefs. Caroline had done her best to convince her friend that a transfusion was not a violation of God's will, but she couldn't change her mind, and she died.

Wow! Now I understood that Paul may very well have been saying that even if someone held to an opinion that led to his or her death, if it was done to honor the Lord, it's not our place to stand in judgement of their conviction.

If that's the case, it should be obvious that differing opinions on eating, drinking, and the way we might choose to celebrate a day should never divide us. God Bless, Rick



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All-Church Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner

Everyone is invited to our annual Thanksgiving Pot-Luck Dinner to be held this Sunday evening. The turkeys have been promised, so others coming are encouraged to bring sides or desserts at 5:00. While the serving tables are being arranged, those who desire to do so will be given the opportunity to help decorate the church for Christmas.

At 5:45 we will meet in the auditorium for a skit presented by our teens, for a hymn or two, and for a time of giving thanks.

Help with clean-up will be appreciated.

STATISTICS

Worship 143
Offering \$4,688.50

SERVING THIS SUNDAY--11/19/17

Greeters Will & Sara Bartels
Visitors' Stand Gary & Lori Gredzieleski
Communion Meditation Doug Marlow
Chris Luzio
Ushers Paul Hunley
Scott Bales
Duane Carrell
Kirk Polley
Jack Ruebush
Jim Trimberger

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Kelly Donaldson
Kate Sperry
Infants Marilyn Wenneborg
Anna Hunley
Sunday School
Toddlers Rhonda Luzio
Infants Kileen Huber
Dixie Williamson

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY-11/26/17

Greeters Brad Stirmell
Visitors' Stand Judy Marlow
Communion Meditation Doug Marlow
Chris Luzio
Ushers Paul Hunley
Scott Bales
Duane Carrell
Kirk Polley
Jack Ruebush
Jim Trimberger

WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers Janet Polley
Jake Divjak
Infants Dixie Williamson
Vicki Small
Sunday School
Toddlers Rhonda Luzio
Infants Kristin Polley
Jeni Sperry

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK

BLOOD DRIVE
Chatham Community
Sponsored by Chatham Christian Church
Saturday, November 18
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Choice of gift card or long-sleeve T-Shirt for all presenting donors!
www.bloodcenter.org/giving

SEASON OF GIVING

CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER | www.cicbc.org



Let Us Pray For...

--Karen Mann's nephew who has complications from C.P. and whose life is being extended by a ventilator.
--Family of Pete Langheim who passed away after falling and breaking his hip.
--Family of Lisa Wise, retired Kindergarten teacher, who passed away from cancer.



There are only 3 Sundays left of practice before the Christmas Play on December 10th! This Sunday, while the adults are decorating the church, Jeni plans on gathering the kids for a quick practice before the dinner. Keep up the good work kids!



Service Day

On Saturday, November 18th, LSCA is hosting a Service Day to complete some final projects before winter. If you can serve the camp in this important way, please plan on a quick meeting at 8:30 in the dining room over breakfast and coffee. Then, off to work! Please bring a rake and a pair of gloves in case you are needed outside. If you have free time and enough energy, lunch will be provided around noon. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call!



Starting on Friday, November 24, LSCA will be offering Christmas trees as a fundraiser for the new property, Cypress Cove. All the funds raised will go toward the monthly payment on the three year contract for deed.

The trees will be available as supplies last and will be located in the steel tent across from the main offices. In addition to the Scotch Pines and Frazer Firs available, there will be a bonfire, cookies, cocoa and hay rack rides available for the family to enjoy while picking out your special tree. Please see the camp website for dates and times so you can plan this holiday outing for the family.

GOOD NEWS ACCORDING TO MARK

Raking leaves can be tiring, somewhat monotonous as you fill 56 bags of leaves during an afternoon. I am thankful we had a great turnout of kids to help with our service project. Even with all the help, it still took us over three hours of steady raking to finish the project. Our run to Steak and Shake was well earned as everyone was STARVING when we finished.

As Rick stressed on Sunday, obeying the Lord's commands we find in scripture is so important in our walk with the Lord. One of those commands is to love our neighbor. Serving others, either in small or large ways, acts upon this love. The bonus for me, is that while doing so, I get to spend time with the wonderful kids of our church. They are a true blessing from God.

While filling a bag of leaves with Lily Divjak and looking over to a nearby house already decorated for Christmas, she commented on how it bugs her that people seemed to skip right over Thanksgiving and focus on Christmas. So true Lily! Not only people, but due to the commercialization of Christmas, stores have already put up multiple isles of Christmas items overshadowing the few Thanksgiving items for sale.

Thanks for your reminder Lily to pause and be thankful for all God has done in our lives, physically and spiritually, before we get caught up in the craziness of Christmas. As we gather with our families for Thanksgiving dinner, let's all focus on what Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 where he says, "Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." We learned Sunday that we can go to the Word to uncover God's will and here in Thessalonians is a portion of it! In everything give thanks! I pray we all enjoy our family time and time with the Lord this Thanksgiving.