

### Applying Bible Principles:

Under the Old Testament economy, people were required to give to God because this was also the means of providing the government. A theocracy was in place then, which meant that government was actually operating under the direct authority and leadership of God Himself.

Today, we are under a different economy. However, we are still required to support the government. We may not like the way the government operates. We may not agree with the policies of our governmental leaders. We may not even like the political process or the individuals involved in it.

But God says that is not the issue. The issue is one of obedience. He says we are to pay our taxes to whom “taxes are due” (Romans 13:7). In spite of all the ills of government, God says that governmental agencies and government leaders are His “servants” and that they operate for our ultimate “good.”

So the question is not whether we agree with or even support the work and activities of our governments at the local, state and national levels. The question is one of whether or not we will obey God. You see, it’s relatively easy to sing, “Oh, How I Love Jesus.” It’s far more difficult to demonstrate our love for Him by yielding to Him in full and complete obedience, especially when His commands are ones we do not care for — like paying our taxes.

If He is in charge, if He is Lord of our lives, then we will do what He tells us to do. As the little chorus states it so clearly, “I’ll say, ‘Yes,’ Lord, ‘Yes,’ to Your will and to Your way; ‘Yes,’ Lord, ‘Yes,’ I will trust You and obey.” Even when it comes to paying my taxes? Even when it comes to paying my taxes!

“Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21).

## Katie's Korner:

**Judges:** It's kind of like watching the students at sporting events during the halftime show, especially at events where the wave just isn't good enough anymore. Rather, students break out the synchronized roller coaster. With each new "judge" the same pattern is ridden. There is a slow increase in the sins of the people, a quick downward rush as God's anger burns, and some twisty turns as prayers are lifted and a leader emerges from the people. Then the ride stops, and the next story begins - characters change, but again, the story goes up, down, and over. Will the ride end?

**Snippets from Judges 10:6-16:** "6 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord. They served ... (many other gods and) ... the gods of the Philistines. And because the Israelites forsook the Lord and no longer served him, 7 he became angry with them. He sold them into the hands of the Philistines and the Ammonites, 8 who that year shattered and crushed them. For eighteen years they oppressed all the Israelites... 10 Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord, "We have sinned against you, forsaking our God and serving the Baals." 13 [God said] But you have forsaken me and served other gods, so I will no longer save you. 14 Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen. Let them save you when you are in trouble!" 15 But the Israelites said to the Lord, "We have sinned. Do with us whatever you think best, but please rescue us now." 16 Then they got rid of the foreign gods among them and served the Lord. And he could bear Israel's misery no longer."

This continuous coaster ride is ridden again and again. Yet, when it does end, God ends it by being merciful to his people. We too ride this roller coaster that the Israelites rode. We choose to trust more in our own gods than in God alone. Whether it is technology, money, family, possessions, etc. our tendency is to trust in those things, hope in those things even. Our thoughts are that medical advances will heal, not God's hand heal through them. Or income is a security, when God really is the only solid foundation we can truly ever be assured of. Family will always be there for you, accept you and understand you. These are just a few of our hopes, a few of our misplaced trusts. But when we realize God is the center of our life - of everything, then he is merciful unto us.

A prayer: God, help me to see and worship only you. I thank you for your mercy when I do not. Amen.

## Dates to Remember:

- 4th Sunday - Sunday School will sing and youth will be providing Doughnuts during coffee fellowship.
- Next Community Men's Fellowship Group, March 2nd at 9:00am. Coffee and food items to be provided.
- Thrivent members, you have until March to direct your Choice Dollars to Leganger! There are dollars each year that are not directed! Take advantage of this free money for the organization you choose.
- Ash Wednesday is on February 14th at **7:00pm**.
- Lenten services will also be at **7:00pm**.
- Lenten services will be led by other ELCA leaders alongside Pastor Katie. Pastor Erika Lehman leads 2/21 and 3/13. Pastor Dayna Weltzin leads 2/28. Pastor Katie leads 3/6 & 3/20. All of these worships will be at Leganger.
- Meals will be provided before Lenten worships starting at **6:00pm**. The Lenten meal schedule is as follows:
  - 2/21 – Council.
  - 2/28 – Leganger Ladies.
  - 3/6 and 3/20 – Youth.
  - 3/13 – Leganger Men.
- 3/28 - Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7:00pm.
- 3/29 - Good Friday will be at 8:30pm.
- 3/31 - Easter Morning Worship will be at 7:30 am.



### Caring and Sharing:

\*reminder weekly cleaning, serving coffee fellowship and ushering

- **On for February Caring and Sharing, Group 3: *Ruth Lenning and Holly Lunden chairs*** Harlan and Ruth Lenning, Troy and Betsy Lenning, Warren and Holly Lunden, Haley Lunden, Hannah Lunden, Josh and Jackee Lunden, Bryon and Sheila Monnier, Jordan and Kelsey Monnier, Christopher and Nicole Monnier, Riley Monnier, Todd Hanna, Linda Grimlie, Kelli Franken, Kristen and Jeremy Hunter, Betty Steinmetz, Anita and Steve Knutson, Ross Quail, Jaimee and Erick Froiland, Johnny Roelofsen, Carly Bergstadt, Jenna Petersen
- **On for March Caring and Sharing, Group 1: *Lori Jorenby chair*** Lori Jorenby, Mark Jorenby, Karen Jorenby, Gary and Tracy Bandemer, Mason and Ryleigh Bandemer, Daniel and Gayla McKibben, Scot Rymerson, Nick and Laura Kuntz, Carie Knutson, JoAnn Horner, Barb Mohror, Arlene Bird, Nancy Meyer, Jim and Lynn Slaney, Tony Knutson, Logan and Haley Jurrens, Kelly and Katie Sieve, Cory and Heather Quail, Lonni Potts, Tammy Morris, Stacy Collins

### Ladies of Leganger Notes:

Leganger Lutheran Church Women meet on February 7th for Bible Study and regular meeting. Meg read last month's minutes in Ruth's absence. Lori led the meeting and read the treasurer report. She had checked with the schools and they have funds but the Deubrook Backpack Program needs assistance with food prices rising. Betty made a motion which Sharon seconded to give \$500 to that program. Motion passed. Meg will look into additional banners to augment our new ones, to be reimbursed by the LLCW. Quilters reported that 57 quilts were taken to the Church on the Street in Sioux Falls last week. Also both brides-to-be and one of this year's graduates have picked out their quilts. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and table grace. Lori was hostess today. Next meeting is March 6th with Carie as hostess. Meg Thomas secretary pro-tem.

### Reminder:

The church office is in need of your contact information  
Please email info to leganger@itctel.com

### Deacons Report:

We express our gratitude to Warren for his past three years as a Deacon and we welcome Carie! We will continue to provide unwavering support to Pastor Katie in her sacred roll at Leganger. We look forward to 2024 and share a forgiveness message this month.

Forgiveness, a cornerstone of Christian teachings, is a powerful force that sets us free from the burdens of resentment and allows us to embrace the love of God more fully. In our journey together, let us remember that forgiveness is not just an act but a way of life. As a family, we are called to forgive as we have been forgiven, extending grace and understanding to one another.

In this family of believers, we are bound by a common purpose and a shared commitment to Christ. Like any family, we may encounter moments of disagreement or misunderstanding. Yet, it is precisely in these moments that forgiveness becomes a transformative force. Let us approach each other with open hearts, ready to forgive and seek forgiveness, recognizing that our unity is stronger than any differences.

As we navigate the challenges of life together, let our church be a beacon of forgiveness and love. Let us be quick to reconcile, slow to judge, and steadfast in our commitment to supporting one another. Just as a family stands by each other through thick and thin, so too should we, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of the deacons.

Tracy, Johnny and Carie

## **Council Notes:**

### **The Leganger Lutheran Church Council met Wednesday Feb 7, 2024.**

**Members present:** Seth, Josh, Dennis, Stacy, Troy, Tracy, Carie, Anita, Todd, Jesse, and Pastor. Tracy led devotions.

Pastor Katie read Secretary Minutes. One correction was noted in the Board of Education section that “were” should be “where.”

Treasurer's Report: - Anita reviewed the Income/Expense Report for January 2023. Income for the month was \$7,785.11 and Expenses were \$8,149.15.

Deacons Report: Carie was welcomed as Deacon during board meetings. A thanks to Warren. They continue to support pastor as needed.

Pastor Report: Pastor reported progress on transitioning to the Planning Center. A lot of work has gone into this through January. Member imports are in progress. Online giving is now available – gifts are currently going to the general fund. More funds are most likely to be added. Changes to the website is in progress as well.

Trustees: Broilers were inspected, repairs were made with faulty seals that gave out during inspection. Payment will be made for doors. North door inquiries are still in the works.

Board of Ed: Attendance has been good since Christmas Break. Children will sing again Feb. 25th. Discussion has begun on Lenten Fair. Will need a new Sunday School teacher for Middle School age students.

Old Business: No old business to report.

New Business: Council members reviewed the constitution and have this available for understanding their duties and for any questions that may come up. Church cleaning was discussed and with a donation to cleaning, council concluded Shara should be scheduled again. Pastor will reach out and coordinate a cleaning close to Easter. A secretary hiring committee was established with Seth Evenson, Anita Knutson, and Pastor. A lay member from the congregation will also be recruited from church on Sunday. If no volunteer comes forward from the congregation, then another council member will be appointed. Lenten meal schedule is as follows: 2/21 – Council. 2/28 – Leganger Ladies. 3/6 – Youth. 3/13 – Leganger Men. 3/20 – Youth. Youth will be serving these meals.

**Council notes contd...** Updates to kitchen was discussed. The ladies have started a fund for these updates.

Next meeting March 6th directly after the Lenten service.

Anita made a motion to adjourn, with Todd seconded. All stood and prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

### **Council Notes from 1/14/24**

Leganger council had a special meeting on 1/14/24 as there were constitutional questions posed from the Board of Education. Discussion was held, no exceptions were made to the constitution. Council motioned to adjourn, passed. All prayed Lord’s Prayer.

### **Council Notes from 1/28/24**

Leganger council had a special meeting on 1/28/24 to appoint members to open council roles. Stacy Collins to Board of Education, Dennis Stroschein to Board of Trustee. Todd Hanna to Financial Secretary. Anita made a motion to accept. Josh seconded. Motion passed. Council motioned to adjourn, passed. All prayed Lord’s Prayer.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Income was \$7785.11; expenses were \$8149.15. We ended the month with a deficit of -\$404.84.

Hy-Vee receipts to date \$60,490.12. Thanks to everyone for saving their receipts.

In God’s Love,  
Anita Knutson  
Treasurer

2024

FEBRUARY

CALENDAR YEAR

CALENDAR MONTH

SUNDAY

FIRST DAY OF WEEK

Pastor's Schedule and Church Events

Office hours vary, but Pastor Katie will try to be in her office from 9-4 Tuesday and Thursday, Wednesday from 10-7. Any variance is due to visitation, errands, text studies, and meetings. She is available on Friday's now too, but will be working from home.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	29	30	31 Women's Circle 2:00 Confirmation 6:00 Council Meeting 7:30 boards, 8:00 Council	01	02	03 Community Men's Fellowship Group 9:00am
04 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Council Installed	05	06	07 Confirmation 6:00	08	09	10
11 Sunday School 9:30 <del>Worship 10:30</del> Helen Budahl Birthday Party 1:00-3:30	12	13 Medary Conference Meeting 9:30 - 12:30	14 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	19	20	21 Lenten Meal 6:00pm Worship 7:00	22 Hendricks Nursing Home Worship 2:00 pm	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:30 <del>Worship 10:30</del> Youth Serving Donuts, Children Singing, Potluck after worship	26	27	28 Lenten Meal 6:00pm Worship 7:00	29	01	02 Community Men's Fellowship Group 9:00am
03 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	04	05	06 Lenten Meal 6:00pm Worship 7:00	07	08	09