

Applying Bible Principles:

One of the most striking accusations the Lord Jesus made when He was on earth was to label someone a hypocrite. Time and time again, He criticized the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy. They said one thing but did something entirely different. They fit the description used by Zig Ziglar who said, “A hypocrite is one who is not himself on Sunday.”

That’s perhaps what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy: “And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” In other words, to give credence to Christianity, to give lip service to following Christ and to trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, and then to fail to provide for our own family, is hypocrisy. To do so, in reality, is to deny our faith and to be considered as someone who has no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and no interest in spiritual matters.

It seems like such a small thing — relatively speaking (pun intended) — that Paul is exhorting Timothy to do. Provide for your own household, your own relatives. Take care of those under your care. Minister to those closest to you as a demonstration of your Christian faith.

Yes, we are to give to His ministry here at Leganger Lutheran Church. Yes, we are to be involved in ministering to others “on our own” and as part of the outreach of this church. But we are also to provide for our own families. We are also to minister to them and to care for them, for by doing so, we demonstrate the practical reality of our Christian faith. We thereby avoid the label of hypocrite since what we say is what we do.

How’s the balance in your life? Are you providing for the needs of this ministry and those of your household? As a result, do others (especially your family) see Jesus in you?

Katie's Korner:

Joshua: Moses declares Joshua, son of Nun, as the next leader for Israel and bestows a blessing upon him. In this book, Israel is a nation that conquers. We see a leader who continually points to God, especially when the nation falls away from God. In following and falling away, there is blessing and judgment - all while Joshua leads God's people to the promise land. As many kings are conquered, the true king is revealed. Unlike Joshua, Jesus conquers the world much differently for final win.

Joshua 11:18-20: 18 Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. 19 Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. 20 For it was the Lord himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

John 3:17: For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The book of Joshua now connects the historical people of Israel to the kingdoms of Israel. The historical people of Israel are documented through the first five books of the bible, otherwise known as the Pentateuch. As the Pentateuch ends, the chosen Israelite leadership changes. But Israel gets to this point of ruling, only through God leading them, through Joshua, in a time of conquering. The kingdoms of Israel that only come after Joshua are then ruled by, as they are called in scripture, judges. This transition, made possible through Joshua, is needed to show us God drawing lines by conquering. God is making choices on who is worthy to be his people and who are not. And if the people are not worthy, then they are destroyed.

This is happening as God carves out the exact path in the history of Israel that Jesus would walk out of to bring salvation for the world. God still destroys sinners today, but it is done now through Jesus. And in the destruction of our sin through Jesus, comes salvation for the world through Jesus. With Christ, the end of our story is not condemnation, war, or extermination, it is instead grace and mercy.

A prayer: Father, thank you for sending your son to conquer us, your people so that we would know how you save us through him, Our Lord and Savior Jesus. Amen.

Dates to Remember:

- Next Community Men's Fellowship Group, January 6th at 9:00am. Coffee and food items to be provided.
- Sunday School resumes January 7th at 9:30am, Confirmation, January 10th at 6:00pm.
- Pastor will be at the Medary Conference the morning of January 9th.
- Annual Meeting will be held January 21st, 2024 after worship. Potluck to follow.
- Sunday School will sing on the 4th Sunday and High School will be providing Doughnuts during coffee fellowship on the 4th Sunday as well. Please note Sunday School will sing on January 28th.

- Community Men's Fellowship Group, February 3rd at 9:00am.
- Women's Circle February 7th at 2:00. Sharon to host.
- Board's 7:30, Council 8:00 on February 7th.
- Looking ahead to February, Ash Wednesday will be on the 14th at 7:30.
- Lenten services will also be at 7:30 on February 21st, and 28th as well as on March 6th, 13th, and 20th. Meals will be provided beforehand starting at 6:30. A list of servers will be determined.

Reminder:

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



Caring and Sharing:

*reminder weekly cleaning, serving coffee fellowship and ushering

- **On for January Caring and Sharing, Group 2: *Meg chair***
Meg Thomas, Dennis and Diane Stroschein, Jesse and Emily King, Kevin and Karie Molengraaf, Al and Jane Moore, Jill Moore, Helen Budahl, Dale and Beth Overby, Alex Watt, Amanda and Derek VerHelst, Royce and Kim Harringa, Al and Gay Evenson, Seth and Cassandra Evenson, Chad and Heidi Grimlie, Greg and Sherry Lunden, Kari Quail, Jon and Jodi Ekern, Darlis Nase, John Roelofsen
- **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, Jenna and Kevin Petersen

Ladies of Leganger Notes:

Leganger Women met Jan. 3, 2024 for combined Bible Study and regular meeting. JoAnn presided at the meeting. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. An estimate will be obtained for new countertops for the kitchen. The Christmas decorations have been stored for the year. There wasn't any new business. Quilts are to be given to graduates and new brides. They will be able to select their quilts now while the selection is good. New banners have been purchased by the group and are being used. The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer and table grace. Lori was the hostess. The next meeting will be Feb. 7th with Sharon as hostess.

Ruth Lenning, secretary.

Deacons Report:

In the book of Lamentations, we are reminded of the enduring and unwavering love of our Lord. In Lamentations 3:22-24, it beautifully declares:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"

This passage resonates deeply, offering us profound reassurance and hope, especially as we step into this new year. It serves as a comforting reminder that regardless of our circumstances, God's love remains constant and His mercies are renewed each day.

Steadfast Love and Endless Mercies:

God's love is not fleeting or conditional. It is steadfast, unchanging, and enduring. His mercies are boundless, offering us fresh beginnings each morning. As the sun rises, so does His compassion, ready to embrace us and guide us through our journey.

Great is Your Faithfulness:

In times of uncertainty or when faced with challenges, we find solace in God's faithfulness. He remains true to His promises, providing us with the strength and grace we need to navigate life's twists and turns.

Our Hope in Him:

When we acknowledge that the Lord is our portion, we declare our reliance and trust in Him alone. Our hope is not in fleeting things of this world but anchored in the unchanging nature of our loving Father. As we embark on this new chapter, let us hold onto the profound truth expressed in these verses. Let us embrace each day with gratitude, knowing that we are recipients of God's unending love and mercy. May this year be filled with a deepened sense of His presence, a strengthened faith in His promises, and a renewed hope in His unfailing love.

Johnny, Tracy, and Warren

Council Notes:

The Leganger Lutheran Church Council met Wednesday January 3rd. Members present: Johnny, Tracy, Anita, Troy, Chad, Josh, Warren, Seth, Todd, Pastor Katie, Jamie, and Carrie. President Todd called the meeting to order. Johnny provided devotions "Reflect and Prepare".

Pastor Katie provided the Secretaries report. She read the minutes from the December 6th, 2023 meeting. Todd called for any additions or corrections. Minutes were approved as read. Pastor will lead the preparation of the annual meeting materials and will look for assistance from church members.

Anita presented the Treasurers Report. She reviewed the Income/Expense Report for December 2023. Income for December was \$20466.64 and Expenses were \$11419.81. The final 2023 report will be finalized soon and audited by the trustees prior to the annual meeting.

Tracy presented the Deacons Report. The Planning Center cloud service database program was discussed. The first priorities would be utilizing the Membership List, Website, and online giving portion of the program. It is estimated that those features would cost approximately \$40/month. More features could be added at a later date as needed. The Stewardship Committee has also reviewed the information on this and have recommended to the council to try this program. After discussion, Johnny moved and Josh seconded to go forward with this program.

Pastor Report: The community men's fellowship will meet again Saturday, January 6th and the next one will be February 3rd. ALL area men are encouraged to attend. Positive feedback was given on the December 10th Healing Prayer service and Pastor plans to do another one in February. Discussion with neighboring pastors have been held on doing a pastoral round robin for upcoming Lenten services which will have fellowship meal at 6:30pm and Lenten Service at 7:30 those nights. More detailed information will be coming.

Trustees: The north hallway door near pastor's office needs attention so the trustees are looking into some options. Options were also discussed on

Council Notes contd... installing a baby changing table in the church. A new curtain has been hung up in the mother's room.

Board Of Ed: Jamie presented information on the Christmas offering results and were the funds were distributed. Much positive feedback has been received on the Christmas program.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business: The council has begun the process of hiring a new church secretary. In the interim, pastor was encouraged to keep track of her additional hour and turn into the council for compensation and hour tracking data.

Tracy made a motion to adjourn and Warren seconded. Motion carried. All stood and prayed the Lord's Prayer in closing.

Council Notes from 12/20/23 Budget Meeting:

(Previously emailed)

Leganger Council met on 12/20/23 with the following members present: Anita, Chad, Seth, Troy, Todd, Josh, Tracy, Warren, Johnny, and Pastor Katie. Pastor opened in prayer.

A motion was made to accept Sheila Monnier's resignation. A second was given. Motion passed. Budget was reviewed and a new budget of \$112,148 proposed. A motion was made by Warren to take proposed budget to congregation. Seconded by Josh. Motion passed.

Chad motioned to adjourn. Anita seconded. Motion passed. All stood and prayed Lord's Prayer.

Treasurer Report:

Income was \$20,466.64; expenses were \$11,419.81. We ended the month with a surplus of \$9046.83.

A copy of the proposed budget for 2024 will be sent out this week for the Congregation to review prior to the Annual Meeting. If anyone has any questions, you can contact me at 605-690-4278.

HyVee receipts to date \$60,100.39. Thanks to everyone for saving their receipts.

In God's Love,
Anita Knutson
Treasurer

(Please view the included 2024 proposed budget document.)

2024

JANUARY

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
31 Fellowship Activity 10:00 Worship 10:30	01	02	03 Womens Group 2:00 Council Meeting 7:30 boards 8:00 Council	04 Annual Reports Due	05	06 Community Men's Fellowship Group 9:00 am
07 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	08	09 Medary Conference Meeting 9:30 - 12:30	10 Confirmation 6:00	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	15	16	17 Confirmation 6:00	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 <u>Worship 10:30</u> Annual Meeting after worship, then potluck	22	23	24 Confirmation 6:00	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30, with Children Singing	29	30	31 Confirmation 6:00	01	02	03 Community Men's Fellowship Group 9:00 am
04 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30	05	06	07 Confirmation 6:00	08	09	10

BUDGET MISSIONS	2023		2024	
	PROPOSED	ACTUAL	PROPOSED	PROPOSED
BENEVOLENCE	4500	6180	4500	4500
CHURCH ON THE STREET	100	100	100	100
LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING (ANSWER THE CALL)	150	150	150	150
LOCAL MISSIONS	50	106	50	100
LUTHER LEAGUE	200	200	200	200
LUTHERAN OUTDOORS	250	250	250	250
MISSIONARY SPONSORSHIP	1500	1500	1500	1500
SDSU LUTHERAN CENTER	300	300	300	300
ST. DYSMAS	200	200	200	200
SYNOD CONVENTION	100	100	100	100
WORLD HUNGER	400	400	400	400
TOTAL MISSIONS	7750	9486		7800

PASTORIAL MINISTRY				
CONTINUING ED/BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL	2000	1282	2000	2000
DISABILITY, LIFE, PENSION	5971	5726	5971	5978
SALARY/HOUSING ALLOWANCE	48940	48940	48940	50487
SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE	3744	3744	3744	3862
TRAVEL/AUTO	4000	2275	4000	3000
TOTAL PASTORIAL MINISTRY	64655	61967		65328

WORSHIP & SERVICE				
CHURCH SECRETARY	6720	6958	6720	6720
CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS	800	300	800	800
FICA FOR EMPLOYEES	500	532	500	500
OFFICE SUPPLIES	500	1089	500	500
ORGANIST	2200	2600	2200	2200
VISITING PASTORS	1000	221	1000	1000
EDUCATION, CURRICULUM & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	2000	2012	2000	3000
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	2000	1217	2000	1800
TOTAL WORSHIP & SERVICE	15720	14930		16520

OUR CHURCH HOME				
CHURCH UTILITIES	10000	10719	10000	10000
CHURCH REPAIRS/MAINTENANCE/SUPPLIES	4500	4319	4500	4500
INSURANCE	7000	6350	7000	7000
SOUTH CEMETARY	1000	1000	1000	1000
TOTAL CHURCH HOME	22500	22388		22500

SUMMARY				
MISSIONS	7750	9486	7800	7800
PASTORIAL MINISTRY	64655	61967	65328	65328
WORSHIP & SERVICE	15720	14930	16520	16520
OUR CHURCH HOME	22500	22388	22500	22500
GRAND TOTAL	110625	108771		112148

2023 ADDITIONAL EXPENSES OUTSIDE BUDGET

11890

These items listed on Income/Expense Report and are designated with *