



Message from Pastor

July 2021 Newsletter

Pastor Tim Glende

pastortim@922ministries.com
(920)284-9147

Pastor Jim Fleming

pastorjim@922ministries.com
(920)419-1757

Pastor Bill Monday

pastorbill@922ministries.com
(920)939-5799

Pastor Michael Ewart

pastormichael@922ministries.com
(920) 878-2899

Pastor Mike Novotny (The CORE)

pastormike@922ministries.com
(920) 716-7912

Nate Paul, Chief Operating Officer

nate.paul@922ministries.com
(920) 740-3125

Tom Dietzler, Director of Operations

tom.dietzler@922ministries.com
(920) 419-1010

Justin Danell, School Principal

justin.danell@922ministries.com
(920) 915-7163

Jonathan Favorite, Worship Coordinator

jonathan.favorite@922ministries.com
(602) 377-2423

Jarrod Pfarr, Assistant Principal

jarrod.pfarr@922ministries.com
(916) 742-3104

Maria Keuschel, Ministry Engagement Coordinator

maria.keuschel@922ministries.com
(920) 609-7218

Terri Glasel, Communications & Marketing Director

terri.glasel@922ministries.com
(920) 284-1311

SPL Office - (920) 739-2009

The CORE - (920) 364-0200

Website - 922ministries.com

Culture. Every people group from a friendship of 2 to a nation of 300+ million has a somewhat unique culture not to mention countless subcultures with more layers than a puff pastry. A culture, of course, is “the beliefs, customs, arts, etc., of a particular society, group, place, or time” (Merriam-Webster). Now, here’s the funny thing about any culture. Every one of them hides away unseen, yet is a force to be reckoned with. That is to say, we often only become aware of the culture we’re in when we unknowingly violate one of its unwritten sacred norms. Do you recall President George Bush’s “friendly” hand gesture to some Australian protestors back in 1992? He intended it as a genuine sign of support. Later on, however, he along with the rest of the world came to find that in their culture, the gesture he offered was the equivalent in America to flipping someone off with the middle finger. Whoops!

Cultural nuances are many and often so subtle. For example, did you know that in parts of Mexico if a man puts his hands in his pockets, it’s considered rude? But don’t place your hands on your hips instead because that may provoke a challenge. Be sure to make eye with strangers while walking down the street too, otherwise it’s a sign of disrespect. By the way, should you be invited to someone’s home, don’t take off your shoes upon entering their house. After all, you’ve only just met. Can’t get too comfortable too quick. When served a meal, leave a little on the plate. If you eat it all, you’ll be suggesting your hosts were hardly generous enough with their portions. At least, that’s what one travel agency shared with potential vacationers curious about spending some time across the border.

What kind of culture do we have as a church family? How about in your home or with your community of friends and coworkers? What norms have been established which people dare not violate? What unwritten expectations are there which need to be adhered to? (I am not talking about issues of sin, but issues where God has neither commanded anything like keeping your shoes on nor forbidden something like cleaning your plate.) Do these norms ever get in

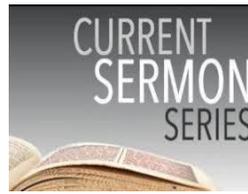
the way of loving people as Jesus did? Do they ever set up unnecessary obstacles to the gospel?

The Apostle Paul was very concerned about culture. Makes sense as he was called to be the apostle and ambassador of Christ whose kingdom is to include everyone regardless of whatever culture. I suppose there is one of two approaches in regard to winning others to Christ which Paul could have taken regarding culture. Paul could have demanded everyone conform to his particular culture and upbringing – “*circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law... blameless*” (Philippians 3:5-6). With this approach every Christ-follower would have had to have given up their culture and become a Jew culturally. No more worshipping on Sundays and no more beer brats either.

The other way? Paul could have given up his culture everywhere another cultural line was drawn – “*to the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews... To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law... I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some*” (1 Corinthians 9:20-22).

Guess which one Paul chose? Since we worship on Sundays and eat a good share of beer brats, it’s obvious he chose the latter, which by the way, was Christ’s very own directive to the Church in every age (Acts 15:1-21). 1 Corinthians 9:22 “*I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.*” That’s our motto as a church family, isn’t it? (That’s where our 922 name comes from, in fact.) May we always be chameleons of whatever culture we find ourselves in, sanctifying and redeeming all that we can in Christ, embracing all that is so different from us apart from sin. May this be to God’s glory who calls all people from all cultures into One Kingdom through the precious blood of Jesus who, untainted by sin, became just like us in every way to be the Savior of all people of every culture (Isaiah 49:6).

Pastor Bill Monday



We will be wrapping up our current sermon series this month entitled *What if Jesus Judged?* The series will take a look at Revelation chapters 1-3. Here is a review of the series, as well as, the specific theme’s for each of the final four weeks of the series.

Note: We are going to be trying something different for our preaching schedule this month. Four different pastors will be preaching on four different churches. For weeks 5&6 and then 7&8 there will be two pastors up to preach and they will preach their sermon at one campus the first week and then the other the following week. So if you crossover from one campus to another, you may hear the same sermon twice.

Series summary: *What if Jesus Judged?*—What would Jesus say if he judged us? 2,000 years ago, the Son of God did that very thing, evaluating seven different 1st century churches. In this series, we read Jesus’ analysis of seven 1st century churches and apply them to our spiritual lives as we seek to be faithful to our Savior. (7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25)

Week #5: *The Company You Keep* (Thyatira)—Jesus judged the church at Thyatira for the company it kept, tolerating a spiritually toxic teacher in their congregation. Our Savior’s words force us to open our eyes, look in the mirror, and look around to make sure that our teaching is pure in the sight of the One whose eyes are “like blazing fire.” Text—Revelation 2:18-29

Week #6: *Woke for Jesus* (Sardis)—Despite its glossy brochures and impressive social media following, the church at Sardis was, in the eyes of Jesus, dead. “Wake up” the Savior commanded, “before it’s too late!” For a church with a solid reputation, glossy brochures, and a trendy new website, we must turn our ears toward Jesus and ask what God, and not man, thinks of our church. Text—Revelation 3:1-6

Week #7: *Barely Holding On* (Philadelphia)—Jesus knew the church at Philadelphia had little strength after suffering intense persecution. Yet, he praised them for holding on to the Truth they knew. In the same way, when we feel like we have no strength left, Jesus shows up to encourage us and promise us a bright, eternal future. Text—Revelation 3:7-13

Week #8: Knock, Knock (Laodicea)—Jesus knocked at the door of the church of Laodicea. Why? Because they needed to be rebuked so they would repent, despite their high self-esteem and strutting confidence. In our day, Jesus does the same thing, knocking on the doors of our churches and hearts, calling us to humbly repent and enjoy the glory of his presence. Text—Revelation 3:14-22



What's it all about? Live chats with our pastors, live prayer, Christian advice, meaningful conversations, new and growing friendships, useful resources, and more! Much of the activity takes place in our private Facebook Group. Request to join today! Visit 922church.online for the link and instructions. Check our website weekly for a schedule of online events. While you're there, subscribe to the weekly email update.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TIMES

Thursday (outdoors) @ 6:30 pm and
Sundays 7:30; 9:00 & 10:30 am
The CORE – Sunday, 3:30 & 5:30 pm

LIVE STREAMING WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday's 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 3:30 pm
Click "Live Stream" on our website or
Search 922 Ministries on Facebook or YouTube



922 Open Forum and Annual Meeting

On Monday, June 14th, a 922 Open Forum and Annual meeting was held at the St. Peter campus. There were updates on the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year as well as other reports including 1) The 2021-2022 922 budget, 2) Initial School expansion plans and drawings, 3) Proposed 922 Leadership organizational structure. If you missed it, please see live stream videos below.

Video of meeting,

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/saR29IEuhIE>

Video of meeting,

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/zrZRM9dz7qo>

922 Vacation Bible School
July 12th – 15th - 1:00 - 2:30 pm
For Children Ages Kindergarten – 4th grade.
Registration is closed.

Volunteers Needed – Vacation Bible School

We will once again be hosting an in-person Vacation Bible School this summer. In order to accomplish this, we need YOUR help! We are looking for several volunteers to assist with this fun event. Some of the main areas of need include: Group Leaders, Group Assistants, Activity Leaders, and Craft Leaders. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jarrod Pfarr (jarrod.pfarr@922ministries.com) or Maria Keuschel (maria.keuschel@922ministries.com)



**THE COMMUNITY
BLOOD CENTER**
connecting lives | sharing life

BLOOD DRIVE

Sunday, July 11, 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
To schedule your donation, please call (800-280-4102 or online by visiting communityblood.org, click "Donate Now" and search sponsor code A299. Call Rhonda Dietzler at 920-739-2009 with any questions.

SCRIP doesn't go away in the summer!

Summer Schedule

SCRIP is sold in the office on Monday & Friday mornings from 8:00-9:00 am in the summer and Sunday mornings remain the same: 8:30 - 9:00 and 10:00 - 10:30 in the church Gathering Area.

For questions or concerns, please email Rhonda or Chloe at stpeterscrip@922ministries.com or call Rhonda Van Vreede at 920-740-3428.



Loves sees through a telescope not a microscope.

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.”

(1 Corinthians 13:4-5)

GOLF Outing

On June 5, we held our tenth annual "Swing for Success" golf outing at Irish Waters Golf Club in Freedom. We were blessed with a beautiful summer day and everything went off smoothly. 132 golfers took part in the outing, and we were able to raise more than \$20,000 for tuition assistance and the Good Samaritan fund. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a page listing all of the great sponsors who donated money or prizes in support of this great event - please make a point to patronize them as much as possible.

An event of this size is not easy to pull off and takes months and months of planning and preparation. We could not do anything close to this good without the help, support and encouragement of very many people. We'd like to thank Mark Becker, the pro at Irish Waters and all the great people that he works with, all of our volunteers and helpers who came out to give us a hand and for all the golfers who generously gave up a Saturday in June to make this event a success. We deeply appreciate everyone's support and thank God for granting us a successful event.

Tom and Rhonda Dietzler, Gary and Sue Thoma - Golf Outing Coordinators

Morning Service at The CORE!

For many years, we've both heard and seen that one of the biggest opportunities for reaching the unchurched and dechurched would be having a morning service at The CORE. Recognizing this opportunity to reach more people with the Gospel, we're excited to announce the launch of a 10 a.m. service at The CORE starting on September 12th. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to exercise your Go Root and invite someone to attend the worship service with you! Our hope is that by adding this morning service, it will provide an additional path of outreach within our community.

With the launch of the morning service, we will also be adding our new CORE Kids program! CORE Kids is a ministry for 1-4 year old's to praise God through Bible stories, songs, and age-appropriate learning activities. We held off launching the program during the height of the pandemic, but now want to maximize the outreach opportunity with a morning service. As a ministry, we value having children in church with their families because we know the fruits it produces. We also recognize that a program like this may remove a barrier for parents with young kids who want to worship in church. Core Kids will meet in the classrooms behind the coffee bar during the 10:00 a.m. worship service, allowing moms and dads to focus their attention on the message while their children enjoy learning in a safe, fun, faith-filled environment.

Please note: The morning service will be replacing one of the afternoon services, so starting on September 12th, the new service times at The CORE will be **10 am** and **4 pm** based on the feedback we received from recent surveys.

May God send His Holy Spirit to bless this work!

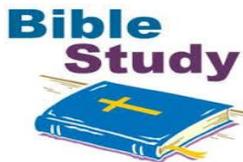
**Subscribe
to 922 e-news**

Are you getting our weekly e-news update by email? If not, subscribe now! Simply send a blank email to either of these addresses: splmembers+subscribe@922ministries.com OR coremembers+subscribe@922ministries.com.



Summer worship Thursday night at St. Peter

Last summer we held the Thursday night service outside every week weather permitting - and it was well received. While COVID numbers have gone down and while more people are returning to church, we still want to offer an option for people who might be more comfortable outdoors. We haven't had too much luck on Thursday night yet this year, but we will keep trying! Our plan for the rest of summer is to do the same, so Thursday evening services will be held outdoors every week (weather permitting) through Labor Day. Bring your lawn chairs (we will have some if you forget) and join us on the south side of the building by the school entrance.



"God's Love for the Dysfunctional"

Sunday's 9:00 (In-Person) &
10:15 am (online)

Is your family a mess? Do you know someone who struggles with how things are in their family? Sometimes we wonder if God could love us when our lives seem so messy. Guess what? God loves dysfunctional families too. This summer we'll look at three founding families of the Israelite Nation. Deception. Favoritism. Life threats. Manipulation. Control. The Abraham, Isaac and Jacob families struggled with these things. God loved them and God blessed them despite the problems that existed. He loves your family too. Come see the grace, mercy and forgiveness of our God. He cares for you deeply too!

Sign-up for this study and others at
stpeter922.com/groups or contact Pastor Jim at
739-2009 or pastorjim@922ministries.com with
questions on these Bible Classes.

Special birthday wishes to the following members who are 70+ years this month!!

- Susan Roehrborn (07/03)
- Nancy Gehring (07/10)
- Jerry Kolbe (07/11)
- Lorraine Selle (07/13)
- Don Wichman (07/14)
- Lois Umnus (07/18)
- Kenneth Malvitz (07/19)
- Mickey Goss (07/24)
- Karen Peters (07/29)
- Dick Liewergen (07/31)

*Enjoy a
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
and a sweet day
BLESSED BY GOD*



The next Pantry collection is July 11th. They currently are in need of: laundry soap, men and women's deodorants, pork n beans/baked beans only, canned meats tuna and chicken, canned pasta, jello/pudding, helper meals and cookies.

Please bring your pantry items and monetary donations to the office between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm Monday-Friday or to the church kitchen before worship services. Monetary donations can also be placed in the box on the counter in the church kitchen. These are used to purchase gift cards to be given to families to purchase perishable items. Please make your checks payable to: *Apple Valley Food Pantry*.



Musicians needed!

With the beginning of a morning service at the CORE campus in the very near future, we could use more musicians to join the 922 Worship Team! We will be looking to fill a full third team each week. That means in a given month, we need 12 drummers, 12 bass players, 12 keyboardists, 12 guitarists, etc. across all our teams at both campuses. If you have a gift in one of these areas, mark your interest on a Communication Card on Sunday, or send an email to jonathan.favorite@922ministries.com.



Here at 922 we have repeatedly shown that we believe BIG! Every time we have stepped out in faith with a radical request God has not only met but far exceeded our goals, because of this we have come to confidently extend BIG asks knowing that our people will meet or exceed what we are asking for the Glory of God and with the extreme generosity that he has placed in their hearts. This is why we are once again asking for our members to step out in faith and get connected to a Serve Team.

Throughout this summer we would like to add **200** additional people to serve various areas across our Ministry.

We do not ask this lightly or just wanting you to fill a spot, but we truly believe that these areas would be blessed by YOU specifically! Your skills, your experiences and your heart.

Whether you love Computers, Coffee, Conversation or Kids we have a place that needs YOU!

Your next step, if you are not already serving:

- *Talk to one of the people on the team that you may be interested in serving to learn more about it.
- *On your communication card on Sunday check the Serve box
- *Contact me to help you get plugged in - serve@922ministries.com
- * Visit 922ministries.com/serve

Want to know where our biggest needs are?

- Ushers – CORE
- Slide Runners – St. Peter
- Kids Ministry Teachers & Helpers – St. Peter/CORE
- 922 Church Online (various roles)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Saturday, August 28th Volunteer Orientation/Appreciation Event



922 Church Picnic & 5K Run

Mark your calendars for the 922 Church Picnic on Sunday, August 22nd. It will take place at the St. Peter campus after the 10:30 a.m. service (outdoor – weather permitting). In addition to the meal, you can look forward to an Ice Cream Sundae Bar, Bounce Houses, a Waterslide, and more! Come join for some fun and fellowship!

The 5K Run will take place on Friday, August 20th – Stay tuned for more details

Additionally, we will also be needing a number of volunteers for these events. If interested in serving, please reach out to Maria Keuschel at serve@922ministries.com.

Church/School **Summer** Office Hours
(Office Closed 7/5)
Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 2:30 pm



If you are looking for a fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity, we are in need of men or women to join our Board of Directors. The board meets once a month and provides direction for The Hope Center. Shane Herron, our Board Director, can tell you more. Email him at shaneaherron@gmail.com.

Feel the music! July 29th at 5pm and 8pm at The CORE, Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra is performing in person once again! For concert details and ticket sales, visit foxvalleysymphony.com. If you have a child interested in orchestra, they are welcome to attend one of the rehearsals on Tuesday the 27th or Wednesday the 28th - email Krystine at events@922ministries.com for timing.



922 Ministries Military Family Support Group

The Military Support Team has resumed meeting and planning again. The Military Support Team board members are: Dr. Michael Black, Michael Wichman, Susan Hatcher, Dusty Wenninger, Kari Dombrowski and Bill and Barb Schwab. If interested in this group or have any questions, please contact Dr. Michael Black at mblack0694@yahoo.com or (920) 257-8082.

"Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you where ever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

PLEASE NOTE

If you would like a monthly newsletter mailed to you, please contact the office or email Gloria at gloria.plamann@922ministries.com.



Card Making Ministry

This Ministry will not meet during the summer months and will start up again in September. If you have any questions, call Luella Kietz at (920) 731-1650.



Ladies Quilting Ministry

This Ministry will not meet during the summer months and will start up again in September. If you're interested in helping the quilting ministry in any way or have any questions, please contact Karen Peters at 739-2924.



- Gregg Mattek (President)
- Doug Dahm (Vice President)
- Brian Hoppe (Secretary)
- Craig Schultz (Treasurer)
- Dave Flunker (Elders)

Please note that we invite people to speak with any of these men listed above if you have any questions at any time.



922 MINISTRIES

Director of Operations Report – July, 2021

As I close out my sixth year in this position, I'm struck by how things have changed in six short years. I'm beginning the process of cleaning out my office, as I am deeding this office over to our new Staff Minister, Matt Werner, who will be joining our staff shortly to begin his time here to spearhead our youth ministry. Having just moved residences three years ago, I know that these are times when we find stuff that we didn't know that we had. Going through my files, I found the very first report that I submitted from July 2015. What's on it? 35 things are on it. That's right – 23 things were what I call "all doners" and another 12 things were "hey I'm working on it..." things in progress. It seems like light years ago, but July 2015 truly was only six years ago. Those 35 things were all things that needed to be done, and since no one had been in my position before me, because this position never existed before, it was easy to find stuff that needed to be done.

The principal loan balance on the building project that had been completed in the fall of the previous year stood at \$3,355,958. The staff picture from the 2016 pictorial directory shows 29 faces in the picture – just about half of the size staff that we have now. God keeps blessing everything that we touch. It's become very apparent to me that he continues to shower us with what some people might call "unbelievable" goodness because we don't stand still. He doesn't create opportunities for us because he thinks churches and schools need big payrolls, lots of employees and bigger buildings, those are the tools and the hands and feet that God places us in and around us to help us do what he would have us do.

Having "Context" in my top five of the Clifton StrengthFinders strengths is a gift that God gave me to use history and the interest in knowing what came before us to use as a guide to help us navigate what is ahead of us. And since those days of me coming on board and being able to report to you that all kinds of things were getting done, so much more has been taking place. My reports are basically me telling you what other people have done. People who build things, fix things, clean things, create, organize and make stuff. Don't give me the credit – God has placed so many servant hearts among us and it's gratifying for me to be able to tell everyone about the great things that God is accomplishing among us.

The stuff that I am responsible for is just a tiny slice of what goes on in 922 Ministries. When people ask about what I do, I try to respond that hopefully I do stuff so that our pastors and faculty and anyone here can focus more completely on their areas of ministries. I'm not sure how good of a job I have done to accomplish this, but I do know that God has blessed me with being a part of the 922 Ministries team as we continue trying to be all things to all people so that he might save some. When I think about how God brought people like my wife Rhonda here 30 years ago to begin her ministry, and how the office staff has grown (depending on how you count and who is included) tenfold since she began. I could rattle off any number of names of servants who have served or still serve here whose only purpose is to do God's bidding here in this little corner of the kingdom and don't care one whit about who gets credit for the great work that they do.

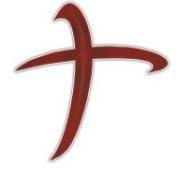
Going back to my original report and the 35 things that were included, we don't have to worry about those kinds of things being left undone any more. We've had people on our maintenance/custodial staff who make it part of their daily routine to clean, fix, maintain, check on, build and in so many ways keep this place going so that we can do what God would have us do to keep on rockin'. As we keep pushing on to bigger and better ways to serve and grow his kingdom here, please continue to pray for us, to keep us humble and to remain open to his will and that his will is all that matters. It's a blessing for me to be along on this ride, and I can't thank all of my fellow servants enough and those of you who make it possible for all of us to do what we do.

Tom Dietzler



Youth and Family Ministry

July 2021



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

The following are excerpts from an interview with researcher and author, Christian Smith, regarding his recent findings and work on the common disconnect between parents and youth pastors. I pray it can provide good food for thought as we seek to disciple our young people together in Christ unto life eternal. The full article can be found online: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2021/june-web-only/parenting-kids-teens-pastors-cross-wires-purpose-church.html>

Question 1: At a personal level, what was your reaction to the research findings [concerning disciplining youth]?

I would say we started getting a handle on the importance of parents way back when we were studying teenagers in the National Study of Youth and Religion, which started in 2000. But there are two things that did surprise us a lot: The first surprise in talking to religious parents in the United States is how similarly they talk about why they want to raise their children religiously, what the value of being religious is, and how they want to go about religious parenting... Most parents think what's really important about raising kids in the faith is that it'll be good for them in this world. There's very little reference to salvation or eternity. It's very "this worldly" focused: The kids will be happier and make better choices. So I think religious parents have a very immanently oriented, not transcendentally oriented, rationale.

The other big surprise was parents' views of their religious congregations. The common story is that laypeople just want to dump their kids off at church and have religion taken care of by youth ministers. But we found parents just want church to be friendly and a good environment, but they think it's [the church's] job to take care of religious things. That seemed to be kind of a mismatch in how clergy and youth ministers think about parental involvement and the way parents described that involvement.

Question 2: What [is the biggest takeaway you present in your book regarding] the National Study of Youth and Religion?

When we started the NSYR, we had no idea about parents. That wasn't the focus. But over the course of that study, it became very clear how important parents were in the formation of their children. We realized that what parents are doing with teenagers really matters more than media, school, or friends. If we really wanted to figure this out, we needed to do a study focused on religious parents.

Question 3: In the book, you say that a central part of your argument is that what religion is has fundamentally changed from a "communal solidarity project" to a "personal identity accessory." Can you elaborate briefly on what that means?

This is my historical interpretation of our findings, trying to make the best theoretical sense I can of what's going on. The idea of a communal solidarity project is that in a former time in American history, religion would have been much more of a collective, community-based experience. It would have been something people shared in common and that had much more of a social dynamic to it. The parents wouldn't have had so much burden to promote religion because it would've just been living in the community. Over time, that world has dissolved.

There are pockets of it here and there, but for the most part, religion has been redefined. It's an individualistic thing that may or may not be part of one's personal identity, along with other features like your career or your sexual orientation or your hobbies. Religious faith may be a piece of that larger sense of individual self. You can choose it or you can not. As a result, it's a lot of pressure on parents.

Question 4: As congregations think about this change, especially in context of their [youth programs], what are the implications?

Parents are looking to congregations basically as resource centers. They're not community ways of life. They're not bodies of people who are embodying some alternative or renewed way of living. They're resources. My sense is that clergy understand this to some degree.

I don't want to prescribe anything. But if congregations want to be able to connect with parents where they are and maybe lead them to somewhere else, they need to think about what the resources are that parents want. But I hate even talking like this;

it sounds like marketing... I would say the way to think about it in terms of faithfulness is something like this: If what parents are demanding is not exactly what we want to be offering, you can't just ignore the parents. So how do you create an environment that meets people where they are but draws them into something beyond that, without becoming just a dispensary of religious resources for people who want to pick and choose? ... [This has major] theological implications...

Question 5: A major theme in your interviews is that many or even *most* parents would prefer to use indirect methods of religious transmission. Not so much “sit your kid down and lecture them about the faith,” but instead, “show them what’s happening, and by osmosis, they’ll kind of pick it up along the way.” [At the same time] you found that the frequency of religious conversations between parents and kids strongly predicted the success of religious transmission. What do you make of this mismatch? Are religious parents adopting a bad strategy?

I don't feel it's too much of a mismatch. First of all, parents who are effective are just being who they are. They're not saying, “Oh my gosh, my kid's age seven, I better start some religious training.” They're being who they are authentically. And part of who they are is they think about things in view of their religious faith. Some do that more intentionally than others. I think those who are more successful at passing on their faith to their kids either are so authentically religious to begin with or they're intentional about saying, “Hey, we need to pay attention to this and not just let it happen.” In other words, there's a way to do something by osmosis which is still intentional.

What absolutely doesn't work (and what parents are not going to try anyways) is the “sit down and lecture for one hour a week” approach. Parents are way too worried about rebellion, and so they're willing to play religious transmission kind of with kid gloves. I think that most parents have this sense they're worried about “overdoing it.” They're worried about doing too much, being too direct, but still ... push and prod as much as they can.

Question 6: Let's go back to what you said about parents who had fairly modest expectations of religious congregations. They saw themselves as the primary actor in their child's religious formation. But if youth ministers, for example, see parents as very disengaged, and parents see themselves as very engaged, what might account for this difference?

First of all, I have to say, we didn't do an ethnography of parents. We didn't drive to church with Susan and pick up her kids from youth group. So we're basing this on what parents and teenagers report in interviews and surveys. But my sense of things from studying this over the years is that it's probably a combination of things. It could be that youth ministers want more direct investment from parents, but parents just don't want to do that.

My suspicion is that a lot of youth ministers get their information about parents from the teenager. They're not going out for coffee and breakfast with the parents. I'm not saying teenagers are lying, but teenagers obviously are going to give their own perspective on what's going on at home.

Also, part of it is probably just expectations. If you're hired as a youth minister, you're ready to do great things. But then you enter into a situation where families have their settled routines. And it probably is kind of a frustrating situation for a youth minister, right?

Interviewer: Maybe, per your earlier point, clergy or youth ministers have a different kind of religion in mind than parents and really want something transcendent to be communicated. That gets into this cultural model of parenting that you described—where parents see religion as a kind of moral training to prepare kids for the journey of life, and additionally, as a way of building family solidarity...

American religion has just become very therapeutic, consumeristic, and this-world-oriented. And you raised the question of mismatch earlier, but I would say this is the real mismatch. Not so much strategy differences between parents and youth ministers, but what church is for. I think some of the main actors that are gathered in congregations have very different ideas of what they're even doing there. What's fascinating, sociologically, is how they can continue that mismatch for years and not really figure out the differences between each other—like not really have it dawn on them, “Oh, we have totally different realities going on here.” ...

Question 7: So what's the big takeaway for people of faith?

This is not a new conclusion, but it's reinforcing what we have known for a while: American religion has really morphed into an individualistic, consumeristic reality. It seems to me that requires some stepping back, reflecting, and having conversations—hard ones—about how you bridge between all these different tugs and pushes and pulls so that you're not just selling out but you're also not a going-down-the-toilet sectarian.

Pastor Bill Monday, Pastor of Family Ministry

The CORE Newsletter - JULY 2021
Saved by Jesus — *from what? for what?*

"Are you saved?" This was the question a total stranger asked me in the parking lot of Broken Arrow Discount grocery store (in Oklahoma, where I grew up.) It was the closest store to the Rhema Bible Training Institute. It was also the store where I worked summers as a teenager.

So how would you answer that question? I hope you know the simple answer: "Yes!" But what exactly does that mean?

I would suggest the best answer has two parts. While most Christians get the first part, few immediately come up with the second part.

Titus 2:13-14 — Jesus Christ...gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Yes, you are saved! Stuck in sin, living in a broken world, unable to be perfect, lacking in love, and unable to change or escape, you needed rescue! And that's what Jesus did. He gave himself for you. His life redeems you. He saves you.

Part 1: Saved *from*...

God loved you so much that he gave you a new identity. You are no longer wicked, a sinner, or an enemy of God. Jesus saved you from all of that! You're made new. You are a blameless, forgiven saint — a child of God! Because of what you are saved *from*, there's a new you created by God. It's who you are! But there's more!

Part 2: Saved *for*...

God also loved you so much, that when he saved you, he also gave you a noble, important, unique purpose. You are no longer living for yourself, a slave to sin, doing what doesn't last, and that which has little meaning. You have been saved *for* God, living life in this world as his child as you do good and love others. Your every-day life takes on divine, eternal importance as all you do is done to the glory of God!

Are you saved? Yes, you are, all because of Jesus. Saved *from* your old self and its doomed destiny when God gave you a new, holy identity. Saved *for* service to God as you love him and everyone around you. This is your divine purpose. Praise God, you are saved!

~ Pastor Michael

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2021 SPONSORS!



Eagle

SPONSORS





LUNCH SPONSOR



MJI
BUILDING SERVICES
TRANSPARENCY | TRUST | TEAMWORK

Golf Cart



SPONSOR



Matthews Tire™



BEVERAGE SPONSOR

Anonymous Donation

Hole Sponsors

*Copper Rock Coffee *Curt's Service *Custom Printing *The Gasman Family *Investors Community Bank
 *Keller, Inc. *Klements Sausage Co. (Don Treichel) *Mi-T Fence, LLC *Milk Source, LLC
 *Orthopedic & Spine Therapy *Performance Hot Rods *Ken Peters
 *PHILMEARS.COM Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Consultants *Romenesko Development, Inc.
 *Unison Credit Union *Verkuilen - Van Deurzen Family Funeral Home *Zero to 60 Garage



SPONSOR

Don Hietpas & Sons Utility Construction

Thank you to these supporters for their donations:

- *Ad Quest Promotions, Inc. *American National Bank - Fox Cities *Averill Anderson LLC *Badger Sports Park *Tim & Renee Bolwerk *Bulk-Priced Food Shoppe
 *Jean Callaway & Lisa Buchholz (Norwex) *CBK Marketing, LLC *Alan Dietzler *Tom & Rhonda Dietzler *Diversified Investigations, LLC *Festival Foods
 *Dennis & Ellyn Forbeck *Fox Valley Golf Club *Terri Glasel *Green Bay Packers *Gustman/Chevrolet/Buick/GMC *Harmann Studios *Hilly Haven Golf Course
 *Irish Waters Golf Club *Nate Johnston/Northwoods Superior Chemicals *Beau & Amanda Kriewaldt *Kwik Trip *Landreman's Family Restaurant
 *Todd & Liz Mader *Mark's East Side *Mary Miller *Mid Vallee Golf Course *Milwaukee Brewers *Milwaukee Food & City Tours *Judy Novotny
 *Packerland Rent-A-Mat, Inc. *PDQ Car Wash *Randy & Gloria Plamann *Robinson's Florists & Greenhouses *Roundy's Supermarkets *Safe Families for Children
 *Mel & Lorraine Selle *Gary & Sue Thoma *Thrivent Financial Action Team *Don & Joan Treichel *Ken & Marva Uhlenbrauck *Urban Air Adventure Park
 *Village Limits Supper Club *Wisconsin Timber Rattlers

St. Peter Lutheran Church - July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Worship – 6:30 pm (outdoor)	2	3 Men's Open Gym – 7:15 – 9 am
4 Worship–7:30; 9 & 10:30am Bible Class – 9 am Bible Class – 10:15 am (online) CORE - 3:30 & 5:30am	5	6	7 Christian Recovery @ The CORE – 6:30 pm	8 Worship w/Lord's Supper – 6:30 pm (outdoor)	9	10 Men's Open Gym – 7:15 – 9 am
11 Blood Drive @ St. Peter 9 am – 12:30pm Worship w/Lord's Supper – 7:30; 9 & 10:30am Bible Class – 9 am Bible Class – 10:15 am (online) CORE - 3:30 & 5:30am	12 Vacation Bible School – 1 - 2:30pm	13 VBS – 1-2:30pm	14 Christian Recovery @ The CORE – 6:30 pm VBS – 1-2:30pm	15 Worship – 6:30 pm (outdoor) VBS – 1-2:30pm	16	17 Men's Open Gym – 7:15 – 9 am
18 Worship–7:30; 9 & 10:30am Bible Class – 9 am Bible Class – 10:15 am (online) CORE - 3:30 & 5:30am	19 922 Leadership Mtg – 5:30 pm	20	21 Country Villa Chapel – 9:45 am Christian Recovery @ The CORE – 6:30 pm	22 Worship w/Lord's Supper – 6:30 pm (outdoor)	23	24 Men's Open Gym – 7:15 – 9 am
25 Worship w/Lord's Supper – 7:30; 9 & 10:30am Bible Class – 9 am Bible Class – 10:15 am (online) CORE - 3:30 & 5:30am	26	27	28 Christian Recovery @ The CORE – 6:30 pm	29 Worship – 6:30 pm (outdoor)	30	31 Men's Open Gym – 7:15 – 9 am