

The Encourager

Service Times

Sunday Service

Breakfast.....8:00AM
Sunday School.....9:00AM
Morning Worship.....10:25PM

Discipleship Training.....5:00PM
Preschool & Children 's
Classes.....5:00PM
Youth Connect
Groups.....5:00PM

Evening Service.....6:00PM

Wednesday Service

Supper.....5:00PM
Adult Prayer.....6:15PM
Children & Preschool
Classes.....6:00PM
Youth Service.....6:00PM

Office Hours

Monday.....8AM-5PM
Tuesday.....8AM-5PM
Wednesday.....8AM-5PM
Thursday.....8AM-5PM

“Giving God Our Best or Our Leftovers”?



“If any of you—whether an Israelite or a foreigner residing in Israel—presents a gift for a burnt offering to the Lord, either to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering, you must present a male without defect from the cattle, sheep or goats in order that it may be accepted on your behalf. Do not bring anything with a defect, because it will not be accepted on your behalf... Do not offer to the Lord the blind, the injured or the maimed, or anything with a disease...They will not be accepted on your behalf, because they are deformed and have defects.” (Leviticus 22: 18-20,22,25)

Malachi 1:8, “When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the Lord Almighty.”

I ran across the following story: On a rainy Sunday afternoon, a little brother and sister were playing “Noah and the Ark.” An old shoe box was the ark; the bathtub was their flood. After the flood was over they decided to make an offering to God.

Noah (the boy) said to Mrs. Noah (the girl), “Here, take one of your

toy animals as a sacrifice.” “No,” she replied, “Let’s use one of your animals instead!” When they could not agree, she ran to the attic. In a moment she was back with a toy lamb. It was dirty, it’s head smashed, and it’s tail missing. “Here,” she cried, “let’s give this as a sacrifice. We will never want it again.” Her brother agreed, and they made their sacrifice. The little broken lamb they did not want was given to God.

God told the Israelites that their sacrificial offerings to Him had to be from the best of their flock without any defect for it to be acceptable to Him. By the time of the prophet Malachi, the people were presenting as their offerings to God the worst of their flocks. They were presenting animals that were about to die, or that would have to be culled anyway. God rejected them and their offerings as showing contempt for His name and defiling His altar!

It’s easy for us to get caught up in giving God our leftovers... left over time, left over money, our left over energy, our leftover attention. And in the hectic world in which we live, in reality there are no leftovers – just unrealized good intentions.

In contrast, scripture tells us God deserves our best, not only of our resources, but our very lives.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship” (Romans 12:1).

Are you giving God the best in every area of your life? Your love? Your worship? Your service to Him? Your financial stewardship? Your church attendance and involvement?

2 Corinthians 9:7, “...God loves (and blesses) a cheerful giver.”

In Christ,
Bro. Neil



Dear Church Family

May has arrived and with it all the year-end things for school and gearing up for summer. Also, don't forget to mark your calendars to celebrate our mother's on Mother's Day which is **May 13th!**

VBS is right around the corner! All the main teacher spots have been filled but we still need assistant teachers for most of the classes. Please be in prayer for VBS as we minister to kids during the week. VBS is **June 4-8** with a Pre-VBS Tailgate party **June 3rd at 6PM.**

Mark Your Calendars:

VBS 2018:

Mark your calendars, VBS is June 4-8 from 9am to 12pm. This years theme is Game On! Please start praying about how you can serve the children during this event.

Starting April 8th there will be sign-up sheets for the following ways to serve:

- * Assistant Teachers
- * Kitchen Crews
- * Rec Leaders

We will also need Sound and Video techs during this week.

Children's Camp:

Children's camp is July 16-19. Camp this year will be held at Clara Springs Camp in Pelican, LA. This camp is for children who have completed the 1st-5th grade by this summer.

Serving In Him,
Amanda Wilson
Preschool/Children Director

Regular Schedule

Sunday

Sunday School.....9:00am
Nursery.....9:00am
Worship.....10:15am

Nursery.....5:00pm
Mission Friends.....5:00pm
GA's & RA's.....5:00pm
Worship.....6:00pm

Wednesdays

Nursery.....6:00pm
Kids Worship.....6:00pm

Contact Information

Email: awilson@firstcal.org

Phone: Office: (318) 644-5101

Cell: (318) 245-9978





It's MAY! That means you are almost done with school for this year. Well, some of you seniors may already be done, lucky you. You may already be thinking about what you'll be doing this summer, but I have two challenges for you. 1. Stay focused on where you are now. God has you where he wants you and wants to use you where he has you. 2. In planning for your summer, don't waste it. You may have some rest planned, or a summer job, or vacations on the horizon... but don't miss out on the opportunity to grow with Christ this summer. Make a plan for spending time with God, going on a mission trip, take the week before cross camp and pray for God to prepare your heart for that. Let us be people who are intentional with our lives! Intentional for the Kingdom, for the Gospel, and for our Savior!

VBS:

June 4th-8th is this year's VBS— see Ms. Amanda to sign up to serve. There are many ways that you can help out for VBS.

Cross Camp:

July 16-21 Cost is \$270 or the remainder of what you owe. All monies and forms are due by June 3rd. There are only a few spots left at camp, so make sure if you or a friend still want to go to get signed up asap!

Bahamas Mission:

Please be praying for the 11 participants that will be headed on this trip to minister in the Bahamas.

You can pay for any of the above trips in advance. Turn your money into Bro. Joey and we will keep a record of your payments.

Love, Peace and Chicken Grease!

BRO. JOEY

Student Pastor, First Cal

Things To Check Out

Music:

"Good News" Rend Collective

"Prayers of the Saints" Sovereign Grace Music

Books:

"The Cost of Discipleship" Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Book of the Bible:

New Testament— Acts

Old Testament— Isaiah

Weekly Schedule

Monday Night Basketball—6:30–9:00pm

Wednesday Worship—6:00–7:15pm

Sunday School— 9:00–10:15pm

Sunday AM Worship Service @10:25pm

Connect Groups—Sundays @ 5:00pm

Devotional Apps

Daily Devo
Shane and Shane



Solid Joys
John Piper



First 5
Proverbs 31



Student Ministry Contact

Email: janwar@firstcal.org

Cell: 318-573-9580

Check us out on facebook:

(www.facebook.com/firstcalstudentministry)

Twitter at:

@fbCalStudents

Friend us personally if you wanna chat with Rach or myself on:

www.facebook.com/joey.anwar or on

Instagram—janwar and rachelanwar



FIRST CAL



WORLD MISSIONS OFFERING

Our world mission offering is designed to make donating to Georgia Barnette, Lottie Moon, Annie Armstrong, and David Terry easier. When you donate money to the World Mission Offering a percentage will go to each of the above listed missions on a monthly basis. See the breakdown of percentages listed below.

Lottie Moon.....50%

Annie Armstrong.....30%

Georgia Barnette.....15%

David Terry.....5%

**Below are the World Mission
amounts for the dates of:
3/1/18–2/28/19**

Lottie Moon.....\$890.00

Annie Armstrong.....\$534.00

Georgia Barnette.....\$267.00

David Terry.....\$89.00

Total for World Mission.....\$1,780.00

May Birthdays

3rd	Beth Johnston
	Buddy Herrington
4th	Brian Rieger
	AJ Bricker
5th	Wanda Plouet
6th	John Paul Rieger
	Ritta Lindsey
7th	Robert Bingham
	Allison Medlin
8th	Leah Gilmore
	Helen Edwards
10th	Waggoner Russell
	Todd Freeman
	Lori Mizell
11th	Courtney Knowles
12th	Hannah Hogan
13th	Cody Dray
14th	Clint Cooper
	Jamie Trichelle
15th	Brittany Glennon
16th	Dwala Bass
	Kayla Bratton
	Joseph Craighead
17th	Katy Hodge
18th	Jadon Turner
	Jacie Turner
	Jordon Turner
19th	Leslie Lavon Tedeton
	Garrett Deal
20th	Alan Stephenson
	Jason Tanner
21st	Brian Milstead
	Brook Mizell
	Tyler Langley
	Jacob May
22nd	Tommy Hogan
	Donald Purdy
23rd	Melinda Joyner
	Tim Moore
	Eliseo Salinas, Jr.
25th	Sheila Arnold
	Peyton Harper
27th	Gary Lowder
	Brenda Edwards
	Matthew McCallister
28th	Shelley Johnson
	Mysia Crosser
	Susan Linzay
30th	John Morgan Manning