

January 24, 2020

Everybody's Birthday Party This Sunday!

I want to extend a special invitation for you to come join in our church's annual Birthday Celebration this coming Sunday evening. This is where we celebrate everybody's birthday. We will be having Sloppy Joe's for Supper, then we will do a Fellowship Activity at our individual Birthday tables. After sharing the results of our activity, we will sing Happy Birthday to Everyone and devour a sampling of cakes. It is a great fellowship for getting to know and enjoy the church family.



7-5-2 Prayer@ Home Emphasis coming in February!

We are going to invite our families to make a concerted effort to pray at home in February. Consider that prayer is really about **trusting** that God's "wine" never runs out. (See John 2:1-11) We are invited to pray to the "wine-maker" who is the "way-maker" God. I am believing we need a revival of prayer. We will invite you to join together praying 7 days a week individually for our families, 5 days a week praying as a family, and pray at least 2 days every week with your spouse or close friend. We are preparing a 29 day calendar for each day of February. Yes, February 2020 is leap year! Maybe after we pray together for 29 days, we will just keep on praying together.

Please join us for worship this Sunday

This Sunday I plan to preach on the text of Luke 9:57-62. This is where Jesus says, *"if any man puts his hand to the plow and turns back, he is not fit for the kingdom of God"*. That's a pretty strong challenge. Have you ever considered this verse? Luke records an account of 3 men who meet Jesus as He traveled along with His disciples. Two declared that they wished to follow Jesus and become His disciples. The other was one whom Jesus called to follow Him. They all had excuses of why they could not follow the Lord. What strikes me is the way in which Jesus handles these inquirers. It seems that most people with a cause are busy trying to recruit as many as they can to join them. It's what I would expect. But Jesus has a different approach. He seems to spend a great deal of His time trying to dissuade these men from following after Him - or at least that's what it looks like. Consider that when it comes to following Jesus, no excuse will do. There can be no, *"ifs, ands, or buts"*. *Following Jesus is an invitation into a living relationship that must be cultivated. Nothing takes the place of following Jesus.* We must commit to disciplines and habits that help us cultivate our own first-hand personal experience of being with Jesus. (John 15:5) This is a sincere first-hand abiding, trusting, growing, loving, relationship.

Please come join me as we consider God's call to follow Him and what that means. I believe the truth is that once someone really tastes of Jesus there is no turning back. When it comes to following Jesus, there can be no, *"ifs, ands, or buts."*

Martin Luther wrote that *"A religion that gives nothing, costs nothing and suffers nothing, is worth nothing."*

Look forward to seeing you Sunday! No excuses, I hope you will join us!

In His Love,
Pastor Garry

"We are a faith fellowship of believers on our journey together with our Lord... meeting needs, mending hearts."