

Resurrection Lutheran Church

LYFR November Newsletter

In our first youth group Bible Study in October, the high school youth made a few stops around the church property. We started in my office for a goofy illustration of how we can fall into a spiritually “callous” mindset. It’s easy to make time for things that entertain us instead of making God first in every part of our lives. Next we stopped by the school playground to recall how the youth group helped spread mulch last month to help out the school kids and teachers. We also took time to reflect on being a part of the community walk “Out of the Darkness” which was all about raising awareness for Suicide Prevention.

Finally, we headed to the church sanctuary and we all knelt at the communion rail in front of the altar. After we knelt there and took a few moments to be silent, I encouraged all of them to continue holding one another to the standard we set at a pool party in August. This standard included welcoming the new 9th graders as part of our youth group as well as getting involved with servant projects since we are just as much Christ-followers as any adults in God’s family of believers. I was excited to point out that a number of them took the initiative to take part in a Community Walk for Autism outside of youth group. It was exciting to see them get encouraged by God’s Word and to point out how God was using them in mighty ways over the past few weeks.

Why do I share this? We are coming into our church’s stewardship month. As soon as Christians hear the stewardship word from their pastor they instantly think the pastor is going to ask for more money. But that is the furthest thing from the truth! I want to share our October memory verse that Pastor Hank is encouraging us to memorize before the end of this coming month. ***“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.” Ephesians 4:32 (ESV).***

I really want to focus on the commandment to be kind to one another. This commandment is more than loving our neighbors as ourselves in the usual sense. It also includes **HOLDING ONE ANOTHER ACCOUNTABLE**. There is a standard that we are called to as Christians. But for some reason, our Western culture has softened us Christians up. I challenge all of you to not be afraid to call one another out when someone is saying unkind words about someone (even if that person drives you nuts too!). Pull your friend aside and privately remind them that we are called to build up the body of Christ by all we say and do. Words and actions that insult, hurt and discourage others will not help anyone, especially when we want the world to know that we are different as followers of Jesus Christ.

What are you going to do this month to be a good steward of what God has provided for you in your friendships? Are you going to be like Jesus, unashamed to stand up for what is right? When you are afraid to stand up to your friends (or even yourself) when they’re not living as Christians are called to live, ask God to give you the words of love and truth to correct them. Would you allow a friend to drive without their seat belt on? Of course not! Would you allow a friend to live a life that hurts their Christian witness as well as their own faith walk with God? Of course not! Don’t be silent; hold one another accountable to the standard of living God calls all of us to!

LYFR, I’m proud of all of you these past few months. We’ve grown a lot through these service projects and our Bible Study time together. I’m excited to see where God is taking us in the coming months of late Fall & Winter!

Pastor Ben