

There's a Continual

struggle in my life between giving my kids freedoms and keeping them safe. And I think I feel that struggle more working with kids at Family Night and subbing in the school. I want to be a parent and adult leader who encourages kids to express themselves and to try new things, especially when they have an excitement and desire for it. As a parent, I want to encourage my kids to explore their thoughts and to be able to help them achieve a dream or idea they have.

However, there are times where that can cost us something, either physically, emotionally or financially. And though some of those costs are just the price we have to pay, I obviously don't want my kids to get hurt in the process of pursuing some of the ideas and dreams.

And then there are the kids when I sub. For the younger kids, I have no problem telling them no when they ask for something that I'm not sure they should have or be doing. But in the High School, when they ask permission to do various things, I have a little bit of a harder time saying 'No'. Part of it is I want them to be respected as older and being able to make their own choices, and then allow them to face the consequences of their actions. But I also want them to be where they should be and do the things they're supposed to do.

And so, I often let the kids go where they ask to go even if I'm not sure they should be there. Granted, I don't let them leave the building or climb on top of the roof or anything like that, but if they ask to go into another classroom I allow it assuming that they can be there and then making them face the consequences if they're doing something they shouldn't.

And I think that's a little bit like God, too. Though God doesn't intervene when we make poor choices directly and we don't need to ask him permission to leave the room, but he has given us people, tools and guidelines to help us navigate this world well.

As children, God has given us people in our life who should guide and direct us. That's why families are so important, both mom and dad as well as extended family, even older siblings. But God has also given us a community where we live, who are also supposed to help us through our life.

But then God gives us guidelines and commands in the Bible that help guide us through the best path in this world. Through those regulations we can find more peace and contentment as well as better relationships in this world.

And so God is that loving parent who provides us with these things in order for us to prosper as much as possible in this world. And though he's never going to get in the way of our free choice, when we willingly follow his guidelines we ultimately have the most freedom possible. As Paul writes in Galatians 5.1, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."*

And so, let us live that life of freedom, using God's people, guidelines and Spirit to navigate this world to live the best life we can in this world. But most importantly, let's make sure we keep our eyes on Jesus, because no matter what else we have in our life, he is the only path to a better life after this one. He wants what is best for us, and so willingly choosing his will is going to be what is best for us.

Serving Him and you,
Matthew

Piano

We are giving away our piano that used to be in the sanctuary and is currently in the chapel. First come, first serve but you are in charge of hauling it out. Contact a board member with more questions.

Camp Schedule

Camp is coming back in full force this summer, with camps available for 1st grade through 2023 graduates. Sign up is available through the camp website (lamoinecamp.org) and if you marked that you're registering through our church, we will pay 50% of each camper's registration cost. Please contact the church office with questions.

Also, we are responsible for providing 25 boxes of Fruit Loop cereal again this year; generic is fine, too. Please have boxes here by **Monday, May 15th**. Also, we are responsible for cooking on Wednesday, **June 21st starting at 10am**. Please let Matthew know if you'd be interested in helping cook.

Baby Bottle Boomerang

The Rushville Pregnancy Resource Center's annual fundraiser of filling baby bottles begins Mother's Day (May 14th) and ends on Father's Day (June 18th). Bottles will be available in the back of the sanctuary so feel free to grab one and fill it with coins, bills or even a check to help support this wonderful ministry.

Prayer List

- Kirsta Anderson-colon cancer spread to liver
 - Bill Danner – continued healing, dialysis
 - Betty Davis-fall, broken arm
 - Jody Dean – treatments
 - Don Elliott – heart issues
 - Karen Fredrick-nursing home for rehab
 - Mike Grater – cancer
 - Kara Hootman – brain surgery
 - Danny Jones – new treatment, not doing well
 - Cynde Ketterman – ill
 - Clyde Prater-cancer, experimental treatments
 - Lori Rodriguez – stage 4 cirrhosis of liver
 - Becky Watson – cancer treatments, stem cell 3 year old with diabetes
 - Debbie – chemo treatment
- Praises:**
- Gary Hulett – home, doing well
 - Baby Rittenhouse born
- Condolences:**
- Todd Watson family

April Financials

	Weekly Actual	Yearly Actual	Yearly Budget
Apr 9 th	\$545.00	\$15,039.80	\$16,399.05
Apr 16 th	\$713.00	\$15,752.80	\$17,492.32
Apr 23 rd	\$1,213.00	\$16,965.80	\$18,585.59
Apr 30 th	\$877.00	\$17,842.80	\$19,678.86

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You Are Welcome At
Our Services!

Sunday

Morning Worship.....9 a.m.

Sunday School.....10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Family Night.....6:00 p.m.

Events:

Thurs. May 4th- National Day of Prayer @ 7 am, noon, & 7 pm at Town Square

Sat. May 6th-Fishing Tournament @ Camp Emmanuel 8:30-2

Tues. May 9th-Man Up @ 6:30

Mon. May 15th-Camp Fellowship in ACC @ 6 pm

Thurs. May 18th-8th Grade Promotion @ 7 pm

Sun. May 21st-High School Graduation @ 2 pm

Sun. May 21st- Board Meeting @ 6 pm

Thurs. May 25th-Ladies Fellowship @ 6 pm (potluck)

Sun. May 28th-Worship & Praise @ 6 pm

All events are subject to change. Please keep up to date by checking the bulletin, Facebook page or website.

