



Newsletter

JANUARY - 2022

Greetings!

I was reading a devotional which intrigued me. Sometimes we hear the words of Jesus and we wonder, so how does that really apply to me? How can I do what's He's asking of me? As I read through the gospel of John, John 14:12 jumped out at me. I believe Jesus was talking to the church when He said - - - "Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father."

WOW!! We can do greater works than Jesus? Really?! How?!

Jesus didn't say we'd do the same works, but we would do greater works. What could be greater than raising the dead and healing the sick and stopping the storms and feeding thousands?

But, we do have the opportunity to do the amazing! We've been entrusted to share the message of who Jesus is. We've gone all around the world to help people hear the message of Christ. We have technology, that when used right, can spread the word. We have books and an ability to spread His Word at breakneck speed. Maybe these are greater works.

Jesus also told us people would know us by one very extraordinary characteristic . . . 'they'd know us by our love.' It's not just about what we do, but it's about who we are. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 13, we can have amazing faith, give away all we

have, be martyrs, have endless knowledge, but if we don't have laugh, we're nothing more than a new year's eve noisemaker. And you know how obnoxious they can be!!

As we begin a new year, what are your spiritual goals? How will you demonstrate the love of Jesus this year? What are the spiritual disciplines you will try to accomplish in 2022? How will you represent the body of Christ in all the world? I truly believe we have an amazing opportunity to make a difference in the world . . . and we can do it by the way we love one another and the world!

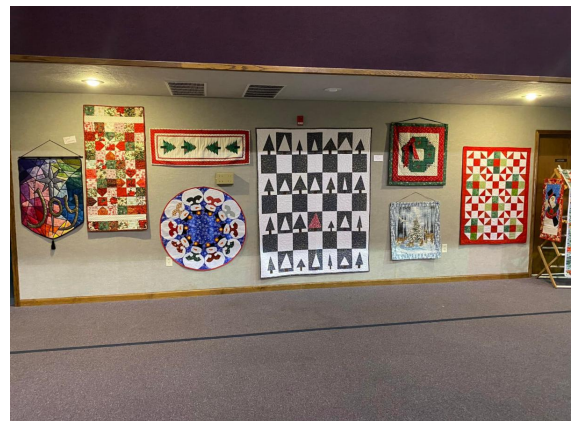
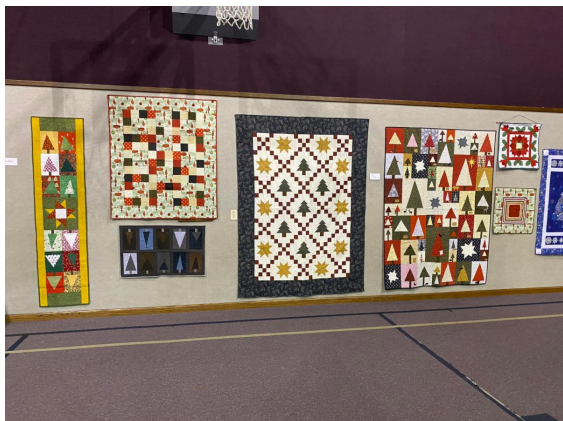
If I can help you in any way, please feel free to let me know!

I look forward to seeing you . . . in 2022!

Pastor Michael

IN CASE YOU MISSED THEM...

Back on December 5th, this group of ladies (we'll call them The Sewing Ladies) shared their sewing talents after the morning service. While their name may not be fancy, the attention to detail they each bring to their craft is amazing! Their theme was Christmas trees. If you weren't able to stay after to see their creations check out these pictures! If you are interested in joining the Sewing Ladies, they meet at 9:00am on Wednesdays at the church.





Sunday

10:30am: Worship Celebration

Tuesday

7:00pm: Ladies Zoom Bible Study
with Debbie Deutsch

Wednesday

6:30-7:30pm:
High Point (grades K-3)
Crew 456 (grades 4-6)
Impact (grades 7-12)

RESOURCES

If you are looking for books to read in 2022 that may challenge you, besides the Bible; the books listed below are definitely worth reading. These are some of the books Pastor Michael read in 2021. These are his top 10 -

1. Think like a Rocket Scientist: Simple Strategies you can use to Make Giant Leaps in Work and Life by Ozan Varol (2020)
2. Atomic Habits by James Clear (2018)
3. The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months That Changed the World by A. J. Baime (2017)
4. Extreme Ownership: How U.S. Navy SEALs Lead and Win by Jocko Willink (2017)
5. The Power of Prayer - E.M. Bounds
6. Start With Why by Simon Sinek (2011)
7. Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero (2017)
8. The one thing: The surprisingly simple truth behind extraordinary results by Gary Keller (2012)
9. The Art of War by Sun Tzu (500 BC)
10. How to win friends and influence people by Dale Carnegie (1936)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WE NEED OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

I grew up the firstborn son of a Southern Baptist preacher. Every Sunday the expectation was clear: I was going to be in church. Possible exceptions? Maybe if I had a significant fever. But the truth is, I absolutely loved going, and I even went a few times feverish. But the world has changed, and the numbers for regular church attendance are not what they used to be. Of course, the quick question is *why?* The answers are many and varied. Author Kathleen Norris counters those answers with a response she received from a pastor to the question, "Why do we go to church?" He said, "We go to church for other people. Because someone may need you there."

Now by no means is that the only reason we go to church, but his response does resonate with the heartbeat of the writer to the Hebrews. He urged the believers to persevere in the faith, and to achieve that goal he stressed "not giving up meeting together" (Hebrews 10:25). Why? Because something vital would be missed in our absence: "encouraging one another" (v. 25). We need that mutual encouragement to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (v. 24).

Brothers and sisters, keep meeting together, because someone may need you there. And the corresponding truth is that you may need them as well.

John Blase

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