

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Windom Evangelical Free Church

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Brothers and Sisters,

In the face of uncertainty, I often make things more complicated than they need to be. Perhaps you are like me in this way. Part of my coping with the unknown includes trying to explain and categorize everything that happens around me. This reaction can result in me missing Jesus' most basic command.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age"
Matthew 28:19

This past week, I was convicted that my own heart easily drifts from God's purpose that he has given to the church. We are called to make disciples who make more disciples of all nations. In his commission to the disciples, Jesus did not include any exempting conditions to disciple making. He never said, "Go make disciples, but if the Roman Empire falls apart you can take a break." He never instructed them, "Make disciples, but if you run out of money, don't seem to be making progress, or get tired, go try somewhere else." And Jesus certainly never said, "If you are in an abnormal season of ministry during a pandemic, societal unrest and political confusion, those things take priority over discipleship."

Friends, I suggest to you the lesson for us is that the path of discipleship goes through our current circumstances, not around them. They are a gift from God. Instead of growing discouraged, let's learn to see this season of church life as an opportunity to be more like Jesus together! Jesus has promised to be with us to the end of the age. That promise has no conditions and does not depend upon our current events. Therefore, we have everything we need in Jesus Christ to do the hard work of discipleship here and now. This fall as we learn from Ephesians, I'm going to be doing my upmost to become more like Jesus and teach others to do the same. I pray you will join me.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jon

KNOWING THE FAMILY

Let's get to know our church family better!

Who are you?	(Annie) Ruth Steinfeldt (husband Bill, passed in 2016)	Tracey & Mitch Voehl
Who are your children?	Don (Jodi), Mike (Chris), Mary (James). Also 5 grandchildren & 8 Great- Grandchildren	Matthew, age 13
Do you have pets?	Cat named Lars	2 cats, Miles & Chloe
How long have you been a part of our church?	Since 1977	Tracey - all my life. Mitch - 25 years
Where do you work?	Retired. Worked at the Cottonwood County Citizen for 18 years	Tracey - social worker at Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services. Mitch - Cemstone, sales & marketing
What's your favorite game to play?	Scotch Bridge	Monopoly
What are your hobbies?	Quilting, counted cross stitch, reading & making cards	Boating & fishing
What's your favorite quarantine snack?	Anything I happen to have in the kitchen	Mitch - chips & salsa Tracey - corn chips or chocolate Matthew - Doritos
What's your favorite way to spend time with your family?	When our family was young, we liked camping & fishing. Now it's visiting & having a meal	Boating
What are you most grateful for today?	The love of the Lord, family and friends	For God's unfailing love & protection that he is in control

SERMON SNAPSHOT

Sermons This Month: It's time for Ephesians! Our goal as we begin Ephesians is to "Discover Anew Our Unity In Christ." What does this mean? In short, Ephesians is a book written to a church as a reminder of what God created them to do. To BE the church. Paul's main point in the book centers around unity in Christ. The purpose and identity of God's church comes in Christ alone, not from any other source.

The reason we will discover this "Anew" is because many of us already understand and agree in principle that the church is united in Christ. But how does that change our relationships? What about the way we do ministry? By the time we finish Ephesians, by God's grace, we will be able to point out the signs of lives united by Christ and to begin living that way in accountability together.

STUFF YOU SHOULD...

Listen to: [The Common Hymnal](#). Common Hymnal is a collective of Christian artists who write songs regularly in response to current events in the world. If you have been wondering, "How can Christian music respond in a helpful way to what we are seeing in America right now?" then check out the most recent songs by Common Hymnal.

Read: Ephesians. At the risk of over-hyping a sermon series, I encourage you to read Ephesians this month. Spend time pouring over the text, noticing patterns of Paul's writing. Practice the discipline of laying aside our natural assumptions of understanding and join me in seeing Ephesians anew with fresh eyes in the Spirit.

FRIDAY FUNNIES

Since summer is basically over, I thought I would just leave this here...

