

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Windom Evangelical Free Church

THE PASTOR'S DESK

Brothers and Sisters,

Do you feel like your heart has been heavy these past weeks? There has been a lot happening in each of our lives lately! While we don't all experience the same sources of stress, here are a few of the significant events from the past several weeks: a full harvest, deep loss in our church and community, a continually divisive election, the change of seasons, and the ongoing pandemic on top of it all.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11:28-30

It is important for us to collectively admit that we all are under pressure in the season. And that's not an excuse, it's simply a fact. We are a people under stress. How should we respond when it seems our hearts are increasingly strained?

Jesus offers us rest for our souls. In Matthew 11, Jesus has been speaking about the contrast between the heart of those who are unrepentant before God and those who have hearts of rest. The heart who finds rest in God has taken the yoke of Jesus. Being yoked to Jesus is a picture of both allegiance and affection. The yoke is a directional guide, a fast bond to the way of living that Jesus exemplified when he was on earth. In comparison to the heavy weight of a sin-filled world, Jesus' yoke is light. It brings our souls rest.

We cannot avoid the stressors that rage around us in life. What we can do is model our attitudes after that of Christ. So, instead of doing what my heart defaults to, which is work hard to fix all the things I cannot control, Jesus tells me I have a different way to live. Become yoked to the heart of Jesus with me, friends.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Jon

KNOWING THE FAMILY

Let's get to know our church family better!

Doug & Bonnie Vande Hoef

Who's in your family? **Mark, Kristen & Eric** (all married) and 7 grandchildren ranging in age from 13 years old down to 7 months

Do you have pets? **No pets**

How long have you been at WEFC? **about 35 years**

Where do you work? **Doug** is a semi driver for Prairie Farms Dairy, he delivers finished milk products. **Bonnie** works in the kitchen at the Windom Middle/High School and at Hy-Vee as a cashier

Favorite game? **card games**

Hobbies? **Doug** - fishing and **Bonnie** - reading & crafts

Favorite COVID snack? **candy bars or anything Bonnie bakes**

Favorite way to spend time with family? **any time we can spend with them, especially the grandkids!**

What are you most grateful for today? **Very thankful for our church family.**

Kerry & Deanna Suderman

Who's in your family? **Kerry, Deanna, Austin (24), Jordan (22), Jared (22) & Chad (17)**

Do you have pets? **We have outdoor cats on our farm. No indoor pets. If you haver want a cat, let us know. Our family is constantly growing!**

How long have you been at WEFC? **We've been attending E-Free since our older sons were toddlers.**

Where do you work? **Kerry** works at Fast Global. **Deanna** works at Sonshine Preschool.

Favorite game? **Scrabble** - because WORDS!

Hobbies? **Deanna** - crochet, watercolor painting, card making, wreath making, thrift shopping. **The Guys** - anything to do with cars.

Favorite COVID snack? **homemade popcorn, salted almonds or anything chocolate**

Favorite way to spend time with family? **watching movies, enjoying a meal together.**

What are you most grateful for today? **Salvation and the health & safety of my family & loved ones.**

SERMON SNAPSHOT

Sermons This Month: November is the final stretch of our time in Ephesians! As we learn from the last half of Paul's letter, we will see that unity in Christ cannot be contained to just a theological discussion. How we treat one another, love one another, build families, relationships, and our church should conform to the unity of Christ in all ways. Paul's words give us tangible ways to examine our attitudes, our marriages, our work, and the things that are most important to us. Living united in Christ is hard, it's a spiritual battle! But in the end, God conforms his church to be like his son, Jesus, and bringing life to the world through us.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On December 6, we will gather as a church family after the worship service to do some business together. Some agenda items for this meeting will be:

- Approval of the 2021 Budget
- Approval of new members
- Recommendation for paying off the roof loan.

Watch for more information about this meeting this month, mark your calendars, and join us!

Mission Trip February 14-20 Morehead City, NC



In February we will be sending a team to North Carolina to assist the EFCA Reach Global Crisis Response with ongoing relief efforts from hurricane Florence. Listen for more details this Sunday, Nov 8 and talk to Pastor Jon or Tom Muller to learn more about joining the team.

FRIDAY FUNNIES - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



IT'S NOVEMBER



CAN I PUT UP MY CHRISTMAS
TREE YET?