

St John Church of Christ

May 3, 2020

This Week OnLine

Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Pete and Penelope are back!
Join them at 10:00 A.M.

Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

As we're climbing "The Stairway to Love," the first step is *faith*, what we believe, and the second step is *excellence*, what we do. Join us as the Bible explains true *Excellence*.

Worship

11:00 - 11:20 A.M.

In 2015, 21 Egyptian Christians were beheaded for their faith. Christians are called to be courageous, but not just in the face of death, but they must also be courageous in the mundane.

Log into Facebook.com and search for "St. John Church of Christ" or follow this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnChurchOfChrist/>

Don't forget to send us your prayer requests throughout the broadcast. We will include them in our benediction.

Online Giving



Saying Grace



My grandfather was a huge influence in my life. He was a very small, dark Oklahoman, but had a ready wit and loved a good story. Papa was also very wise. For example, he noted that only fat people eat diet food, so if you want to avoid being overweight, you should avoid diet food – at least according to my grandfather. Likewise, Papa was a practical man. He insisted, "Life is uncertain, so eat dessert first." Papa also insisted that we should pray after meals instead of before, so we would know just how thankful to be. It turns out; Papa wasn't too far off base.

The Jewish people, based on Deuteronomy 8:10, say the blessing after the meal!

"When you have eaten, and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you."

On the other hand, Jesus gave thanks both before (Luke 24:30), but he also gave thanks afterward (Luke 22:20). So why do Christians say their "blessing" over the meal before enjoying it? Some scholars believe the practice is tied to Jews and Gentiles eating together. It must have been very hard for someone like Peter, a Jew, who had never tasted anything "unclean" (Acts 10:14), to enjoy a meal of forbidden food! (Galatians 2:12). Perhaps that's why Paul told Timothy, "For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer." In other words, prayers make the food acceptable to eat, so it would make sense for Peter to pray before the meal.

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But whether we pray before, after, or both, thanking God for our food is a beautiful practice. First, it cultivates an “attitude of gratitude” – an essential Christian virtue. I remember watching an old Walter Brennan movie where Brennan played a cantankerous old farmer. As he dug into the family meal, his wife chastised him and insisted they say grace before they ate. I’ll never forget his bitter prayer: “Lord, we plowed the field, planted the seed, hoed, watered, and harvested the crop, but we give you thanks anyway.” His prayer reflected his sad character. How much sweeter is a thankful spirit!

Second, thanking God for our meals teaches us to depend on Him Who provides us with food and shelter and clothing (Acts 17:25).

Finally, saying grace is a wonderful opportunity to teach our children to pray. Don’t you remember how special you felt when your father asked you to lead the family prayer at the dinner table? So, go ahead. Take a moment to bow your head and thank the Lord for his love at every meal – even if, as Papa advised, it’s after dessert.



For Your Prayers

Here is our latest prayer list from our last online worship service:

- Please pray for Curtis in Pratt who has pancreatic cancer.
- “Please pray for Maren Turner, 2 year old from Great Bend who has Leukemia.”
- Pam would like us to pray for “Brad Miller, formerly from Sylvia who was diagnosed with cancer this week.”
- Kari asked us to “Please pray for my friend Heidi as she is going through radiation for breast cancer.”
- We also have special prayers for Dominic who is in Kansas, and Matthew who is in Connecticut. They are both in facilities, and due to the virus, their isolation has almost become unbearable. Please remember their loved ones who are unable to visit and comfort them at this time.
- Likewise, remember Don and Gladys. Kenwood isn’t allowing visitors – but you can give them a phone call and talk with them while standing outside their window in back!

Pray for our online presence as we stream our worship and Bible Classes. Ask God to help us take advantage of these new opportunities!

In addition, let’s pray for the safety of our community, our elderly and especially for our children. Thank God for those who are giving their time to minister to them and provide them with meals.

Pray for our families. Many businesses have closed or restricted their hours. Without work, needs are going to be especially great for them.

News & Notes

Can you help?

I have been making face masks and have run out of fabric as well as elastic. If you have or know anyone who has these supplies and would like to donate to the cause. What I use is 100% cotton quilt type fabric (Not fabric scraps, please) and 1/8”-1/4” wide elastic. I also can make ties out

of tshirts when elastic is not an option. I’ve also run out of T-shirts and could use those too. To date, with Dixie’s help at the scissors, we’ve sent masks to 7 hospitals, clinics, care homes, as well as many individuals - 425 masks and counting. As our state prepares to reopen, businesses may be required to mask up, so the need may shift to the business community. And, if any of you need masks for your family, I would be glad to get some to you.

– Pam Turner