

# St John Church of Christ

August 9, 2020

## ONLINE

### Children's Bible Class

10:00 A.M.

Join Pete and Penelope online at 10:00 A.M.

### Adult Bible Class

10:30 - 10:45 A.M.

The Apostle Paul describes a new kind of love – Agape: Christian Love – by passing it through a prism and giving us a 15-color rainbow. Today's description reminds us "Love Hopes."

## LIVE & ONLINE

### Worship

11:00 - 11:45 A.M.

You can join us live at the building or online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOOPdVv3YaCn-L1QnT2BftQA>

There are simple links to follow from our website: <https://StJohnChurchofChrist.org>.

(CCLI #244012t9)

## "Greed is Good!"

So say's Oliver Stone's character, Gordon Gekko, in the movie Wall Street. However, the real-life tycoon and La Jolla resident, Ivan Boesky, told the graduating class at Berkeley's business school in 1986, "I think greed is healthy. You can be greedy and still feel good about yourself." Shortly after that, Boesky was fined \$100 million and went to prison for insider trading.

Do you remember the horrible example of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11)? Like Barnabas, they sold a piece of land they owned and gave some proceeds to the Church. However, unlike Barnabas, they lied and tried to tell the Church they were giving the money to help the poor. The lie was their sin, but what prompted them to lie? Perhaps it was envy. Maybe they wanted the same applause the Christians gave Barnabas.

On the other hand, it could have been greed. Greed is a gateway sin; that is, it opens the door to many other sins. Boesky's greed led to insider trading. Ananias and Sapphira's sin led to lying - not just to Peter and the Christians but also to the Holy Spirit!

The book of Acts says that Ananias "kept back for himself



some of the proceeds" (v. 2). Luke chose an interesting word to describe Ananias' sin: *nosphizo*. It's used twice in this passage and one more time in the New Testament (Titus 2:10). The Greek dictionary describes this word as "a type of skimming operation." After a battle, it was typical for the soldiers to strip their enemies and then divide the wealth equally, but if someone cheated by hoarding some of the spoils, this was the word that was used. Do you remember the story of the Jewish soldier Achan (Joshua 7:1-26)? The same rare Greek verb we just talked about appears in that story to describe his sin.

What leads someone to cheat his brothers? Why did Judas steal from Jesus and the apostles (John 12:6)? How can we justify a sin like greed? How can we justify any sin? The answer is as simple as the word "sin" itself. There is an "I" in the middle. At its heart, sin is selfishness - and that's never good.



## For Your Prayers

Please pray for our loved ones.

- As she recovers, Shirley has been moved to the hospital in Stafford. George is staying with Richard and Shelly so he can be nearby.
- Carol's first surgery went well and she is scheduled to have her other hand worked on in six weeks.
- We've been praying for little two-year old Maren in Great Bend. She is having difficulty and the doctors are trying some different procedures. Your prayers are sorely needed.
- Terry continues to recover from his hip surgery, and was able to rejoin us at the building for worship last week.
- Camelia, a friend of our congregation and supporter of John's mission work in Singapore has requested our prayers. An MRI has detected a brain lesion and they are preparing follow-up tests.

We also want to remember our Church family around the world, especially in Mexico and India as they face the challenges brought on by this pandemic.

**Join us online Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**

<https://StJohnChurchOfChrist.org/sermons>

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Don and Gladys just celebrated their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were married on a Sunday and so this past Sunday's anniversary was extra special!

8/1: Maxxamus Gunter

8/2: Don and Gladys Hornbaker Anniversary

8/4: Vanessa Marks

8/13: Craig and Kari Smith Anniversary

8/13: Zach and Vanessa Marks Anniversary

8/17: Jerriko Gunter

8/19: Jorja Blakeslee

8/20: Gayle Byer

8/23: Landon Marks

8/26: Jaylee Mayer

8/27: Stan and Orvalee Aldrich Anniversary

8/29: Trent and Hanna Sallee Anniversary