

## For The Church



Politics #7 of 7:

Another thing about being salt and light in our world today is that we can boldly speak on key issues with compassion. God is the author of life, Psalm 139:13: “You knit me together in my mother’s womb.” Human life is a beautiful creation of God that should be cherished and protected. This starts in the womb but includes all of life, a whole-life approach that encompasses womb to tomb. For this reason, Christians can and should care about issues beyond the womb like poverty, the quality of schools, whether people have access to quality healthcare, etc.

We must not act like the Pharisees whom Jesus warned the disciples not to imitate. “But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.” (Matthew 23:3-4)

We also must realize that the Church’s political action will not fit today’s political mold. The political parties will press Christians to fit into a mold in which they cannot fit. We need to be both wise and harmless, something the current system seems to discourage. Pastor Tim Keller used to say that 80% of life’s situations don’t have a simple Bible verse to give clear direction. For example, how should Christians engage with AI? The Scriptures and the witness of the Holy Spirit are absolutely crucial in the process of acquiring the wisdom we need to answer tough questions. This includes making political choices.

I refuse to tell people how they should vote. A Christian has the Holy Spirit dwelling within them, the Scriptures, a conscience given to them by their Maker, and a Christian community. And so, we pray, “Thy Kingdom Come” as we engage in Kingdom-First politics. So, pray for your leaders and continue to lobby for righteousness and justice. But may we as people of the Kingdom never forget that we are looking for a better country (Hebrews 11). While we make that journey with eyes fixed on the Kingdom, we are called to be salt and light in this divided political age.

## In Our Prayers

Thomas Pruitt  
Zeb Carter  
Juanita (Abby’s Mother)  
Tim Taylor  
Linda Fry  
Pam Aldrich

Terry Nash  
Vance Wendelburg  
Dennis Rosenbaum  
Nolan Adams  
Terry Sallee  
Margarita Kent (Lupe’s Sister)

Danielle Harmon  
Crystal Emery (Gloria’s mom)  
Enrique Lira  
Ethan Lanterman  
Linda Guthrie  
Audi Thornburg

# Upcoming Events

## Youth Group [Tonight]

The Youth Group will meet tonight at 7 PM at Carl and Janet's house.

## VBS [Wednesday]

Thank you to everyone that helped make our VBS a great success! We appreciate all of you and what you did!

## CORE Community Pie Auction [Saturday]

The CORE Community pie auction meal and fundraiser on Saturday evening at the I.O.O.F Lodge here in St. John beginning at 5:30 PM. It is a free-will offering dinner with pie auction, silent auction, and door prizes. Childcare is provided and children 8+ will be able to swim as we have lifeguards. If you are willing to make a salad or a cake for this event please let Zeb know.

## Save the Date:

September 5 & 6 - Praise & Harmony with Keith Lancaster (Eastwood Church of Christ)  
September 14 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)  
September 26 - SMC Ladies Retreat  
October 2 - SMC Crafter's Retreat  
October 5-7 - SMC Men's Retreat  
October 12 - Young Family Ministry (Stafford)  
November 9 - Young Family Ministry (St. John)  
November 14-16 - SMC Teen Retreat

# Birthdays

Gayle Byer - August 20  
Landon Marks - August 23

# Worship Order

Welcome Table & Greeters: Darrel & Shannon Bauer

Song Leader: Gary Hornbaker

Sound System: Zoey Carter

Gathering: #15 - Step by Step

Welcome: Chris Mansel

Scripture Reading: Chris Stott (Luke 15:5-10)

Shepherd's Prayer: Carl Feril

Song: #3 - Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah

Song: #337 - Hallelujah! What a Savior

Communion: Stan Aldrich (Jayce Feril, Jerry Kinnamon, Joe Cornwell)

Song: #634 - We'll Work Til Jesus Comes

Lesson: Zeb Carter

Song: #924 - Just As I Am (vs. 1)

Closing Prayer: JW Like



Giving Link

**Sundays:** Bible classes for all ages @ 10:00 am  
Worship service for everyone @ 11:00 am  
**Elders:** Tom Turner, Richard Brensing, Terry Sallee, Carl Feril  
**Deacons:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril, Zachary Marks  
**Minister:** Zeborah Carter