



In my November newsletter article I requested your questions to serve as fodder for this monthly article. And so, here we go with "Ask the Pastor."

### ***What does the Bible say about money?***

That's a big one. The Bible says A LOT about money. It talks about the rich and the poor; it talks about giving and receiving; it talks about money as blessing and as curse. And it's not just in one part of the Bible. This is a topic for discussion throughout the whole Bible, from beginning to end, New Testament and Old. Clearly it's an important topic. And I don't talk about it nearly enough. So thanks for the question and let's get going!

In our Financial Peace University class that is meeting this winter, our video presenter Dave Ramsey is fond of quoting Proverbs 22, "The borrower is slave to the lender." The importance of this concept for his system of personal finances is obvious. Borrowing money takes away your freedom. So long as you are in debt to someone else, you aren't free to use your money the way you'd like. Rather, you are locked into a process of paying that money back.

But this idea goes deeper than that. Because slavery in the Bible means something in particular. It's part of the big story. The biggest event in the life of the ancient Israelites was the Exodus from Egypt where they were slaves. God said to Moses,

*"I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land*

## **March 2019**

*to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey..." (Exodus 3:7-8)*

God sets them free from slavery because slavery is awful. Instead, he blesses them with a rich land, flowing with milk and honey. But it is not only that. The Lord has Moses say to Pharaoh, "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness." Their freedom, from the first, has embedded within it the purpose of glorifying God through service and worship. You might even say that the Israelites are "indebted" to God who has brought them out of slavery.

So then, God wants us to be free, which we can experience as a better life. But he also wants us to be free so that we can serve him only. If we are indebted to God, and owe him our first and best, then to be indebted elsewhere is a confusion of our obligations. Being a borrower who is indebted to a lender is to have an extra master.

Now that might sound familiar. That's because Jesus talks about it. He says, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

We should despise debt and flee from it. If we are in debt, we should despise it and work to get free. If we are sinking under it, we should cry out, "Though you exert power over me, you are not my master. Jesus Christ is my master and I cry out to him as the Israelites cried out in Egypt. He is my savior."

Rev. Ben Worley  
Emanuel St. John, Lytton, IA  
(712) 541-4785 (cell phone)

**Emanuel St John Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 14, 2019**

President Brian Lantz called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Jeff Ellerbrock, Randy Souder, Ron Haden, Dennis Booth, Kari Lantz, Alan Meyer, Harlan Meyer, Colleen Arndt and Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Randy Souder, second by Dennis Booth to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Alan Meyer to approve the January minutes. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was given by Rhonda Johnson. Motion by Alan Meyer, second by Ron Haden to approve the treasurer's report with a balance of \$12,558.48. Motion passed. A written EPIC report was given to the council.

**Old Business:** Dennis Booth gave a report for the 2018 year of the AfterCare program. The report will be added to the annual meeting reports.

**President's Report:** Brian Lantz announced that after Saturday night service on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> there will be a meal and a short game night.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben reported that he will be on vacation May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 20<sup>th</sup>. Lenten service programs are in. He and Faith will be attending the marriage retreat this weekend at Ingham Okoboji Camp. A speaker from the Camp will be at worship to talk about the camp. Four families are attending the Financial University program.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Dennis Booth present. The committee talked about the Lenten services for this year. They will be on Wednesday nights starting at 7:00 p.m. Palm Sunday will be confirmation day. The committee is in the process of getting a speaker for the Gala Days service.

**Parish Education:** Kari Lantz reported that the Easter Sunrise breakfast will be used to help with students going to the National Youth Conference. Vacation Bible School will be held June 24 through June 27. The committee is working on service projects for the Sunday School students.

**Outreach Committee:** Colleen Arndt present. She reported that donations received from the soup dinner were around \$711.00 which will go to support Do Days. The committee is working on honoring confirmation students on Palm Sunday and in May for graduating

students and teacher appreciation. In June the Bicycle Riders may stop through Lytton again.

**Property and Management Committee:** Harlan Meyer informed the council that no new projects had come up. Committee is still working on the cross and the furnace. A suggestion was made to look into getting gravel or rock for the parking area across from the church.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee:** Jeff Ellerbrock gave a list of current and possible upcoming projects for the year.

**WELCA:** Kari Lantz reported that there will be a new officers meeting.

**New Business:** None.

Motion by Kari Lantz, second by Randy Souder to adjourn. Motion passed. Lord's Prayer.



### **Reminder to Thrivent members**

- deadline to direct 2018 Choice Dollars March 31, 2019

Cheryl and Ron Haden would like to remind Thrivent members who have Choice Dollars to direct that they have two options do so:

1. Go to:  
[www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/](http://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/living-generously/thrivent-choice/).
2. Talk with a Thrivent representative by calling [800-847-4836](tel:800-847-4836) and saying "Thrivent Choice" when prompted.

Members can direct their accumulated Choice Dollars throughout the year. A minimum of \$5 in Choice Dollars is required. Members have until March 31 of the following year to make their selection(s). This means members can direct 2018 Choice dollars through March 31, 2019.

We continue to encourage you to direct your Choice Dollars to Emanuel-St. John Lutheran Church to help with the upkeep and ministry of the church. **If you need any help in the process of directing your funds please contact Ron or Cheryl at 1-712-660-**

1557. They will be glad to walk you through the process or answer any questions you may have.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar 1 Canon Albright, Heidi Hammen, Betty Kral,  
Colten Riley  
Mar 3 Daniel Kennebeck, Jr.  
Mar 7 Duane Segebarth  
Mar 11 Pamela Meyer  
Mar 12 Stephanie Andreasen, Molly Ringgenberg,  
Lexie Rosado  
Mar 14 Brenda Lawson  
Mar 15 Amy Carlson-Hammen, Madison  
Macrunnel, Jewel Talbott  
Mar 16 Jennifer Wagener  
Mar 17 Autumn Purdie  
Mar 18 LaVerne Arndt, Mildred Purdie  
Mar 19 Michael Carlson, Kimberlee Taylor  
Mar 20 Bruce Diersen, **James Willis**  
Mar 21 Wesley Twyman  
Mar 22 Troy Hillmer  
Mar 23 Laurie Glasnapp, Daniel Lange,  
B. J. Musselman  
Mar 26 Douglas Schultz  
Mar 27 Clayton Fjerstad, Matthew Haden  
Mar 28 Nathan Leer, Madison Schultz  
Mar 29 Teresa VanHulzen  
Mar 30 Tim Huddleson, Colton Mohr  
Mar 31 Jesse Ross



Mar 1, 1986 Darwin & Debbie Otto  
**Mar 2, 1968 LaVerne & Colleen Arndt**  
**Mar 6, 1965 Darrell & Carol Ross**  
Mar 7, 1987 Kenneth & Pamela Meyer  
Mar 11, 2006 Will & Kimberly Adams  
Mar 14, 1998 Ricky & Marilyn Dettmann  
Mar 18, 2006 Brett & Jessica Meyer  
Mar 24, 1973 Greg & Tammy Williams  
Mar 26, 2004 Anthony & Vanessa Althiser  
Mar 26, 1988 Doug & Barb Riley  
Mar 31, 1984 Alan & Carol Meyer

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

### Perfect SS Attendance January 2019

Sunday School students present all Sundays in January:

- ☆ Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten: Adelaide Worley, Elin Albright, Myla Albright, Lily Bartels and Johnny Worley;
- ☆ Kindergarten & Grade 1: Chase Hejtmanek;
- ☆ Grades 2 & 3: Natalie Scharn, Aidan Albright and Benjamin Worley;
- ☆ Grades 4 & 5: Kelsie Hejtmanek, Kellen Meyer, Owen Scharn and Sadie Wheelock;

- ☆ Grades 6: No one;
- ☆ Confirmation Class (Grades 7 & 8): Brock Nattress, Connor Scharn and Madison Schultz;
- ☆ High School: No one.

Class winner for best attendance was Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten taught by Alison Greene, Kari Musselman, Sam Musselman and Sally Musselman



On Sunday February 3, 2019, Nash Douglas Riley, son of Colten and Ashley Riley, was baptized. Andrew VanHulzen and Kortney Riley were his baptismal sponsors.

Nash was born December 1, 2018 and welcomed home by big brother, Sawyer. He is the grandson of Doug and Barb Riley, Paul Toms and Sheila Toms. Nelda Bartels and Mary Toms are his great-grandparents.

**Congratulations to the Riley family!**



**Women's News**

The Women of the ELCA executive meeting will be held with the Sunrise Circle meeting on Wed. Mar. 6. Mission donations will be distributed so if anyone has a request, let Candace know.

WELCA will be collecting and assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Anyone can donate, leave at the church and the ladies will assemble. Items need to be at the church before the end of March. Include the following items: one light or medium-weight bath-size towel (Approximately 52"x27"), dark color recommended, two bath-size bar (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping, one adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging, one sturdy comb, remove packaging and one metal nail clippers, remove packaging.



**March is National Professional Social Work Month**

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we're grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our community!

Maybe you've never had a social worker involved in your life. Yet, whether you realize it or not, you've had the benefit of their behind-the-scenes work in your community. Social workers help people help themselves in overcoming life's most difficult circumstances or managing challenges of everyday living: poverty, abuse, mental illness, depression, addiction, disability, and many other situations.

Iowa wouldn't be the same without the patience, guidance, and empowerment that social workers provide. Happy National Professional Social Work Month!

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### **Finding a Support System**

Aubreigh knew something needed to change. She was struggling with substance use and alcohol. She couldn't find a way to take care of her mental health. She was unable to provide a safe home for her son, who needed to move in with his dad. When she finally took a step in the right direction and found a home, all her belongings were stolen.

Through LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Aubreigh connected with her worker, Kelsy. Together, the duo is working on budgeting Aubreigh's money, finding a good job, and building a safe home environment for her son.

"I was in a bad situation, and I'm really thankful for LSI," she says. "Without them, who knows where I'd be."

Aubreigh now meets with Kelsy once a week and feels like she is finally on the right path after plenty of hard work. She is working with her son and his father to build a healthy co-parenting relationship, and she knows Kelsy will always be in her corner, ready to cheer her on.

"Kelsy has been an awesome resource. She helps if we have issues co-parenting, and we do a lot better now as a family," Aubreigh says. "If I have any problems, Kelsy is there."

### **Bible Study at CoDR**

I knew inmates at NCCF in Rockwell City had a Bible study group every Tuesday evening and Friday nights at Ft. Dodge. I have heard offenders answer spontaneous, Bible-related questions at worship services- often questions I would have to research. I became curious about their Bible study groups. How is their study different from those I attend? How many guys attend? Do they use a study guide? I decided to find out for myself. I attended without any special arrangements- just showed my volunteer badge at the control center and signed in. Long tables outlined the perimeter of what is usually the worship chapel. About 20 guys were seated at the outer side of the tables with, I presume, different versions of the Bible. There was a facilitator, plus Pr. Stone to add his knowledge or to prompt discussion with his questions. One man opened with prayer. Others took turns reading sections from Matthew 13 & 14. Many shared the verses that "spoke" to them in various ways- whether relating to other passages of scripture or sharing personal experiences. Thus far, it was similar to what I usually experience.

What made it different? First, written prayer requests were handed out. I received two. Each person had three minutes to pray specifically for the given requests, then return the notes. Such power in prayer! They had no formal written study guide. Most of the guys raised their hands to share or ask questions. It was apparent that several had been in self-study or additional study groups. A couple guys took notes. One invited others to join him in scripture study anytime throughout the week. I felt all the comments exhibited a desire to learn more of what God's Word was telling each one in how to make a change in his life. I liked one comment- "Even little words pop out with important meanings". Some guys were quiet but appeared to ponder what they heard or read. Their Bible study is just as important to them as mine. These guys are not so different after all. Thank you, Lord, that we all have the opportunity to search your Holy Word.

Candace Booth  
Lytton, Iowa

EMANUEL-ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2019 CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**PRESIDENT:** Brian Lantz

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Jo Grodahl

**SECRETARY:** Cindy Souder

**TREASURER:** Rhonda Johnson

**FINANCIAL TREASURER:** Bette Lohff

**PARISH ED COMMITTEE**

(3 members-3 year term)

Sara Nattress (20), Kari Lantz (21)  
and Alison Greene (22)

**FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

(3 members-3 year term)

Alan Meyer (20), Jeff Ellerbrock (21)  
and Randy Souder (22)

**PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(3 members-3 year term)

Harlan Meyer (20), Ron Haden (21)  
and Doug Riley

**OUTREACH**

(3 members-3 year term)

Denise Adams (20), Karen Cerra (21)  
and Colleen Arndt

**WORSHIP & MUSIC**

(committee of 6-3 year terms)

Dennis & Barb Hedin (20), Dennis Booth (20),  
Stacy Talbott (21), Dar & Denise Lake (21)

Ben & Susan Albright (22) and Dennis & Peg Dettmann (22)

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

(5 members-3 year term)

Cindy Finley (2<sup>nd</sup> term Dec 2019)

Dennis Dettmann (2<sup>nd</sup> term Dec 2020)

Jeff Ellerbrock (1<sup>st</sup> term Dec 2019)

Michelle Talbott (1<sup>st</sup> term Dec 2021)

Cheryl Haden (1<sup>st</sup> term Dec 2021)

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATE**

Jo Grodahl and Michelle Talbott

(Committee Members serve until Jan of year listed except Endowment members  
whose term ends in Dec)

**March 2019**

John Everts is currently a resident at Park View Rehabilitation Center, in Sac City, Iowa. He and his team roll bandages for Global Health Ministries. The bandages are made from white sheets torn into three inch strips. Some of John's friends tear the sheets and prepare the strips for rolling. Since August of 2018, John has rolled about 7300 of these strips filling twenty computer paper boxes. The bandages will be taken to Global Health Ministries in Fridley, Minnesota and from there distributed where needed. Some of the countries include Tanzania, Cameroon, Liberia and Madagascar.

Good work, John and team. We are proud of the work you do!!!

**Important Dates for March 2019**

Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019

7 p.m. Service with Holy Communion

Lenten Service each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.

Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 10, 2019



