

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, July 9, 2024
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

“Good Habits, Bad Habits”

READING: Hebrews 10:24-25 – And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NOTE: Pastor Kischnick did this video devotion extemporaneously, so here you have a synopsis of that video. For the full text, listen to the video presentation.

The Elders have decided to begin making home visits to members we have not seen at church for some length of time. They had suspended this during the Pandemic and for some time since because everyone seemed a bit squeamish about entertaining visitors. But the time has come to recommit to this task.

Sociologists have long known that behaviors repeated 3 or 4 times in succession can become new habits. Many families developed new habits during the time of the Pandemic. Got used to watching online or omitting worship altogether. New habits can easily be bad habits.

Our text was written about 30-40 years after Jesus’ Ascension. Already then the writer to the Hebrews has to encourage attendance at worship. How ready we are to cut ourselves off from the spiritual resources God has given us in worship, resources that we cannot obtain anywhere else. The Word, the Sacraments, the Fellowship of Believers, and the love of God shared with one another in the Lord’s house has no substitute.

If we can encourage our missing members to return to worship three or four times consecutively, they can make a new habit, a good habit. We ourselves want to be vigilant in our own worship attendance so our habits treat us to good and keep us in God’s hand. Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- 1) VBS! Thanks to everyone who made our VBS the special experience that it was. Special thanks to Pastor Woods, Helen Bohannon, Mitzi Lyon-Schmelz, Joan Longest, Amy Meyer, Ben Wehmiller, Kathy Scheibelhut, the Kitchen Crew, and everyone else who helped bless the children for whom all the work brought joy.**
- 2) FRANKENMUTH BUS TRIP – September 29-October 2. Registration is now open. Find information and forms in “News & Tidbits”, online, and in the Narthex. 14 seats available.**
- 3) BARDSTOWN BUS TRIP – On Wednesday, July 24, we leave Grace at 9:00 bound for Bardstown, KY, and Museum Row. For one \$10.00 fee you have access to all or some of: the Museum of Civil War Women, the Gen. Hal Moore Museum of Military History, The Museum of the Civil War’s Western Theater, and Old Bardstown Village. At 1:00 we will have lunch at the historic Talbot Tavern, oldest existing tavern in Kentucky. Sign up at the office.**