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A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAVE CHRISTIAN VOTING

I mentioned last week that Dr. Tony Evans was doing a ten-week sermon series called "Christian Voting". I have listened to the first two so far; and they were great, as I expected from a seasoned godly pastor. So, I am going to hit some highlights of his message today.

Dr. Evans began with an illustration of football teams as they came on the field to do battle. There is also a group of people who do not belong to either team. They are the referees. They serve a different master. They serve the league with its offices in New York City. They are neutral. They serve in regard to the rule book and not by the desires or whims of the two teams. For them to put on a jersey would be treason.

Here's the parallel - as followers of Jesus Christ we serve a different kingdom. We serve in accordance with the book God has given us. So, we are neither republican nor democrat. We are Kingdom Independents. You may have a leaning towards one party or another making you "Republican lite" or "Democrat lite", but you need to remain independent and aligned with God not a party.

In Joshua 5:13, Joshua saw the commander of the Lord's army standing outside Jericho, and he asked, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" The angel's answer was "NO!" He was on the Lord's side. He didn't come to take sides; he came to take over. Thinking God is republican, or democrat would be a total misunderstanding of God. According to Tony Evans, "Kingdom voting is the opportunity and responsibility of committed Christians to partner with God in the expanding of His rule in society through civil government." Evans goes on later to say, "The Biblical role of civil government is to maintain a safe, just, righteous, and compassionately responsible environment for freedom to flourish."

Some of my thoughts on this:

God is sovereign. He puts kings in power, and He removes them. If you get this clear, you can live without the tremendous stress that comes from trying to play God. I've been there, I remember an election where I thought if X wins, we're ruined. No matter who wins the election, our sovereign God will have caused it or allowed it and will use them to fulfill His plan.

It also strikes me that Christians are the only ones who can be an example of how to approach an election in a godly manner. The common practice of taking a political jab and then vilifying the opponent is what the world does. This works beautifully if the desire is to polarize people so they will never work together under any circumstances. We must not take on this strategy.

As believers, we serve a different kingdom. We pray for and work towards peace and justice in our land. We need to expend our energies helping our culture come together for the common good. I have no misconceptions. Some of you lean democrat and others lean republican. I'm encouraging you to give your allegiance to the kingdom of God first. Then live out

your convictions in accordance with being a Christ follower.

VOTING

Last week Pastor Dave posted an old clip about politics by Tony Evans on our FB account. Check it out. It reminds us that we trust in God alone. Navigating the voting issues and misinformation is really difficult for all of us. We know that you want to be informed and vote in a God-honoring way. Dr. Evans is a faithful gospel preacher and may offer a different perspective than you are used to.

Absentee ballots are available now if you can't make it in person. We encourage you to vote and welcome you to pray with us for our nation.

SAFE DISTANCING AT CHURCH

With the number of people returning to church growing, our Worship Center is becoming crowded. More and more people who know each other are sitting together in the same row. We know that many of you are friends and don't mind the proximity or have been spending time with each other elsewhere and are comfortable sitting right next to each other.

Some of you may be uncomfortable with that. Last Sunday we began using Spacers. You can grab one (or two) from the bookcase in the back of the narthex. Spacers are 8 ½" x 11" pieces of paper that say, "Space Please". These enable you to put space between you and the next person. If you don't care, don't take one. If you do want space, take one or two and put them on the seats next to you.

The 8:00 a.m. service hasn't been full, but the 10:00 a.m. one has been packed. You will have more space in the 8:00 a.m. service if you want it. The Café and Library are still open for the overflow.

The mask mandate is still in effect, and we ask that you think of others and not your preference as you decide whether or not to comply. If you have a hard time breathing while wearing a mask, then pull it off for a while or don't wear one. We are not going to police it. We just ask that, as much as is possible, try to think of others as more important than yourself (Philippians 2:3).

SERMON NOTES

Some of you have asked for sermon notes. As a result, there will be a limited supply of sermon notes under the world map in the narthex where the Spacers are as well. Take a note if you'd like.

RVC | kids

RVC | kids is a safe and friendly environment to serve the families of RiverValley. If you are willing to serve one Sunday a month as a caregiver, storyteller, or greeter, please reach out and connect with Tracy Fettner.

Email: Tracy.fettner@rvcoshkosh.com

Number: (920) 231-9690

Text: (317) 289-4394

Opportunity to Serve Families

There is a need for babysitters for Bible studies and LifeGroups. The times and days may vary. If you want to be added to the list of sitters, please contact the church office at (920) 231-9690 or email at info@rvcoshkosh.com.

DEDICATIONS NOVEMBER 22ND

We dedicate children following the pattern of Joseph and Mary who took Jesus to the temple on the 8th day (Luke 2:22) At a baby dedication, Mom and Dad promise before God to train up a child in the ways of the Lord. We pray for a blessing on the child and remind the congregation that we all have responsibility to train up our kids to follow Jesus. You must be regular attenders of RVC in order to request a child dedication.

We have scheduled our first dedication since the Coronavirus outbreak for November 22nd. If you'd like to have your child dedicated, please contact the church office to get information on the process.

GIVING UPDATE

YTD Giving 5/1/20 - 8/31/20

Actual: \$259,364.39

Budgeted: \$240,552.00

Weekly Giving: 9/7/20 - 9/13/20
\$10,148.98

LADIES BIBLE STUDIES THIS FALL

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Our study on Romans started on September 17th. All women are welcome and can still join us. We meet from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. If you are interested or would like more information, contact: Laura Ehrlich at lauralevlove@yahoo.com.



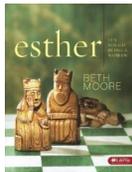
Tuesday Evening Zoom Study

We have a Tuesday Night Ladies' Study on Zoom underway from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We are studying Jackie Hill Perry's Jude: Contending for Faith in Today's Culture. You can still join. If you're interested, contact Amanda Heise via email at heise.amanda.m@gmail.com



Study of Esther - a Beth Moore Study

The Esther study on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at church is underway, but you are still welcome to join us. Our next meeting is on September 30th. The Tuesday night study meets next on September 22nd from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Nicole at nicmac525@me.com if you are planning to be part of this study. In addition, if you are planning to attend Wednesday mornings and need childcare, space will be limited, so your RSVP is necessary. This time is planned especially for YOU. Just a reminder that childcare is not available for the Tuesday night study.



THINKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

Now is the time to start packing shoebox gifts! These shoeboxes can be a great blessing for you/your family, as well as a powerful way to demonstrate God's love to hurting children around the world.

This might be the most important year ever to reach children with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the midst of a pandemic, children are frightened, families are struggling, and people don't know what hope they have for the future. We want children around the

world to know that God loves them, He has not forgotten them, and that He cares for them very much.

We'll keep you posted as to when the empty boxes will become available for pickup. In the meantime, you can begin gathering your shoebox gifts. If shopping for gifts is not practical for you right now, you may want to Build a Shoebox Online at <https://samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>. Most importantly, pray for the children who will receive your gifts. What better way to make sure the Gospel message continues to be proclaimed "to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8)?

COMMUNITY EVENTS

You may want to participate in these events/opportunities. It is up to you to decide what is safe based on your comfort level.



What: Exalt Women's Conference,
Speaker: Laura Sandretti

When: Saturday, October 17,
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Where: New Life Community Church, 3250
W 9th Ave, Oshkosh

Cost: Registration includes a continental breakfast
\$20 (\$15 before October 1).

<https://exaltconference.com>

Our mission is to gather women from Oshkosh and the surrounding area to exalt Jesus Christ.

Our purpose is to worship Jesus Christ, study God's Word, build unity among believers, reach out to the community, and encourage one another to walk in faith.

We believe:

...the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who died in our place and rose again to give us new life.

... the Bible, God's Holy Word, is our source for wisdom and power.

... the indwelling Holy Spirit is the teacher and guide for all who trust in Christ as their Savior.

What: Open Mic Night

When: Friday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Dwelling 222, 222 Church Avenue

More Info: Dwelling will have its first-ever Open Mic Night featuring the music of Joshua Ian Lucas, Jedidiah, and Temple Veil for a night of eclectic Christian music, worship and just plain fellowship. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. for concessions; Joshua Ian Lucas will take the stage at 7:00 p.m., the show will be closed by Temple Veil. Come on out and support these bands and enjoy a variety of musical genres.



What: Mark Schultz in concert

When: Friday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.

Where: Dwelling 222, 222 Church Avenue

Cost: General admission \$15, Gold seating \$25, Meet and Greet \$35 (includes early entrance at 5:30 p.m.)

More Info: Mark Schultz is a contemporary Christian music artist who has sold over 1.3 million albums and has 10 no. 1 singles to date. Listeners have come to expect inspiring and remarkable stories in song from Mark Schultz, a 14-time Dove Award nominee and platinum-selling artist. With his latest effort, *All Things Possible*, Schultz continues to tackle matters of the heart and spirit with uncommon craftsmanship.

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Romans 12:9-16 (ESV)