

Live from Livingston

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NOTE FROM PASTOR RICK

We completed our journey through Lent and the Paschal Feast (also known as Easter) then Pentecost – my favorite Feast day of the Christian calendar – and then that strange Sunday called Trinity Sunday which emphasizes not an event but a doctrine. We now enter – cue drum roll – Ordinary Time! Recently called the Season after Pentecost which is better. Pentecost marks when by the power of the Holy Spirit the Christian church continues the work and mission of Christ. One can say Advent through Pentecost focuses on the story of Jesus. The season after Pentecost answers the question, So now what? And focuses on the church, how we witness to the saving work of God in Christ.

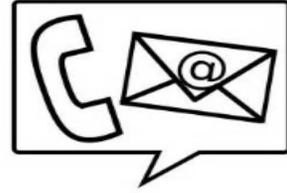
Earlier this year I sensed God leading me to focus on the gospel of Mark. So we can encounter Christ and respond to the gospel again. Although God might lead me toward a different theme. Such as, What can we do as believers who are part of a small church? Focusing not on what we do not have but what we do have. What did the early Christian church have? Big buildings and budgets with lots of events? The early church was mostly house churches and – this is less clear – clergy were often part-time and/or bivocational.

In other words the early Christian church was much like us. One of my teachers in seminary wrote his thesis at Oxford University on how this small movement spread so quickly throughout the Roman Empire and beyond – see *The Evangelization of the Roman Empire* by E Glenn Hinson.

By now you know how much I emphasize basic spiritual disciplines (or practices) over (although not necessarily against) church events and activities. Do we know and practice the Christian faith? As individuals, more importantly as families, even more importantly as a family of believers? Biblically speaking there is no such thing as the Christian life in isolation. Thank you for how you have visited, supported, and prayed for and with our church members in need, especially through times of grief.

STAYING IN TOUCH

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NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council lately has worked on a game plan to make the parsonage ready to be rented again. Thanks to those who did walkthroughs, prepared a list of what needs to be done – mostly cosmetic work – and met with contractors, received estimates, and worked on having the power turned back on. Thanks to everyone who came to express interest and support.

Hopefully short version = Estimates from contractors were very reasonable and the Council agreed to hire them to do most of the work (fix walls, paint interior, some floor work). That still leaves a short list of things we will tackle after the contractors are finished. We will use some of our savings to pay for the work. So we also created a Parsonage Remodeling Fund so we can replenish what we use from savings. We will let you know about opportunities to help prepare the parsonage (such as one or two work days). Our You Shall Not Pass™ deadline is August 1 although we should be done sooner.

CHURCH CALENDAR AND EVENTS FOR JUNE!

Sunday June 3

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

Wednesday June 6 – Saturday June 9

Annual Conference in Shreveport (Pastor Rick will attend)

Sunday June 10

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday June 10 – Thursday June 14

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School!

Sunday June 17

10:00 a.m. Worship

Sunday June 24

10:00 a.m. Worship

11:00 a.m. Coffee and Conversation time (with Not Coffee available)

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Every Wednesday = After school. Ages 12-18 hang out Main Library 2:30-3:30 p.m. Technology, video games, movies, snacks. Visit www.Mylpl.info for more information.

Every Wednesday = Mighty Moms. Main Library 3:00-4:30 pm. For free after school meal.

Thursday, January 18 = Craft-o-Rama. Come enjoy putting together an assortment of crafts or make up your own! Visit the Albany-Springfield Library anytime between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. For more information, call the library or visit www.mylpl.info.

Teen Anime Club. Those in grades 7-12 are invited to the Watson Library 5:30 p.m. to watch anime and discuss manga and learn about Japanese culture. For more information, call the library or visit www.mylpl.info.

Coloring and Coffee. Come out and treat yourself to some free time to color, drink coffee, listen to music, and socialize at the South Library 6 p.m. The library will provide intricate coloring sheets and colored pencils. For more information call the library or visit www.mylpl.info.

Fairy Tale Storytime and Puppet Show. Fairy tale-inspired stories! A story about a terrible dragon, a hilarious puppet show, and a craft. Denham Springs-Walker Library 6 p.m. For more information, call the library or visit www.mylpl.info.

Saturday, January 20 = VITA Tax Preparation. Co-sponsored by Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and the Internal Revenue Service. Free tax preparation for participants with a low to moderate income for 2017. Sessions will be held at the Main Library from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Bring tax documents such as W-2s, 1099s, and information for deductions and credits along with a copy of last year's tax return and a Social Security card for yourself, a spouse and dependents. You may also bring proof of a bank account for direct deposit. Volunteers will prepare most simple returns, but more complicated returns will not be processed. **This program is by appointment only.** To make an appointment or for more information, call the branch hosting your preferred event or visit <http://www.cauw.org/vita/appointments>.

LIGO Science Saturday. LIGO - Livingston Science Education Center. From 1:00-5:00 p.m. you can tour the world's first successful gravitational wave observatory and learn more about the science of senses. Learn about your own senses through activities

focused on the senses. The center is located north of the town of Livingston on LIGO Lane. For more information visit www.ligo.caltech.edu/LA/.

Tuesday, January 23 = H.O.P.E. Grief Support Groups. Six-week support group session that provides a safe place for sharing and growth through grief, on Tuesdays through March 6 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The group will not meet on Mardi Gras. Ochsner Medical Center, 17000 Medical Center Drive (off O’Neal Lane), in the Chapel on the first floor. Please call Denise Domingue at the Hospice of Baton Rouge at (225) 767-4673 for more information or to reserve your spot. All groups are provided to the public at no charge.

Saturday, January 27 = Watson Gumbo Cook-off. From 10:00-6:00 at the Live Oak Sports Complex, 36965 La. Hwy. 16. Organizers say it will be their biggest cook-off yet with 50 cooking teams competing. Gumbo will include bird and sausage (including andouille), but no seafood. No pre-cooked ingredients allowed. Each competitor must cook enough gumbo to feed 200-300 people. Musical entertainment. Once again, the event will support local homeless veterans at the Quad Area Transitional Housing for Homeless Veterans. For more information visit the Watson’s 8th Annual Bird & Sausage Gumbo Cookoff event page on Facebook.

Saturday, February 3 = Krewe of Denham Springs Parade. 3:00 p.m. The 2018 theme is “Party on the Nile.” From Denham Springs High School through the Antique District and end at the intersection of Veteran’s Boulevard. Anyone interested in participating in this parade should contact Mickey Sharp, Parade Captain, at mickey.sharp@cox.net for an entry form. Deadline for entries will be January 31.

Krewe of Diversion Parade. (Time? Location?)