

The Word on the (F) Street

Work

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

These days we often look at work as a negative part of our life, a means to an end, "I work to survive." We say and hear comments like, "I have to go to work." or "I am a slave to the man." We are even often left thinking about the hopes of retirement, only to be met with the fear of, "Will I ever be able to afford to quit working?" But work is something we were created to do. In the original creation story, found in Genesis 1 and 2, it was part of what God saw and considered it "GOOD."

Paul builds on this idea that work is good, stating that we were created to do good works, "For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago," (Ephesians 2:10). Now this is not a specific text to tell us to go to work, but it is a call to do *good* works. This means that we were created to labor, to give of ourselves to do good things. In other words, good things do not happen by us hoping or thinking about them. And dare I say that good works do not happen by even praying about them alone. No, we were created to do them.

We were intended to put in an effort, or labor to see good things happen. That might even include working a job to provide for our families, or provide for others in need.

Later in Ephesians 4:28, Paul says, "*If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need.*" Part of the reason that we work, or have a job, is to give to others, which is our purpose. How often do we go to work with the intent to earn to help out others in need: others in our immediate family, our neighborhood, or in our world?

Too often we have begun working for things that are only going to leave us empty: a new car, bigger house, or just vices that often only hurt us. What if we were to go to work with the idea that we could be earning money to help provide for God's children in other places? Places where there is no drinking water, or where there is a famine, or no gospel being preached.

Just a thought to consider what are you working for?



Make the right call...
Join us for our
**SUPER BOWL PARTY
and CHILI COOK OFF!**
5:00 p.m. FEBRUARY 3rd
at THE NORTHERN
LIGHTHOUSE
BRING snacks, your
favorite chili AND
your appetite!



Calendar for February 2019

3rd: Sunday Service
4th: **Happy Birthday Jon Richard**
5th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ; **Happy Birthday Sharon Masterson**
6th: 6pm Youth Group
7th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Abbi Schmeekle**
10th: Sunday Service
12th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ; **Happy Birthday Zephyr Ingraham**
13th: 6pm Youth Group
14th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Jenna Fuller, Carlos Gomez**
17th: Sunday Service
18th: **Happy Birthday Mary Jones, Melissa Nash**
19th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
20rd: 6pm Youth Group
21st: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Leaudrie Foster, Darci Lopez**
24th: Sunday Service
26th: 6am Prayer; 7:30pm Freedom Through Christ
27th: Youth Group
28th: 6:30pm FoodNet; **Happy Birthday Deb Schmeekle**

Please keep us up to date on birthdays & anniversaries! If you aren't sure that we have your information, talk to Jane Mailand or simply fill out a Welcome Card and hand it to her. In addition, if your address, phone, or email has changed, let Jane know.

Shape Groups

Solid Ground, Men's Study:

Mondays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Redeemer Bldg., 745 D St.

Community Group:

Tuesdays, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Redeemer Bldg., 745 D St.
Each session begins with a potluck.

Connection Group:

Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Keith Morrissey's home, 1750 Prospect.
Contact Keith at 402.525.4897

Women's Group:

Saturday mornings at the Meadowlark Coffee Shop, 1624 South St.

Digital Prayer Share

Diana Rogers

Now, at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, we have a new way to request prayer and pray for others, using a cell phone app.

Simply download the app for Pray.com and search for "F" Street Neighborhood Church. If you feel moved to post a prayer request, by all means we want you to share.

Keep in mind that anyone can see your post. While we love hearing from you, this is not to be used as Facebook; we want to keep it dedicated to prayer.



ATLAS of Lincoln: February Update

Brody M. Van Roekel, Resident Pastor

It's hard to believe January is almost over. It's also hard to believe that it's been six months since we started Atlas: Lincoln. I remain continually in awe of how God moves in this adventure, neighborhood, community, and in the lives of our people. I'm privileged to be a part of it, honored to work with such great people, and thrilled to see what he has in store for 2019.

This month has been blessed. New clients, new community and church connections, new opportunities to share Jesus' love with so many. Our first big event is on the horizon. We will be hosting a Trivia Night Fundraiser 6:30 p.m. Friday, February 8, at Hope Community Church. For \$15 per person, folks can compete in a friendly game of trivia skills, while browsing our silent auction. The auction will have some great items, including tickets to a Lincoln Salt Dogs game, a gift package from Destinations Coffee House, and many others. During the evening, some of our people will be sharing about how the Lord has moved in their lives through Atlas. It will be an awesome night to enjoy time with great people and to learn about the work of Atlas. Questions? Connect with Brody.



Our day-to-day work continues to grow. We pray for our people's struggles. We praise God for their successes. We connect weekly with our dear clients and work to match them with caring, intentional mentors.

People are catching the vision of Atlas: Lincoln. Daily, we have opportunities to share about how we see Atlas serving the Near South neighborhood and the Lincoln community at large. Individuals, organizations, and churches have invested time, money, and people in our mission to touch lives for Christ. Nothing would be possible apart from the Lord's provision, offered through these faithful partners in the Gospel.

As is often said, the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. We are always in need of people who want to be the hands and feet of Christ by being prayer partners, mentors, and financial investors. Atlas can use volunteers with a variety of gifts. If you have a desire to serve your community through Atlas: Lincoln (whether it's multiple hours a week or a few hours a year), there are many opportunities to do so. Contact Brody at 712.441.5403 or b.m.vanroekel@gmail.com, and let's talk about ways we can touch lives for Christ together.

Special Offering

On Sunday, February 3, we will take an offering to support the work of Chad and Julie Resser, who serve as missionaries in Spain. Please consider supporting them by both praying for, and giving financially, as they share the gospel in a place often hardened to the good news of Jesus.



Getting to Know You

Kayla Wilson, Team Developer: Hospitality and Discipleship

My primary starting goal, stepping into this position, was to drink as much coffee as possible with as many people as possible. Slowly, I am getting to know "F" Street Church, the individuals, and families. Outside of my love for coffee, I enjoy this position because it serves as a conduit for encouraging, caring for, and loving other people. I am looking forward to more coffee dates and I am hopeful for how the Father will use them. If you are interested in hospitality and/or discipleship, please come have coffee with me.

It's All About Community

Jeff Graham, Team Developer: Church Structures

This week I was fortunate to spend some time with several individuals who do great work at "F" Street Neighborhood Church. It takes a great deal of people to make this church what it is, and to grow its influence and boundaries. All of these people volunteer in some way or another.



CeCe heads up the accounting functions for "F" Street Church. She is joined by Kristina and Leaudria, and supported by Tad, Keith, and Pastor Jeff. These people work in the background to manage the books for the church, and have been involved with the startup accounting and bookkeeping for Atlas and Transformations Thrift Store. This is no small task. I've served on a number of boards, and it's been my experience that when you find a good bookkeeper and accountant, the organization should try hard to keep them. Treasury, bookkeeping, and accountant positions are some of the hardest to fill. CeCe and her team do an awesome job, and most of it is behind the scenes where few people even get to see.

Brody heads up the web site and social media management for the church. Currently, Brody is a one man band regarding the work in this area. He is always looking for content ideas, and is open to ideas for what people want to see on the web site. Brody is self-taught regarding the management of websites. The simplicity and fullness of the church's web-site is testament to his ability to grasp the technology, and fill it with smart usage of content. If you have ideas, feel free to talk to Brody.

Tad heads up the financial development team. Tad is joined by Keith, Cece, and Pastor Jeff with support from Beth, and myself. This team is fairly new, and is charged with some lofty responsibilities such as setting goals for church spending, and finding ways to fund them. For instance, some of the goals include planting a church around the year 2020, getting the art chapel up and running, and strengthening the youth ministries within the church. Having financial goals that make sense helps the church with the other side of the equation: what funds the church needs to raise, and how to accomplish that goal. Another function of this team is to map out what special offerings the church will engage in over the course of the year. For instance, we may take collections for the Spanish church across the street, ministries we support around the world, and others.

Along with these amazingly dedicated and talented people, there are also team leader positions open for a janitor, audio and video team, security team, and the ever present need for help with building maintenance. If you are interested in helping out at "F" Street Neighborhood Church, please reach out to me, Pastor Jeff, Meg, Kayla, or Barb. We'll get you in touch with the correct person and who knows? You may find a fulfilling way to help out at the church that does so much for the neighborhood.

Letters to the Church

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

I have always like Francis Chan as a preacher and writer. He speaks truth, and in a humorous, easy to understand way. Francis himself has been on a journey, as he started a church that grew to *epic* proportions, only to realize that the church looked little like the church in the Bible. So he quit. Now he leads a group of people who are meeting in their homes.

I do not have all the answers to what is right or wrong with the church. I do know that I was blessed and encouraged by reading his book, and reading his vision for the church and what we are called to do. I encourage you, if you are looking for a good book, to read it, and let it encourage and inspire you in ministry. "Letters to the Church" is a great read.

Giving

Jeff Heerspink, Pastor

Once and again, I want thank everyone who gave at the year end to help us almost triple our local giving. This is so important as we move into some new areas of ministry here at "F" Street Church.

Three new Team Developers are now on staff, to work with our various teams. These are important because each team oversees an area of ministry that supports the mission and vision of our church. Having these people in place, we believe, will help us attain our vision of being a *place of acceptance and direction*.

In addition, we have hired a part time Youth and Children's Director. Meghan Arbogast is currently serving in this position, and we hope to start up the Action Packed Parable Time, as well as strengthen our Youth Ministry program.

We continue to open up our doors and dream of new ways to serve our community, as well as be hospitable and a place for worship each weekend. It is only through the combined work of each of us giving in big and small ways that allows us to do this work.

So, thank you for giving, that helps us minister here in the neighborhood.

(Resident) Meditations

Brody M. Van Roekel, Director, Atlas: Lincoln

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, the German theologian and pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer examines the famous “Sermon on the Mount” recorded in Matthew. Bonhoeffer uses the passage to explain what it truly means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and the true magnitude of following Jesus.

It’s not something easy, it’s not something that feels good or looks good. Following Jesus isn’t something you can do without dying to yourself. This is not metaphorically dying, not a just a piece of you dying, but every fiber of who you are is crucified. Jesus didn’t die metaphorically. Jesus didn’t die “just a little bit.” The entirety of Christ was poured out for the seemingly endless sin of humanity. But sin wasn’t endless, because on the cross, sin and death met its end in Jesus’ glorious sacrifice.

The word “sacrifice” means “to make holy.” Through Jesus’ work on the cross alone, we are made holy and wholly alive. Not by our own deeds, not by our own work, not by our own sacrifice.

Bonhoeffer writes, “The cross is laid on every Christian. The first Christ-suffering which every person must experience is the call to abandon the attachments of this world. It is that dying of the old person which is the result of his encounter with Christ. As we embark upon discipleship, we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with his death—we give over our lives to death. Thus, it begins; the cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a person, he bids them come and die.”

Reading through Job this month, it is striking how time and time again things just don’t make sense. Job was righteous, but many perils beset him. Bonhoeffer writes about dying in order to live. Jesus calls us to carry the very instrument of our execution so that we may follow Him.

None of these really make sense, at least not in my limited abilities. But that’s also one of the most compelling aspects of following Jesus. Things don’t always make sense, and yet we follow. If things completely made sense, where’s the need for faith and trust? If I understood everything, why would I need to look to the Lord for guidance?

Jesus died to himself. Jesus calls us to die too. It’s terrifying. It doesn’t make sense. It’s going to hurt. Are you ready to die? Jesus’ followers feared it was the end. It didn’t make sense after miracles and amazing signs that he was really dead. Jesus’ pain, through the process of crucifixion, is clear. But on Calvary, Jesus died, so that we might live. So too must we die if we want to live for him. Death, then, is not the end, but the beginning, and in death, we begin our communion with Christ.

Parish Nurses’ Corner

Barb Douglas, Parish Nurse

Hello Church!

The year has really gotten off to a cold and snowy start, hasn’t it? I normally love winter, but this year the cold part of it has really gotten me down. I hope that you all remember the tips for staying warm, dry, and healthy from last year. Use common sense when going out into the cold.

1. Wear warm clothes...I have you some resources in last months’ newsletter, please use them.
2. Stay dry...keep as dry as you possibly can.
3. Drink plenty of fluids...make as many of them warm drinks.
4. Don’t go out on particularly cold wet days, unless absolutely necessary.

Remember you are an important part of God’s kingdom plan.

Following are a few bits of information I would like to share:

1. Every one of you are the “most important person” in someone’s life. Jesus died on the cross for you, he thinks you are important.
2. Every one of you is included in the family of God. Only you

can exclude yourself from the family, the choice is yours.

3. Every one of you can find a home here at “F” Street Neighborhood Church. Only you can exclude yourself, because Christ died for all of us.

4. Every one of you are necessary to the tapestry of life that God is making here at “F” Street Church. Please don’t take any threads away, only you can keep the tapestry intact.

Remember that you are important. Christ, The Son of God, felt you were important enough to give his life for you, on a cross, of all ways to die! Please think before taking anything into your body that will hurt that most holy temple of the living God. If you learn nothing else, learn to love yourself as God loves you. He created this wonderful creation we call our body, and we only get one. Let’s work together and help each other take care of it. Let’s express our thanks to a God, who none of us can understand. He is the lover of our souls, and the preserver of all that is.

Gods blessings to each and every one of you. Take care and hope to see you Sunday!

Your Parish Nurse, Barbara J. Douglas PNFNC

The Power of the Word

I have had the privilege of acquiring lots of tools. Some were bought for a special project, and others were given to me. It is a privilege and joy to have lots of tools and comes in very handy with the amount of home projects I can find myself having with our old homes.

I remember when we purchased our first home and we did a kitchen and bathroom remodel in a matter of a few days, with a group of guys from Michigan and also Lincoln, many of whom had great collections of tools to do the work. Yet after they left I had some of the finish work to do. There I was trying to put up crown molding on top of our new kitchen cabinets, with an old ball peen hammer and a box of finish nails, while trying to hold up an 8 foot board with one hand and hammer this easy-to-bend nail into hard wood, and not make any dents. It was impossible to get the results I wanted, not to mention extremely frustrating. I quit and got the help of another pastor, who had a finish-nailer, and in no time at all it was done and looked good.

To get any job done in life, having the right tools matters. This same truth holds in our lives, as followers of Jesus. We cannot do a good job, we can not expect good results, and we can expect a lot of pain, frustration and disappointment if we are not using one of the greatest tools given to us: the word of God.

The bible tells us a lot about itself and its uses for us.

In Ephesians 6, where we are instructed to put on the armor of God, and the word of God is the one offensive piece of armor. Everything else is used to protect, but it is used to fight against the devil. What good is it if a soldier goes into battle with all the body armor but does not take his weapon? Sure, he could take a few shots at best before being knocked down, but even that would not be enough. he needs a weapon and so do we. We are in a battle for our own lives, our families lives and the lives of those who are our neighbors.

Satan was not afraid to go after Jesus. Do you think he is not after you as well? When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert, he used God's word to stand against his attacks. It was not just the use of the use of the bible, but the proper understanding to counter the false uses of the bible. This is something that the devil is still doing. Pay attention to all the things that we hear today about what the bible says is true. Too often people are using it to get what they want it to say. Just like Satan did to Eve, and tried to do to Jesus. We are in a battle against spiritual forces, and Satan still loves to use the bible - twisting it, taking it out of context- to get you and I to believe false things about God and what he wants from us.

Listen to these powerful words from the author of Hebrews: *"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."* (Hebrews 4:12) If you and I want to be effective in standing against Satan and the war he is imposing on us, if you and I want to experience the power of transformation in our lives and in the lives of others, then is it simply logical that you and I would be dedicated to reading the word of God.

One of my all time favorite passages about the word of God speaks about the direction that so many of us long for in our lives. It is from Psalms (The book of the bible we start to get into this month in the reading plan below). *"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* Too often we feel lost, confused and unclear as to where to turn, yet the bible is the light the shows us where to step, it helps us to know how to avoid stubbing our toe, or worse, falling flat on our face. How might we do things different: if we were to trust in the word of God to guide us in this life? If we heard what God really thought of us? If we understood our need for him? If we knew not only what he has done for us but who he really is?

I want to encourage you to pick up the word of God, this amazing tool that we are given for the task of life that we each of have to live. It will not fail you.

| Jan/Feb | Job | February | Job | February | Job | February | Job | Feb/Mar | Job/Psalms |
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| 28 <input type="checkbox"/> | 20 | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> | 25 | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> | 30 | 18 <input type="checkbox"/> | 35 | 25 <input type="checkbox"/> | 40 |
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