



VOL. 9 ISSUE 12 · DEC 2023

# THE NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR

## Tuesday Morning Prayer

JEFF HERRSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Every Tuesday morning, there is a dedicated group of people who come to pray for the requests of each other, the church, the community and the world. I would love to invite you also to come. You need not be a “prayer expert” (whatever that would even mean) but simply have a hunger for God and for Him to move in our midst. We meet at 6:30am and end about 8:00am; if you cannot be there for the entire time, please come in and pray and feel free to leave. And yes, the coffee pot is on.



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## The Seven Deadly Sins: Part 3 - **Against the Thoughts of Gluttony**

ANDY BUTLER, TECH & BENEVOLENCE LEADER

One thing Evagrius does not do in his handbook is spend a lot of time defining his terms. When dealing with gluttony, Evagrius writes from the perspective of someone who goes without food way more often than most of us do. So, I think it would be valuable for us to agree on a working, biblical definition of 'Gluttony.' Probably, most folks think of over-eating/drinking when they think about gluttony, but from a biblical perspective it's really about the insatiable desire for more we humans have. On a deeper level, a glutton could just as soon be someone who overeats as someone who is given to greed, addiction, or tirelessly over-working themselves, or endlessly curating their online social status, or it could even be another person they are in a relationship with. The through line is: never feeling as though you have enough of whatever or whomever it is you desire. So really that could be, and probably has been, all of us.

One of Evagrius's thoughts and scriptural responses to Gluttony seems appropriate here:

1. Against the thought that hinders us from giving to the needy from our food and clothing on the pretexts "The provisions are not enough for both us and them" or "There is someone weaker or in greater need than this person, rather than this one, for this one is lazy and wants to eat and be clothed without working":

Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise (Luke 3:11).

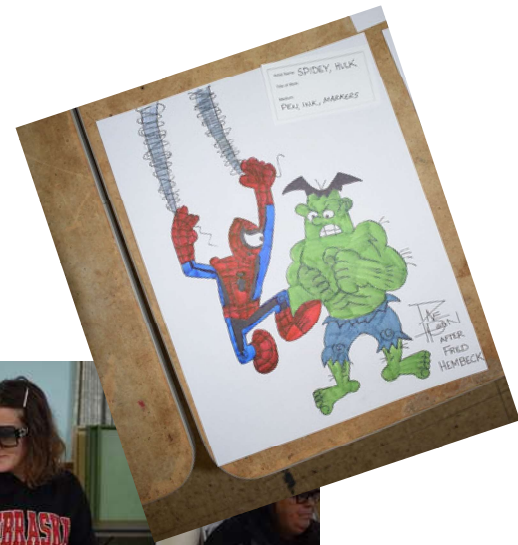
The Bible is clear that this constant desire for more is wrong. But why is it wrong? There are quite a few reasons why overindulgence in anything could be bad on a singular level. A person's individual health and well-being comes to mind first. Our bodies and minds are not really designed to sustain overindulgence. Also, I think of overindulgence at the expense of others - the type of overindulgence that negatively affects those around us. You know, the reason monopolization of markets by American businesses was made illegal, the reason sweatshops exist, or the reason we teach our children the principle of sharing with others. All have something to do with the human desire for more. However, the constant desire for more of anything but God, gradually pushes out gratitude for what we already have, and closes our eyes to the needs of those around us. These truths are central to why gluttony in all of its forms is a sin, and why it can lead to the death of one's soul.

In Matthew 6:24, Jesus teaches about serving two masters, and he says, plainly, that no one can do it. Then he says we cannot serve God and money. As Jesus continues from there, still in Matthew 6, he teaches about not being anxious when it comes to our needs. He invites us to consider his other creation, the lilies of the field, the birds of the air, and how he cares for them. He asks, "are you not of more value than they?" Later in that passage, Jesus gives us instruction to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and God will take care of the rest. And he ends his teaching in Matthew this way: "So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." That all makes me wonder if our innate human desire for more might be rooted in our own worry or fear over not getting what we think we need or know we want. Or maybe it's different for all of us. Whatever the case, it seems most important to Jesus that his followers seek the Kingdom of God over and above all else, today! If we are seeking anything else, we will eventually become mastered by that thing instead of Jesus.

## October Art Show

JESSICA HERNANDEZ

If you were unable to attend the Art Show at F Street Neighborhood Church on October 30th, you really missed out! We had a great time fellowshiping, admiring, discussing techniques and complimenting each other's artwork! This art show featured 7 artists from F Street Neighborhood Church. I for one, was very impressed by the level of artistic talent we have right here in our congregation! God wants us to use and share these talents with others! I left feeling renewed and inspired! If you missed it, no worries! Watch your church newsletter for the next one and make it a point to attend to show support for the artists! If you are an artist and desire to have your artwork displayed in the next Art Show, or have any questions, I'd like to direct you to Willow Applegate, the Art Chapel Director.



## December 31st

This year we have a great opportunity as New Year's Eve is on Sunday. As we typically start out our year with a prayer service, we will be hosting our prayer service on December 31. This will be a time of reading the Word, confession, worship, and confirmation in prayer as a community. Please make plans to be part of this concert of prayer.







## LEARNING & GROWING OPPORTUNITIES at F Street Neighborhood Church

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

### Community Groups — Winter Schedule

Topic: Genesis

Leader: Vince Grove

Location: Jean Stryker's office

Day/Time: Sundays, 9 am

Topic: Spiritual Disciplines

Leaders: Drew & Sarah Peters

Location: 6730 S. 41st Street

Day/Time: Last three Sundays of the month, 6:30 pm

Topic: Galatians

Group: Young Adults (20s) led by Bill and Marcia Thornton

Location: Grace Room

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

Topic: Testimonies

Leader: Ardeshir Mazhari

Location: 1750 Prospect Street

Day/Time: Thursdays, 7 pm

Topic: Advent

Group: Women's Study led by Beth Heerspink and others

Location: Fellowship Hall

Day/Time: Fridays, 10 am



### Meaningful Gifts for Christmas

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

This year, I want to encourage you to consider purchasing a gift that can change lives. You do not need a lot, but you can give thousands. World Renew is a justice and mercy ministry of the Christian Reformed Church and has a catalog of gift ideas that serve those in need. You can buy ten bars of soap for \$5 or a Latrine for \$100, Agriculture tools for \$80 or an entire herd (a pig, a goat and a cow) for a farmer. There are many ideas and if you want, you can also go to World Vision as they too have a gift catalog. It matters not where you go but that you consider the opportunity to be a blessing to people who do not have. This can be an individual or small group project, or a family event. Make the most of it, have fun with it, and make a difference with a gift that can save lives.

<https://worldrenew.net/shop>

<https://donate.worldvision.org/giftcatalog>

## Advent Season 2023: "Gifts 4 the King"

BILL THORNTON, TEACHING PASTOR

As we look forward to Christmas (and the birth of Jesus whom we celebrate), our F Street Neighborhood Church family will observe the season of Advent with our friends at the Northern Lighthouse. We are praying that this will be a time of preparation and anticipation for Christ to have renewed access into our hearts and lives as believers. May we find ourselves longing for those beautiful qualities that the coming of Jesus brings to us: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. The following is a schedule of messages and preachers during the Advent season:

December 3rd, First Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Hope

Preacher: Pastor Jon Keyzer

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Preaching Theme: Mary: Service

December 10th, Second Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Peace

Preacher: Pastor Bill Thornton

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Preaching Theme: Joseph: Obedience

December 17th, Third Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Joy

Preacher: Pastor Sam Keyzer

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Preaching Theme: The Angels & Shepherds: Witness

December 24th, Fourth Sunday of Advent...

Candle: Love

Preacher: Pastor Bill Thornton

Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Preaching Theme: The Magi: Worship

December 24th, Christmas Eve...

Candle: Christ

Format: Combined service with the Northern Lighthouse to begin at 7:00 pm. Other details to follow in the half-sheet and Sunday morning announcements.

In Christ,

Pastor Bill Thornton

## Family Meeting: December 10th, 5:30pm

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

Sunday, December 10, F Street will be having its family meeting. Some of you may know these as Congregational Meetings, or Member Meetings, but we like to live into the biblical idea that as a church, we are family.

Who should attend? Although we do promote these meetings publicly, they are officially meetings for those who are members of F Street.

The Elders are in the process of better defining a member of F Street. However, we would at the minimum hold that you must be:

- A baptized Christian.
- Attend regularly for at least 6 Months.
- Affirm the Apostle's Creed.

·Embody the 5 C's.

- ...Be Committed to Christ.
- ...Be Engaged in Community.
- ...Be Transformed in Character.
- ...Be fulfilling your Calling.
- ...Be developing Competencies.

This is a self-defining process, but we ask that you please consider it.

Why should you attend? If you are a member of F Street it is our hope that you would join us on December 10 to celebrate what has happened in 2023, and hear about what we see happening in 2024. We also plan to review the budget for 2024 and answer your questions.

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## F Street Youth

SAGE PETERSON, YOUTH DIRECTOR

It is crazy to think that the first semester of our youth group year is almost finished, I swear that just yesterday it was September! We have been having a great year so far and can't wait to see what the next semester brings for our group! We just finished our Thanksgiving meal together and it was an awesome time to connect and grow together. In December, our middle schoolers will continue their series learning about miracles and our high schoolers will continue to read through the book of Philippians. We will have a Christmas party together on Dec. 19 at 7 pm to finish up the month! We have loved having all of your students join us on Tuesday nights and if your student hasn't been attending this semester, it's not too late and we would love to have them join us!



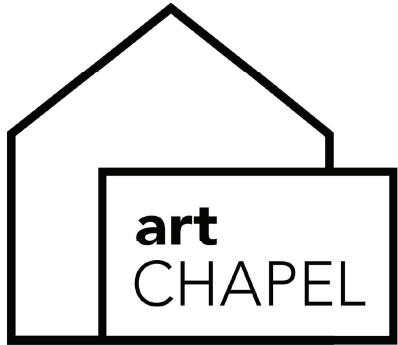
## WOMEN OF THE WORD

BETH HEERSPINK, COACH

# Celebrate ADVENT



*Women, You're Invited:*



### Art Chapel Update

JEAN STRYKER, RESIDENT ARTIST

Construction on the Art Chapel interior has been moving forward! Two students from the UNL College of Architecture have been working on framing for the bathroom, utility sink, and cabinetry. When their work is finished, we will be ready for subcontractors to come in and do electrical, plumbing, insulation, and HVAC.

#### Prayer Requests:

- Thank God for providing these students who have building skills and are able to work to a high standard.
- Pray for their safety while working
- Pray for our contractor's schedule to allow him to spare workers for the Art Chapel
- Pray that the Art Chapel will be ready to open by spring 2024

TIME: Friday Mornings at 10:00am

DATES: Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22

LOCATION: F Street Church (downstairs)

WHAT TO EXPECT: Reflection, discussion, Christmas music, snacks, devotional readings, focus on the REASON FOR THE SEASON.

QUESTIONS? Contact Beth @ 402-217-2352.



## Year-End Giving

JEFF HEERSPINK, LEAD PASTOR

As we end the year, we want to encourage you to prayerfully give towards F Street in two specific ways.

- Triple the offering: In years past we have held a “Double the Offering” to help us end the year well and the church collectively has often responded generously, helping us to close out the budget year well.

This year we have averaged just under \$10,500 and our budgeted amount was \$12,500. This has left us an estimated \$35,000 short for the year. So, if we were to be able to again give, and give generously we can close the year out well and see F Street meet its financial budgeted giving.

- Elevator Fund: We are again asking for people to consider giving to this special cause to replace our elevator. As you may know we have a lot of people who depend on our elevator each week to enter the building, whether it is going down for coffee and bagels or going upstairs for worship, this elevator is the lifeline for people to attend our church activities. We currently have just shy of \$12,000 in our designated fund for this project but believe this project to be in the \$100,000 to \$200,000 range (we hope to get an actual cost once we have some additional funds, and we enter the new year).

### Ways to Give:

- Online: You are able to give to any of these funds online. Just go to [fstreetchurch.org](http://fstreetchurch.org) and click on the “give now” button. You can use a credit or debit card, or you can set up bank transfers; you can also set this up on a reoccurring basis so that you prioritize your giving.
- In Person: You are always invited to give as a part of the worship service with a check or cash.

Direct Deposit: If you would like to set up a direct deposit you can contact me (Pastor Jeff) and we can connect you with our financial team to set this up.

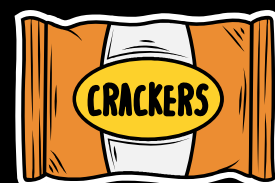
## Donations Requested!

TAMI THORNTON, NURSERY DIRECTOR

The Nursery and Journey groups would love your donations of:

Animal Crackers, Goldfish Crackers, Cheerios, Fruit Snacks, Graham Crackers, or any other kind of cookies

If you are able to help us out, just bring your donations to the nursery on Sunday mornings, or to the church office during the week. Thank you for your help!





## Missionary Corner

### Email Updates

To be added to regular email updates about the church, email [fstreetchurch@gmail.com](mailto:fstreetchurch@gmail.com)

### Prayer Requests

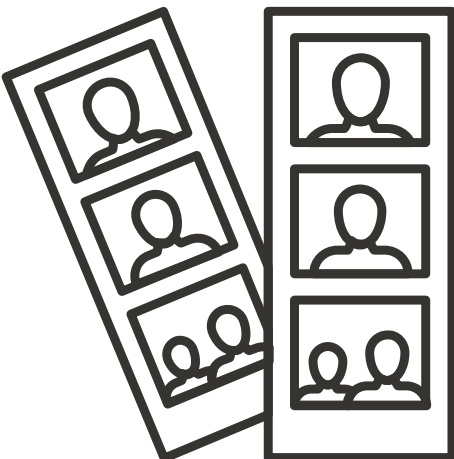
If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the back of the communication card or come up to the front after church service

### Up to Date

To keep information up to date, please fill out a communication card or email Hollie at [hollie@fstreetchurch.org](mailto:hollie@fstreetchurch.org)

## Photo Booth!

We will be offering a chance for individuals or families to have their photo taken with a photo booth and get a print to take home (digital image, too) on Sunday 12/10! Anyone can show up from 9:30-10:30 or after service until 12:30 for a 4x6 print! You get to take home the print! They will be set up in the basement!



### The Howells

Dear all,

"We Lithuanians, in our native blood, have some grief, sadness, and anger because we have a history full of wars. When our grandparents and parents were bringing us up, they left a lot of trauma inside us."

Another mom at the children's school approached me (Michelle) recently to ask for advice and encouragement with raising kids. She had just learned she was pregnant. Although she already has children, in that conversation she was seeking peace with the news and wondered how we raise 3 kids so calmly. (Ha!)

Last week, this friend stopped me again to tell me that she had lost the pregnancy and was now adjusting to this new shock. I wrote to her later with encouragement, concern, and prayer--again praying peace over her. I also asked how she was doing physically and emotionally.

She was so touched by my care, and with the words above, she reflected how my friendship is so counter-cultural; that my care for her at this time is so unique.

Indeed, how does a person or a group of people break down the negative effects of trauma and "the grief, sadness, and anger that flows in the blood" of so many Lithuanians? How does hope and joy, peace and love overpower and replace that trauma?

"But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed."  
(Isaiah 53:5)

Please pray for us and for our relationships as we bring the hope, love, joy, and peace of Christ not only to the LCC community but also to Klaipeda and Lithuania.

Thank you for standing with us and sending us here.  
the Howells



2023

# DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <u>Rev 2</u>	2
3 10:30am - Sunday Service	4 <u>Rev 3</u>	5 <u>Rev 4</u> 6:30am - Prayer	6 <u>Rev 5</u> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	7 <u>Rev 6</u> 5:30pm - FoodNet	8 <u>Rev 7</u>	9
10 10:30am - Sunday Service 5:30pm - Family Meeting	11 <u>Rev 8</u>	12 <u>Rev 9</u> 6:30am - Prayer	13 <u>Rev 10</u> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	14 <u>Rev 11</u> 5:30pm - FoodNet	15 <u>Rev 12</u>	16
17 10:30am - Sunday Service	18 <u>Rev 13</u>	19 <u>Rev 14</u> 6:30am - Prayer	20 <u>Rev 15</u> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	21 <u>Rev 16</u> 5:30pm - FoodNet	22 <u>Rev 17</u>	23
24/31 10:30am - Sunday Service 7pm - Christmas Eve Service	25 <u>Rev 18</u>	26 <u>Rev 19</u> 6:30am - Prayer	27 <u>Rev 20</u> 6:30pm - Celebrate Recovery	28 <u>Rev 21</u> 5:30pm - FoodNet	29 <u>Rev 22</u>	30

## Birthdays

- 1st - Annie Schmader-LoBush
- 5th - Herb Young
- 9th - Daniel Wenzel
- 10th - Dave Hogan
- 12th - Lennon Proctor  
Jody Shaw
- 14th - Sonya Turco
- 15th - Jennifer Maansex
- 16th - Omega Fristoe
- 22nd - Caleb Heerspink

## Anniversaries

- 1st - Tommy & Judy Grudel
- 17th - Jeff & Beth Heerspink