

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

The Local Church

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Letty Beebe she lost her brother unexpectedly, Kenny Dearing . Wayne and Cathy, Peggy Beebe.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program

Today's Scripture: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." **Hebrews 10:25 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together." **Psalms 34:3 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 26: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

ELDERS:

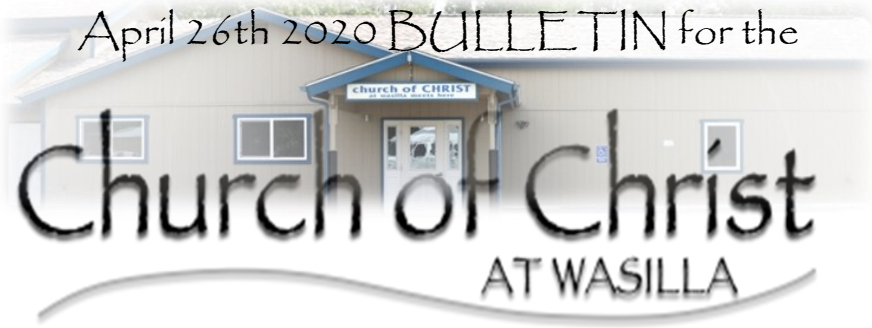
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God's Plan of Salvation

Hear..... Romans 10:17
 Believe..... Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
 Repent..... Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
 Confess..... Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
 Be Baptized Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
 Arise & Walk in Newness of Life Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto sal-

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:
 Bible Classes: 10AM
 AM Worship: 11AM
 PM Worship: 5PM

Wednesday:
 Bible Study: 7PM

OFFICE HOURS
 Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!
 The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

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 Wasilla, AK 99654
 (907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

The Local Church

The last few weeks have been difficult for most of us. We are a family and like all families, being able to visit with one another on a regular basis is essential to our health. In the case of the church getting together regularly is necessary for our spiritual health. A lot of us have been meeting together on Sunday mornings by Facebook live and/or phone trees. While this is better than the alternative of not meeting during this pandemic, it is no substitute for physically gathering together. The joy we have when we get together in person, the ability to build one another up, the opportunity to encourage and edify each other can not be replicated by on line or virtual meetings. However, the ease of meeting and the one hour or slightly more duration of our virtual gatherings may appeal to some.

It is this that we want to discuss today. We can not, we must not, allow the attraction of ease of attendance and an abbreviated gathering prevent us from attending in person once the Elders deem it is safe to do so again. The local church is the ideal organization. It was designed by God to serve several purposes. First is the edification we get from coming together on a regular basis. The ability to build up each other, to encourage when needed and to confront and correct when that is needed is best done face to face in person. While we can do some of this virtually, it is not the idea. God knew that we as humans needed to have the social interactions that only come from getting together in person on a regular basis.

The early church met daily, and grew daily as well; *“And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:46-47 (KJV)* Daily, the early church met to share meals and to praise God. Later we are commanded to meet on the first day of the week to take the Lord’s Supper and to lay by in store. Paul tells us these things: *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.” Acts 20:7 (KJV)* *“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.” 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 (KJV)* It is these two things that we must do

Preacher: Tom Betti Article By: Bill Beebe

on he first day of each week, remembering the death and resurrection of Jesus in eating the Lord’s Supper and offering back to God a portion of what we are so richly blessed to have received. When we come together to do this we also take advantage of the gathering to preach, teach, sing and pray together. And therefore to edify and encourage each other, and when needed to correct and discipline one another. But some might say we can do all this virtually, after all we have been doing it for the past few weeks. And it is so much easier. I don’t have to get up early, dress the kids and myself, drive to the building then after our activities drive home just in time to fix lunch and drive back to the building for evening services. And those members who have medical issues that prevent them from attending in person really benefit from the virtual services. So why don’t we continue to have virtual services once this coronavirus issue is resolved?

The issue is that we humans need direct and personal social interactions, God created us that way. This cannot be duplicated virtually. The church will work best when we come together in person, and so will we. There is nothing that can substitute for being a member of a local congregation and coming together in person, meeting face to face on a regular basis. That edification, that ability to build one another up is best done in a physical gathering. So if you are tempted to continue virtual worship and bible study once we are able to meet in person at the building, don’t fall prey to that desire. It is Satan attempting to weaken you and eventually get you to drop Christianity completely.

The local church and your individual participation in it is critical to God’s plan for our salvation. Through the church we can be encouraged. Paul wrote in **Colossians 3:16 (KJV)** *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”* Through the local church we can comfort and edify each other in ways that can never be duplicated without meeting in person. This is why Paul wrote in **1 Thessalonians 5:11 (KJV)** *“Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.”* There are so many reasons to attend the gathering of the local church in person, so many reasons to participate in those in person meetings that we all should be looking forward to reuniting there with longing. Let us never decide to continue virtual worship when we can meet together.