St. John's Evangelical Church 211 E. Carrol Street Kenton, Ohio 43326 (Non Profit Organization)

Do Not Delay Dated Material





St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

June 2024

211 E. Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326 Church Phone: 419-673-7278 Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor Website: www.stjohnskenton.org Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

Church Social Benefit

Wednesday, July 10 4–6:30 pm

Volunteer & Donation list will be in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for your continued support!

Benefits Hardin County Recovery Court



St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o) Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

JUNE 2024

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

As I have for the past year, I want to thank you, the saints of St. John's, who have supported me and my family during our time of troubles. In the middle of May, I received news that my most recent scan shows no trace of cancer. I will continue immunotherapy/chemotherapy treatments for a while longer. After that, I will slowly return to my new normal. Life will never go back to what it was, but I am still here and am looking forward to many vibrant and productive years.

I have much—as always—for which to be thankful. You, my church family, have remained steadfast as source of blessings in my life. That brings me to my theme for this month—Philippians 4:8.

Throughout this book of the Bible, it rings with joy and gratitude for the way God was carrying forward His saving work among the believers in Philippi as well as the special bond that existed between Paul and those who received his letter. whatever is true,
whatever is honorable,
whatever is just,
whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable,
if there is any excellence,
if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

In like manner, I am filled with joy and gratitude for what God is doing here in carrying His save work forward and for the special bond I share with you my readers. Ministry in our church is shifting, and I see God throughout that shift in good and positive ways. New leaders are emerging and growing in faith in our Wednesday ministry to children and youth, our recovery ministry, and evangelism in particular. While there will no longer be contemporary worship at 10AM on the third and fifth Sundays starting this month, we have started a search for a family minister who will help to bring contemporary worship back into the life of our congregation at a dedicated weekly time.

As I learned this past year, a large degree of success is attitude. Patients like me who focus on the positive tend to

have better outcomes than those who fall into persistent despair by focusing on the negative. Likewise in faith, our attitude helps to dictate our outcomes. Having a positive outlook does not guarantee good results, but it definitely boosts the odds in your favor.

Towards the end of his letter, Paul points his recipients and fellow believers to keep their focus on the positive.

Paul had already noted the obstacles they faced: persecution (1:27-30); pressure from false teachers (3:2-21); and conflicts that jeopardized their witness to the world (1:27-2:18; 4:2-3). While noting the negatives, Paul never fixates on them.

The same is true for us. We need to recognize our needs, our struggles, and our "growing edges." However, we are not to stay there. Instead, as Paul instructs

the Philippians, we are to set our minds on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise.

As you read through that list, what comes to your mind? Are there scriptures, images, themes, or stories that come to mind? If you have thoughts, please share them with me. I am thinking about developing a sermon series around this verse. At least for me, good implanted this verse into my heart a few years ago. Constantly, I would hear the Holy Spirit whisper to me, "Think about what is honorable, just, true..." and on down the line. I believe God was conforming me to the image of Christ by transforming my thinking (**Romans 12:2**). I never fathomed having to endure what I have had to over the past year-and-a-half. Countless times while waiting for results,

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

enduring treatment, or slowly (and painfully!) recovering from surgery, I kept hearing: "Consider what is lovely, commendable, and worthy of praise." Even when I thought I could not find anything good in what I was going through, I somehow did by the grace of God.

I share my story because I want you to emulate it. I

pray that you never have to endure what I did, but I know that you will have tribulation. Jesus told us that in **John 16:33**, but He also reassured His disciples in that same verse by saying that He wanted them to have peace in the midst of tumultuous times. I second that sentiment as well as Paul's when he writes, "What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians **4:9**).

We cannot control much in this world, but we can control how we accept it and

how we respond unto it. We can magnify the wrong by

adding to it. We can fall into despair. We can have a woe-is-me attitude. We can give up on hope and end our lives. Those are all things our world teaches to people.

Thankfully, our living God has given us His Living Word, the Bible.
There, we find hope—not a wish,

but a promise. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (**Hebrews 11:1**). In faith and with hope, we know that something better is yet to come. All we need to do is to hold on even if it's the end of our rope or the hem (tassel) of Christ's garment.

But there is more to the story of hope. It's not about us

St. John's Evangelical Church:

MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

enduring resolutely on our own. For the Christian, we are surrounded by others who uplift us, and that aids us in holding onto the hope we have in Christ Jesus. As Paul confesses to the Philippians, I confess to you my church family: "Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble" (Philippians 4:14).

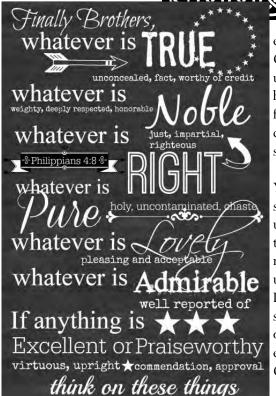
You were the rays of sunshine on dark and stormy days. Yours were the prayers that uplifted me when I was deep in the Valley of the Shadow of Death (**Psalm 23:4**). You reminded me that I was loved when I felt unlovable. You strengthened my hope when I was tumbling into a cavern of despair. By sharing in my trouble, you may the load endurable, enabled me to see another day, and empowered me to continue the work of Christ.

You were a big part of my journey and for that I am grateful. Now, I have the privilege to continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to you. Whatever is occurring in our lives, in our community, and in our world, God is working it out for the good for those who believe in Christ Jesus (**Romans 8:28**). So, let us fix our eyes on God and see what blessings exist in our world that are all around us if only we fixate our hearts and minds upon finding such things.

"Finally, [my sisters and my] brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8).

With all praise to God,

Pastor Randall



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Preaching Series

Last month, I ended this section with:
"Come, Holy Spirit, come!" May this be our prayer and expectation this May and beyond.

In June, we begin our summer preaching time by reflecting on Communion. Then, we will spend three weeks contemplating the significance of Pentecost (not just the day but the longest season of the Church year). We will close out the month addressing the second coming of Christ and the rapture, and why our church does not accept this idea, which arose in the Church in the 19th century.

There is still time to submit requests for themes, scripture, and songs to be incorporated into the sermons and worship life of the church. Also, this year, I plan to utilize my full complement of

vacation and study time (see Pastoral Relations Committee report in this newsletter).

Though cancer-free, I am not completely restored to my former self. We may not be traveling far, so you may see me at worship on my



vacation Sundays. If I am not here, I will most likely view the service online. All of that to say, I encourage you to support our guest preachers with your presence and not to make me the proverbial cat and yourselves the proverbial mice.

I look forward to leading you in worship this summer and for years to come. May the Holy Spirit fall upon us and revive us! May we respond with joy, praise, and service!

02 June

Scripture I Corinthians 10:16-17

John 6:47-63

Sermon Participating in Christ

The Significance of Pentecost

Based on three Pentecost Prayers (Taken from *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk With God by* Rueben Job)

09 June

Scripture Zechariah 4:1-14 John 4:23-24

Prayer for the week:

Holy Expectation

We wait in expectation that wind and fire from You, Almighty God, will sweep across church and world to usher in a new day of unity, peace, justice, compassion, love, and faithfulness.

Sermon

Holy Expectation

16 June

Scripture Isaiah 6:1-13 Mark 1:16-20

Prayer for the week:

Offering of Self to God

Holy God, we desire to show Your loving power to the world. Draw us nearer to You, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we might shine with Your love.

Sermon

Offering of Self to God

23 June

Scripture Jeremiah 29:10-14

Hebrews 6:9-20

Prayer for the week: *God, With Us*Father, we anchor our hope in Your steady love and good plans for us.

May hope become a permanent part of us. We hope, not because of our own power or intellect or resources, but because You are with us.

Sermon

God, With Us

30 June

Scripture I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 24:36-51

See also **Revelation 3:10**, Church in Philadelphia

Sermon The Rapture?

Summer Preaching

As has been my habit at times, I am asking you, the people invested in the life and ministry of St. John's Evangelical Church, to suggest scripture, topics, music, and themes for worship on Sunday mornings during the summer.

This can take whatever theme you may want. It could be a scripture that causes you to ask questions. You may have a theme that you may think is appropriate for us as a church to think about more deeply. It may be hymn or praise song that uplifts your soul.

I am a big believer in the Priesthood of All Believers (see I Peter 2:5-9), which itself could be a sermon topic or series. It brings joy to my heart when I see believers engaged in worship, its planning, and its outworking.

As I stepped back at times last year, I was impressed as people took a more active role in leading aspects of worship.

So please, feel free to ask questions, share observations, or offer to lead aspects of the service.



As always
our WAM
(Worship
Arts and
Music)
Committee can use
your support and
service in

an ongoing basis.

Christ died on the Cross that we may be reconciled to God and one another. He rose that we might live a new life for Him. May we live together the unity to which He called us by sharing our gifts where we may—perhaps, it could be in planting a seed that becomes our sermon one Sunday this summer.

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So God Made a Father

By May Patterson

At the dawn of time, God looked down on all He had made and said, "Now, I need a caretaker."

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone to teach children to fish, and to ride a bike without training wheels, and to play catch in the backyard. It must be someone who's tough enough to run a chainsaw and wield a machete and yet, gentle enough to join his little girl and her dolls for tea."

So, God made a father.

"I need someone to bring the car around when it's raining, so everyone else can stay dry. Someone who will keep jumper cables in his truck, just in case he needs to help a stranger. I need someone to notice practical things, like how the tread on the tires is wearing and if the weather stripping around the front door needs replacing, for no one else will."

"I'll create someone who's strong enough to open a tightly sealed jelly jar and tall enough to place the angel on top of the Christmas tree. Someone who will be gracious enough to let his son fish the best fishing hole or to let his daughter win at least one hand of gin rummy."

"Yes, he will struggle to find his glasses and keys," God thought. "But I'll help him find time for the important things, like tumbling with the kids in the den floor, or saying 'I'm proud of you, son,' or giving Mama a hug."

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone brave enough to carve the Thanksgiving turkey, for no one else seems to want the job. Someone who's not afraid to go into Grandma's dark cellar, or to check on what goes bump in the night, or to remove the dead mouse from the mousetrap."

"I need someone wise enough to know when to let his child fail. Someone who will pick her up, dry her tears and say, 'Honey, I know you can do it! Give it another try."

"I need someone who listens more than he talks. Who will stand by his family through laughter and tears, tornadoes and snowstorms, good times and bad. Someone who will love his kids and love their mother even more."

So, God made a father.

God said, "I need someone to provide for the family. Someone who will get up early and stay up late and never complain. I need someone who's willing to make unpopular decisions and stand by them. Someone to provide authority and discipline, as well as love."

"I need someone with broad shoulders, broad enough to carry a little child around town and broad enough to pull more than his fair share. Yes, I need someone who will work the second-shift, or take second-best, or play second fiddle, so that his family can have it better than he did."

"I need someone who is *willing* . . . willing to man up and provide the love, support and strength his family will so desperately need."

So, God made a father.

"Sometimes, he will not feel worthy of the love his family gives him. There will be times when he fails to live up to my ideal standard. But when his family needs him, he will show up, or give up, or do whatever needs to be done."

"Yes, that's exactly what I need," thought God as He shook His head. "A father to love my children, and if necessary, to lay down his life for them. Someone . . . well, someone like Me."

So, God made a father.

Upcoming Events



Volunteer for Rock the Lake (Greeter, Usher, Info Booth)

We are creating a group to volunteer at Rock the Lake held at Old Field Beach in Indian Lake on August 3 from 12-4 pm. If you would like to participate, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of the church no later than June 1.

St. John's Stoneware Mugs for Sale

St. John's mugs are available for \$20 each. Payment is due when the order is placed. Orders will be taken through June and delivery is 12-14 weeks after the order is placed. The church needs a 24 mug minimum to place the order. All mugs are a blue color. Order forms are available.



Confirmation

Any students that are in 7th grade or above who are interested in a confirmation class to join the church, please contact the church office or Pastor Randall. The class would probably start in the fall.

New Member Class—June 5

A New Member Class will be meeting on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 pm following the Bible Study in the Chapel. If you are interested, please let us know or come join us in the Chapel.

Volunteer Opportunities

Seeking Bed Ministry Committee Members: If you would like to be on the bed ministry committee, please contact Anna LaWarre or the church office.

Nursery Subs Needed: If you would be willing to help out in the nursery periodically when needed, please contact the church office.

Children's sermon: If you would like to be added to the Children's sermon list, please contact the church office.



OR CHILDREN AGES 5-12

Come Out and Bring a Friend!

Bible Lessons @ Songs @ Great Games Fun Activities @ Memory Verses @ Prizes



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When: June 17th-21st Time: 1:00pm-2:30pm Where: St John's Church

211 E. Carrol Street, Kenton, OH 43326 Church Contact: Kathy 419-673-7278 CEF Contact: Mike Todd 419-957-0403

Theme: One Way!

Sponsor: Good News Club & St John's

Note to Parents

Your child is invited to attend a fun club for boys and girls ages 5 to 12! 5-Day Clubs meet for 90 minutes each day for five days. Clubs are sponsored by Child Evangelism Fellowship¹⁰, a Bible-centered ministry serving in 163 countries around the world. All teachers and helpers have been trained and screened to ensure your child's protection. Parents are welcome to attend.



To see an actual 5-Day Club®, visit www.5dayclub.com! www.cefonline.com 1-800-300-4033



Coffee Hour Update

Coffee Hour is offered as a time of fellowship in our lobby, and we hope you have time to greet one another before worship. If you take beverages into the sanc-

tuary, please advise ushers of any spills. If spills are not cleaned up promptly, it creates stains on the carpet. Thank you for your understanding

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows and widowers who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. They meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join them if you are a widow or widower. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

June 7—Kiyomi (Bellefontaine)

June 21—Cranberry (Indian Lake)

July 5—Acheson's (Indian Lake)

July 19—Tilton Hilton (Indian Lake)

August 2—BC Diner (Belle Center)

August 16– Casa Fiesta (Findlay)

Upcoming Events- Mark Your Calendar

CEF Good News Club: June 17-21 from 1-2:30 pm

Church Social: July 10 Rock the Lake: August 3

Back to School Bash (4-6 pm) & Rise FM Con-

cert (6-8 pm): August 17 at Wharton Park

Kingdom Kids Club Kickoff: August 25 from 2-4

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Kingdom Kids Club Begins: September 11 from 5-

7 pm (previously Wed. Night Kids)
Women's Celebration: November 21

Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's supplies a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals is the second and Fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 25-30 people. If you are able to provide food, please signup in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

Mission of the Month— Bryan & Katie Crabtree-Thailand

Bryan and Katie, both of Northwest Ohio, each came to personally know Jesus Christ as savior in their teen years. Bryan previously attended St. John's and helped with the youth group. After they met, Katie joined Bryan in attending St. John's where they would eventually marry before moving to their first home in Bellefontaine. Now they are missionaries in Thailand.

The Lord has laid it on their hearts to share this hope that they've found with those that have yet to hear. In Thailand, Katie teaches a Christian curriculum to her first grade students who primarily come from Buddhist families. Bryan is laying the groundwork needed to see a church planted in this unreached area. Both are engaged in learning the Thai language to connect with more and more people. The Crabtrees have 3 beautiful children- Elli, Ava & Theo.



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

June Birthdays on File:

June 7 Jerry Pfister

207 Hideaway Drive Kenton, OH 43326

We like to recognize members who are 80 years or older. Please contact the church office to add a name to our birthday list. Thank you so much!





Volunteers and Donations Needed

It is time again to plan for the upcoming All Church Social. It is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2023, with serving between 4:00 and 6:30 p.m. The social has been a success in the past several years only because of **YOUR** help. We again are asking for donations of foods and monies to help with this event. We also need as many helpers as possible on the day of the social to prepare and serve the food as well as set up for and **clean up after the social**. If you are able to help in any way, please let the church office know by returning the Volunteer postcard as soon as possible.

The following items are needed:

Cakes—6

(2) Strawberry Angel Food Cake desserts, (2) German Chocolate Cakes,
(2) Carrot or Spice Cake

Cherry Cheese Cakes—2 (9 x 13 size)

Home Made Pies (all kinds) - 25

Hamburger—25 lbs.

Decaf Coffee—1 Large can

CASH to purchase chicken and advertising.

- Donated items need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon on Sunday,
 July 7.
- Pies and Cakes need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon Wednesday, July 10 (day of social).

(Complete and detach below volunteer/donation card)
Thank you for all your continued support. Remember, this all church social works only because you are willing to help and make it the success it has been in the past. We need your continued support.

I will donate the following for the Church Social: I am willing to work (please mark which apply & times available)	
	Help Serve Food from 4:00 - 6:30 PM
	Clean-Up 5:30 PM - ?

Name Phone Number



Last month we visited some old Christian symbols and their meaning. This month let's look at the theology of the Saint that brought us the diagram of the Trinity, Athanasius of Alexandia. Athanasius believed strongly in the power of Christ over the Devil and his demons and the following are excerpts from his writings with comments:

"[T]hey who disbelieve in the Resurrection afford a strong proof against themselves," he writes, "if instead of all the spirits and the gods worshipped by them casting out Christ – who they say is dead – Christ on the contrary proves them all to be dead." The dead have no power, he explains, yet Christ is daily changing people's lives, so he can't be dead. The pagan gods and goddesses, on the other hand, "show themselves dead at the presence of Christ, their pomp being reduced to impotence and vanity." Then he provides concrete proof that Christ is truly alive and more powerful than pagan gods: "[B]y the Sign of the Cross all magic is stopped, and all witchcraft brought to nought, and all the idols are being deserted and left, and every unruly pleasure is checked, and everyone is looking up from earth to heaven..."

- "Here's one proof of the divinity of the Savior: what mere man or magician or tyrant or king was ever able by himself to engage with so many, and to fight the battle against all idolatry and the whole demoniacal host and all magic? [...] For the same gods the pagans used to worship, they are now deserting, and the one who they used to mock as one crucified, him they worship as Christ, confessing him to be God. And they that are called gods among them are routed by the Sign of the Cross..."
- "Whereas formerly demons used to deceive men's fancy, occupying springs or rivers, trees or stones, and thus imposed upon the simple by their juggleries; now, after the divine visitation of the Word, their deception has ceased. For by the Sign of the Cross, though a man but use it, he drives out their deceits."
- "Demons, so far from cheating any more by illusions and prophecies and magic arts, if they so much as dare to make the attempt, are put to shame by the Sign of the Cross."

- "And let him come who would test by experience what we have now said, and in the very presence of the deceit of demons and the imposture of oracles and the marvels of magic, let him use the Sign of

that Cross which is laughed at among them, and he shall see how by its means demons fly, oracles cease, all magic and witchcraft is brought to nought."

So why is the Sign of the Cross so powerful? Because it represents Christ's total victory over the unholy triad of Satan, sin, and death. Demons are real and are active in the world. Scripture warns us, "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." (1 Peter 5.8) Credit: Brantly Milegan

When the demons appear in your life, remember that Christ is triumphant and use the sign of the cross which insures victory over evil.

Jerry Pfister, Historian





St. John's Evangelical Church Church Council Minutes Thursday, April 11 2024 6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President
Opening Prayer—Pastor Randall
Leadership Development - Pastor Randall
Officer Reports
Secretary's Report - March 14 & March 24 approved
REPORTS

- 1) Financial Report—Jerry Pfister/Kay Rush
- YTD Ahead in envelopes staff expense is behind building is up because of insurance expense Basically we are still run the same as last year Kind of stable at this time. Farm tax almost doubled.
- Electronic Giving system might take some of the load off of Richard Set up a committee to take a look at the system to see if it will work. 4.8 out of 5 star Some churches have increased donations by electronic giving. Secure Give Specifically for churches Has add on and will help with other work in the church. Committee to look at program Richard, Janie, and Kay
- 2) Christian Education— Graduation & Scholarship Sunday May 19. Next Meeting Monday May 15 @ 7pm
- 3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush
- OSU banquet May 29, Ag Banquet Dec 3, LAMB Banquet March 1, 2025
- 4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver Meeting April 18, 2024 @7pm
- 5) Personnel Committee—Janie Risner
- Custodian/Maintenance Position Job Description 20 hours a week flexible Approved
- We need a policy on pay raises and evaluations
- What is needed for the applicant Application BG Sheriffs dept.? Will look into who and were to do a background check
- Family Minister position Finishing the job description for a full time person to include all job duties expected.
- 6) Pastoral Relations- Anna LaWarre
- 7) Trustees (LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin, Richard Katterjohn)
- AV Report Submitted- Meeting May 5, 2024 9am before church to call out for help. Sound bar and maybe projectors.
- Van: LeVern Weaver—Van is goog
- Farm: Greg Martin—Nothing new to report
- Leak in the nursery was fixed and the seals were fixed
- Elevator papers were signed today for the yearly work Richard asked about the Phone system in the elevator and wanted to know if we could get rid of the analog phone and go with a digital phone in there as it would be cheaper
- 8) Missions, Evangelism
- Bike blessing Signs and flyers and table tents have been placed and the cookie sign up has had a great response.
- 9) Pastor's Report Pastor Randall report submitted
- Community ministers are talking about setting up at the Fairgrounds Sunday Church service some ministers want to make it
 more of a service Do we want to be part of that again? Nothing has been decided Fair board has not made a decision yet
 more to come
- Football field and do a night of worship or something like that as a community, more to come
- Vacation dates July 2 weeks 1 week for continuing ed and normal Thanksgiving and Christmas times Move Communion in July and 1st week of advent. (Council approved the moving of Communion

Old Business:

- Annual Meeting Minutes Janie will watch the video to transcribe notes.
- Cub Scout Items & Bank Account They are working on the account They are working on a time to get items
- Bed Ministry Application Need someone to head up the committee. Someone needs to meet with the lady to set up time to pick up the bed and show the lady how to put the bed together.
- Special meeting Towing- We need to change the number of days from 72 hours to no time frame at all.

New Business:

- Church Insurance Review Options Greg and Jerry were here for tour with insurance company
- Weddings in church When we communicate our stance with other churches using our church for weddings and our doctrine and what we will allow and not allow. We also need to give the why we have the stance we do.

Correspondence:

Next Meeting: May 9 at 6 pm

Adjournment – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried. Lord's Prayer