

From the Pastor

In our last meeting of the year before a summer break, the Hutchinson district pastors talked about a book called Power Surge by Michael Foss. The book included the following statistics about Protestant congregations in America:

From the Pastor

91% of all household in
the United States own
at least one Bible

80% of adults name
the Bible as the most
influential book in
human history

Yet only 38% of adults
read the Bible in any



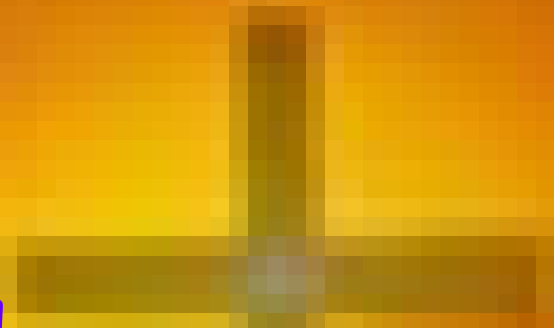
From the Pastor

given week

Only 25% of adults
volunteer to help a
church during a typical
week

96% of adults believe
in God

93% believe in the
virgin birth

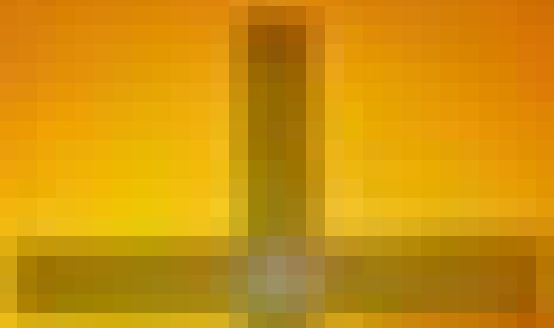


From the Pastor

Yet 39% say Jesus did
not have a physical
resurrection

61% say that the Holy
Spirit is not real

56% say a good person
can earn his or her way
into heaven



From the Pastor


And still 72% of those polled say that they are church members.

The author asks these questions-Why is biblical illiteracy rampant among those who call themselves Christian?



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Why does the Christian message, the good news of the gospel, not seem to get through? Why are all the mainline Protestant churches losing more and more of their members? Is Christian faith no longer relevant?



From the Pastor

Is the church no longer effective in meeting the real needs of real people?

The author tells us that “we are long overdue for a paradigm shift in American Protestantism—a shift from a membership model of church affiliation to a discipleship model.”


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A recent study done by Willow Creek, a mega-church in Chicago who numbers its members in the tens of thousands, showed that even they were lacking in their ability to deepen the discipleship of those who attended. They were big in numbers but small in true disciples.



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Their membership was “a mile wide and an inch deep.” How do you think Salem would measure up to these facts? The number of people attending Sunday school has dropped in past years. The number of people attending any kind of Bible study has drastically dropped.



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I would suggest to you that we could be a part of these statistics. Foss goes on to say that "All the power the church will ever need, all the relevance the church will ever need, comes from people who love because they live consciously as disciples of the risen Christ."

From the Pastor

When we teach, train,
equip, empower,
encourage, support, and
challenge people in their
calling as disciples of the
risen Christ, the power of
Christ's life surges
through the church and
wonderful, grace-full,
life-giving, life-celebrating
things begin to happen."
I'm ready for those things

From the Pastor

to happen here at Salem.
How about you? I believe
God has great things in
store for us if we have
eyes to see and ears to
hear. Wait for it.

Serving Jesus together,

Pastor Nancy

Health and Wellness News

At Church council meeting this week, we voted to begin recycling at the church, meaning that things we use here at Salem that are recyclable we will recycle. Containers will be set around the church to be used for recycling. With the Trustees permission, a room will be set aside

Health and Wellness News

for exercise and we are asking church members who have equipment at home they no longer use and are willing to donate to bring it to Salem for our member's use, for example, stationary bicycles, treadmills, arm weights, etc. We will be offering blood pressure checks after church on a monthly basis.

Health and Wellness News

We encourage church members not to use Styrofoam cups as much as possible, and we are also encouraging adopting healthy eating habits, beginning with church potlucks. The goal of this committee is to promote health and wellness at Salem. We believe that God cares about every part of our lives and

Health and Wellness News

that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we need to try and do all we can to take care of ourselves and our environment. We appreciate everyone's help in working toward these goals. A Good Samaritan fund has been started to be used by the pastor when people come to the church with an urgent need.

Health and Wellness News

\$200.00 has been designated to come out of the general budget and an offering will be taken the first Sunday of the month when we celebrate Holy Communion.

Baskets will be placed at the front of the church for you to contribute to the Good Samaritan fund. In addition, a small emergency food pantry will be located in the church kitchen.

Health and Wellness News

You are invited to bring food for that pantry. Again, it will be given out on an emergency, urgent need basis. Thank you so much for your willingness to help those in Newton who are in need.