Maranatha Free Lutheran Church 101 Foundation Ave PO Box 94 Glyndon, MN 56547-0094 NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 50 GLYNDON MN 56547

#### Glyndon:

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck Senior Pastor @ Glyndon

Glyndon Office: 218-498-2808 Fax 218-498-2129 mflc@maranathafreelutheran.com www.maranathafreelutheran.com

> <u>Ulen:</u> Pastor Peter Ward

Pastor @ Ulen Ulen Office: 218-596-8580

October 2024 Newsletter

## OCTOBER 2024 @ ULEN

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00am -Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School	30 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	1	2	3 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	4	5
9:00am - Worship Service w/communion 10:30am - Sunday School	7 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	8	9 10 9:00-11:00am - MOPS 1:00pm - WMF		11	12
9:00am - Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School Church Council to follow	14 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	15	16 10:00am - Quilting	17 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	18	19
9:00am -Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School	21 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	22	23	24 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders		26
27 Pastor Appreciation Sunday 9:00am -Worship Service 10:30am - Sunday School Pot-Blessing Meal to follow in honor of Pastor Peter & Mary- Ann	28 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	29	30	31 9:30-10:30am - Bone Builders	1	2

## OCTOBER 2024 @ GLYNDON

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School 2:00-7:00pm - Fall Youth Rally in Fergus Falls	30	FLY 2025 Registration Opens	2 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - SaltTeens	7:00pm - Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	4	5 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
6 8:00am - YMT Meeting 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	7	8 10:30am - Morning WMF at Church 6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life 6:30am - Secret Sister Reveal Get- Together	9 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45- Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - SaltTeens 8:00pm - Council Mtg	7:00pm - Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home		12 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast  12:00pm - Sverdup Society Annual Meeting
9:30am - Worship Service w/ communion 10:45am - Sunday School	14	15 10:00am-3:00pm - Quilting at the church 7:00pm - Evening WMF at Melody Okke's home	16 5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45- Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - SaltTeens	7:00pm - Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	18 pClose	7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
Pastor Appreciation Sunday 9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School - SaltTeen Bake Sale 11:30am - Potluck Meal	21	6:00-7:30pm - Trail Life	5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45- Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - Men's Bible Study SaltTeens Fall Clean-Up	7:00pm - Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	25	26 7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast
9:30am - Worship Service 10:45am - Sunday School	28	29	30  5:00-6:30pm - Supper 5:45- Confirmation 6:30pm - Kids Club 6:45pm - Friendship Club 7:00pm - Men's Bible Study 7:00pm - SaltTeens	7:00pm - Bible Study at Pat Johnson's home	1	7:00am - Men's Fellowship Breakfast

### Maranatha Free Lutheran Church Glyndon, MN

Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon								
08-3124								
General Fund			Current Month	Ye	ar to Date			
Contributions			\$19,405.00		\$196,063			
Expenditures			-\$27,333.00		-\$221,329			
Surplus / (Shortfall)				\$	(25,266)			

	8/24/2024
	8/31/2024
GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$19,405
Deacons	-\$17,083
Education	-\$100
Finance	-\$3,670
Trustees	-\$6,105
Worship & Music	-\$375
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	-\$27,333
Other Income (Rent, Interest)	\$31
Other Income )	\$675
General Fund Balance Change	-\$7,222
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	<b>\$31,007</b> Target is \$60,000

Special Funds	<u>Income</u>	<b>Expenses</b>	<u>Endi</u>	ng Balance
Building Fund		-22156	\$	73
Building Improvement Fund	15		\$	15
Christmas Eve			\$	-
Cookbook Sales for Missions			\$	245
Designated Donations			\$	27
Furnace Fund	2375			15,287
Good Samaritan Fund			\$	2,046
Holiday Baskets			\$	1,442
Lent Offering			\$	-
Memorial Fund			\$	9,808
Men's Fellowship/Breakfast			* * * * * * * * * *	1,396
Men's Fraternity			\$	-
Outreach Ministries			\$	166
Sunday Fellowship Fund			\$	469
Sunday School Missions			\$	383
Thanksgiving Offering			\$ \$ \$ \$	-
Trail Life			\$	173
Vacation Bible School			\$	-
VBS Blanket Project	431		\$	404
Wedding Fund			\$	500
Wednesday Suppers	25		\$ \$	2,602
World Missions Fund	5			9,976
Youth Activities Fund	451	-1070	\$	1,413
Youth FLY Fund	40		\$	12,469
Special Funds Balance			\$	58,896
General Fund Balance			\$	31,007
CHECKBOOK BALANCE			\$	89,883
PETTY CASH BALANCE			\$	20

Detailed expense reports are available in the Glyndon office.

Questions can be directed to Kristine Quanbeck - Treasurer

treasurer@maranathafreelutheran.com

218-498-2808

#### October~ Happy Birthday!

<u>October~ Happy Birthday!</u>							
Joy Adrian	October 02						
Sue Koehler	October 02						
Patrick Mosloff	October 03						
Dilene Spielman	October 03						
Lila Ebner	October 05						
Kallie Quanbeck	October 05						
Nora Schmitke	October 05						
Mary Ann Schneidermann	October 05						
Daisy Dahl	October 06						
Jordan Ness	October 07						
Luke Quanbeck	October 08						
Baxter Rickford	October 08						
Janet Boe	October 09						
CoCo Geray	October 09						
Ryan Buchfink	October 10						
Kody Chromey	October 10						
Payton Johnson	October 12						
Dwight Fevig	October 13						
William Schmitke	October 14						
Tammy Erickson	October 15						
Elias Gaukler	October 15						
Glennys Sivertson	October 15						
Stan Sivertson	October 15						
Roger Wright	October 15						
Sylvie Boehrnsen	October 17						
Casey Macziewski	October 17						
Annabelle Trautmann	October 17						
Jake Pender	October 19						
Corey Trick	October 19						
Preston Johnson	October 22						
Bettie Buchfink	October 23						
Cris Finstrom	October 23						
Kathy Fuglie	October 25						
Ardis Johnson Haarstad	October 26						
Danette Trautmann	October 26						
Carol Johnson	October 28						
Sally Johnson	October 29						
Betty Menholt	October 30						
Matt Okke	October 31						
Mika Engalka	Ootobor 21						





### BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

#### October~ Happy Anniversary!

Jason & Sue Krueger October 02
Jerome & Leane Trautmann October 16
Mike & Michal Schmidt October 23
Elijah & Ciara Dillon October 24



## Military Personnel

#### Thankful for those who serve our country!

Kally Anderson, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson James Cortelyou, nephew of Art & Delores Welle Levi Dahl, grandson of Harvey & Dianne Dahl Cody Dravland, son of Todd & Sara Dravland Trevor Dufault, son of Todd & Sara Dravland Makaila England, niece of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner Jonathan Eastvold, nephew of Joyce Johnson & Lila Ebner Brody Erickson, grand nephew of Glennys Sivertson Kyle Johnson, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud Layne Johnson, grandson of Ardis Johnson Hunter Macziewski, son of Doug & Tiffany Macziewski Sierra Northridge, member of Ulen congregation Andrew Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean Josiah Quanbeck, son of Pastor Lloyd & Jean Jakob Rolf, grandson of Jim & Mary Rolf Ethen Vind, grandson of Art & Dolores Welle

## Maranatha in Glyndon will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the Georg Sverdrup Society Saturday, October 12, 2024

Anyone interested in the history of the Free Lutheran Church is welcome to attend. The Georg Sverdrup Society was organized in December 2003, with a goal of learning from Georg Sverdrup (1848 - 1907), considered as among "the ablest theologians" in the history of Norwegian-American Lutheranism. The society is registered in the state of Minnesota as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation, and publishes a yearly journal. Come enjoy a tasty meal and fellowship with fellow history lovers followed by a program and the annual meeting!

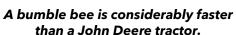
- 12:00 pm Luncheon Buffet RSVP: <u>pldq@maranathafreelutheran.com</u>
- 1:00 pm Program Speaker: Gary Dahle "The Legacy of Ole Dahle in the LFC"
- 2:00 pm Annual Meeting

Please RSVP for the lunch by emailing pldq@maranathafreelutheran.com or texting 701-340-4875

#### An Old Farmer's Advice

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig tight and bull-strong.

LIFE IS SIMPLER WHEN YOU PLOW AROUNG THE STUMP.



WORDS THAT SOAK INTO YOUR EAR ARE WHISPERED...NOT YELLED.

#### Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.

DO NOT CORNER SOMETHING THAT YOU KNOW IS MEANER THAN YOU.

IT DON'T TAKE A VERY BIG PERSON TO CARRY A GRUDGE.
You cannot unsay a cruel word.

#### EVERY PATH HAS A FEW PUDDLES.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

THE BEST SERMONS ARE LIVED, NOT PREACHED.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

LIVE A GOOD, HONORABLE LIFE. THEN WHEN YOU GET OLDER AND THINK BACK, YOU'LL ENJOY IT A SECOND TIME...

#### If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

ALWAYS DRINK UPSTREAM FROM THE HERD.

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgement.

#### 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

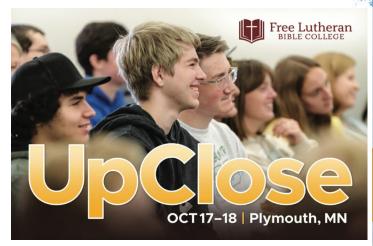
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М	Q	Ε	٧	Ε	R	L	J	1	G	٧	С	0
W	Т	Ε	Ε	М	G	Q	Α	K	D	Н	F	1
R	Ε	М	Α	1	Ν	Ν	R	Н	R	Α	F	С
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Α	S	Χ	Е	Т	G	Т	U	М	С	L	K	Ε
V	Р	Н	Ε	S	Н	U	S	М	0	R	D	K
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"For the LORD HIMSELF SHALL DESCEND from HEAVEN with a SHOUT, with the VOICE of the ARCHANGEL, and with the TRUMP of GOD: and the DEAD in CHRIST shall RISE FIRST: Then we WHICH are ALIVE and REMAIN shall be CAUGHT up TOGETHER with them in the CLOUDS, to MEET the Lord in the AIR: and so shall we EVER be WITH the Lord."

REVERENDEUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY

THIS PAUL GUY IS TRYING TO USE A CREDIT CARD THAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE NAMED SAUL

# SALT SEENS

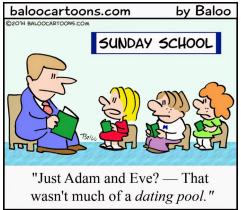


Two-day free preview event for high school juniors, seniors, and recent grads.

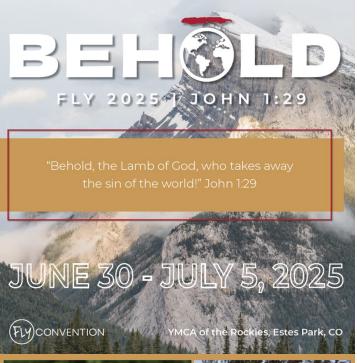
You're invited to come experience our close-knit community of students who are eager to study God's Word and grow in Christ together. Meet likeminded young people, sit in on a real class lecture, eat together with students and staff, and worship with us in Chapel. Don't make up your mind about college until you've seen FLBC up close!

Parents, youth leaders, and pastors are also invited to register for this free preview event. Talk to Nikki about signing up for this great event.

Register here: https://flbc.edu/upclose-registration/









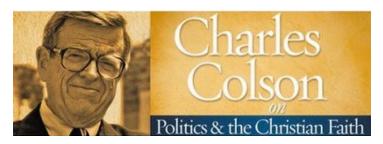
The Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention is the biennial national youth gathering of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The purpose of the FLY Convention is to provide congregations with a tool for winning the lost, building the believer, and encouraging student disciplemaking in the local congregations.

- Registration opens October 1, 2024
- Early Rate Deadline November 21, 2024

Regular Rate Deadline - January 23, 2025

Late Rate Deadline - May 5, 2025

**REGISTER at: flyconvention.org** 



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS CONTINUES THROUGH OCTOBER 13TH

From his time as counsel to President Richard Nixon to his years as commentator on the radio broadcast BreakPoint and his leadership of Prison Fellowship, Chuck Colson is uniquely qualified to provide an insider's perspective on today's pressing issues of faith and politics. In this 4-session curriculum, his discussions are neither "religious right" or "religious left" but balanced, clear, and biblically

(9/22) Session 1: Is America a Christian Nation?
(9/29) Session 2: Should Christians be in Politics?
(10/6) Session 3: What is America's Church and State Problem?
(10/13) Session 4: Can Politics Save America?

based.



Adventure > Character > Leadership

Troop meetings are the
2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 6-7:30pm
All boys grades K-12 are invited to attend!
If you have any questions, please contact
Corey Trick.

This month's Troop Meetings are:
October 8th
October 22nd





#### <u>GLYNDON LIBRARY</u>— BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR OCTOBER

<u>ADULT FICTION</u>: New Series by Mary Connealy, "Brothers In Arms" has 3 books:

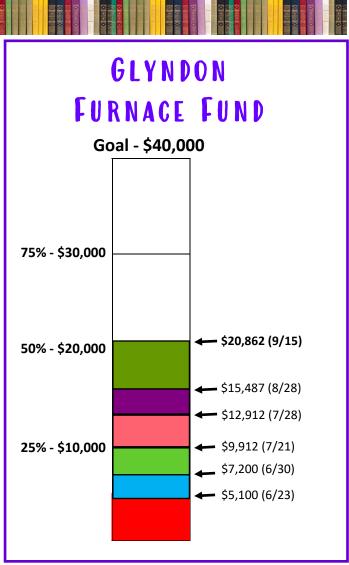
#1 - Braced for Love

#2 - A Man With a Past

#3 - Love on the Range

<u>ADULT NON-FICTION</u>: "A Chance to Die" by Elisabeth Elliot is the true story of the Life & Legacy of Amy Carmichael, an Irish Christian missionary in India who opened an orphanage.

**<u>KIDS</u>**: "It Will Be Okay" by Lysa Kerkeurst is about trusting God through fear and change.





#### **WMF NOTES**

(Women's Missionary Federation)

#### **Glyndon Morning**

Morning WMF met at Tuesday, September 11, 2024, with 11 ladies in attendance

Jeanie Rasmussen opened with prayer and led our Bible study on "No Worries" Philippians 4:1-7.

Cris Finstrom opened the business meeting with prayer. Secretary's report was read and approved with correction to date change October 2 to October 12, WMF District Rally date. Treasurer report was read by Lila Ebner and approved.

#### Old Business:

~ WMF District Rally at Wadena, October 12th, discussed. Anne Manderud is leaving early and has space for riders. Let Anne know if you want to ride with.

#### **New Business:**

- ~ Christmas Gathering with Evening WMF. Officers of AM & PM will plan. Joan Pake to contact evening WMF.
- ~ Motion made and approved to give \$100 to Christian Education.
- ~ Forks were short at pot blessing last Sunday. Karen Urlacher will talk to Carol Johnson. If lacking, to order 100 additional forks, motion made and approved.

Meeting concluded with prayer requests.

Respectfully submitted by Delores Welle, Secretary



#### Glyndon Evening

Evening WMF met on September 17th at the church. Linda Oelke hosted with a delicious meal, opened with prayer and led our Bible study. Seven lovely ladies were present. Janet opened our meeting with prayer. Secretary and Treasurer reports were given and approved.

#### Old Business:

- ~ Harvest Puzzle Party committee is finishing up plans.
- ~ Fall District Rally on October 12th. Our president, Janet Boe will represent us.
- ~ Finishing up plans on Operation Christmas Child New Business:
- ~ \$50 approved for Christian Education
- Two \$25 Gift Cards for Jail Chaplains silent auction were approved

Prayer requests were shared and prayed over.

Respectfully submitted by Coco Geray, Secretary

#### **Ulen**

Our Ulen WMF met Wednesday, September 11th at 1:00pm at Viking Manor Nursing Home with 8 ladies present, including Emelyn & Irma. MaryAnn W. led our Bible Study. Following the study MaryAnn W. opened our business meeting. Our Secretary's report was read and MaryAnn S. made a motion to accept as read, Dianne second, motion carried. Our Treasurer's Report was read and Debi made a motion to accept as read, Ellen second. Motion carried.

Old Business: None

#### **New Business:**

- ~ Our Project of the Month offering of \$75 will go to Christian Education (Parish Ed and schools)
- ~ Debi made a motion and Ellen second to donate \$300 to the local food pantry in Felton in October. Motion carried.
- ~ Bernadene made a motion and Dianne second to give an additional \$500 to Parish Education at the AFLC to go towards updating Sunday School materials and as needed. Motion carried.

The District Pastor's meeting will be here next Tuesday. The Menu was decided and ladies volunteered for what to bring. MaryAnn W, Bernadene and Ellen will be there to serve.

The Fall Rally on October 12th was mentioned and we will decide at the next meeting on who will be going.

We discussed doing a Giving Tree at Christmas time and will have a tree up in our Fellowship Hall with Christmas ornaments with a need on each one for every resident at Viking Manor. Anyone wishing to can take an ornament and purchase the items needed for that resident.

Our meeting was adjourned and we closed with several prayer concerns followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Ellen Zillmer, Secretary

#### **SERVING GROUP 1 ~ Glyndon**

Serving Group 1 will be responsible for October, November & December. Please take time to check the date or dates that you would be willing to serve goodies after church on Sunday mornings and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the kitchen. We will also be responsible for serving other events that come up—lunches, special events, and funerals. Thank you for your willingness to serve our Lord & our church family—it is much appreciated. Any questions, contact Carol Johnson or Karen Urlacher. Thank you!





## Ladies - Mark your Calendars! Ladies Jigsaw Puzzle Get-Together

All Ladies Tuesday, November 19th at 6:30pm

Dessert, Coffee & Fellowship to follow

Start getting your teams together (3-4 people)
Each team will complete a 300 pc puzzle - prizes will be given to teams finishing quickest.





## The 2024 Election is just around the corner. Your vote is important!

Have you moved? Changed your name? You will need to register again before the elections.

Will you be out of town or unable to vote on election day?

Apply now for an absentee ballot so your vote will count.

The easiest way to register or apply for an absentee ballot is to go online to your states website:

MN residents - https://www.sos.mn.gov

ND residents - https://www.sos.nd.gov

Pre-registration needs to be completed 20 days prior to the election. If not pre-registered, make sure you bring a current photo ID and proof of residence with you to the polls.

Minnesota Voter Registration Applications and Minnesota Absentee Ballot Applications are available on the kiosk in the narthex.



#### **Glyndon**

Sunday, October 20th

Potluck Meal at 11:30am

Desserts provided by Worship & Music Board

#### Ulen

Sunday, October 27th

Pot-blessing Meal following Sunday School

The Worship & Music Board will be hosting a movie night on Sunday, November 10th. Mark your calendars for that evening and look for more information in the next months newsletter and upcoming bulletins.

## Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon, MN Council Meeting

September 11<sup>h</sup>, 2024, 7:00pm

Present: Cliff Langerud, Mary Langerud, Bruce Smith, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Kristine Quanbeck, Todd Rasmussen, Jake Pender Glenn Urlacher and Alyssa Johnson

Cliff opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Secretary's report of August meeting minutes was read by Alyssa. No corrections nor additions to the Secretary's report. Stand approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Kristine. Reported August 2024 income as \$19,405 and expenses of \$27,333. General fund balance \$31,007 (target \$60K).

#### **Board Reports:**

- Finance –Todd
  - Nate Jore moved back to the US, took a position with Orality Institute. Orality Institute teaches the Bible in story form in the US and other countries. Orality Institute is cross denominational, not affiliated directly with AFLC. Finance Board to discuss and make a recommendation for continuing to support Nate or to support a AFLC missionary
  - Art Welle will be Finance Board's Call Committee member
- Education No representative at meeting
- Trustees Jake
  - Obtaining bids for phones and copier service
  - To decide Call Committee member at next Board meeting
- Worship & Music –Mary
  - Katie Koehler is new sound/video director
  - ♦ 11/10 Movie Night
  - Pastor Appreciation Sunday 10/20
  - ♦ Food Drive 11/3 11/24
  - To decide Call Committee member at next Board meeting
- Deacons Glenn
  - Attended Summer Institute of Theology, wonderful experience
  - Reviewing areas of coverage for Pastor Ryan's position
  - Nikki Ehrichs will be Youth & Young Adults Ministry Coordinator – 15hrs/wk
- Pastor Report Pastor Lloyd
  - Youth Ministry meeting last week
  - Volunteers to lead youth group Bible studies
  - Attending Buxton's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on Sunday
  - Corey Trick leading Trail Life, in need of filling Liaison position
  - Confirmation leaders for this year
    - Lori Pender 1<sup>st</sup> year students
    - Pastor Lloyd 2<sup>nd</sup> year students
    - Brian Dahl 3<sup>rd</sup> year students

 Nominating Committee (Dale Finstrom, Delores Welle, Jason Koehler) to plan for upcoming open positions

#### Old Business:

 Pastor Lloyd to follow-up with Grace Community International regarding their request to rent church on Sunday afternoons

#### **New Business:**

- November congregational meeting 11/20, 7pm
- Add thank you to Sunday bulletin to thank Jack Olek for providing lawn mowing/snow removal services

Pastor Lloyd closed the meeting in prayer

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jake, seconded by Todd; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson, Secretary



### Maranatha Free Lutheran Church – Glyndon, MN Congregation Special Meeting

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 12:15pm

President Cliff Langerud opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck Update:

- Purpose of meeting to discuss calling a full-time associate Pastor to replace Pastor Ryan Tonneson
- Church Constitution states when appointing a Call Committee, it shall have one member from each Board (Boards to appoint) and four members from within the congregation
- Options to consider for discussion
  - Is congregation looking to call an ordained Pastor or an individual with youth experience?
  - Next June seminary class is large, students will be looking for internships. The congregation would need to decide around January if this is something it is interested in. Would be a year long commitment.
- Deacons are filling interim gaps
  - ♦ Lori Pender teaching first year Confirmation
  - Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck teaching second year Confirmation
  - ♦ Brian Dahl teaching third year Confirmation
  - ♦ Youth group meetings covered through October

Brad Dunham made a motion to form Call Committee to call a full-time Associate/Youth Pastor, seconded by Joyce Johnson; motion carried.

Cliff Langerud called for nominations for the four congregational members of Call Committee. Charlie Toms, Jake Murack, Corey Trick, and Chanyce Dahl nominated by congregation members; nominations closed.

Pastor Lloyd closed the meeting in prayer

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bruce Wolla, seconded by Craig Hurner; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Alyssa Johnson, Secretary

## Maranatha News

OCTOBER 2024

## FROM PASTOR LLOYD...

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.

(Malachi 3:10)

#### Dear Folks at Maranatha,

We as a congregation in Glyndon took a step of faith a couple of weeks ago, when at our congregational meeting we decided to form a call committee to pursue calling another Associate Pastor. We did so because we really do believe in the importance of ministry of the Word of God to our youth and young adults. We did so even though our general fund balance has been on the decline in the last several months. So how can we expect that to work out, and there to be adequate funds for this in the future, even as the effects of inflation are being felt by us all, and the political climate leaves us wondering about our national economy?

#### I believe that God's Word has the answer.

That is, that we as individuals also take a step of faith called percentage giving. That we each learn to give back to the Lord and His kingdom's work according to how he has blessed us. Percentage giving means that when our incomes increase then so does our giving. We thank God for His provision and then give back to Him with grateful hearts, trusting that He will continue to provide all that we need and more.

In Old Testament times this concept of percentage giving was part of God's law for His people, and was called the tithe. A tithe by definition is 10 percent. But, typically in Old Testament times, when a tithe was given, it was not cash, but a tenth of people's produce and livestock was given to a storehouse and was God's way of feeding both the Levitical Priesthood and also the poor! The Levites were responsible for the oversight of a storehouse for the needy. So, in a way, you might say that the tithe went to the religious organization of the day, which also oversaw a welfare system of sorts.

When I look to the New Testament, I don't see Jesus or New Testament writers requiring a tithe in this same way, but the principle of percentage giving is still there. However, it seems to me that it is now presented with a gospel motivation. For instance the Apostle Paul says in II Corinthians 9:6-8:

<sup>6</sup> Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

We could at this point have discussions about - If we ought to tithe today or not to the Lord's work, since the government in our country oversees the welfare system. We could discuss - If a tithe should all go to the local church or elsewhere. We could discuss - If this Old Testament practice of tithing still applies at all, since we are under a new covenant of Grace. And all of those are valid points to consider. But whatever else anyone wants to say on this, I do believe that the concept of percentage giving (whatever percentage that might be) is also a built-in test of how much one loves money. And it is also a way to get a chance to see God come through for us in His challenge to test Him in this area of our finances. If we are willing to begin to give, not just pocket change we have in our wallet at the time, but a percentage of whatever we make, then as we make more, we give more, and we sit back and see how God blesses.

I came across one person's thought-provoking perspective on tithing, and pass it on to you, thinking that it is still applicable no matter whatever percentage you might step out in faith to give.

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck

#### Why I Tithe: by Sean Stanton

It provides for God's house
It tells God I trust Him
It creates margin in my life for God to fill
It reminds me that I am not my source
It connects my money to a kingdom purpose
It gives my job eternal significance
It transforms my money into a seed
It breaks greed and self-reliance off of my heart
It lets everything else in my life know that God is first!