

The Messenger

November 2020



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Remember to turn your clocks back and sleep in for an extra hour! But only for one hour and then join us for worship at 10:30 am.

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Come break bread with our Lord at our worship service and **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, November 1 and wine will be in disposable cup at the pews.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19 & 26

Sauerkraut Sales

We will be having a Sauerkraut Sale held on December 19 & 26 from 3:00pm – 6:00pm. We will be selling quarts of sauerkraut for the Christmas and New Year's Holiday. Please see Allen Dennis or anyone from the Kitchen Committee for more information. Also please start spreading the word on the event to help make it successful.

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Pastor's Corner

Over the past weeks we have covered quite a bit of the Book of Matthew. Chapter 21 and 22 has held a special place for us as we have studied the authority of Jesus questioned, The Parable of the Two Sons, The Parable of the Tenants, The Parable of the Wedding Banquet, and this past week, Jesus questioned about paying taxes to Caesar.

The paying of taxes to Caesar, I feel, was especially appropriate as we find ourselves in a time of presidential re-election. Jesus is questioned by the Pharisees disciples and the Herodians about taxes. They really didn't care about an answer as their motivation was to trap Jesus in His words.

They began by first flattering Jesus to sound sincere, and then asked if, "it was right to pay taxes to Caesar or not" (Matthew 22:17). Of course, Jesus saw through them and their motivation for asking this question immediately. He asked for and received a Denarius. He held up the coin asked his questioners, "Whose portrait is this? And who's inscription?" (Matthew 22:20). "Caesar's" was their reply. And Jesus replied simply, "Give to Caesar what is Caesars, and to God what is God's."

That simple reply from Jesus is a great theological response and prophetic word for us all. Jesus refuses to play the game. He doesn't answer their question; at least not in the way they want. Instead he deepens the question and turns it into a question of faith and life. If the coin belongs to the emperor, then the human being belongs to God. Each has been marked with the image of its owner. We have been coined in the image of God.

In a time of endless political commercials, name calling, angry outbursts, misleading answers to tough questions, we must never lose sight of who we truly belong to, and that is to God. To quote a portion of my sermon on Sunday, October 18th 2020, there will always be issues to address: taxes, economics, church-state relationships, war, personal finances, marriage, children. The list will go on and on. Some are global while others are more local and personal. The danger is that in dealing with the issues we sometimes deny, confuse, or forget in whose image we and "the other" have been coined.

Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." Jesus is not separating the secular and the sacred, spirit and matter, divine and human. He is inviting us to hold them in tension; to unite the two and in so doing become the currency of God's life in the world.

Peace be with you all, Pastor Lou



Gift Card Fundraiser



Believe it or not... its time to start thinking about Christmas shopping! With many delivery delays expected this holiday

season it would be prudent to shop early! And we've got your Gift Card needs covered! Download the Raise Right app to order cards right from your phone or tablet. **Our enrollment code is: B83B5DA44L1L5** you can also continue to order your cards through Lisa Ceaser.

Please let her know if/when you are ready to order. Whether your order electronically or through Lisa your purchase benefits our church greatly! With rebates ranging from 1% to up to 10% of the gift cards face value it's a huge help for us in this difficult financial year.

UPCOMING DATES

- Nov. 7 Soup Sale
- Dec. 20 Annual Congregational Meeting
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CONSISTORY

The next **Consistory** meeting will be on **Sunday, November 22** following **10:30 worship service/counting**.

KITCHEN COMMITTEE

The next **Kitchen committee** meeting will be on **Friday, November 13**, at **9:00 am**.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the December Messenger is Wednesday, November 20. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Penny

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!

Emmanuel UCC is in urgent need of your help.

You are cordially invited to join our 2021 Consistory! Your church needs you! This year was unprecedented with only 4 volunteers sitting on the Consistory. And while we hope we proved to be successful and productive we do not want to see this lack of involvement become



a trend. Being on the consistory and helping with the behind the scenes business of the church is fulfilling and important work that can be done by any congregational member. No prior experience needed. The Elders and Deacons of the church, as well as Pastor are available to help you. We meet monthly, and work together throughout the month via email, FB messenger chat or phone calls.

The Consistory is your governing body and we could really use your talents to help guide your church into the future, please consider joining, God's house needs you! Many of this years members will not be returning. Please pray on this and follow your heart.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

The 2020 Consistory needs your help! We need a few folks to form the 2021 Budget Committee to review expenses and create a viable budget for 2021. The budget needs to be approved at the December congregational meeting.



Please consider taking on this task to assist us. I (Lisa C) cannot do it again this year, there is just too many other "extracurricular" activities I am trying to juggle and this one is too important to only get half my attention. I would much prefer someone else run with it to ensure it is done correctly.

If you can help, please let me know. Chris, as Treasurer will be available to the committee as well.