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The "Good News" and "Happenings" of  
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Stovertown

[www.stovertownelca.com](http://www.stovertownelca.com)

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Pastor-Al Laese-740-541-2823

July 24, 2024

## MY TO-DO LIST

### The Power of Walking with God

**It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.**

**-Philippians 2:13**

#### **--The Power of Prayers to Start your Day by Donna K. Maltese**

In centuries past, the age-old question was "to be or not to be?" Today it's "To do or not to do?" Armed with lists of tasks to accomplish at work, home, and church, we spend our days running at breakneck speed, trying desperately to cross off each item from a list that seemingly never ends.

Bill Hybels writes, "The archenemy of spiritual authenticity is busyness which is closely tied to something the Bible calls worldliness—getting caught up with this society's agenda, objectives, and activities to the neglect of walking with God."

We are called to "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10) But when we are caught up in society's frenzied pace, our seemingly endless to-do list threatens to crowd out our time "to be" --- with God, our spouse, our children, our friends. So how do we decide every day what God wants us to do? And how can we prevent our frantic quest of doing from stealing our joy of being?

First, every morning go to God for renewal and edification. He will give you the energy to do whatever needs to be done. "He energizes those who get tired. Those who wait upon God get fresh strength: (Isaiah 40:29, 31) And as He is refreshing and energizing you, He's listening. Present your to-do lists for His input. There may be things He'd like to add or things He is prompting you to do, such as spending an intimate evening with your spouse, calling an old acquaintance, or visiting a house-bound relative.

Allow God to reorient your priorities in light of Romans 12:2—"Don't be like the people of this world, but let God change the way you think. Then you will know how to do everything that is good and pleasing to him"

Second, realize your limits. You may not get everything done in one day. Take a look at the tasks listed and, if necessary, pare them down to a manageable number. Sometimes it's necessary to allow others to help share the load you bear. John Wesley said, "Though I am always in haste, I am never in a hurry, because I never undertake more work than I can go through with calmness of spirit." Ask God for guidance in what not "to do".

Third, be wise in the things you choose to do. Gordon MacDonald writes, "One of the great tests of human character is found in making critical choices of selection and rejection amidst all of the opportunities that lurk in life's path... Sometimes... I had to say no to things I really wanted to do in order to say yes to the very best things." Don't try to be a people pleaser by saying yes to things you really don't have time for. Instead, prayerfully consider the opportunity before you and, when necessary, "Just say no."

Fourth, leave time in your schedule for the unexpected like giving your son a ride to school when he missed his bus. Instead of being frustrated about this interruption in your schedule, turn your attention and love to the child sitting next to you in the car. It's more important that you be with him or her than getting your laundry done today. Rest easy in those unexpected moments together.

Fifth, spend time being as you're doing. Throughout the activities of your day, be the child God wants you to be, one filled with love and joy, one who is patient, forgiving and kind, calm unhurried, and anxious about nothing. Take time

to smell the coffee, to look around at God's wonders to just be.

Sixth, make sure you have your priorities straight. Your spiritual and physical health comes first. Next are your spouse and family, followed by your relationships with people at church, work, community, and play. Make sure things don't crowd out people.

When we review our to-do lists with our priorities clearly outlined before us and God in the forefront of our minds, we are reorienting our lives to please God, ensuring that our days will be

spent walking in His path as we accomplish our daily tasks. Come to God each morning. Spend time at His feet, dwelling on His truths. Examine yesterday's happenings and present today's tasks. Ask Him what He wants you to do. Then you will yield the fruit he wants you to yield (Psalm 1:2-3) Above all, don't get caught up in the busyness of this life (Luke 8:14). Instead, allow Jesus to refocus your priorities and be firm in the belief that no matter what happens today, "God is with you in all that you do" (Genesis 21:22).

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**NOTES OF INTEREST.....**

WELCA is collecting donations until August 25 for 18 personal Care Kits and 18 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. You may sign a sign up sheet in the narthex for these items. Or you may also donate cash in your offering envelope if you prefer. Please mark your envelopes with WELCA Care/School Kits.

If you have any questions, contact Kay Wilson or Joy Pletcher.

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**SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR A LENTEN WEDNESDAY GATHERING PLANNING TASK FORCE.....**

Please e-mail [lsshow@gmail.com](mailto:lsshow@gmail.com) if you would like to help plan Lenten Wednesday gatherings for Lent 2025. The task force will work with Pastor Laese to decide if we hold services or a Bible Study & topics, as well as timing-midday vs evening, etc. Congregational interest & involvement in the planning will determine if we move forward with Lenten gatherings

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....**

**FOR OCTOBER 12-** Our 14<sup>th</sup> annual Car Show will be held that day. Donations of time and food will be needed and much appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Wolfe.

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**COUNCIL NOTES FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.....**

Due to fact that our July Council meeting was to be on July 4<sup>th</sup> it was postponed until after church service on Sunday, July 7.

Council Vice President, Bob Pletcher opened the meeting at 11:05AM. Members present: Pastor Al, Nate Atkins, Joe Pletcher and Linda Showers. PASTOR'S REPORT: Pr. Al reminded the Council that St. John's will host the Cluster Meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024 at 10AM. TREASURER'S REPORT: Motion to File Treasurer's Report for audit (Approved: L. Showers/Nate Atkins)

Motion to Adjourn-11:20AM (Nate Atkins/Joe Pletcher)

L. Showers-for Council Secretary, Frank Dietz

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**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:**

**Birthdays:** August 8—Caleb Brassfield  
21--Karen Showers  
23--Dave Swingle  
27—Lindsey Cramer

**Anniversaries:** August 15—Larry & Jamey Brassfield

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**PRODUCE GIVE-A-WAY** will be held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 from 9AM-11AM. Volunteers are needed.

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# August 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Pastor Al 740-541-2823</p>	<p>Church 740-697-0202</p>		<p>Vicky Thomas cabininthecorridor@yahoo.com Church Secretary 740-674-6814</p>	<p>Council 8PM</p>		
<p>4</p> <p>Holy Communion Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA change collection</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11</p> <p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM WELCA Change collection</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Produce Give-A-Way</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Worship-10AM SCS-9AM</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>