



*Pastor's Paragraph: Christian Liberty in the Age of Covid-19*

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A pandemic is a terrible thing to experience. It is even worse when it causes division. Right now, our country is divided over the proper response to covid-19. And, the division is manifesting in the church of Jesus Christ. Christians have strong opinions concerning the church's proper response. Some Christians emphasize the need to love our fellow citizens by protecting the community from the virus (masking, social distancing, staying home, canceling services, etc.). Other Christians emphasize the need to continue living life (without all of the restrictions), serving God, actively ministering to others, and trusting God to get us through the difficult time. With both groups in one church, what are we supposed to do?

To answer the question Biblically, I am glad to inform you that God has given us some clear guidelines. It would be nice if the inspired Scriptures would just clearly give us an answer like, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor by wearing a mask during a pandemic" or, "when the world shuts down over a pandemic, thou shalt continue to worship God without restrictions." Obviously, there is no such direct command from God. However, God, in His wisdom, has given us the principles to follow when Christians hold differing opinions. I would encourage you to read the 14th chapter of Romans. The entire chapter instructs us on how we handle "disputes over doubtful things." The chapter gives us the principles of Christian Liberty.

1. Be convinced in your own mind and faithfully follow your convictions in a way that honors God (vs. 5-6). If you wear a mask, do it for the glory of God. If you choose not to wear a mask, do it for the glory of God. If you gather for public worship, give God the glory. If you watch the livestream from home, give God the glory.

2. Do not despise or judge other believers who hold an opposing position (vs. 3-4). It is wrong for a mask-wearing Christian to accuse non-mask-wearing Christian of being unloving and unkind. "If you really cared about people, you would wear a mask!" It is wrong for non-mask-wearing Christians to accuse mask-wearing Christians of living by fear instead of faith. "You just need to trust God more!" Both of these statements are untrue and they are unnecessarily divisive and unkind.

3. There will be times when it is appropriate to surrender your Christian liberty because you do not want to be a stumbling-block to weaker brothers (v. 21). This is done because of Christian love (v.15). It is always appropriate to ask yourself if you should surrender your liberty to help a weaker brother. However, it is never appropriate to ask others to surrender their liberty for you. If you find yourself demanding that everyone else give up their liberty to meet your standards, then you are the weaker brother! You are not practicing the principles of Christian liberty.

4. Pursue those things which unite us and edify us (v. 19). The gospel of Jesus Christ is preeminent. It is what unites us all. There will always be disagreements on lesser things, but let us emphasize the gospel above all. When Christians disagree strongly, and they are still able to love each other and serve God together, that is something that is worth celebrating! Practicing the principles of Christian liberty makes us a stronger church and glorifies our Savior.

As your shepherd, I have unwavering confidence in you to make the right decisions. I'm sure that you will make informed decisions that are best for you and your family. And, you will do all to the ultimate glory of our Savior. I also trust that you will faithfully follow the principles of Christian liberty, allowing others to make decisions that are the opposite of yours. As you follow hard after Jesus in your way, and I follow hard after Jesus in my way, we will discover that we are going the same direction, and we are on the same team!

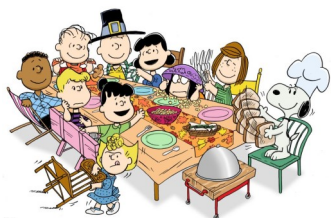
~Pastor

O give *thanks*  
unto the LORD, for he is good;  
for his mercy endures forever.  
Psalms 107:1 (KJV)

# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion 8:15 Early Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Prayer/Study 6:00 Youth Group	2 7 PM Prayer  Pastor's Day-off	3 Deacons' Mtg 7:00 PM 	4 AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM	5	6 Hungry Soul Soup House 4:30-7 PM	7 Trustees' Mtg 8:00 AM  WCBC Fall Fixin's TBC, Lincoln 
8 8:15 Early Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Prayer/Study 6:00 Youth Group	9 7 PM Prayer  Pastor's Day-off	10	11 AWANA Bad Hair Night! 6:30-8:00 PM  Ladies' Craft Night/6:30-8 PM	12	13 Hungry Soul Soup House 4:30-7 PM	14
15 8:15 Early Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Prayer/Study 6:00 Youth Group	16 7 PM Prayer  Pastor's Day-off	17	18 AWANA 6:30-8:00 PM	19	20 Hungry Soul Soup House 4:30-7 PM	21
22 8:15 Early Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Prayer/Study 6:00 Youth Group	23 7 PM Prayer  Pastor's Day-off	24 	25 No AWANA [Thanksgiving]	 Wishing you a <b>HAPPY</b> THANKSGIVING!	27 Hungry Soul Soup House 4:30-7 PM	28  <i>give thanks to the Lord for He is good</i> <small>PSALM 107:1</small>
29 8:15 Early Service 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Prayer/Study 6:00 Youth Group	30 7 PM Prayer  Pastor's Day-off					



We regret to announce there will be no Thanksgiving Harvest Dinner this year. We continue to pray that everyone will stay healthy and will be able to celebrate with their families and friends in a smaller setting.

**Ladies' Craft Night!** Lori Waldron is hosting a craft night for AWANA Clubber moms or anyone else not currently serving in AWANA on Wednesday, November 11th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m., in Youth room upstairs in the Fellowship Center. Please let Lori know by November 9th by texting 641-420-4485 or email at red511\_01@yahoo.com. Supplies will be provided but a glue gun or craft glue would be helpful.

*Ladies  
Craft  
Night*



**AWANA**  
Baad Hair Night!  
Wednesday  
November 11th

 **WCBC Fall Fixin's**  
Temple Baptist Church, Lincoln  
5:30-7:30 PM  
RSVP [camping@whisperingcedars.org](mailto:camping@whisperingcedars.org) 

## September Finances

### Balance Forward 9/1/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$5,196.46
Designated Fund	\$2,833.25
General Fund	\$48,467.10
Checking Account	\$56,496.81

September Income	\$16,281.72
September Expenses	\$13,524.37
Net Increase	\$2,757.35

### Balance 9/30/2020

Deacon's Fund	\$5,196.46
Designated Fund	\$814.30
General Fund	\$53,243.40
Checking Account	\$59,254.16