



**October
2016**

**Forest Hills EFC Messenger
5183 Pebble Creek Trail
Loves Park, IL 61111**

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If we have missed your birthday or someone else's, please contact the office to inform us.

- October 1 Layla Swenson
- October 4 Jean Alfredson
- October 6 Brandon Leathers
- October 11 Mary Driggs
- October 13 Kylie Swenson
- October 15 Nathan Reynolds
- October 16 Dale Anderson
- October 25 Randy Newman
- October 30 Marilyn Miller
- October 31 Scott Lownsdale

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

- 9 a.m. Sunday School
- 10 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 10:25 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays

- 5:30-6:15 Meal
- 6:30 - 8:00 AWANA
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study

Saturday

- 8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Contacting Pastor Mitch
Call or Text
(815) 391-3133
Email: mitch@ihgg.net
Blog: IHGG.NET

HOW can YOU pray for our missionaries?

Our missionaries have many needs beyond our financial support. First and foremost they need our prayers. How can you pray for our missionaries? Here are just a few suggestions.

Language Studies – Pray for perseverance through the sometimes discouraging task of learning a new language.

Safety – For those in unsettled political climates, or those who travel.

Unity – Without which no Christian body can succeed.

Bonding with Co-workers – That God's work can be effective and our missionaries may be comforted.

Good transition – that allows the work to quickly proceed.

Productive and meaningful vacations – for the refreshment of body and spirit.

Personal Spiritual Growth – That they may be brought individually to maturity in Christ.

Effective Evangelism – That their work may bear fruit.

New Visions – To offer encouragement and excitement to the work.

Help in relating to their new Culture – That God would give wisdom and discretion.

Season of Ministry – that God would guide their steps.

Financial Needs – Inflation affects actual support received.

Balancing priorities – That God would guide and provide counsel where needed.

Missionaries need prayer for the same kinds of needs we do in addition to their ministry. **Remember to pray for them!**

Bulletin Announcements

Deadline for announcements, please email us or call by 10 a.m. Wednesday

Newsletter

Deadline for the Newsletter, please email it by the 17th of the month.

Seeking Wisdom for Election Season

If you are anything like me, you are feeling baffled by the current election season. As one man said, if you ask one hundred people, you will get one hundred and twenty opinions on the presidential election. As believers in Jesus Christ things are even more complicated. Do you vote for the best candidate or the lesser of two evils or pick a third party candidate that is more palatable? Is it acceptable to plead ignorance and not vote at all?

While there are many who would be very happy to tell you who to vote for, it is my goal to challenge you to think about why and how you should vote. Let me suggest a few thoughts to help you process this very confusing season.

We Are Voting for More Than Just the President

If you only read this far, please remember there is much more at stake than who the next president is. There are many positions that are more critical than the Presidency. Federal, State and Local government positions have just as much impact on our daily lives, if not more, than who sits in the Oval Office.

Voting is a Privilege and Civic Duty

There is no excuse or reason you should not vote, if you are eligible.

Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. 6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. 7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. 8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law.

Romans 13:5-8

Paul argues in Romans that submission to God includes submission to governing authorities. In the United States, the citizens share this authority and delegate it to presidents, governors, mayors and legislators etc. God has given each citizen the right, the privilege and civic duty to vote. This participation in government is a social contract between the citizens of the United States. It is your responsibility to participate in this process as part of serving God and part of loving your neighbor as yourself. Another way to say it, you vote because you care about the common good of our society. To refuse to vote is the same as denying God's command to submit to the ruling authorities, and it is a refusal to take up your personal responsibilities as a member of the ruling authorities.

One could argue things are easier in countries where leaders inherit their position of leadership or take them by force. In these countries, the citizens are not forced to think and participate in government. All they have to do is submit or resist. But, do you want to live in one of these countries? I do not. I am intrigued by the Australian idea, where every citizen is required by law to vote in elections.

Vote Philosophically, Not Issue by Issue

Settle in your mind that there is no perfect candidate. There never has been and never will be. For example, there is not a single candidate running for president who is morally and legally committed to doing everything in their power to stop abortion as the murder of unborn human beings. If you are voting only on this one issue, then you have no one to vote for, and you have not had anyone to vote for in a long time. Does this mean you should not vote at all?

If you cannot find the perfect candidate, vote for the one who most closely fits your ideas of what the government should or should not do.

Ask and Answer these kinds of questions: (Answer not just "Should..." but "how should...")

- Should the government be responsible for taking care of every person for their whole life and making all their decisions for them?
- Should the government be in charge of Health Care decisions?
- Should the government tell you what you can eat and drink?
- Should the government regulate medications and drugs?
- Should the government regulate gun ownership?
- Should the government be responsible for maintaining roads and bridges and other basic services?
- Should the government be responsible for protecting our nation from other nations militarily and economically?
- Should the government protect the rights of minorities and disadvantaged?
- Should the government regulate industry, investments and banking?
- Should the government regulate education?
- Should the government provide basic services, such as fire departments, police departments, park districts, etc.?

While most of these issues require more than a yes or no answer, ask yourself what candidate most closely fits your views on these and many more issues?

Voting is not an option, but who you vote for is

I sincerely believe, every citizen should vote. For better or worse, my encouragement to you would be to vote for one of the two major parties. My personal conviction is to vote for a third party with no chance of winning is throwing your vote away, but I also will stand by each individual's right to vote according to their convictions. If you cannot bring yourself to vote for one of the two main candidates, I hope you will vote for the candidate who best fits your convictions.

Last but not least, pray and ask God to give insight and wisdom.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch