



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ROCKFORD, IL
PERMIT NO. 52

April Newsletter

Forest Hills EFC Calendar

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Lord's Supper 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	2 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study 7:00 pm CE MTG	3 Pastor Teaches AM	4 AWANA Awards Night 6:30 pm AWANA AWARDS NIGHT 6:30 pm Bible Study	5	6 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	7 8:00 am Men Pray
8 Baptism 8:30 am Nomination Committee 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	9 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	10 Pastor Teaches AM 12:00 pm Diaconate Mtg 12:00 pm Missions Mtg	11 6:30 pm Bible Study	12	13 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	14 8:00 am Men Pray
15 Timber-Lee Caim Missions Moment 8:30 am Nomination Committee 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship 2:00 pm Shower for Annetta	16 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	17 Pastor Teaches AM 7:00 pm Council MTG	18 6:30 pm Bible Study	19	20 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	21 8:00 am Men Pray
22 Annual Reports Due 8:30 am Nomination Committee 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	23 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	24 Pastor Teaches AM	25 6:30 pm Bible Study	26 12:00 pm Goldenagers	27 Pastor Teaches AM Pastor's Study Day	28 8:00 am Men Pray
29 8:30 am Nomination Committee 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Fellowship 10:25 am Worship	30 Pastor's Day Off 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study					



**April
2018**

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

WWW.FHEFC.ORG

Email: office@fhefc.org

Phone: 815-877-1919



Birthdays This Month

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

- Apr 2 Reanee Rowell
 Berthema
 Thomasson
- Apr 7 Nena Robeniol
- Apr 18 Archie Reynolds
- Apr 21 Matt Mullin
- Apr 26 Arleen Hood

BAPTISM - APRIL 8th
We currently have three people being baptized and there is room for more. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact Pastor Mitch.

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



BOAT TOUR - JUNE 2ND

Join us on June 2nd at 1:00 for a relaxing boat tour of beautiful Lake Geneva. Sign up early as there are a limited number of tickets. Reservations need to be paid for within one week of signing up. Tickets are a special group price of only \$28.00 each and payment can be made to Jean or Dave Alfredson.



BABY SHOWER - APRIL 15TH
We are hosting a baby shower for Annetta Smith at 2 pm. She is having a boy and is registered at Target and on Amazon.com.

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.

QUILTS FOR THE HOMELESS

In the fall we will be making quilts to be given to the homeless of Rockford. We are beginning to prepare the quilts and can use your donations anytime between now and September. We can use any sheets in like new condition or used blankets - twin, double, queen or king, plus fabric suitable for quilting. Thread is also needed. Donations can be placed in the Carpenter's Place basket under the table in the hallway.



Weekly Schedule

Sunday Morning

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

Wednesdays

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

Saturday

8 a.m. Men's Prayer Group

Thinking Praying and Living The Beatitudes – Part 3

We continue to consider the Beatitudes. Jesus invites us to apply these words to our lives and find true lasting happiness for this life and the life to come. Let us Think, Pray and Live out the Beatitudes found in Matthew 5.

Blessed = Happy.

³ "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." – Humility

⁴ "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." – Contrite Heart

⁵ "Blessed are the gentle (Meek), for they shall inherit the earth." – Submission to God's Will

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." – Desire for God

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

The progression of the Beatitudes leads believers from receiving mercy from God to extending the same mercy to others. The same humility and contriteness (confession) that leads us submit ourselves to God's will is the same humility and contriteness that leads us to love our neighbor as we love our gracious and forgiving Lord. If we hope to be like Christ, then we will imitate Him in His willingness to lay down His life for His enemies. This lays at the heart of our transformed motives, one of is mercy.

But what is mercy? It is the withholding of the punishment justly due a guilty party. The very nature of mercy requires an acknowledgement that justice would punish, but mercy consciously gives up the right to justice or revenge and instead treats the guilty party with forgiveness and benevolence. Mercy is not giving someone what they deserve.

The hard truth, none of us is by nature merciful. We may give credit to those who show mercy, but our human nature truly exalts in revenge and justice. Think of how many stories, songs and movies focus on the secret desire to exact our own revenge and get even. We often root for the underdog and rejoice when the little guy triumphs over their oppressors. But how often do we admire the person who has the opportunity to get their revenge or justice and gives up their right in the name of mercy?

This is exactly what Jesus has done for us. Each and everyone of us deserves the justice demanded by our sins against God and one another. Instead of executing justice, Jesus stands in the place of those who put their trust in Him and takes the punishment they deserve from God. He shows mercy to the greatest degree possible. He not only withholds justice, He has become the payment for the transgressions committed against Him. He is both the Judge and the One who pays the judgement against us. This is Mercy!

Jesus promises true happiness for the one who shows this same kind of mercy to those who sin against them. Our happiness will be multiplied as we rejoice in the Mercy we shall fully realize at the Judgement, Mercy Upon Mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

The simple definition of purity: Something pure is one thing. Pure water is only water. Pure Gold is only Gold. Jesus is calling us to have pure hearts. In this case, He means a heart with only one desire or motive – a heart for God.

It is much akin to a hunger and thirst for righteousness, but in the progression of the Beatitudes, we find Jesus moving from inward focus to outward motives. Our hunger and thirst for righteousness progresses to a pure motive in our words, thoughts and actions towards God and others.

Each of the preceding Beatitudes contributes and leads to the next. Our humility and contriteness progress to being merciful to others, and this next logical step is having a pure heart in dealing with others and seeking the face of God.

How different would our relationships with others be if we were not governed by our selfish desires and ambitions? What if we truly loved our neighbors as Christ has loved us?

Jesus says this leads to a happiness found in truly seeing God, and it becomes a way others will see God at work in us and through us.

In His Grip & Grace
Pastor Mitch