

THE KIRK KONNECTION

Editor: Carolyn Marnon

September 2022



"Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Luke 15:8-10

This is Sunday's Gospel reading in the Revised Common Lectionary. I can only laugh at its timing, and I'll tell you why.

At the end of every day, if Theo has behaved, he gets to pick out 1 shiny football card and 1 coin from Daddy's collections of each. He starts out every day with both, and if he does reasonably well throughout the day he keeps them. If he willfully misbehaves, however, he runs the risk of losing one or the other or both (which rarely happens). I wish we'd considered instituting this behavioral incentive program lonnnng before we had, because it has worked to perfection. Theo loves his collections of coins and cards and sorts through them constantly.

The coin cup contains hundreds of coins of all denominations and from multiple countries. Monetary value doesn't influence his daily selection; he's much more interested in variety. As such, he places as high a premium on pennies as he does Sacagawea dollars. Last night he selected a penny.

In the middle of brushing my teeth I heard quite the commotion in the living room. Upon investigation I learned from Mieke that Theo had thrown his penny and now couldn't find it. While sighing deeply and reminding him he is not to throw coins, I hoped and assumed he would be appeased at the prospect of selecting another coin from the hundreds in the big coin cup. Tearfully and in great distress, he vehemently refused this offer and insisted on recovering the exact penny he had picked out only moments before. He was beside himself at the possibility that he would have to go to bed not knowing where it was, asking me repeatedly for hugs and for assistance in an immediate search. In resignation I turned on all the lights, took out a flashlight and we began to comb the living room floor in search of his own precious lost penny. Thankfully (looking at you, God!) we found it pretty quickly. Given Theo's joy and jubilation you'd have thought he'd just won the lottery. ☺

I shook my head and laughed to myself, wondering if I'd ever have turned down a dollar coin in favor of a penny when I was Theo's age. I don't think I would have.

We assign value to material goods and to possessions based on a variety of factors. This is understandable, especially as we learn more and more about their use in our world and in our lives. We must ask ourselves: does this ascription of value extend to people? Do we view some human beings at a dollar, others at a quarter, or still others at a penny? I long to recapture the innocence I saw in Theo last night, in which I might celebrate variety and diversity and individuality as much as he does. Even those of us that champion the value of those things – as I do – probably do not do so to the lengths that those unstained by this world do. Can we all truly say that we objectively value everyone – ignoring age, gender, race, ability (physical or cognitive), political/ideological/theological/religious philosophy and affiliation – the same? And here's another question: can we look at their good fortune and be happy for them if they have more?

Jesus' parable above follows a similar one about the shepherd who recovers the 1 lost sheep after leaving his 99 others to go look for it. In between the two, Jesus went so far as to say that "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." He told these parables in response to the Pharisees and scribes, who had complained about Jesus welcoming in and dining with tax collectors and those known to be sinners.

There is more to unpack here than we might think; there are multiple lessons and teachings that don't fit perfectly until we really think it over and view it not through a human lens but from a Christian one. These Pharisees and scribes had it good, but in the higher value they placed upon themselves they did not want others to have it as good as they did. Wanting to make his point, Jesus let them know that God took more joy in just one lost sinner coming back to God than in 99 Pharisees who had never been lost. We might be tempted to ask, "shouldn't it be equal joy in Heaven for everyone? Isn't that what we Christians are about, and even what we were just talking about?" In response I will take a page out of Jesus' book and offer the following well-known ancient Jewish story:

There was a hardworking farmer to whom the Lord appeared one day, offering to grant him three wishes with the condition that any wish granted would be granted double for his neighbor. The farmer wished for 100 cattle and was thrilled to immediately receive those 100 until he noticed that his neighbor received 200. So he wished for 100 acres of land and was filled with joy at receiving them until he saw that his neighbor got 200.

For his third wish he asked God to strike him blind in 1 eye.

Our rescue mission is never over; we are not called to engage in vocal proselytization, but we are called to do ministry and mission at every opportunity through our deeds of love. We, when among the 99 sheep or 9 coins, must not fall victim to our inner Pharisee and succumb to jealousy when others that we consider less worthy are brought into the fold (or when they find better earthly fortune than we do). And we, when in the role of shepherd-searching-for-sheep or woman-searching-for-coin, must not sit complacent because 99% of humanity around us are safe, sound and accounted for. Rather, we must remain vigilant so that we can recognize those who need us to find them: not with rebuke, not with self-righteous behavior, not with self-important shows of generosity, not even with words unless words are required. They must be found with love: love in deeds and in our words when words are necessary. *Love – not judgment which is not our duty – will satisfy our responsibility in this process overseen by God.*

And in either role – whether we are among the 99 or 9 righteous who need no repentance or we are the shepherd or woman seeking to recover those in need – *we must be joyful over anyone who is so fortunate to encounter what we already have in Jesus Christ.* Even if it's only one person, and even if it's someone we don't understand or don't even necessarily like. Everyone is welcome in this fellowship, so let us all rejoice when our neighbors receive...even if they receive 200 cattle to our 100.

...if we can't do that, then our 100 will not matter at all in our hearts and we will sadly remove ourselves from the very fellowship with which we have been blessed.

Pastor Mike

2022 PER CAPITA

The 2022 Per Capita charge per Kirk member is \$34. The increase is in accordance with the amount that the Presbytery passed on to the church. Payment can be made using the Per Capita envelope in the giving box or any method you choose to designate the funds. Thank you.



- 2 Madeline Carpenter
- 9 Theodore Beckman
- 26 Lois Hanley

Family Fun Nights Return!

Family Fun Nights are resuming with the next one on September 16 at 6pm. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall or on the patio. The October event will be on October 7.

BBQ Luncheon!

A BBQ luncheon will be held after worship on Sunday, September 25.



We have returned to our regular worship time of 10:30am on Sundays.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Nancy Lee Pride (2024)

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

CHILDREN & YOUTH

MISSION/OUTREACH

Mieke Beckman (2023) Chairman and Elder

June Jennings (2023) Elder

FOUNDATION

Rob Otte (2024) Chairman and Elder

Patrick Frobe (2023) Elder

TREASURER: Fred Kirk

CLERK: June Jennings

The membership of Kirk of Our Savior approved changes to the by-laws which eliminated the Board of Deacons. The number of Elders serving was also decreased from six to five. The Elders will now serve a 2-year term rather than the 3 years they had served previously.

A publication for the family and friends of
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September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	3
4 10am-Worship	5 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	6	7	8	9 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	10
11 10:30am-Worship	12 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	13	14	15	16 6pm Family Fun Night 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	17
18 10:30am-Worship	19 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	20 7pm Session Meeting	21	22	23 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	24
25 10:30am-Worship After Worship-Church BBQ Luncheon	26 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	27	28	29	30 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	

October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:30am-Worship	3 7:30-9pm <i>BiPolar Depression Support Group Meeting-Lounge</i>	4	5	6	7 6pm Family Fun Night 7:30-9pm <i>Almon-Lounge</i>	8

September 2022 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship (Westminster John Knox Press, 2018). The readings from the three-year Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals are not included in this document.

Thursday, September 1

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Job 16:16–22; 17:1, 13–16
Acts 13:1–12
John 9:1–17

Friday, September 2

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Job 19:1–7, 14–27
Acts 13:13–25
John 9:18–41

Saturday, September 3

Morning: Pss. 63; 149
Evening: Pss. 125; 90
Job 22:1–4, 21–23:7
Acts 13:26–43
John 10:1–18

Sunday, September 4

Morning: Pss. 103; 150
Evening: Pss. 117; 139
Job 25:1–6; 27:1–6
Rev. 14:1–7, 13
Matt. 5:13–20

Monday, September 5

Morning: Pss. 5; 145
Evening: Pss. 82; 29
Job 32:1–10, 19–33:1,
19–28
Acts 13:44–52
John 10:19–30

Tuesday, September 6

Morning: Pss. 42; 146
Evening: Pss. 102; 133
Job 29:1–20
Acts 14:1–18
John 10:31–42

Wednesday, September 7

Morning: Pss. 89:1–18;
147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 1; 33
Job 29:1; 30:1–2, 16–31
Acts 14:19–28
John 11:1–16

Thursday, September 8

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 16; 62
Job 29:1; 31:1–23
Acts 15:1–11
John 11:17–29

Friday, September 9

Morning: Pss. 51; 148
Evening: Pss. 142; 65
Job 29:1; 31:24–40
Acts 15:12–21
John 11:30–44

Saturday, September 10

Morning: Pss. 104; 149
Evening: Pss. 138; 98
Job 38:1–17
Acts 15:22–35
John 11:45–54

Sunday, September 11

Morning: Pss. 19; 150
Evening: Pss. 81; 113
Job 38:1, 18–41
Rev. 18:1–8
Matt. 5:21–26

Monday, September 12

Morning: Pss. 135; 145
Evening: Pss. 97; 112
Job 40:1–24
Acts 15:36–16:5
John 11:55–12:8

Tuesday, September 13

Morning: Pss. 123; 146
Evening: Pss. 30; 86
Job 40:1; 41:1–11
Acts 16:6–15
John 12:9–19

Wednesday, September 14

Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 48; 4
Job 42:1–17
Acts 16:16–24
John 12:20–26

Thursday, September 15

Morning: Pss. 36; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 80; 27
Job 28:1–28
Acts 16:25–40
John 12:27–36a

Friday, September 16

Morning: Pss. 130; 148
Evening: Pss. 32; 139
Esther 1:1–4, 10–19
Acts 17:1–15
John 12:36b–43

Saturday, September 17

Morning: Pss. 56; 149
Evening: Pss. 118; 111
Esther 2:5–8, 15–23
Acts 17:16–34
John 12:44–50

Sunday, September 18

Morning: Pss. 67; 150
Evening: Pss. 46; 93
Esther 3:1–4:3
Jas. 1:19–27
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–18

Monday, September 19

Morning: Pss. 57; 145
Evening: Pss. 85; 47
Esther 4:4–17
Acts 18:1–11
Luke (1:1–4) 3:1–14

Tuesday, September 20

Morning: Pss. 54; 146
Evening: Pss. 28; 99
Esther 5:1–14
Acts 18:12–28
Luke 3:15–22

Wednesday, September 21

Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 125; 91
Esther 6:1–14
Acts 19:1–10
Luke 4:1–13

Thursday, September 22

Morning: Pss. 143;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 81; 116
Esther 7:1–10
Acts 19:11–20
Luke 4:14–30

Friday, September 23

Morning: Pss. 88; 148
Evening: Pss. 6; 20
Esther 8:1–8, 15–17
Acts 19:21–41
Luke 4:31–37

Saturday, September 24

Morning: Pss. 122; 149
Evening: Pss. 100; 63
Esther 9:1–32
Acts 20:1–16
Luke 4:38–44

Sunday, September 25

Morning: Pss. 108; 150
Evening: Pss. 66; 23
Hos. 1:1–2:1
Jas. 3:1–13
Matt. 13:44–52

Monday, September 26

Morning: Pss. 62; 145
Evening: Pss. 73; 9
Hos. 2:2–15
Acts 20:17–38
Luke 5:1–11

Tuesday, September 27

Morning: Pss. 12; 146
Evening: Pss. 36; 7
Hos. 2:16–23
Acts 21:1–14
Luke 5:12–26

Wednesday, September 28

Morning: Pss. 96; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 132; 134
Hos. 3:1–5
Acts 21:15–26
Luke 5:27–39

Thursday, September 29

Morning: Pss. 116;
147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 26; 130
Hos. 4:1–10
Acts 21:27–36
Luke 6:1–11

Friday, September 30

Morning: Pss. 84; 148
Evening: Pss. 25; 40
Hos. 4:11–19
Acts 21:37–22:16
Luke 6:12–26



We recently received a letter thanking us for our donations to support Wayne Westland schools.

Good Morning Rev. Mike, Mieke and June,

I wanted to extend my personal thank you, to Kirk of Our Savior for your very generous donation to our Back to School Fair. The event was held on Saturday, and the rain held out for us! We were hoping to have 2,500 families/students attend our event, and we well exceeded those numbers. Thanks to you and a few other very generous donors, we were able to hand out backpacks and school supplies to every child in attendance. These are much needed items for our students to start the year off on a positive (and prepared) note.

Please pass along my gratitude to your Mission Elders for bringing this project proposal to your Kirk Session, and to your members for supporting even more funds through your collection. Your church has always been so supportive of the students, families and staff in our District. You do amazing work, and we are blessed to have you as a part of our community.

Again, thank you so very much for your generosity. I will be sending a formal thank you via snail mail that you can share with your members. I will also be sharing the news of your donation with our Board of Education.

Have a great week,

Amanda



Financial Report as of 7/31/2022			
	June	Year to Date	Budget
Income	13,766	50,144	55,801
Expenses	8,956	71194	68,994
Net Income or Loss	4,810	-21,050	-13,193
Liquid Assets*	104,583	104,583	

* equals the total for Kirk checking, savings, and mutual funds.
Does not include Thank God 4 Christian Parents Fund.

July was a stronger month due to 5 collection weeks, normal summer expenses and a monthly gain of \$3,300 on mutual funds. Even without the latter gains the Kirk would have a positive income position of \$1,500 for July. Though this was a reversal of several down months recently, there was likely some September pledge payments made the 5th Sunday.

The mission of the Kirk of Our Savior is to glorify God, nurture new and existing relationships, and bear witness to our faith and divine calling through worship, service, stewardship and prayer.

It is the vision of this church to become a living example of God's love, called to show Christ to those within the church community by offering ourselves in service to those in need and inviting all to share in