

Beacon E-news

February 29, 2024

From the Pastor's Desktop...

Beware of False Profits!

No, that's not a typo. This coming Sunday, we will not be talking so much about false prophets as false *profits*. Both of these can be dangerous and require skill and discipline to avoid because of the temptations they present.

False prophets tempt us with the comforting promise to tell us what we want to hear; false profits tempt us with the promise to buy us what we want to have to be more comfortable. Ironically, the promises are true. The reason that both false prophets and false profits are such a problem is not that they trick us—it's that we trick ourselves into wanting them.

But why shouldn't we want profits? A profit means gaining something more, right? Isn't more, better?

We are constantly bombarded with messages telling us that we should have more, get more, and seek more. While most of these messages are not nearly as explicit as Gordon Gekko's famous mantra that "greed is good," or the old Yuppy motto "he who dies with the most toys wins," they tend to be all around us, nearly all the time.

I wish I could say that I never fell victim to the lure of false profits. But the reality is, like most of us, there have been times that I thought having

more mattered more. It can lead to some uncomfortable realizations, but Jesus tends to be both very consistent and direct in calling on us to be content with less. Jesus calls on us to live simply, be generous with our earnings and goods, and perhaps most importantly, never to squander our love on money or wealth—because they will never love us back. But why is this so important?

This coming Sunday, we will be using the framework in Mark 8: 31-38 to explore what exactly makes something a “false profit,” and how to avoid it. The shorthand is pretty straightforward—a false profit is one where the gain costs you a greater loss in the end. Loving money, wealth, achievement, power, or even our own life more than our relationship with God will cost us more in the end than we will ever gain in this life. Avoiding the trap of false profits is more difficult and complex. It means learning to seek a different kind of satisfaction, comfort, and fulfillment. As we will discuss this Sunday, it’s the kind that cannot be carried in a purse or wallet—it can only be carried on a cross.



-Yours in Christ, Pastor Brady

Contact info: 414-563-7453 or pastor@bethanycalvary.org

Don't miss a special hospitality hour in honor of Rev. Dr. Lois J. Grebe. This Sunday, February 25, 2024.

All are invited to stay for a special fellowship time after church on Sunday, in honor of Pastor Lois, hosted by her family.

Please help support the ministry of Bethany-Calvary.

Visit our web site at:

<http://www.bethanycalvary.org>

and click on the Contribute link.



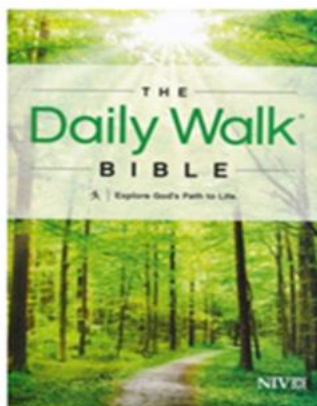
Missed last Sunday's worship service?



We post video recordings of our Sunday worship services to YouTube and to our website each week. To see past services and other videos, just visit our YouTube page on the [BethanycalvaryUMC](#) channel.

Join us each week for Daily Walk Bible Study...

Bible Study class is meeting on Saturdays from 10:00 – 12:45 p.m.



February 17th Numbers 5-30 (No Class)

February 24th Numbers 31-36
Deuteronomy 1-16

Bibles are available in class in the Reinhold Room. If you can't make it to class – stay connected by doing this week's readings.

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.” Isaiah 40:8



PRAYING TOGETHER

Prayers for courage, comfort, and compassion...

- Prayer of healing for Doreen Nienow, who is recovering from a fall.
- Prayers of healing and strength for the many in our midst who are being treated for cancer, such as Mary Jo, Lamonte, Danielle, Mandy, and friends both near and far who are facing tumors.
- Prayers of healing for Dr. Dabney as he deals with ongoing health issues.
- Prayers for relief from pain for Barbara's son Christopher as he attempts to heal.
- Continued prayers for Jim Young in his recovery from his back surgery and long term Covid.
- Prayers for the victims of violence in our community.
- We pray for health and comfort for Myrna's sons and her Aunt Margaret.
- Prayers for healing and help for Kathy Lehman and for Kathy's mother, June.
- Prayers for continued healing for Pam Erickson and Janelle Dougherty.
- Prayers for the family and friends of Shameika Woodson, who was killed in a car crash.

Prayers of Thanks and Celebration...

- Prayers of thanksgiving for the many years Rev. Lois Grebe served, led, and loved this congregation.
- Prayers of thanks, celebration, and continued hope and love as Bobbie stays cancer-free.
- Prayers of thanksgiving on the anniversary of Roger and Pam Erickson.

HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?



Please forward any additional prayer requests that have not been filled out on Bethany-Calvary's orange Way cards to: Barbara Reimer: text 414-238-7724, or email B1rtcher@aol.com, OR Contact Lois Greenweller in the church office at 414-258-2868.



"LADIES IN FELLOWSHIP"

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED

**THE CORNER BAKERY CAFÉ – 115TH AND BURLEIGH
MEETING THE THIRD MONDAY, AT 1:00 P.M., OF EACH
MONTH. JOIN US FOR COFFEE OR LUNCH.**

Please help fill the shelves of the Tosa Food Pantry in February

During the month of February, we will be collecting cereal and soup to help those in need. Donations can be placed in the basket next to the coat room.



An important notice to church members and all those in our family of faith: The potential sale of the church's old parsonage house at 2654 N 73rd St. will be under discussion this coming March.

Pastor Brady, several members, and UMC District officials have been exploring a potential sale of the house at 2654 N 73rd St, which is owned by the Church, but was converted from a parsonage to a residential rental property many years ago. The house's current tenants are planning to move at the end of April.

Selling, rather than re-renting, the home would allow the Church to immediately handle at least two critical capital needs: First, the roof of the church building is in need of full replacement as it has reached the end of its useful life. Second, handicapped accessibility needs to be restored at least to the Church's main public spaces. These two projects alone are projected to cost approximately \$220,000-\$270,000 to complete. There are no other feasible ways to accomplish them in the near future as the funds are simply not available nor likely to be in the foreseeable future.

On the other hand, this rental house provides the church with consistent monthly income, so the loss of that income does have to be made up in the long-term by continued growth in membership and giving. This proposal presents important and difficult questions to be answered as we chart the future of our congregation.

In addition to the listening session we had a few months ago, three meetings are coming up to guide us through this process:

Sunday, March 3rd, 11:30 am: Q&A and Listening Session

– All are welcome for this informal discussion. Bring your thoughts and questions.

Sunday, March 10th, at 11:45 am: Church Council Meeting

--This is the Council's regular monthly meeting, but the Council will be discussing details and planning of the proposed sale as well, and all are welcome to attend.

Sunday, March 17th, 11:30 am: Church Conference (a special all-church meeting)

– Formal discussion and vote (all are welcome, but only members can vote)

More details will be available in the Narthex, and in upcoming editions of Beacon E-News.