



# OCTOBER 2011

West Side Church of God  
September 22, 2011

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Program & Potluck Lunch  
**Friendship Club**  
Friday, October 14  
10:30 am

Everyone is Invited  
**Evening of Fellowship**  
Saturday, October 15  
Bartlett Hall 6-10 pm  
Come & Go FUN & GAMES!

**Young Adults are Invited**  
Friday October 7

Meet at the church at 5:30 for sloppy joes & chili. We will go to Bergman's Corn Maze (south of Haysville). Cost is \$9 for adults (or \$7 if we have 15 or more) Bring a flashlight, if you have one. Please see Tammy Cornwell for info.

**Women's Breakfast**  
9:00 am  
2nd Tuesday of each month  
Village Inn ~ S. Meridian

All Women are Welcome to the Women's Prayer Breakfast on October 11. Dutch Treat. Please see Sharon McDonald or Dorothy Helvie for more information.

**FOOD PANTRY UPDATE WAYS YOU CAN HELP**

- You may donate any amount of money that you want and it will be used to purchase food for the sacks.
- You may bring non-perishable food to the pantry. Shopping lists are on the Food Pantry door and at the Welcome Center.

**\*NEW E-MAIL ALERT:** Janet Swearengin, our Food Pantry coordinator, watches for sales at grocery stores. Would you like to be alerted by e-mail when there are sales on specific items that she gets for the food pantry? If so, please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Center, or send an e-mail message to Alison at the church office (wscg@wscg.kscoxmail.com).

- You can help when the food pantry is open on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Call the office to volunteer.
- You may offer your prayer support for this ministry.

Together, we are helping our neighbors and community!

**DO YOU HAVE THINGS YOU want to give away? or you need? or you want to sell? or do you need help with things around the house?**

Post your items on our bulletin board:  
**Free / Wanted / For Sale / Helping Hands**

Everything you need to post your item is on the bulletin board in the hallway south of the food pantry closet.

**You never know what is going to be there—check it out!**

*Save The Date!*

Evening of Fellowship - November 12  
Annual Meeting - November 16  
BFC/Thanksgiving Dinner - November 19  
Ladies' SILVER TEA - December 5  
Men's Advent Gathering - December 8  
Christmas Candlelight Service will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 7 pm

**We Need Your HELP!**

for the youth concessions stand fund-raiser held at our FLC on October 28 & 29.

**Calling all Bakers:** Your donations of cookies or brownies will be appreciated. If you can wrap or bag them into single portions to sell easily that will also be helpful. Please bring them to the church by noon on Friday, Oct. 28.

**Adult Volunteers** will be needed to help at the FLC with the concessions stand during that weekend. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

**We can't thank you enough for all of your help!**

**F. Y. I.**

Do you know that you can borrow a **wheelchair, walker, crutches, or cane** if you need any of them? Please contact the office (264-8133).

Check out the display case on the wall outside the choir room door to **keep updated** with our monthly Financial Reports and weekly Giving Reports.

Watch for a display table for **Operation Christmas Child**. We will participate again by collecting gift-filled shoe boxes for needy children.

**Did you miss church on Sunday?**

We'd be happy to send a bulletin to you by mail or e-mail. Also, there is a cassette tape of the worship service for you to borrow. Please contact the office (264-8133).

**HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?**

**Reminder of some church "membership perks"**

Free Notary Public services. Free sending and receiving of faxes. Copies are 9 cents (color) and 3 cents (black/white). Please contact the office Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm (264-8133) and Alison will be happy to help you.

From the Pastor

Here is an article written by Daniel Threlfall (of sharefaith.com) that really made me think. I hope you find it worthwhile, too. I hope you will tell me what you found helpful in it. May God bless you.  
 In Christ, Pastor Forest

## Seven Ways to Benefit Your Church

It's really easy—and I speak from personal experience—to get into a selfish, consumer mindset when we think of our local church. We tend to think things like “Wow, that sermon was a real bore.” Or, “Man, the singles ministry is just not meeting my needs.” Or, “The check-in system at the nursery is absolutely lousy.” Now, it may be true that your pastor has lame jokes, that the singles ministry is awkward, and that you're afraid that your baby might get mixed up with the wrong diaper bag at the end of the service. Be that as it may, it would be helpful if we shift mental gears a bit. Rather than think about what the church is doing (or not doing) for you and your needs, think instead about how you can help your church. Here are seven suggestions.



Rather than complain about what's wrong with your church, rejoice in what's right.

- 1 Pray for other people in your church.** One of the best ways to help your church is by praying for the people. Make it a practice to pray for individuals by name. If you own a church directory with a list of people's names, you have an automatic prayer list.
- 2 Confess to others** (James 5:16). It may seem awkward and a bit odd, but the Bible tells us to “confess your sins to one another and pray for one another.” This isn't about confessing your sins to a priest. This is about being transparent with other believers, and asking for their prayers.
- 3 Meet with other believers.** The church isn't a place. It's a people. Spend time with people in your local church. Have them over for meals. Meet together for unofficial prayer meetings, Bible studies, recreation, etc.
- 4 Encourage your pastor.** If you know anything about being a pastor, you're probably aware that it can be pretty lonely. And discouraging. Pastors could use encouragement, like real encouragement. “Hey, great sermon today, pastor!” is okay, but you can be even more thoughtful. “Pastor, I appreciate how you carefully explained that text today. I know it's going to make a difference in the way I teach my children.” Perhaps you can encourage your pastor or elder with acts of kindness and generosity.
- 5 Help someone in a tangible way.** Scripture is replete with references to believers helping other believers (e.g., John 13:35; Galatians 6:2). Find ways to help someone believe this week.
- 6 Give generously.** Joyful giving is a New Testament mandate when it comes to church contributions. Be a giver in your church, not just a taker.
- 7 Volunteer for a ministry.** Chances are, if you go to a leader in your church and say, “What can I do to help,” he's not going to say, “Sorry. All positions are filled here! Nothing needs to be done!” If your church doesn't need the help of volunteers, it is either a) unusually blessed with abundance of help, or b) something is wrong.

Rather than complain about what's wrong with your church, rejoice in what's right. Seek ways to help, not to tear apart.

“Seven Ways to Benefit Your Church” written by Daniel Threlfall (sharefaith.com)

