



From Pastor Craig Bickel

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

December 2019 January 2020

Volume 15, Issue 6

In a few short weeks, we will be focusing on and rejoicing in the truth that Jesus, God in flesh, came to earth nearly 2,000 years ago. He was born to do for us what we could never do for ourselves. The miracle of the Incarnation is about to fall upon our hearts and minds again. To us is born a Savior! Prepare your hearts.

What thoughts come as we ponder this great gift? What hopes do we cherish in this season? What stirs our hearts to overflow with praise to God?

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Take note of what the angels, holy beings who do not need the work of a Savior, join together in proclaiming. "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.'" (Luke 2:13-14) They praise God not because of what they will receive, but because of how good He is to us!

Deitrich Bonhoeffer celebrated Christmas in a jail cell. This pastor, who once preached to people on Christmas, was ministered to by guards and remembered Jesus' birth in silence. He wrote this about Christmas, "And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives." Spirit, grant us the ability to find fullness in Christ's emptiness.

Who was laid in a manger? A baby boy? Yes. The Creator of heaven and earth? Yes. George Whitefield said, "Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again." Rejoicing again. Walking together again. Free from sin's curse again!

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Why would Jesus give up the glory of heaven for the gloom of an over-cast world? Why would the Prince of Peace become a pauper with no place to lay His head? Why would the author of life drink from the bitter cup of death? Augustine summed it up this way. "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us." You matter to Jesus. You are precious to the Infinite. You are valuable to the One who owns and commands all creation. You are why Jesus came down at Christmas!

Fellow redeemed and loved, I give thanks for you! I give thanks that we have an "inn," a warm, beautiful and spacious sanctuary dedicated to Jesus that has plenty of room to invite all to see the manger. I give thanks that we are not complacent. We know Jesus' love is wrapped in swaddling clothes for all people. Thus we know we need to pray and press on to "Connect People to Jesus." I give thanks that we, people who know God is with us, also know that we are called to serve and not be served. Our flesh wants to be served and get our way, but we know that the Holy Spirit guides us to the truth that it is better to serve than to be served. I give thanks that just as the shepherds proclaimed what they had seen and heard, we also want more people to know Jesus. We want to see His kingdom come and to see His family grow!

"For unto you is born in the city of David, a Savior!" Ponder that truth!

In Christian love,
Pastor Craig Bickel ✝



As Christmas and a New Year approaches, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the many **blessings** ISJ has encountered over the past **160 years**. We are so grateful for the **families**, past and present, who have blessed our school with their children. We are

supported by two wonderful **churches** and its members. We have three terrific **pastors** assisting our school with prayer and education. Our school has had a long list of teachers, aides and principals who have provided the **best education** in Grand Rapids. ISJ is truly blessed by our **donors** who have helped us with tuition assistance, curriculum additions, building expansion and technology upgrades. Finally, the **students**, they provide joy and excitement each day with their smiles, singing and hugs. Thank you for all the support each of you give to our school. We invite you to stop by to see the amazing things happening at ISJ.

We have a few events happening in the next two months:

Early December Wish List letters are sent out- assist our school and classrooms by donating. Teacher wish lists are available on our website.

December 18 Christmas program at Immanuel at 7 p.m.- join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth.

January 26-February 2 Lutheran Schools Week- pray for our Lutheran schools as we develop Christ-centered students and families for now and eternity.

May the Lord bless you this Christmas season and give you joy! Enjoy 2020 with family and friends and keep us in prayer as we are excited to see what the Lord has in store for us!

From Pastor Tyler Carter

Jesus is at the center of the Bible. I don't mean that if you open your Bible to the middle, you'll find Jesus. I mean that all of Scripture points to Jesus as our Savior. That is what I am currently teaching our confirmation students. Verses like Luke 24:24-27, 44 and John 5:46 help shed some light on this idea.

Luke 24:24-27, 44

"Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus. He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself....He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'"

John 5:46

"If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me."

So how do we read the Bible through this lens and focus on Jesus? There are two ways that I would like to encourage you to start reading God's Word with a Christ-focus. First, read the Bible as one story which has a climactic moment in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Second, recognize that each smaller story individually points to or is fulfilled by Jesus.

Our confirmation students have taken on the task of being able to summarize how we see God's faithfulness, our brokenness (our sin), and how each individual story connects or points to Jesus. Some stories clearly share the lineage and promise of the coming Messiah while others depict how a broken leader points to our perfect leader. I would love to share with you what the kids are learning! If you are interested, email me at pastortylercarter@gmail.com or call me! I encourage you to take up the challenge of reading through your Bible with a different focus by seeing Jesus at the center. ✝

From the Board of Directors

Dear Members,

As we embrace the fourth quarter of the year, we have so much to be thankful for as a church community. The board of directors would like to extend our gratitude for your engagement in our ministries, your dedication to our mission, and your ongoing support of the campaign to restore our roof and beautiful sanctuary. As the roof is complete, we now look towards phase 2, the sanctuary. It is beautiful to see God working in our church family, and we pray that you continue to connect more people to Jesus, grow in your walk closer to Him, and joyfully share His message with others. The board of directors recently joined together for our quarterly meeting to provide governance over the business of the church, and you will find the topics we covered below.

Please reach out to us if you have input or items you would like brought to our upcoming January board meeting; we reserve time on our agenda for voters' comments.

Opening Prayer

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sept. 1	300
Sept. 8	340
Sept. 15	286
Sept. 22	294
Sept. 29	341
Oct. 6	325
Oct. 13	330
Oct. 20	279
Oct. 27	303

OFFERING DATA

Weekly total needed to meet

General Fund budget: \$11,320.00

September 1

General Fund:	\$12,163.43
Specials:	243.00
Cornerstone Campaign:	1,848.37

September 8

General Fund:	\$10,395.55
Specials:	117.00
Cornerstone Campaign:	773.18

September 15

General Fund:	\$13,358.81
Specials:	303.00
Cornerstone Campaign:	1,560.94

September 22

General Fund:	\$11,779.76
Specials:	33.91
Cornerstone Campaign:	1,928.18

September 29

General Fund:	\$14,241.47
Specials:	260.21
Cornerstone Campaign:	863.37

October 6

General Fund:	\$11,302.20
Specials:	82.74
Cornerstone Campaign:	1,508.57

October 13

General Fund:	\$18,358.47
Specials:	66.00
Cornerstone Campaign:	5,711.57

October 20

General Fund:	\$13,048.78
Specials:	166.29
Cornerstone Campaign:	1,741.57

October 27

General Fund:	\$12,726.77
Specials:	347.53
Cornerstone Campaign:	6,138.18

From Human Needs



THANK YOU! Your wonderful support of this year's Thanksgiving Baskets project is appreciated! Thanks to you, we were able to supply 74 families with bountiful baskets of food for their holiday dinner!



GIVE THE GIFT OF WARMTH!
Please help the needy stay warm this winter by donating gloves and socks by December 24. Please put your donations in the box in the coat area by the Gathering Room. Your donations will go to guests of our Community Breakfast on December 28. ✝

Devotion – Joy and Rejoicing in God
Open session for voter's comments
Senior Pastor Reports
Financial Review Committee and 2020 budget review
Old Business
Campaign updates
Committee updates
Reflections from Leadership Workshop in October
New Business

• Voter's Meeting Agenda
• Policy review and updates
• Congregation Voting on Constitutional Amendment
• Board of Directors Self-Review distributed
• Closing Prayer – Pastor Bickel
• Next Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2020

• Board members: Carly Glanzman, Judy Greer, Josh Kuck, Dan Markle, Ruth Meyering, Kathy Munger, Matt Salvati, Mark Schlutt, Phil Stiefel, Laurie Uecker, Maura Velthouse.
• For questions, please contact philipstiefel@msn.com

• Hebrews 6:10 "God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them." ✝

From Jim Harger—Servanthood Leader

• I recently became reacquainted with a childhood friend with whom I grew up in the tiny Allegan County village of Graafschap.

• As a kid and teenager, Tom would sometimes get into trouble. In fact, Tom was kicked out of high school for hot rodding in the school parking lot. We had drifted apart until recently when an older and wiser Tom reappeared on a friend's Facebook Page.

• In his postings on Facebook, Tom wrote about his wife who was gravely ill and a patient at the Meijer Heart Center. He wrote eloquently and fervently of his faith in God despite his wife's illness. He encouraged his friends and family members to pray for her and accept God's will for her.

• "I have times of weariness and can move down the path of being depressed. Choosing instead to worship our God in the hospital room and let our God change my view along with Yolanda's and anyone who comes in the room," he wrote recently. "That's what our God does when we seek Him during the trial. He refreshes us. Also your prayers are helping us, strengthening us."

• Being next door at Immanuel, I got in touch with Tom. We got together for lunch and coffee several times. We caught up on our families, old friends and chuckled over the trouble we caused as teenagers.

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Plugged In

We've had a busy start to the year with meaty devotions, corn mazes, mini golf, and games galore!

There is one more Plugged In event for the month of December. We will have our Plugged In Christmas Party Sunday, December 15th from 2-5pm. Come bundled because we will go ice skating, have pizza and exchange white elephant gifts (\$5 cap or something from home).

Come January, we will start off the year with a parent and student meeting January 5th for all interested in attending the **Michigan District High School Gathering**. We will meet after late church. Lunch will be provided and all information about registration, cost, fundraisers, etc will be shared. The Michigan District LCMS High School Youth Gathering will be on Mackinac Island June 28th- July 1st, 2020.

All interested in attending or seeking more information must be present at this meeting on January 5th at 12:15pm. For any further questions, please reach out to Bria Clark @ briannajclark@gmail.com

Plugged In Schedule for the next couple months:

DECEMBER:

12/15 - Plugged In ICE SKATING & CHRISTMAS PARTY 2-5pm @Immanuel

JANUARY:

1/5 HS DISTRICT YOUTH GATHERING MEETING 12:15pm @Immanuel

1/17- Plugged In: GRYM Winter Jam (MS & HS students) meet @ Immanuel

1/19 - Plugged In (HS ONLY)

FEBRUARY:

2/2 - HS ONLY

2/16 - HS ONLY

2/28-29 - Plugged In: 30 Hour Famine (MS & HS) †

Sunday School

What a busy fall we've had! From grounds clean ups, Thanksgiving food basket shopping, organizing and presenting at East Leonard, Youth Sunday and Advent Program... we've been cooking as serving community!

Here are Dates and Reminders to last you the rest of 2019 and Beginning of 2020.

12/1 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
(Thanksgiving Break)

12/8 Christmas Cookie Decorating & Advent Program Rehearsal (during Sunday School & after late church until 1:45pm). Students will be fed.

12/11 Advent Program 6:15pm call time and 7pm service

12/14 Family Christmas Caroling 4-6pm (All Congregation members invited and Pizza will follow)

12/15 Last Day of Sunday School for 2019

12/22 No Sunday School or Children's Church - Merry Christmas!

12/29 No Sunday School or Children's Church- Happy New Year!

1/5 Sunday School Resumes

Parents, please continue to check your emails for further information regarding upcoming Serve Sundays and the Advent program on December 11th. †

This is how we...

Bria Clark
Director of Family Ministry

Psalm 32

“Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the LORD does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through all my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.’ And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.”

*“Rejoice in the LORD
and be glad, you
righteous; sing, all you
who are upright in
heart!”*

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But I had to ask: What happened to transform him from a teenaged troublemaker to a prayer warrior? Tom said he grew tired of his rowdy life. He found family members and pastors who truly cared about the welfare of his soul instead of his behavior. They prayed for him, they prayed with him and taught him to pray. His faith grew.

Now, Tom gets up early every morning and spends at least an hour studying the Bible and praying. “How are you going to know what God wants you to do if you don’t spend time with him?” Tom said. Those morning devotions and times of prayer have changed his outlook and his life.

As of this writing, Tom’s wife has emerged from her induced coma. She is being weaned from her breathing equipment as her lungs grow stronger. She may be leaving the hospital soon. In his letters, Tom is thankful, urging his friends to continue praying, to accept God’s will and to praise God in all things.

Many of us at Immanuel have been praying more in recent months. We’ve learned that if we want to walk more closely with God, we need to take time each day to focus on his Word and ask the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts.

Pastor Craig has been leading members in meditation sessions in which we are learning new ways to more deeply reflect and pray on the Bible. “The point of meditation is, quite simply, to let the Holy Spirit preach the Word of God inwardly to the conscience of the believer,” he wrote in a recent devotional.

For the past several months, I’ve been part of a small prayer group that meets in our homes and prays for our church. As a result, we have become more focused on our ministry and more confident in the path that God wants us to walk.

We want this group to grow. If you would like to join our prayer group – or at least visit – contact Pastor Tyler or myself at jharger@immanuelgr.org to find out more about our next meeting on Thursday, Dec. 12. ✝





Singers for Christmas Eve

Would you like to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm? Join the Thursday night Immanuel Singers rehearsals on December 5, 12, and 19 at 7PM. Please mark your calendars to worship the baby born in a manger with us! ✝



Handbell News

The Immanuel Ringers and ABC Ringers are well into their 2019-2020 season. You will next be able to enjoy hearing them in the 8:30 services on December 1st, December 15th, Christmas Eve at 7:30 and in the new year on January 26th.

Are you thinking of including serving in a new way at Immanuel in your New Year's Resolutions? While the Immanuel Ringers group is full, we are always grateful for individuals that are willing to serve as substitutes. Previous ringing experience and some music reading is helpful in this case. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:00.

The ABC (Ageless Bell Choir) Ringers still have room for a few more interested individuals. This group is a beginning group of mixed ages - adults and students alike - learning together. Rehearsals are Sunday evenings from 5:30-6:00. This might be just the spot for you!

Let Linda Bartusch know of your interest by contacting her at 616-453-6082 or llbartusch7@gmail.com. Questions about either group are welcome anytime.

A blessed Advent, a very Merry Christmas, and a Joyful New Year to all of you! ✝

From WMLHS

WML is thrilled to announce that our office and students will be selling the **Key Card Deals** book through December 13th. Along with the book, you will receive an unlimited use discount card good for Greater Grand Rapids and nearby cities. Popular deals include Culver's, Biggby Coffee, Subway, Chow Hound, LongHorn Steakhouse, Craig's Cruisers, Family Video, Design 1 Salon Spa, Valvoline Instant Oil Change, Baker Book House, 20 different golf courses, and much more. Books are \$25 each and make good gifts as well. All profits will raise money to buy things that benefit WMLHS students. If interested, please see a WMLHS student or call Robin in the office at 455-2200. ✝

December 2019 Worship Volunteer Schedule

Week/ Service	Ushers/Hosts	Greeters	Readers	Projectionist	Acolytes/ Children's Church	Sound Tech
Dec. 1- Holy Communion <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Ted Lausman, Bruce Spletzer	Steve & Jan Sheiner	Dennis Hess	Anna Lausman	TBD	Bob Kulaszewicz
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Bill Takens, Scott & Deb Cheyne, Mitt Hoffmeister, Lisa Weiss			Jill Szyszko	NONE	Dan Markle
December 8 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	John Pape	Bruce & Doris Inman	Steve Labenz	Alex Keenan	TBD	Kristina DeShane
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Bob & Alisha Barber, Alyssa Spicer			Maddy Moore	Kate Ruffini Jenny Drehs	Josh Seifferlein
Dec. 15- Holy Communion <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Mike Bisbee, Tim Haberling, Therese Labenz	Judy Greer Laurie Uecker	Jim Harger	Jim Preston	TBD	Steve Labenz
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Brian & Andrea Zomberg, Edd & Ann Winkler			Joey Gonzalez	Cina Silvey	Rachel Kolkman
December 22 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Josh Seifferlein, Tim Ruffini	Tim & Karen Winkels	Karen McCarty	Maddy Moore	TBD	Tom Hutchinson
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Gary & Diane DeMaagd			Mallory Heldt	NONE	Ben Hurner
December 29 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Justin & Jessica Mueller	Bob & Alisha Barber	Evelyn Shoup	Jenny Drehs	TBD	Dan Markle
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Paul & Courtney Bradley, Mitt Hoffmeister			Lauren Wilkinson	NONE	TBD
Counters For December: Jim Preston; Dennis Hess; Tom Hutchinson						

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT and inform the Church Office at 454-3655 or office@immanuelgr.org of any changes.

January 2020 Worship Volunteer Schedule

Week/Service	Ushers/Hosts	Greeters	Readers	Projectionist	Acolytes/ Children's Church	Sound Tech
Jan. 5 - Holy Communion <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Ted Lausman, Bruce Spletzer	Steve & Jan Shelner	Linda Bartusch	Anna Lausman	TBD	Bob Kulaszewicz
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Bill Takens, Ellen Wolkensperg, Scott & Deb Cheyne			Jill Szyszko	Jenny Drehs	TBD
January 12 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	John Pape	Bruce & Doris Inman	Karen McCarty	Alex Keenan	TBD	Kristina DeShane
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Bob & Alisha Barber			Maddy Moore	TBD	TBD
Jan. 19- Holy Communion <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Mike Bisbee, Tim Haberling, Therese Labenz	Tim & Karen Winkels	Jim Harger	Jim Preston	TBD	Steve Labenz
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Brian & Andrea Zomberg			Mallory Heidt	Cina Silvey Kenzie Calton	TBD
January 26 <i>Traditional</i> 8:30 AM	Sarah Carter, Don Ellcey	Judy Greer Laurie Uecker	Evelyn Shoup	Jenny Drehs	TBD	Tom Hutchinson
<i>Contemporary</i> 11:00 AM	Gary & Diane DeMaagd			Joey Gonzalez	TBD	TBD

Counters For January: Dave Cherry; Dave Harmelink; Linda Kulaszewicz

If you are unable to serve on your assigned day, PLEASE FIND A REPLACEMENT and inform the Church Office at 454-3655 or office@immanuelgr.org of any changes.

December 2019

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	8:30/11am Worship w/ HC 9:45am Bible Study 5:30pm ABC Ringers	2 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Human Needs Meeting	3 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice 6:45pm Discovery	4 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers 7pm Hanging of the Greens	5 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters 7pm Singers	6	7
8 NEW MEMBER SUNDAY	8:30/11am Worship 9:45am New Member Reception 12pm Advent Rehearsal 5:30pm ABC Ringers	9 10:30am Bible Study	10 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice 6:45pm Discovery	11 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers 7pm Choir and Kids Advent	12 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters 7pm Singers	13 8am ISJ Student Rehearsal	14 4pm Christmas Caroling 5pm French Christmas Concert
15	8:30/11am Worship w/ HC 9:45am Voters Mtg./S.S. 5:30pm ABC Ringers	16	17 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice	18 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers 7pm ISJ Academy Concert	19 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters 7pm Singers	20	21
22	8:30/11am Worship 5:30pm ABC Ringers	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5pm Worship 7:30pm Worship	25 CHRISTMAS 10am Worship w/ HC	26	27 4pm Wedding	28 8am Community Breakfast
29	8:30/11am Worship 5:30pm ABC Ringers	30 2:30pm Caregivers Meeting 7pm Lay Ministry Meeting	31 NEW YEARS EVE				

Important Dates

- Wednesday, December 4—Hanging of the Greens Service
- Sunday, December 8—New Member Reception
- Wednesday, December 11—Choir and Kids Advent Service
- Saturday, December 14—Christmas Caroling and French Christmas Concert
- Sunday, December 15—Voters Meeting
- Wednesday, December 18—ISJ Academy Christmas Concert

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NEW YEARS OFFICE CLOSED	2	3	4
5 8:30/11am Worship w/ HC 9:45am Bible Study/SS 5:30pm ABC Ringers	6 6:30pm Human Needs Meeting	7 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice	8 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers	9 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters	10	11
12 8:30/11am Worship 9:45am Bible Study/SS 5:30pm ABC Ringers	13 7pm Board of Directors Meeting	14 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice	15 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers	16 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters	17	18
19 8:30/11am Worship w/ HC 9:45am Bible Study/SS 5:30pm ABC Ringers	20	21 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice	22 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers	23 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters 7pm Singers	24	25 8am Community Breakfast
26 8:30/11am Worship 9:45am Bible Study/SS 9:50am Blood Pressure Ck. 5:30pm ABC Ringers	27 2:30pm Caregivers Meeting 7pm Lay Ministry Meeting 7pm Delta	28 9:15am P&P 6:30pm WB Practice	29 6:30am Men's Bible Study 6pm Ringers	30 6:30am Women's Bible Study 10am Quilters 7pm Singers	31	

Important Dates

- Office closed Wednesday, January 1.

Connections

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Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Romans 12:9-21

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.