

sufferings would you like to alleviate? Write your ideas here and take the initiative and time to share your thoughts with Pastor Jack, another Staff Member or Lay Leader in our church. Perhaps your idea is just what we need to hear as we make plans for the New Year, 2025!

Thursday, October 24

Read Luke 9:28-43a. Pastor Jack said that our plans for the church can take some cues from Jesus' plan for God Kingdom which are the cross and resurrection. The message then focused on the sacrifice required from each of us as we contribute to the body of Christ – the church. It is not a popular question but what have you sacrificed for the church? What gift of time have you offered in the ministry and mission of the church? What financial sacrifices have you made for God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven? Do you think sacrifice is necessary from each of us for the church to function today? Meditate on these questions and write your ideas here.

Friday, October 25

Yesterday you were asked about the sacrifices you've made for the church. Today think about the three things that should be reflected in our giving in support of the ministry and mission of our church: 1) your giving is between you and God, 2) your giving should be a spiritual discipline and 3) your giving should be sacrificial. What do you think? Remember, to be part of a winning team requires sacrifice and you are on the team – the Waterford Central United Methodist Team! Pray that God will guide you in your support of our team in 2025.

Message Notes – October 20, 2024

Living God's Vision – Your Team^{*}

- I. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthian Christians, wrote about everyone in the church as an _____ part of the body of Christ.
 - A. No part of the body can say to another part of the body we don't _____ you or that it is a _____ part of the body.
 - B. I am here this morning to tell you that _____ are all an important part of the church.
- II. Last month we took two surveys because I wanted these messages in October to reflect your _____ about what ministries would best _____ the intentions of our Mission Statement.
 - A. You expressed concern for families and specifically _____.
 - B. You wanted to address issues of _____ and extend _____ to those in difficult situations.
 - C. You're concerned about issues of _____.
- III. So what's the _____? What are our _____ for 2025 going to look like?
 - A. I think it might do us well to look at _____ plan that I believe we can tease out from our scripture this morning from the gospel of Luke.
 - B. Jesus was about to initiate a new exodus, but in this case, this exodus would _____ all of humanity from the enslaving power of sin and death itself.

^{*}Luke 9:28-43a and I Corinthians 12:12-31

1. Jesus' plan is the _____ and _____.
 2. Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their _____ and _____ me."
 3. The truth is my friends, is Jesus asks us to make _____ in following him.
- IV. Three things about supporting our church that I believe are _____.
- A. First, what you give to the church is between _____ and _____.
 - B. Second, giving should be a _____.
 - C. Our giving should be _____ and make a difference in your life.
 - D. So it's not just about money; it's about much more, including and especially your _____ with God.
 - E. When it comes to the church, I believe God and Jesus the Christ does care desperately who wins this game of _____ and _____.

Daily Devotional Guide

The following is a daily devotional and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

Monday, October 21

Pastor Jack began the message by talking about the Detroit Tigers and Lions and how exciting it is to see them do well. Even those the least interested in sports have taken notice of our teams! Pastor Jack then spoke of The Baldwin Center and our development of a team to help out with the Center's Holiday Store which we have supported in the past. We are being asked to step up our commitment and be very hands on and active in supporting the Holiday Store this year. We have a chair of the committee and we have several volunteers willing to help out. How about you? Can you help with set up in late November or tear down and

packing things away in the middle of December? Could you spare a couple hours facilitating the store December 11-14? Might this be a great way for you to be part of a team of Christ-followers will change our world with the love of Christ. Call Pastor Jack at 249-217-4004 and join the team today!

Tuesday, October 22

Read I Corinthians 12:12-31. Scottish Bible Scholar, William Barclay writes, "Here is one of the most famous pictures of the unity of the Church ever written. A body consists of many parts but there is in it an essential unity." The Apostle Paul makes it clear that there is not part of the body that is not needed and that no other part should diminish the importance of another part of the body. Pastor Jack said that Paul's words address the issues of jealousy, pride and self-esteem. Every part of the church is essential and not part dispensable or inferior to another part of the church. While Paul writes of lesser and greater parts, that has to do more with what seems lesser and we cover them with our clothing. We have people in the church that are more visible than others – like the pastor or the choir – but they are not greater than other vital parts of the body. What do you think? Are there parts of the church that are more important than others? Have you ever been jealous of others in the church? Contemplate these questions and write your thoughts here.

Wednesday, October 23

Pastor Jack mentioned surveys from which we learned of the concerns and issues our church would like to address in the New Year. They are in alignment with Jesus' concerns for the poor, the captive, the blind and oppressed. Jesus wants freedom for those who fell separated from God and others. We want to comfort and support families, especially children, the poor and those stricken by natural disasters and war. Perhaps you participated in the survey and perhaps not. What issues would you like to see Central Church address; what problems and