



OCTOBER 2019



"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. -Acts 2:42-44"

The second element that is needed for the existence of a true church is found in the phrase: *and the fellowship*. I believe that when we talk about the concept of fellowship, we tend to think about things like going out for coffee, sharing a meal, or doing some kind of activity together. Certainly, there is nothing wrong with these activities and can be wonderful times spent with other members of the family of God. However, is that all there is to Christian fellowship or is there something more? Are we selling short what it means to be a part of the family of God? I believe we are.

The Greek word for fellowship that is used in Acts 2:42 is probably one that you have heard and yet you may not be familiar with its true meaning...*koinonia*. The word *koinonia* is a word that means to share with a profound intimacy. It is so much deeper than just being together, it means to be together with intentionality and with purpose. So, much of what many churches and Christians call fellowship is rather shallow. We discuss the weather, our jobs, sports, our families, etc. Although there is nothing wrong with this in general, it is just that we rarely go deeper in the discussion. The reality is if you attempt to go deeper with someone, they almost always put up road blocks that read: "Road Closed Do Not Enter."

One of the reasons for this in my estimation is that people look at their faith in God as something personal and private; nothing could be further from the truth. We are to experience *koinonia* not only with God, but

also with our brothers and sisters in Christ. If we only are intimate with God, we are losing out on the benefits of being intimate with the family of God and in so doing our intimacy with God is hindered. We have been made to be in community with one another for multiple reasons: growth, protection, correction, encouragement, help in all kinds of ways. When we are lacking in *koinonia* with one another our growth as a follower of the Most High is stunted and we never reach the maturity of the faith that the Apostles Paul and Peter speak of in their epistles. How sad it is when we see people not acting their age and being childish, how sadder still is the immaturity of so many Christians who have known Christ for decades.

So, why is true *koinonia* not a reality in most churches? First of all, sadly, ministers like myself have not properly taught on the subject and or been an example in it. Secondly, our sinful tendencies are to be loners and independent. Thirdly, we struggle with intimacy because we are always fearful and suspect of being hurt or having our trust betrayed. Finally, we know that we are not spending time in the Word which is the basis of this fellowship and we do not want to be exposed for our lack of personal depth. I am sure there are many more reasons, but these are enough to adequately make the point. How do we "fix" the problem? I have a few suggestions on how we can grow in *koinonia*.

The first thing we must do is to confess our sin of our lack of true *koinonia* to God, and then repent and become resolved to pursue *koinonia*. Secondly, we must ask God to help us overcome our human tendencies of fear and independence, we cannot do this alone. Thirdly, we must be in the Word daily as that is the basis of our growing in intimacy with our brothers and sisters. Fourthly, we need to practice going deeper with others. A good place to start is in the home. Ask your spouse, your children about their time in the Word, what they got out of the sermon, Sunday School or Wednesday night. Lastly, begin to grow your circle and ask people that you are close to at church the same questions. So, the next time you go out for coffee or a meal begin to go deeper with each other and experience the blessing of *koinonia*.

*In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim*

P.S. I have never used the word *koinonia* so much in any writing before. If you are curious it is pronounced: coy-no-knee-uh. This is certainly not the correct way to show pronunciation, but it does make it clear I believe ☺.

FRBC

Ladies' Brunch

Saturday, Oct. 5th
9:30-11:30 a.m.



*Sign-up sheet in the foyer

Questions or want to help out?
Contact: Linda Hoffman (715) 255-3809
or Ellen Rudzinski (262) 501-6648



Luncheon
Saturday, Oct. 12
11:30 am-1:00 pm

Old Glory Cafe,
104 E Kimberly Ave.
Kimberly, WI,
(in the private party room)

RSVP on sign-up sheet in foyer

Nursery Workers
Needed!



Contact Jeff Middlestead if you would like
to be added to the nursery list.

Birthdays:

2—Lynn Mlodzik
5—Ruby Ziemendorf
6—Sam Mlodzik
8—Hannah Hoffman
16—Dawn Delaney
27—Martha Kilishek



Happy Anniversary

Deaconess of the Month:

Kara Pogreba

Communion is Sunday, October 6

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect
non-perishable food items.
Place your food items on the
table provided in the foyer.



Evening Service

***October 6. 5 pm
October 20. 5 pm***

***October 13. 5 pm
October 27. 5 pm***



***Fox River Baptist Church
2600 E. Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915
920-734-6162***

***Website: foxriverbaptist.com
Email: office@foxriverbaptist.com***

***Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon***

Nursery Schedule



October 6
Gene Pogreba & Bryce Middlestead
October 13
Jeff Middlestead & Ian Dohms
October 20

October 27

Usher Schedule



October 6
Ron Van Asten & Keith Brown
October 13
Scott Smith & Ray Rudzinski
October 20
Jeff Middlestead & Jerry Kroehler
October 27
Ron Kempen & Jay Hoffman

Financial Update

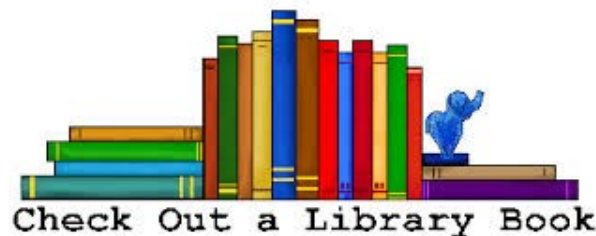
September 1-29, 2019
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00
Received: \$
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



**Youth Lock in,
Game Night**

Friday, October 18–Saturday, October 19.
8:00 pm—8:00 am at Godfrey's.
(the fun will not end.)

**If you have events and need bulletin inserts
made please send me the information by
Tuesday of each week, bulletins are printed
Thursday morning**



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

GOAL: 25 shoeboxes



**A table is available in the foyer with
boxes, and other information.**

**Saturday, October 19, 2019
8am-12pm**



**New Life Community Church)
3250 West 9th Avenue
Oshkosh, WI**

**Registration \$20
(\$15 before October 1st)
exaltconference.com
920.203.2463**

Register online at exaltconference.com

Fox River Baptist Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.