

Chain of Lakes



CHURCH

A New Presbyterian Church forming in the North Metro

Worship Location:

1189 Main Street, Lino Lakes
(Lino Lakes Senior Center)

763-208-8049
www.colpres.org

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Being Friends in a Facebook World



In an age where acquaintances can happen instantly, we need something more. Jesus took 12 people, became their friends, and changed the world. In this three week sermon series Pastor Paul will guide people to go deeper in their understanding of *being friends*.

Join us for a Special Series

Being Friends in a Facebook World

SUNDAYS – 10:30 AM

September 18 • "The World of Friends"
Rally Day! Storyteller for kids, Carnival following
worship with inflatable games, food & fun!

September 25 • "How Jesus Established Friendship"

October 2 • "A Call to Healthy Friendships"

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Notes from Pastor Paul



The following story is one I shared in a sermon on August 21. It starts out about me, but really it's a story about God. In August I attended a New Church Development conference in Florida. In one of the sessions we were asked the question, "Did the apostle Paul intentionally set out to start new churches?" On the surface the question seemed obvious because Paul established all sorts of churches in the villages in which he traveled. Later he would write letters to these churches. Some of the letters became part of the New Testament. They were letters to the church in Corinth and Ephesus, and Galatia.

But did he intentionally start out trying to start churches?

Last month I read the book of Acts—along with many people at Chain of Lakes. We read that often Paul would go into a village, enter the synagogue of the village, and start preaching the gospel. He would tell people that God loved them, that Jesus was resurrected from the dead, that people were forgiven of their sins, and that God had deep desires for their lives. Because of his preaching of the gospel a group gathered around Paul, and they started a church.

Paul didn't set out to start churches; he set out to share the gospel. Because he was so successful at communicating the gospel a church was formed.

I was hired to be the Organizing Pastor for this church. During 2011 we've talked a lot about growing our congregation—that is increasing in numbers of people. During the New Church Development conference I realized that in our focus on growing the church in numbers of people, we unintentionally didn't talk enough about the gospel.

Recently my staff share with me—in a loving way—that they thought that I had become a little whiny in my sermons. Hearing this wasn't easy for me. But I thought about it. And I realized it was the truth. I have no desire to be whiny. I know that I am not a whiny person. But I came to realize that I became focused so much on increasing our numbers of people that I've neglected the gospel.

From now on I'm talking more about the gospel and less about growing our church in numbers of people. Don't get me wrong—I still am passionate about building our church and seeing it grow in numbers of people. But I am more passionate about seeing the people of our faith community accept and live out the gospel.

Upcoming Worship Services

On Sunday, September 4 Ken McCullen will be leading us in worship. He is asking everyone on Labor Day Sunday to bring a visible symbol of your labor. It can be a hammer, a plate, a shoe (if you sell shoes), etc. We will share these symbols in a recognition of what God has called us to do.

On Sunday, September 11, the ten year anniversary of 9.11, we will look at these events from a perspective of faith. We will reflect on what happened that day and look to the future with hope. We will worship in an outdoor service and will honor police, fire, and EMT of our area as a way to say thank you for the heroic service that was done on that day. The children will have the opportunity to learn from the police, fire and EMT during Time for Children and Sunday School. Area Presbyterian churches are singing the same first hymn and sharing the same litany of Confession. This service promises to be very moving.

On Sunday, September 18 we will celebrate Rally Day. This is the day when we start our fall ministry year. I will be starting a sermon series called "Being Friends in a Facebook World". Bill Eisenmann, a professional storyteller, will share special stories with the congregation and with the children during Sunday School. After worship we are having a carnival with inflatable's, games and food. We are sending out 1,000 postcards to the community inviting them to this day. I'd like to ask everyone from Chain of Lakes to distribute postcards to your own neighborhood.

Property Task Force

The Property Task Force (PTF) recently learned that the sellers of the property we've look at in the north edge of the Lakes Development came back with a much higher price. A Letter of Intent on this property had been submitted to them. At a recent meeting the PTF identified two other properties that we will now be considering. The PTF now has three properties (the two new ones plus the one that had been considered) that we are now pursuing. For more information, contact Dave Nyberg and John Ivers. They are representatives of Chain of Lakes on the PTF. Please keep this initiative in your prayers.

Kids News



Vacation Bible School 2011

The Sunday School schedule for September - November is as follows:

- September 18 – Storyteller (Rally Day)
- September 28 – God Calls Abraham
- October 2 – Isaac is Born
- October 9 – Jacob and Esau
- October 16 – Esau Gives Away His Birthright
- October 23 – Jacob and Esau Forgive
- October 30 – What Does Stewardship Mean?
- November 6 - Joseph the Dreamer
- November 13 – Joseph and His Brothers
- November 20 – Together Again
- November 27 - ? May not have class
– Thanksgiving weekend



Mission: VBS collected over 20 backpacks filled with supplies for Lino Lakes Elementary kids!!

Participants cooked up a great time this year at VBS 2011!



THANK YOU HELPERS!!!

PARENTS CORNER



What does the Bible say about parenting?

Too bad there isn't one book in the Bible that gives us advice on *How to Raise Perfect Kids* or *How to be a Perfect Parent*. What it does do is tell us about God's parenting plan. In Genesis 1:28 – God blessed Adam and Eve and told them to go and have children and increase in numbers. In Genesis 17, God covenants with Abraham to be with Abraham always, the same promise God makes with each of us. We are called by God to participate in that promise by teaching our children vital faith and godly wisdom as we talk to them about God.

While the Bible isn't filled with tips for parenting, it is full of imperfect parents - Noah, Rebekah and David are examples of how NOT to raise children. The grace that God offers parents is a wonderful example of the kind of love we are called to show our own children; patience, kindness, joy, protection, slow to anger, never-giving-up kind of love that Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13. And when we fall short of showing that kind of love, as all parents do, isn't it great to remember we are not in this alone.



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We're on the Web!

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Chain of Lakes Church Purpose:

We are called to be an authentic, Christian community where:
Strangers become friends
Friends become disciples
Disciples impact the world.