

New Sermon Series

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2012

Questions Thinking People Have About THE BIBLE

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Almost every household has a Bible, but let's face it, how many of us really know how to use it?



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Starting Sunday, January 15th - 10:30 AM

JAN. 15 Why should I pay attention to the Bible? What gives the Bible its power?

JAN. 22 Considering the Bible is interpreted in so many ways, how do I interpret it?

JAN. 20 Vision Sunday - Annual Congregational Meeting

FEB. 5 I think my Grandmother knows, but I'm afraid to ask because I feel stupid. How and when was the Bible put together? Were certain chapters of the Bible left out? Does the Bible contradict itself? Were the gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke & John? Why are there so many translations? Which translation should I use? Why is the Bible divided into two parts?

FEB. 12 How do I reconcile the God of the Old Testament with the Jesus of the New Testament?



We Are Making Progress! Notes from Pastor Paul



2011 was the best year we've had at Chain of Lakes Church. I think we made enormous progress in moving forward as a church. Let me share a few ways that I believe we are making progress.

- Selection and purchase of property. Even though we are still working out the final details on the purchase agreement for our new property the selection of this new piece of property has already helped us move forward in our ministry. I believe deep in my bones that what ultimately is important for a church is not the property or the building. Even so it is exciting to know the location of where we will end up some day. We also know the community on which we will focus for the immediate period. The community is the large number of houses south of our new property. Our task is to get to know this community—what the needs in the community are and how we as a congregation can address those needs. This community needs a church. No permanent church buildings exist in this community right now. The selection and purchase of property helps us to know that we are making progress.
- Spiritual growth of people at Chain of Lakes. I saw more spiritual growth in the people at Chain of Lakes in 2011 than in the previous two years. We have more small groups offered, more people involved in the small groups, and we're seeing people share how much they are growing in their relationship to God. This is very exciting to see.
- Partnership with Lino Lakes Elementary STEM School. It's exciting to have a local mission project where people at Chain of Lakes can help. Last year we shared at least 25 backpacks with school supplies for the school, we raised \$250 for their milk fund, we gave \$300 from our Christmas Eve offering to help with backpacks of supplies, and we had five people sign up to be mentors to kids twice a month. All of this happened in the last six months of the year.
- New people who have come to Chain of Lakes. We celebrate the seven new families who have connected to our new congregation in 2011 and have made wonderful contributions to our community.
- The financial giving of people to Chain of Lakes is amazing. The average amount of giving to Chain of Lakes by you is well above the natural average and well above the average of Presbyterian churches. I am amazed at your generosity!
- The support of our Presbytery is also amazing. The Presbytery voted to give our congregation \$30,000 above and beyond their grant giving. That support is a lifeline.

These are six reasons (and we have many more) that I believe God is blessing our congregation. These reasons give me confidence that we are on the right track in our ministry at Chain of Lakes. I hope that everyone is encouraged by what took place in our ministry in 2011.

PARENTING FORUM: Positive Parenting & Discipline

Tuesday, January 31, 2012 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.



This Parenting Forum is presented by Vicki Bohling-Philippi, M.Ed., a Licensed Parent and Family Educator with Minnesota's Early Childhood Family Education program. *Lino Lakes Elementary and Chain of Lakes Church will provide a meal at the start of the presentation. This forum is located at Lino Lakes Elementary STEM School, 725 Main Street, Lino Lakes.*

Call Chain of Lakes Church to REGISTER . 763-208-8049 . Child care is available

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YOUTH MINISTRIES



SWIMMING!

On **February 12** after worship the Education Team will provide a light lunch for those children and families attending the swimming event at the Shorview Community Center Tropics Water Park. All kids 4 years and older are welcome. Children ages 6 and under need to have a parent present. Volunteers are needed to drive and chaperone this event. This event is for Chain of Lakes children only. Cost is \$8.00 for ages 17 and under and \$9.00 for adults. Jungle Gym also available to children, cost is \$5.00. A permission slip will be sent out. Deadline is February 5th.

On **March 9** all kids 1st grade and older are invited to serve at Feed My Starving Children.



Chain of Lakes children are first on the list, then we can offer invitations to friends. We only have 20 spots reserved. Children who are 3rd grade and younger need to have a parent help with them. The plan is to meet at the church parking lot and leave around 5:30 p.m. that Friday, then we will be serving from 6-7:30 p.m. Afterwards we will be going out to eat at McDonalds. We will need volunteers to drive and help chaperone.

Contact Tiffany Chopra or the church office with questions.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 15, we begin a new way of doing Sunday school for children. We are using a thematic approach that will help enrich and enhance what the children will be learning. Over the next five weeks, our theme centers on Discipleship and what it means to be a follower of Jesus. This theme will be covered in a variety of ways beginning with a **Faith Journey** where participants will come to know what it is we believe about Jesus. Jesus instructed his disciples to “go out and make fishers of people” so on **January 22** the children will learn how they too can “fish for people,” as they learn about the fish symbol while baking fish shaped pretzels and sharing them with a friend. On **January 29** children will be using special software to explore several stories about Jesus followed by a challenging quiz. **February 5** children will learn that Jesus wants them to be his disciples, follow him and grow in their understanding of living by the fruits of the spirit. They will be planting a vine to care for at home and are challenged to live by the nine fruits of the spirit each day. Jesus often began his teachings with, “I am...” and on **February 12** the classes will have the opportunity to learn more of them by playing a Bingo type game and then creating a kaleidoscope which will remind them of the wonderful world God created. **February 19** is review week when we will put it all together as we review what they Know about Jesus, how they can Grow in their faith and Go out into the world and tell others.

Parent's Corner

How do I Get my Child Interested in the Bible?

As children growing up in the 50's many of us will remember the “denominational devotion booklets” that were sent home to be used during the week at supper time. Each night mom or dad would read the Bible passage then the daily devotion ending with a prayer that was often muttered in monotone by the rest of the family before everyone fled from the table.

In some cases the Bible reading was heard, but we never really listened. The devotions were probably great, but our enthusiasm was missing, we were thinking about dessert or what was waiting for us outside.

It is important to remember that the people in the Bible were living, breathing, moving people. When reading stories, change your voice and expressions and even change the place where you read them. Sit outside when reading about creation; crawl under a table to read a psalm about how God surrounds us; or connect stories to your meal—have fish and talk about how some of the disciples were fishermen.



A New Presbyterian Church forming in the North Metro

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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.