



Jr./Sr. High Hayrack Ride & Cookout

October 14, 2015

Please catch the earliest ride you can!

Rides from the church leaving at:

5:30pm & 6:00pm (Middle School times)

6:30pm & 7:00pm (High School times).

Middle School youth will be back to the church at 8:30pm. High School youth will be back by 9:30pm.

Adults: We need drivers to leave the church at each of the times, chaperone the event, and drive youth back to the church. Please contact Leah Ratzlaff 402-730-5870 or l_ratzlaff@hotmail.com by Sunday, October 11, if you can help.

You are invited for supper and program **Friday night, October 16th at 6:00p.m.** in Fellowship Hall, hosted by Pastor Emeritus Bill and Janie Nottage-Tacey and Transitional Pastor Charlie and Mimi Webster. Our guests will include Jan Dus, Executive Director of Diakonia, of our sister denomination the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren. Current projects of Diakonia are Agriculture Development, Empowering Women, Humanitarian Aid and Social Service. Come and bring your entire family to hear what the Church is doing in Eastern Europe, East Africa, and Southeast Asia. Food and beverages will be provided at no cost. Bring a dessert to share if you like. **R.S.V.P. to the Church office no later than Wednesday, October 14th.** We look forward to seeing you there!

Thomas Merton – I (CMW) was delighted that Pope Francis included Thomas Merton in his address to the U.S. Congress. Here are three of my favorite Merton quotes:

“Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.”

“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone – we find it with another.”

“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.”



Stewardship Thought

I read the following quote in another church's newsletter: "It seems that the Butterball Turkey Company had set up a telephone hot line to answer questions people might have. A woman called to inquire about whether or not she should cook a turkey that had been in the freezer for twenty-three years. The operator told her that it might be safe if it had been kept frozen for the entire time, however, the turkey would probably have no flavor at all, and they would not recommend eating it. The woman replied, "that's what I thought, I'll just give it to the church."

This may be somewhat an extreme example, but is that our attitude towards our gifts to the church? Do we give the church what is leftover or that which we can do without? We need to remind ourselves that the first Commandment calls us to put God first in our lives. We also see this in the life of Jesus whose prayer to God was "not my will, but your will be done."

Our inability to put God first when it comes to our money is probably our biggest obstacle to a full relationship with God in Christ. Jesus knew this. That is why he spoke on the issue of money more than any other single topic. Putting God first in our lives should be our priority. Will you carefully examine your giving and your attitude towards your money and possessions? Is it getting in the way of your relationship with your Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer?

-C.M.W.