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Individual Gifts by Pastor Maxwell Whitehead

What gifts do you have? Think about that for a moment. And if you can't think of anything right now, then that is your assignment for the month. I guarantee that everyone has special gifts or talents. But don't take my word for it. Paul says this in his letter to the Romans: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..."

You see, far too often we focus on the gifts that others have out of jealousy or envy. We have thoughts like "they are so good at xyz, they never have to practice," or "it must be nice to have such a useful talent."

Sometimes it isn't jealousy or envy though. Sometimes we notice the gifts of others and find ourselves in a place of self-loathing or depravity. "I wish I was as talented as him/her," "I could never be as skilled as them," "I don't have any talents, gifts, or skills that could be glorifying or helpful to others."

Hear this again: "Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us..." then Paul finishes the clause with, "let us use them."

When we get caught up in seeing what others have and what we don't have, we get stuck in a place of disappointment, perhaps even despair. It is hard for us to see what God has given to us, gifts, talents, or otherwise. God has

given each of us a different set of gifts. We don't always recognize them as gifts, but they are gifts nevertheless. And they are to be used!

You don't have to be in the spotlight to have gifts that ought to be used. You don't have to be a star athlete, a professional musician, or a public speaker. You have been given gifts according to

the grace God has given you, use them! If you do not know what your gift is, take a few days - the month - and do some self-reflection. Pay attention to how it is that you are called to serve others or take care of this place God has given us to call home. Pay attention to what friends and family might ask for help with. Better yet, ask them, and be ready to respond in kind with an affirmation of a gift that they might have.

"6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with

cheerfulness."

~ Romans 12:6-8

I promise you this: as God has called you His very own, so too has He given you a set of gifts

that are for you to use. God has called you for a reason. Even if you don't know what that reason is or what gifts He may have imparted on you, know that according to the measure of faith God has assigned, and by His grace, you are called to serve as one of His Chosen People.

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Maxwell Whitehead



Sunday, September 03

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

Wednesday, September 06

2:00 PM Bible Study 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM **VCIS**

7:00 PM Council Mtg

Sunday, September 10

10:30 AM Worship Service (Traditional) 11:30 AM Rally Sunday with Potluck

Wednesday, September 13

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS Confirmation 5:30 PM 7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, September 17

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

Wednesday, September 20

Bible Study 2:00 PM 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS Confirmation 5:30 PM

7:00 PM **VCIS**

Sunday, September 24

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Contemporary)

6:00 PM Book Study with Ellie

Wednesday, September 27

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM **VCIS**

Worship Helpers

Note: Readers for the "Worship Helpers" schedule are set based on the committee of the month. If you cannot read on the date set, please find a replacement and let us know of the change. Thank you so very much in advance!

Sunday, September 03 (Communion)

| Reader | Cath Peterson |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Acolyte/Communion Helper | Piper |
| Live Stream | Maxx |
| Organist/Pianist | Melanie Parsons |

Sunday, September 10 (Traditional)

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|------------------|---|--------------------|
| Reader | | . Michelle Johnson |
| Acolyte | | Quinn |
| Live Stream | | Maxx |
| Organist/Pianist | | . Melanie Parsons |

Sunday, September 17 (Communion)

| Reader | Ellie Whitehead |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Acolyte/Communion Helper | Curtis |
| Live Stream | Maxx |
| Organist/Pianist | Melanie Parsons |

Sunday, September 24 (Contemporary)

| Reader | James Christofferson |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Acolyte | |
| Live Stream | Maxx |
| Organist/Pianist | Kayla Mehlhaf |

Committee's of the Month

Each month's committee members are responsible for reading the Scriptures on Sundays. Confirmed youth of committee members are included in the month in which the parent serves. A full list of duties is on the bulletin board and in the committee of the month binder.

Chad & Belinda Holm Loren & Michelle Johnson James Christofferson Lydell & Cath Peterson Nancy Severson

Matt & Sharon Wirth Shelley Wray Chad and Belinda Holm Tyler & Sam Bjerke

November

Josh & Kristie Huth Jay & Melanie Parsons Ellie Whitehead Troy & Amy Lee Neal & Jenny Hanson

September Scripture Readings

September 03 - Exodus 3:1-15, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-2

September 10 - Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Matthew 18:15-2

September 17 - Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21

September 24 - Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20





BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 03, 2023 WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE AT 10:30 AM



The October Newsletter Deadline is September 24. *Please submit the reader and acolyte schedule by September 21* for inclusion into the September 24 bulletin. Thank you!



Sunday, Oct 01

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Communion)

6:00 PM Book Study with Ellie

Wednesday, Oct 04

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

7:00 PM Council Mtg

Sunday, Oct 08

9:00 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship Service (Traditional)

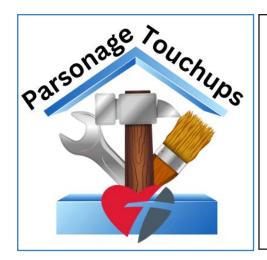
6:00 PM Book Study with Ellie

Wednesday, Oct 11

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr VCIS

5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS







Potential Thrivent Projects!

We have three new projects for which we are seeking funding assistance:

- 1. Parsonage Touchups
- 2. Rally Sunday events for both OSLC & SVLC happening in September
- 3. The VCIS Haunted House Fundraiser

Learn how you can help by scanning the QR code or by visiting: https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams



Parents, bring your kids to church and hang around after for a fun activity and meal - hot dogs, taverns, and chips will be provided but feel free to bring a treat or salad to share. We sincerely hope to see everyone there! All are welcome!

Help support the VCIS Mission At Home by Flamingo-ing a Friend!

Cost:

- 🔅 \$30 to send the flock,
- 🔅 \$15 to have them removed,
- \$5 to find out who sent them.

Contact Pr. Max to schedule! prmax@oslcvib.org

