



**We Strive to Be: A church devoted to making disciples of Jesus Christ, growing together in knowledge and relationship with God and each other.**

**Today's Events:**

Elders/Deacons Meeting:  
After Worship

H.O.P.E. Group: 6-7:30 p.m.  
In the fellowship building

**Upcoming Events:**

- Jan. 17-19 – Winterfest
- Jan. 21 – Men's/Women's Bible Study
- Jan. 26 – H.O.P.E. Group
- Feb. 3 – Westview Boys' Home Truck
- Feb. 21-23 – Youth Spring Retreat at Saints Grove w/ Stillwater & Perkins

**For Our Guests:**

- Our guest WIFI password is Mark1615.
- If you would like individual communion cups, they are located on the small table behind the pillar in the back of the auditorium.
- Our nursery, located in the hallway behind the foyer, is staffed with ladies that would love to help you. There is also a nursing mothers' room that is accessed by walking through the nursery.

**Order of Worship**

.....	<i>Lord, I Lift Your Name on High</i>
<b>Song Leader/Welcome</b> .....	<b>Jim Coker</b>
.....	<i>Worship the Lord with Gladness</i>
.....	<i>At the Name of Jesus</i>
.....	<i>Great Are You Lord</i>
<b>Prayer</b> .....	<b>TBD</b>
.....	<i>Lord, I Need You</i>
.....	<i>Boundless Love</i>
<b>Communion Talk</b> .....	<b>Brooks Wilson</b>
<b>Servers</b> .....	<b>Dan Kent, Gordon Jantz, Michael Granberg</b>
.....	<b>Butch McComas, Brent Dittmeyer, Dylan Anderson</b>
.....	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>
<b>Sermon</b> .....	<b>Erik Granberg</b>
.....	<i>I Am Resolved</i>
<b>Shepherd's Prayer</b> .....	<b>Terry Sherrill</b>
<b>Nursery</b> .....	<b>Patrece Allen, Meredith Plummer</b>
<b>Sound Booth/Slides</b> .....	<b>Dudley Darrow</b>
<b>Children's Church Teacher/Helper</b> .....	<b>Katana Jones, Audrey Darrow</b>

**Sermon Scripture:** 1 Timothy 3:1-7

**Sermon Thought:** Most of the "qualifications" of elders involve character, not knowledge or skill. A person's lifestyle and relationships provide a window into one's character. It is important to have leaders who can effectively preach God's word; it is even more important to have those who can live out God's word and be examples for others to follow.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. What do you think some of your best characteristics are? Maybe ask those around you what your best characteristics are.
2. Why is doing the right thing so much more important than saying the right thing?
3. Why would it be possible for a person to meet all the qualifications scripture gives for being an elder but still not be a good elder?
4. What do our elders deserve the most thanks for? Have you told them?

**Women's Involvement Form**

Please fill it out and return it by Sunday, January 19. These forms let our coordinators know who is interested in helping with many of the common ministries of the church (greeters, baby showers, nursery attendants, communion prep, teachers, and so on.) The pink forms are still available at the welcome center with a place to leave them when filled out.

## Next Week's (1/19/25) Servants:

<b>Song Leader</b>	
<b>/Welcome:</b>	Wesley Boyd
<b>Communion</b>	
<b>Talk:</b>	Brian Wright
<b>Servers:</b>	Wayne Williams Cory Moore Houston Moore Cooper Thornton Dan Kent Dudley Darrow
<b>Shepherd's Prayer:</b>	Dan Kent
<b>Sound Booth/ Slides:</b>	Terry Sherrill
<b>Nursery:</b>	Kim Burford Ally Coker
<b>Children's Church:</b>	Katana Jones TBD
<b>Wednesday Toddler/ Preschool Teacher:</b>	Wendy Taylor

## This Week's Birthdays:

17<sup>th</sup> ..... George Gordon

## Items Needed for the Westview Boys' Home Truck coming 2/3/25:

Pancake Mix  
Microwave Popcorn  
Scalloped Potatoes  
Ranch  
Refried Beans  
Grape Juice  
Vienna Sausages  
Spam  
Paper Towels  
Paper Plates  
Plastic Assorted Utensils

## A New Beginning

This article was written by Jay Launis, Maud church of Christ, Maud, Texas. I thought it was worth sharing with you as we begin the year 2025.

"As we begin a new year, we typically make resolutions and set goals to accomplish during the coming 12 months. They tell us that goal setting is important for us and helps us maintain forward mobility in our lives. No one ever improves while sitting still. Christians should set spiritual goals for themselves in order to continue the journey of spiritual maturity which is, by the way, a journey of a lifetime. Here are a few suggestions for our spiritual goals:

- **Daily Prayer and Bible Reading:** Pray without ceasing... (1 Thessalonians 5:17); Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. (1 Timothy 4:13)
- **Continue to Develop the Fruits of the Spirit:** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- **Increase My Love, Benevolence and Care for Others:** But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)
- **Improve My Attendance & Time Spent with the Church:** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)
- **Increase My Involvement in Evangelism:** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? (Romans 10:14)"

**Dan Kent**

## Not Perfect, Just an Elder

"*Must be blameless.*" Wow, count me out. I also happen to know exactly ZERO people who are blameless. Yet, that is one of the characteristics the apostle Paul says elders who shepherd churches should have.

As the early church grew, a leadership structure was needed to direct the affairs of churches as they lived out their faith. One example is found in Acts 6 when seven men were chosen as deacons for the ministry of daily food distribution. Later, as new churches began across the nations, Paul told Timothy and Titus, "*to appoint elders in every congregation,*" (Titus 1:5) to shepherd the churches.

Most of the qualities of elders given in scripture involve character, not knowledge or skill. Knowledge and skill are much easier to obtain than good character. A person's lifestyle and relationships provide the window to that person's character. One may say all the right words, but a person's true character is revealed by the fruit of one's life. It is vital for churches to have leaders who live out God's word and be examples for others to follow.

Being an elder is not an easy responsibility nor is it one of thanks, but it is one of utmost importance in leading the church. Consider Paul's comment in Titus 1:7, "...*an elder is entrusted with God's work....*" That put together with being "*blameless*" is probably enough to scare away just about anyone.

Let me offer a small insight. There is a big difference between being "*blameless,*" and being "*perfect.*" No human can ever achieve being perfect, hence the need for our savior, Jesus Christ. However, one of the marks of a blameless person, is the one who can acknowledge a mistake and make amends. To do so, requires one to be self-controlled, respectable, and not conceited. Those all happen to also be marks of an elder given by Paul.

You may never be called to be an elder, but the marks of an elder are characteristics that every follower of God should strive for. "*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,*" Romans 15:13.

**Erik Granberg**

## What Are You Doing Tuesday Mornings?

If you have not been attending the Ladies Bible Study (or Men's Bible Study) lately at 10 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month, you are missing something very special. The ladies are currently studying from Lesson 5 about David's life and the Psalms he wrote during his experiences. The men are studying from I John. It isn't too late to get started. The next classes will be on Tuesday, January 21.