

Church Office
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Meeting location
Marshall Middle School
25 S. Pontiac, Janesville
Pastor:
John Swanson

*Declaring the greatness of God and serving
others for joy and His honor (II Cor. 4:5)*



January 27, 1999

Dear

“The biblical fact is that there are no successful churches. There are, instead, communities of sinners, gathered before God week after week in towns and villages all over the world. The Holy Spirit gathers them and does his work in them. In these communities of sinners, one of the sinners is called pastor and given a designated responsibility in the community. The pastor’s responsibility is to keep the community attentive to God.” Eugene Peterson in Working the Angles

When I think about my job as pastor and what it is we are trying to build here at River Hills Community Church, I think of this quote from Eugene Peterson. It is the chief ambition of my life to grow in my delight in knowing Christ. It is my ambition that whatever else is happening, people in our church are learning that Jesus really can be the one who satisfies all the yearnings of our hearts. As you have heard me say many times, “Life is about God.”

The questions that occupy my attention are: Are increasing numbers of people seeking to find their happiness in Christ through personal, daily prayer and Bible reading? Are increasing numbers of families learning to worship Christ and seek Christ together through regular family bible reading and prayer? Is our growing delight in Christ being reflected in our corporate worship and in the ways in which we conduct ourselves in our work and play?

What I yearn for in my life and my families’ life and in your life is to be so amazed with Jesus and his salvation that seeking Him is the only thing that makes sense. There is work to be done and decisions to be made as we work together to build a church that delights in God and loves people but I want none of us to ever lose sight of what it is we are doing together. He is the reason we exist. He alone is worthy of our love and devotion.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

One of the major things we need to accomplish this year is incorporation as a church and official affiliation with the Forest Lakes District of the Evangelical Free Church of America. The Steering Committee for our church has approved, upon recommendation of our local Leadership Team, an Ad Hoc committee to organize these tasks. The Committee on Church Incorporation and Charter Membership is made up of Todd Cook, Dan Martin, John Swanson and Ed Wojciechowski.

These are the general guidelines we are working with:

- ◆ By May 1, 1999 we will have written the proposed Constitution and By-laws, the Membership Covenant and the Charter membership application
- ◆ May 1 to July 31: Charter membership applications will be received and personal conferences with Pastor John will be conducted
- ◆ Sometime in August our Charter Business meeting will be conducted. During this meeting...
 - ◆ Charter membership will be approved by the Steering Committee
 - ◆ The membership will vote on the Constitution and By-laws
 - ◆ The membership will vote to affiliate with the Forest Lakes District of the EFCA
 - ◆ The membership will vote on calling John Swanson as the first pastor of the church
- ◆ In October we will be officially welcomed into the Forest Lakes District at the District Conference

We have two highlights in the month of February that I hope you will take advantage of. First we will be going to Timberlee Christian Center on Feb. 7th, right after our worship service. Talk with _____ to sign you and your family up for this fun day of playing in the snow (I do live by faith!) and sharing in a meal and a time of worship together.

Second, we are sponsoring a Valentine’s Day Sweetheart Banquet at “The Manor” in Beloit. Our hope is that each of us will use this event as an opportunity to both express our affection for our own “sweethearts” and invite our friends who are not going to church to join us as we seek to celebrate God’s vision for the marriage relationship.

Seeking Him in All of Life,

P.S. I’ve enclosed 4 tickets for the Sweetheart Banquet you can use to invite friends (Remember to sign up any guests by calling the church office by Feb. 10). Also, I’ve enclosed the current Organizational Chart for River Hills. There are still plenty of opportunities to join in the work, so if you have an interest in an area, please talk to the appropriate person.