

From Pastor Doug....

Remembering the Poor: A Gospel Imperative

“Only, they asked us to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.” — Galatians 2:10 (ESV)

Dear Friends,

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called not only to proclaim the gospel with our lips but to live it out with our lives. In Galatians 2:10, the Apostle Paul recalls how the Jerusalem apostles, in affirming his ministry to the Gentiles, gave him just one charge: to remember the poor. And Paul affirms, “the very thing I was eager to do.”

Though we are mostly insulated from true poverty in America, this call is not optional—it is integral to our faith. As Reformed Christians, we hold dear the sovereignty of God and the sufficiency of Christ’s work. Yet that robust theology must also shape our practice. James reminds us that “faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead” (James 2:17, ESV). Remembering the poor is one of the most visible ways our faith takes flesh.

Throughout Scripture, God’s heart for the poor is undeniable. The Lord defends the cause of the needy (Psalm 140:12), and the Law of Moses includes numerous provisions for the care of the vulnerable (Leviticus 19:9-10; Deuteronomy 15:7-11). In the wisdom literature, we are told, *“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed”* (Proverbs 19:17, ESV). But the ultimate example is our Savior Himself. Though rich, He became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), and His ministry was marked by compassion for the downtrodden. In Christ, we see both divine mercy and the model for our obedience. (see next page)



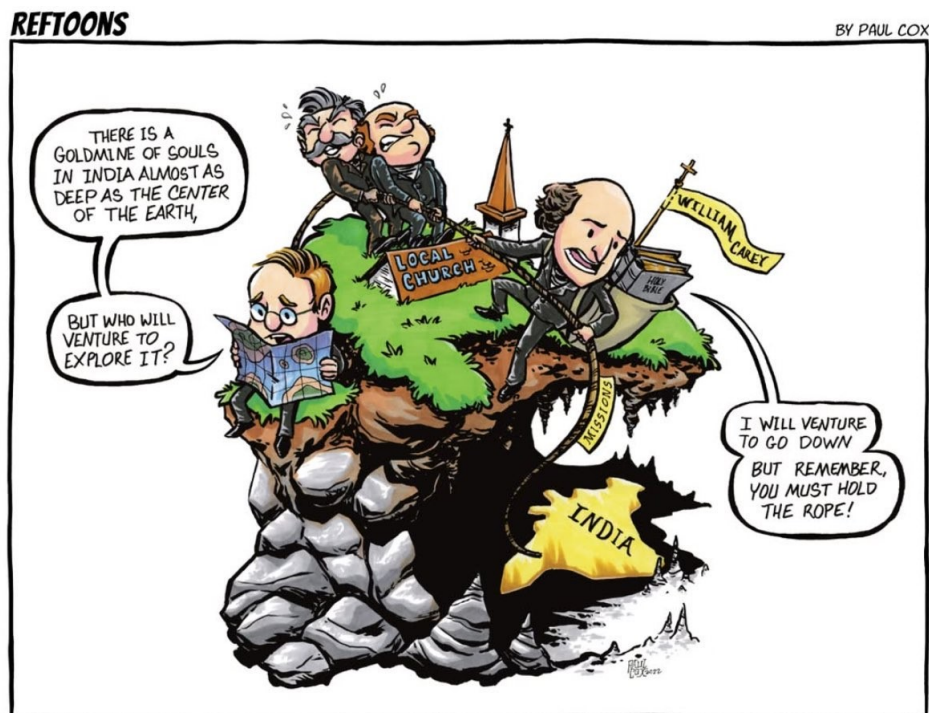
Remembering the poor is not merely charity—it is a witness to the kingdom of God. When we care for the impoverished, we echo the gospel: the good news that Jesus came to redeem sinners, to bind up the broken-hearted, and to lift up the lowly. When it is paired with the proclamation of the gospel with our lips, we offer up the ultimate solution to being poor in spirit, along with their earthly needs.

Our Reformed confessions remind us that true faith is never alone. As the Heidelberg Catechism puts it, “It is impossible for those grafted into Christ by true faith not to produce fruits of gratitude” (Q&A 64). One such fruit is sacrificial generosity.

Let us then remember the poor not out of guilt, but out of joyful obedience to our King. Let us give, serve, advocate, and pray—knowing that in doing so, we are honoring Christ Himself. *“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.”* (Matthew 25:40, ESV)

Soli Deo Gloria,

Pastor Doug Campbell



Howdy Partners! It's VBS TIME!

Dust off your boots and grab your bandanas—it's time to get your tickets to Wonder Junction!

As we look around the West, we see so many things to wonder at—lovely landscapes, created critters, and intriguing inventions. But none of these compares to the grandest wonder of all—our Savior Jesus Christ! Here at Wonder Junction, we know there's no greater joy than to praise the name of the Lord all day long. But how can yer kids do that if they don't know who Jesus is or what He's done for them? Wonder and amazement await us each day at Wonder Junction. We hope you're ready to have a rootin' tootin' time!

Mark your calendars! July 21—July 25th from 6—8 pm! We need YOU!



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

May 1—Sam McTavish

3—Joseph Dowdall

4—Ruth Hempen

8—River Love

9—Roger Mason Hempen

12—Sadie Providence Love

17—Emily Dowdall

21—Kenny Hempen, Sr., Jack Hamelton

22—Audrey Hempen

24—William Keith Dowdall

25—Kim & John Fox (Anniversary)

31—Rachel Shoemaker



Family Worship Night at the Park!

We'll gather Wednesday , May 28th @ 6 pm at the Hamilton City Park (Gordon's Grove) for Family Night. You're welcome to bring food and picnic too!



PASTOR DOUG'S SCHEDULE

Monday—OFF—Family Day

Tuesday—Alone with God Day

Wednesday—Office 11 am—6 pm

Thursday—2—5 pm

Friday—2—5 pm

Saturday -

Sunday—Worship with and serve God's people!

Church # (217)845-4611

Pastor—(217)845-5001

Emergency (Deanna's #) (319)795-7637

Our mission through June -

HeartCry Missionary Society

There's a box at the front of the sanctuary for your donations.

Congratulations Graduates!

Will Fox & Ashley Fox are both officially Drs. Fox! They graduated from the U of I College of Medicine, Rockford, on Friday, April 25th. They'll soon head to Columbia, MO for their residency. Congratulations Drs. Fox!



Brody McTavish—Home School High School.

Mady Hamelton — West Burlington High School

Prayers -

- Jessica Boudreau has been approved to receive a kidney transplant. Please pray for this. Also pray for Jessica's mother who is on dialysis in a nursing home.
- Alice Mae to get stronger and hoping to get home soon.
- Rhonda's son's mother-in-law who passed.
- Friend of Jonathan Stewart's former church with lymphoma.
- Marge V., Donna W. Carol D.
- The Family of Steve Lunt
- The family of Donnie Geissler (Pastor's Uncle)
- Praise our Lord is sovereign!!
- Pray for our pastor and for the leadership in the church. Our country and world leaders.

Are you on our Email List?

Are you in our Birthday/Anniversary file?

Do you want to receive a printed newsletter?

Please get your 'stuff' to Barbie and you will be added to our lists!





Elvaston Community Church

109 E. Ohio, Elvaston, IL 62334

Website—www.elvastonchurch.org

Phone-217-845-4611

Pastor Doug's email—pastordoug@elvastonchurch.org

Elders—Jake Kramer, Greg Dowdall, Ethan Wollbrink

Worship Leader—Greg Dowdall

Song leader—Kenny Hempen, Jr.



M A Y — 2 0 2 5

Sunday Schedule—	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am—Sunday School					1 6 pm Elders' Meeting	2	3
10:30 am—Worship							
12:00— Carry-In Lunch	4	5	6	7 	8	9 9–12:30 Young Adventurers	10
Weds. @ 6 pm—Family Nights							
	11 	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20 	21	22	23	24
	25	26 	27	28 6 pm Family Night Worship in the Park	29	30	31

ONLINE SERVICES

You can view our services online (livestream) at www.elvastonchurch.org or listen to the message later on Faithlife or the church website.



109 East Ohio

Elvaston, IL 62334

May 2025

Web—www.elvastonchurch.org

Sunday School—9:30

Worship—10:30

