

All of those who attempt to follow God must do so in keeping with the manner that God has revealed. The question is never, "Given the way that I feel, what does God allow?" The question must always be, "What does God expect?"

The reaction of others toward those who have same sex attraction is also an appropriate discussion. "Can a church allow those with same sex attraction to be a part of their fellowship?" Here, we move carefully. If same sex attraction is temptation, but not sin until acted upon... the answer is of course, gladly. Think of this question, "Can a church allow those with opposite gender attraction to be a part of their fellowship?" We have no problem. What if those being discussed are not acting on the desires, struggling with them, attempting to keep lusts in check? Do we want to eliminate every single person from church membership who is unmarried and dealing with physical desires? I hope not.

Scripture, I believe is clear in describing marriage as an act between male and female and the only acceptable context for sexual expression. As a result, sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful, homosexual or heterosexual, equally.

But we are called to be those who support, love, and encourage those who struggle in a walk with God toward obedience. We are not to be the people who stand on street corners with lists of categories of people we don't like.

I want people to know that sin hurts both their own lives and the lives of those around them. I want them to see the purity of the love of God for them, not after they have "cleaned up" but while they are yet sinners. My words have to encourage them to fall as deeply in love with God as he is with them. They must be filled with grace and hope. Certainly there is sin in the world, both in those who do it, and those who react to it.

*Grace and Peace,*

*Carl*



**St John Church of Christ  
A Family of God**

**July 3, 2016**

I was asked this week about sin. I really understood the question because it seems that there has been an "agenda" of trying to push the limits. Things that would have at one time been hidden, whispered about, or produced shame, are being flaunted, supported and have gained a national following. While there is confusion about the topics in the public, it is important that people of God not take radical positions that are not supported by a careful study of Scripture. It is also important that we be willing to go back and examine any view that we have about any topic to see if our position is in keeping with Scripture.

For example, it is obvious that the LGBT activists have made significant gains to acquiring protection of civil rights and are much more open than at any time in recent history.

The question put to me was, "Is it sinful to be gay?" The question needs to be clarified in order to be able to answer it properly. If the question is, "Is it wrong to have sexual attraction toward those of the same gender?", the answer is that it is a temptation toward sin, not a sin. In the same manner that a heterosexual is attracted toward those of the opposite gender, the attraction is not sinful, but acting outside of God's will in that attraction is sinful.

*St John Church of Christ  
609 N Pearl  
P. O. Box 241  
St John, KS 67576*

*Where belonging to God means belonging to each other.*

**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
 Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
 Worship Service—10:45 am  
 Afternoon Service—1:15 pm

**WEDNESDAY:** Adult Bible Study—7:30 pm  
 Youth Group—7:30 pm (@ Carl's)

**ELDERS:** Richard Breensing, Teddy Gingrich, Loyd Ratts,  
 Terry Sallee, George Shelton

**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Jon Mansel

**TREASURER:** Richard Breensing

### WORSHIP ORDER FOR JULY 3, 2016

SONG LEADER: Stan Aldrich  
 GATHERING SONG: No. 96—I Stand in Awe  
 WELCOME: Tom Turner  
 SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 (Orrin Feril)  
 SONGS: No. 680—Yes, Lord, Yes  
       No. 583—Jesus, Flow Like a River  
       No. 254—Sweet Aroma  
       No. 57—Great is Thy Faithfulness  
 PRAYER: Gary Hornbaker  
 SONG: No. 205—Worthy is the Lamb  
 COMMUNION: Richard Breensing  
             Ben Sizemore  
             Jon Mansel  
             Chris Mansel  
 MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril  
 SONG: No. 850—Heaven Medley  
       -No. 851—I'll Fly Away (vs 1, 3)  
       -No. 852—When the Roll is Called Up Yonder (vs 1, 2)  
       -No. 853—When We All Get to Heaven (vs 1,3)  
 LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
 SONG: No. 876—Where He Leads Me I Will Follow (vs 1)  
 PRAYER: Teddy Gingrich

(CCL1 #2440129)

### WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship and hope that you will come again! Please stay for our potluck lunch today.

### SILVER MAPLE CAMP

These are the summer youth sessions scheduled.  
 Scholarships are available—see Tom or Richard.

- July 13 (Day Camp: Ages 6-8)
- July 10-16 (Junior Camp/Session 1: Ages 9-13)
- July 17-23 (Senior Camp/Session 2: Ages 13-18)
- July 24-30 (Group Camp/Session 3: Ages 9-18)

Go to [www.silvermaplecamp.com](http://www.silvermaplecamp.com) to register.



### SUNDAY LEISURE HOMESTEAD DEVOTIONALS

#### Your Help Is Needed!

Each Sunday at 9:30 am, a small group meets at the local nursing home for a short devotional with the residents. There is a special need for others to help with this effort through the month of July. Without extra help this service may have to be cancelled for these weeks.

### TEACHER'S WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

A teacher's workshop is planned by York College on Saturday, July 23rd, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Sessions for toddlers through adults. If interested, please see Tom.

#### HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY!

Shannon Bauer 7/1

#### HAPPY BELATED ANNIVERSARY!

Orrin & Meagan Feril 7/2

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Lisa Cornwell 7/6

Baylee Sizemore 7/7

#### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Chet & Marla Lyons 7/9

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Darlene Stimatze**—had back surgery in Wichita on Friday  
**Glennys Sallabedra** (Tom's mother)  
**Fred Johnson**—eye slowly improving  
**Marilyn Sprawka** (Don Rujan's sister) - cancer  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Gary Hornbaker**  
**Marci Klug** (Joe & Lisa's daughter)—high risk pregnancy  
**Annie Kent** (Lupe Hudson's niece) - cancer  
**Alex Garcia** (neighbor of Stan & Orvalee) - brain cyst  
**Brent Monroe** (Joy Monroe's grandson; Marilyn's great-grandson)  
**Sharon Goode Ames**—lung cancer  
**Ty Hewitt** (Baylee Sizemore's cousin) - leukemia in remission  
**Pati Waters Risley**—stroke; rehab at home  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**John Laudick** (Marla's brother-in-law)  
**Jonathan Batten** – cancer  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Eldon Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) – health concerns  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**Myron Breensing** (Richard's father) – Leisure Homestead  
**Bonnie Guthrie** (Kay's mother) – Leisure Homestead  
**Laura Wyatt**—Kenwood Plaza  
**Vic & Phyllis Staub** – Kenwood Plaza

Remember the **Jorge & Latisha Serrano** family, as there has been some political unrest around Oaxaca, Mexico.

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

A graveside service for **Dan Hampton** is planned for Monday, July 18th, at 10:00 am near Great Bend. More information later.

### THANK YOU

Carl thanks everyone for their concern, calls and prayers; he has been diagnosed with a mosquito-borne virus (not West-Nile) and with time, will be okay. He can expect to be fatigued and run a low-grade fever for the rest of the summer, per his physician.

Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)