

Pastor's Note

Well, it has been said the only two certainties in life are death and taxes. Today is April 15, 2024, the federal and state income tax filing deadline. Scripture tells us that "[therefore], one must be subject, not only because of wrath but also because of conscience. For the same reason, you also pay taxes, for the authorities are God's agents, busy with this very thing. Pay to all what is due them: taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due" (Romans 13:5-7).

Attempting "to trap [Jesus] by what he said and then to hand him over to the jurisdiction and authority of the governor. So, they asked him, 'Teacher, we know that you are right in what you say and teach, and you show deference to no one [and] teach the way of God... Is it lawful for us to pay tribute to Caesar or not?' But he perceived their craftiness and said to them, 'Show me a denarius. Whose head and whose title does it bear?' They said, "' Caesar's.' He said to them, 'Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.' And they were not able in the presence of the people to trap him by what he said, and being amazed by his answer they became silent" (Luke 20:20-26).

Of the other inevitably, the apostle Paul writes to God's church in Corinth that "... this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:53-57).

This past Sunday, it was great to hear the voices of our five-month-olds, Colter and Daniel, and the other children in worship with us. It is good to have the young ones with us and know there is a future for our mission and ministry. This was the first week of ABC daycare for our granddaughter Isabella, and I am so glad she has this opportunity for a pre-kindergarten experience and development. She is growing and like our other five-month-olds here is experiencing lots of firsts like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

We are continuing the Easter Season until Pentecost Sunday, which is May 19, 2024. But Sunday, May 12, 2024, is Mother's Day and a celebration and reminder that the women who "rock the cradle, also, rock the world." My mother passed June 30, 2000, but her 96th birthday would have been May 22, 2024. Nearly 24 years have passed but I am forever grateful for all the things she shared with me before going on to the church triumphant, to be with God, my stepfather (Isaac Deaton), and my grandparents (Linda and Clayton Perdue).

Beyond these two certainties, there is the certainty of God's love and grace for us that we should "[rejoice] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is [nearby]. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7).

Pastor Tom Mullins

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Wednesday

Food Truck

5:00 p.m. Youth

Friday

8:30 a.m. Open Door Food Pantry

Sunday

8:45 a.m. Lexa Worship

10:00 a.m. Marvell Worship

Sunday

9:00 a.m. Marvell Sunday School

9:40 a.m. Choir Practice

10:00 a.m. Marvell Worship

6:00 p.m. Administrative Council

Tuesday

6:00 p.m. SE District Conference (Zoom)

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2024 Budget	\$210,585
Needed each week	4,050
Received this week	1,205
Building Fund	100
Food Pantry	25

ATTENDANCE

Lexa Worship	3
Marvell Sunday School	19
Marvell Worship	47 + 263

Greeting cards should be in this week.