

From the Desk of Pastor Luke

September 1, 2022



Hello everyone,

It was reading a book by Eugene Peterson this morning (thanks, Yvonne!) and this thought caught my attention:

Most sin, far from being a mere lapse of morals or a weak will, is an energetically and expensively erected defense against God. Direct assault in an openly declared war on the god-self is extraordinarily ineffective. Hitting sin head-on is like hitting a nail with a hammer; it only drives it in deeper.

Peterson does a masterful job here of reminding us of how subtle and deep-rooted sin can be. We have a tendency to focus on the big sins -- the ones that break the Ten Commandments, for example -- while overlooking those quiet ways we defend ourselves against what God is trying to do. Are there patterns or habits in your life that aren't obvious sins, but are insulating you from the work of God in your life?

Sermon info: This Sunday we'll be celebrating communion together as we explore some of Paul's classic teachings on the Lord's Supper. Our sermon is called "Remember the Mission," and we'll be reading 1 Corinthians 11:17-32 and 15:1-11. If you'll be joining us on Facebook, make sure you have some bread and juice available so you can celebrate with us.

Other happenings:

- Thank you to all of you who provided cookies for Hanover College students last Sunday! We met many students and are looking forward to building relationships with them. We're working on plans for a meal to host HC students soon, so if you think you might be interested in helping with that meal, let me know
- Join us for Sunday school this Sunday morning at 9:15 as we continue to study the three themes of the movie War Room: prayer, forgiveness, and mentoring.
- Calling all musicians! If you have experience playing an instrument or singing and would be willing to share with the congregation, we would love to hear from you. Any skill level, any instrument, any time. Your willingness is a gift to our congregation's worship of God!
- If you have extra vegetables in your garden, bring them to church for others to enjoy! Feel free to take or leave whatever you need from the basket in our entryway.
- Are you looking for a devotional guide? We have the latest copies of the Upper Room devotional, which gives you a brief reading and guide for prayer each day for September and October. There are copies available in the narthex, along with a cup to leave a dollar or two if you find the Upper Room helpful.

I'd also like to mention an upcoming training opportunity for something called Dinner Church, which might help spur some thoughts among us about reaching out to our community. It's sponsored by the Indiana Conference and will be held on October 15th in Indy. [Click here](#) for more information on registration.

Have a blessed week as you watch for God's action around you!

Grace and peace,

Luke