



Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be this Thursday, November 11, at 7:00 PM.
Community Bible Church - 4940 Benchmark Center Drive, Swansea

Talent Show and Craft Fair

The first part of the meeting will be the talent show. We've got a good number of acts so far, but there's still room! If you'd like to perform music, a skit, or any kind of performing art, please contact Josh Peterson.

The second part of the meeting will be the Craft fair where SCCCHE members can sell their art, crafts, doo-dads, thingymajigs, and even a bit of curriculum or household treasures. (Not too much of that, please - we're limited on space). Contact Josh Peterson if you'd like a table.

Hope to see you there!

Student Portraits

Carden Portraits will be taking school pictures BEFORE the November 11th meeting.

These will be sent for you to the yearbook staff to be included in the yearbook.
This is a free service, however, pictures may be ordered if you so desire.

WHO: SCCCHE students pre-k - grade 11

WHERE: Community Bible Church

WHEN: Thursday, November 11, 2021 6:00pm - 7:00pm No appointment needed

NOTE: Please remember to keep the slip of paper you are given at the time the pictures are taken. It will have the password on it in order for you to view the pictures.

Upcoming Meetings

The **December** meeting is the Choir and Orchestra Concert. More info later as we're still trying to work out a date.

January is our International Potluck. Each family chooses a country, and prepares a display of that country with such info as size, location, geography, industries, population, and culture. It is great to include religious information and missionary efforts, and what

made you choose that country. If you have clothing, food, and items from that country, that is a bonus.

But don't forget - there are cash prizes for the best displays, so put forth some effort to have a great display.

February is the month for guest speakers or discussions, coupled with the Valentine's Day party for the kids.

Silent Movie

Next Saturday, November 13, 7:00 PM

You have the opportunity to travel back in time and listen to organist Benjamin Kolodziej play along with Buster Keaton's "The General". (It's about a train, not a military officer.)

Messiah Lutheran Church 1091 13th Street, Carlyle, IL.

Suggested donation of \$10/person, max of \$40 per family.

Free refreshments if you bring 2 non-perishable items for the food bank..

Organ concert

Sunday, November 14, 3:00 PM

Zion Lutheran Church
101 s. Railway St. Mascoutah IL

Organist Benjamin Kolodziej is organist and choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas. He has performed solo organ concerts in Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Italy, and throughout the UK.

Mr. Kolodziej will play Zion's 3-manual/36 rank pipe organ built by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders of Canandaigua, NY. Included on the program are organ selections by J.S. Bach and Mr. Kolodziej's own compositions.

A free will offering will be taken.

Theater performance

TLC Theater invites to join us for our fall production:

Miracle on 34th Street

November 20, 2021 10:00 & 2:00

Eastview Baptist Church 211 Sherman Belleville, IL 62221

Tickets are \$2.00 in advance (available at TLC) or \$3.00 at the door.

English Country Dancing

These dances are open to SCCCHE families and like-minded friends. Both experienced and newbies are invited to enjoy this fun family-friendly activity. Our amazing caller, Connor Quinn, gives instruction for all dance steps. Casual/modest attire is appropriate for the Friday dances.

Nov 19, 7:00-9:30 pm

Copper Creek Christian Church, 2184 Vadalabene Dr, Maryville, IL (close to Anderson Hospital)

Cost: \$5 per dancer/\$15 max per family.

Families with younger children may bring board games or floor activities and supervised kiddos can play quietly if they are not interested in dancing.

Teens and Tweens are welcome to attend without parents, provided that they intend to participate in dancing. Unaccompanied minors are expected to demonstrate courtesy towards others and behave responsibly. Please pick them up promptly at 9:30.

Health & Attire: We are returning to the same protocols used at the April-June dances. In acknowledgement of local COVID guidelines, you are asked to BRING a mask.

In accordance with SCCCHE guidelines, please WEAR modest clothing. (You might also BRING a jacket if it is chilly or an umbrella if it is rainy. Items you choose not to use may be left in your car.) Cups of water will be available. If you bring a beverage container, please make sure it is spillproof, clearly marked with your name, and leave it on the water table in the foyer.

Questions: call/text Rebecca Phillips 618-334-7249 or email jrphil5@charter.net

And for your planning pleasure... the **Winter Ball** is planned for Saturday evening, January 1, 2022 from 5:00-9:00 pm! Max of 120 dancers. Registration will open after Thanksgiving. Each family is asked to bring a hearty snack to share. Suggested attire: Fancy/formal dress or costume/masquerade with appropriate themes.

For further clarification:

- Modest attire = cover body from shoulders to knees, both during dancing and while at rest.
- Also plan your attire/costume so that all accessories can stay on your body during dancing, and not impede your movement or anyone else's. If you can't dance with them, please keep items in your vehicle.
- If you are not sure, please ASK me! Email jrphil5@charter.net

High School Graduation Meeting

Thurs Nov 11th 6pm
Faith Family Church on Greenmount

Open to all SCCCHE members

For questions contact Angie Brown
angieb1099@aol.com

Historical Conquest Tournament

November 22 1:00-3:00

Rare cards handed out for attendance
Parents, you are welcome to stay or drop kids off.

Christmas Card decorating

Dec 4th 1:00-3:00
(Manasco House)
3605 Back Quarter Rd New Athens, IL 62264

Children of any age and parents welcome. We will be decorating Christmas cards to be delivered to nursing home residents.
All cards and supplies will be provided.
Snacks and drinks will be served!
We had such a fun time doing this last year! This is such a special treat for the resident to receive a hand-crafted card from children.
RSVP so I have enough goodies :)

Coordinator Article

Strive for Excellence

I recently came across a YouTube channel of a European tile setter. The quality of his work is nothing short of stunning. Complete perfection in every aspect of his work. I look back on my own work with tile and I'm now ashamed of some of it. My customers seem pleased with my work, but his example spurs me on to do better. ('obkladačPraha' for those of you who are interested in who I'm talking about).

The Grammar Nazi in me cringes every day on Facebook. One high school friend is always greeting his "friends and family's", which drives me nuts. (I have discovered that another thing that drives people nuts is a vocal Grammar Nazi.)

But my mediocre tile work and Nazism aren't the only parts of me that need improvement. Several other things come to mind, and I'm sure others can point out many more.

In the same way that we can't see the 'egg on our faces,' so we can't always see our inner faults. During a Christian conference many years ago, I was challenged to go to my close friends and ask them to point out the blind spots in my life. I did this a number of times over the years, and it was always a very painful experience.

But it's one thing to know about your own faults, and another thing altogether to improve upon them. Our personalities are nearly impossible to change, and so we must do the best we can with what we have. But over the years, I have slowly managed to improve in a couple of areas of my life.

But of course, this isn't intended to be all about me - what about you? What do you see in your own life that needs work? If you don't see anything, then go to your friends and get them to point out your flaws. (tip - you usually have to drag it out of them, for friends don't want to hurt or offend you. Your enemies will gladly point them out).

Benjamin Franklin had an interesting method for improving himself. He would pick out one or two flaws from his list, and spend a week working on them as he did his daily work. Next week he would move on to a couple others to focus on, and would go back frequently to those which were particularly challenging.

It isn't going to come naturally. We won't improve without putting in some effort. Having a friend or partner in this is especially helpful. That's why many people hire a fitness coach to help them get into better physical shape - because it's so hard to do it all alone.

But let's not forget the Most Important Thing here - despite our flaws, faults, and personality issues, LOVE and FORGIVENESS are to be ever present. We are to love others in spite of their flaws, for we know that God loves us in the same way (but ever so much more!).

And even though we have faults, we mustn't let them be a driving force in our lives - we must forgive ourselves as well, knowing that we will never be perfect in this life, so we patiently await the day of our perfection in Christ, and focus more on doing his will, and not completely on fixing our flaws.

So to sum it all up:

- know your flaws, even if it needs the help of others for us to see them.
- it takes effort to work on improving these flaws. It helps to have a 'coach' in these efforts.

- forgive yourself for your flaws. You'll never be perfect, so don't let your flaws drive you.
- forgive others of their flaws. Yes, even their bad spelling and grammar.
- focus on serving Christ and fulfilling His mission for your life.

.Later this morning I'll be working on hanging drywall. As I work, I'll think about that tile setter and his excellence, but also about Col. 3:23-24 which gives us the reason for excellence:

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving."

God bless! ~ Josh Peterson

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