

St. James News

Volume 55 Issue 8

Rev. Michael Nirva – Rev. Martin Schenfeld, Pastors

September 2010

CHURCH@STJAMESHL.ORG

Web site: www.stjameshl.org

SCHOOL@STHAMESHL.ORG

320-543-2766

secretary@stjameshl.org

320-543-2630

Daily Family Worship

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Regular worship is one of those things that are very important in the life of a Christian. In worship God comes to us and gives us many Divine blessings through the Word and Sacraments. It is important that we worship together regularly. However, the worship life we have as Christians is not just to be restricted to one or two hours a week. In the Bible verse printed above God makes it very clear to us that it is His desire that we spend time in His Word daily and constantly.

If you are a parent, God has given you a very important responsibility of sharing the Christian faith with your children. One of my fondest memories growing up was Christmas Eve and hearing my dad read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke before we would celebrate the traditions of Christmas night. If you have children at home what memories of family worship will they have?

For many people worship is something that has been restricted to Sunday morning. Yet as we consider the verse printed above it is clear that God desires that our faith and the Word of God is something that will be daily a part of our life.

In the year to come it is therefore one of our goals here at St. James to grow in our practice of intentionally setting aside a time together to have family devotions on a regular basis. This is something that is important for all of us whether we are living together as a family or not. If you are someone who is living alone, it is our goal that you too would grow in your practice of intentionally setting aside time regularly to be in God's Word.

We want to grow in this important part of our life because it is through the Word of God that we grow in our Christian faith and are blessed in many ways. In the Word of God we are strengthened in our faith and understanding of all that Jesus has done for us. In the Word of God we are strengthened in our faith of how Jesus has lived a righteous life for us and how He was sacrificed upon the cross for our sins. It is in the Word that our faith in the resurrection to new life becomes more than just an Easter story but a personal faith for our future. It is in God's Word where we are assured of the forgiveness of our sins that Jesus has earned for us upon the cross and that we receive guidance and wisdom for daily living. These blessings and many more are all gifts that God desires you to enjoy as you study the Bible and grow in your understanding of His Word to you. Once such a practice of daily devotions is begun it can also become a fun highlight of your day and family life.

Yet, sometimes we may be reluctant to do so for a variety of reasons. We all need the forgiveness of sins Jesus offers us. We also need a plan on how to reach our goal. First of all time can be an issue. Therefore, step one is to intentionally define a time where you will be able to daily spend some time in the Word of God. Then be aware of the distractions and temptations to skip a day that Satan will put before you. Be determined not to let those distractions and temptations pull you away.

Secondly, choose what you are going to do. One resource that is something we will all want to incorporate is the special insert in our bulletin entitled "**The Family Devos.**" There is a brief discussion item for each day of the week as we prepare for the message that will be coming the following Sunday. There are also things for children included. It is our hope and prayer that this resource will be a valuable tool for you as you consider how God's Word speaks to you throughout the entire week.

In addition to that there are other resources that can also be used. It could be something as simple as reading the Portals of Prayer together at meal time. It could be a little more involved like sitting down and working through a book of the Bible together by reading a little bit of it each day, discussing it, and praying about it. If you need any help or guidance in what to do or need resource suggestions or have any other ways we can be of a help to you just talk with me and I would be more than happy to help you.

It is important that you receive God's abundant grace through His Word. Let this be a fond memory your children will have of your family time together and let it be strength for you in your Christian walk. May God richly bless your experience as together we make it our goal to intentionally set aside a time to be in the Word of God daily in our homes.

Pastor Schoenfeld

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Church Attendance

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Wednesday, June 30 | 18 | |
| Sunday, July 4 | 105 & 94 | |
| Wednesday, July 7 | 20 | |
| Sunday, July 11 | 145 & 123 | |
| Wednesday, July 14 | 13 | |
| Sunday, July 18 | | 123 & 160 |
| Wednesday, July 21 | | 18 |
| Sunday, July 25 | | 148 & 136 |
| Wednesday, July 28 | | 24 |
| Sunday, August 1 | | 147 & 141 |
| Wednesday, August 4 | | 26 |
| Sunday, August 8 | | 139 & 134 |
| Wednesday, August 11 | | 20 |
| Sunday, August 15 | | 141 & 170 |
| Wednesday, August 18 | | 16 |
| Sunday, August 22 | | 128 & 149 |

Communion Attendance

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Sunday, July 4 | 17 |
| Wednesday, July 7 | 17 |
| Sunday, July 11 | 77 |
| Sunday, July 18 | 103 |
| Sunday, July 25 | 64 |
| Sunday, August 1 | 130 |
| Wednesday, August 4 | 23 |
| Sunday, August 8 | 69 |
| Sunday, August 15 | 115 |
| Sunday, August 22 | 94 |

Baptisms

Brecken Allan Long infant son Cody and Emily (Diers) Long on May 30, 2010 by Pastor Nirva

Laci May Borg infant daughter of Steven and Beth (Murch) Borg on June 2, 2010 by Pastor Schoenfeld

Rowan Scott Salmela infant son of Scott and Kelly (Kozitka) Salmela on June 6, 2010 by Pastor Nirva

Evan Dean Bobrowske infant son of Keith and Erin (Bush) Bobrowske on June 6, 2010 by Pastor Nirva

Riley Owen Bickmann infant son of Patrick and Barbara (Painschab) Bickmann on August 15, 2010 by Pastor Nirva.

Marriages

Curt Johnson and Darlene Westphal on July 18, 2010 at Swedesberg Lutheran Church, Marysville Township by Pastor Nirva.

Darrin Blanchette and Cristy Hill on July 10, 2010 at their home by Pastor Nirva.

Jacob Diers and Jaime Stueven on August 21, 2010 in the church by Pastor Nirva.

Funerals

Holdrein Oelke on July 14, 2010. He had died on July 6, 2010 at the age of 93 years, 7 months and 8 days

Helen McRoberts on July 16, 2010. She had died on July 13, 2010 at the age of 95 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Kathryn Laager on July 22, 2010. She had died on July 17, 2010 at the age of 70 years, 10 months and 16 days.

Alberta Engel on July 24, 2010. She had died on July 20, 2010 at the age of 77 years and 12 days.

Orella Schmieg on August 3, 2010. She had died on July 30, 2010 at the age of 93 years and 29 days.

Transfers In

Ryan and Amy Pettit and children Cash Pettit, Hathaway Heber, Lily DeBoer and Joshua DeBoer from Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Dassel.

Roxy Scheer from St. John's Lutheran Church, Corcoran.



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

In July eighteen ladies took a trip to the Hutterine Brethren of Winthrop, a self-sufficient Christian community. We even had a chance to visit the gift showroom. Everyone enjoyed this interesting day.

In August, Deacon Taylor led the Bible study reminding us to serve where we stand as Peter did. After lunch, many stayed to work on the denim quilts which will be sold at our country store at the fall dinner, Sept. 26th. Members were encouraged to volunteer their time on various committees for the fall dinner. We hope to see many people attend the delicious chicken dinner and then to enjoy our country store. There should be something there for everyone - consider purchasing a gift or two as it will benefit our mission projects.

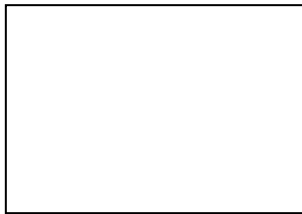
Our September meeting will feature a guest speaker on AED and CPR Training. As summer winds down, consider joining our group for fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in September: Lester Strohschein (2), LaVonne Stueven, John Horsch (4), Dorothy Maynard, (8), Jeanne Glessing (9), Dolores Tyson (11), Vernon Yager (16), Roland Krohn (18), Lyla Lutter (21), Lois Kratochwill, Eva Glessing, and Mel Buttenhoff (22).

Deacon's Diary

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 1 Corinthians 9:7



Giving to the church, or any worthy endeavor for that matter, is often a touchy subject. We are in a world where incomes lately have been harder to come by and many factors in our lives compete for those personal funds. Likewise, competition for our time comes at us in many forms...our families, our jobs, recreation, house repair, and so on.

A Christian should never feel guilty about first taking care of his own family. As it says in 1 Timothy 5:9, *If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Years ago I was teaching a Confirmation class, and one of the students asked, "What importance is God in our lives, and what order do we put Him in relationship to our family, to the church, our jobs, and then other good things?" They were somewhat surprised by the answer. If it were seen as a ladder, God our Father would be first, then family, then church, then work, followed by other things. Family was placed ahead of the church, as this is our first ministry given to us by God. Our jobs are needed to provide for our families, and then to share blessings with our church and elsewhere.

Giving to the church should be done in a natural manner, based on what was first given to us, and then only out of love. The world does not think of giving in such Christian terms. It is only human to give something in the hopes of getting something back in return. The Christian gives back in kind to what God has given him in the first place.

The fruit of the apple tree is a good Christian example; the tree draws its sustenance from the ground, passes it through the trunk and the limbs, producing fruit which is shared with the world. Likewise, we draw strength and sustenance from God, we grow from it, and enough is left over to produce fruit for many others. We give back to God but His own.

The church is a blessing in our lives and worthy of sharing some of our bounty. We love that small table outside the church doors on Sunday morning, where members bring their extra

vegetables from the family garden. There are people who need it more than we will ever know. It is even more special as it is shared out of Christian Love.

Our Congregation, as the living body of Christ, also needs some of our time and talents to grow and be effective among the Beloved. Everyone has a talent that can be shared; visiting the elderly, singing at services, teaching the next generation of Christians, keeping things operating, overseeing the budget, and assisting our Pastors with religious duties. We are part of something greater than ourselves. Like our own families, Christian Brothers and Sisters need to take care of each other in kind. Our only motivation is passing on the Blessings and Love that Christ already has given us in abundance.

Deacon Dave Taylor

Come to the LWML Chicken Dinner and Country Store

Sunday, September 26
11 AM to 1 PM
in the Fellowship Hall

serving Chicken,
Mashed Potatoes, Gravy,
Dressing, Cranberries, Coleslaw,
Vegetables, Buns, Beverages and
Homemade Apple and
Pumpkin Desserts

"Save the Date"
Scrapbook Fundraiser
Saturday, November 13

Action! Auction!

Last year, we had 151 items donated for the auction with over \$3,200 raised for our Benevolence Fund. We hope to surpass that amount this year.

What action can you donate?

If you can't think of an action, we will also accept gift baskets, gift certificates, homemade items and yummy desserts!

Look for the Action! Auction form in this Newsletter or call Laura Heuer at 320-543-2589

Funeral Committees

Serving the lunch after a member's funeral is one of our church's ways of celebrating with the family when their loved one has gone to be with the Lord. These past few months we have been serving many families at the time of their loss. Therefore the next committee scheduled to serve is #11. Please check the funeral committees list to know which committee you are on and be prepared to serve when you receive a call.

We all appreciate this service in our time of grieving and thank the LWML for continuing to organize it. Committee Chairmen are LWML members and willing members of the congregation. Chairmen receive specific instructions. All of our members are workers and may pick up the Funeral Committees list found on the narthex table or office entry.

SCRIPTURE QUIZ

(answers below)

1. With whom did Abraham make a treaty at Beersheba?
2. In the book of Samuel, what was captured from the Israelites by the Philistines?
3. What kind of bread does Old Testament law dictate must be used at the Passover?
4. What question did Jesus ask Peter a few times within one conversation, afterward adding the instruction, "Feed my sheep.?"
5. Which book in the Bible prophesies that in the last days an enemy will ascend and cover Israel like a cloud (perhaps meaning planes)?

Answers: 1. Abimelech (Genesis 21:22-34) 2. The Ark of the Covenant (I Samuel 4) 3. Unleavened (Exodus 12:8-20) 4. Lovest thou me? (or Do you love me?) John 21:15-17 5. Ezekiel (38:9).

Beware of Terrorists Groups in the Church

Send out the warning to everyone you know!!!

We should be aware of this. Please let us all do our job and protect those involved.

Latest news reports are that five terrorist cell groups have been operating in many of our churches. They have been identified as:

- Bin Sleepin
- Bin Arguin
- Bin Fightin
- Bin Complainin
- Bin Missin

Their leader, Satan Bin Workin, trained these groups to destroy the body of Christ. The plan is to come into the church disguised as Christians to work within the church to discourage, disrupt and destroy.

However, there have been reports of a sixth group. A tiny cell known by the name Bin Prayin is actually the only effective counter terrorism force in the church. Unlike other terrorist cells, the Bin Prayin team does not blend in with whoever and whatever comes along. Bin Prayin does whatever is needed to uplift and encourage the body of Christ. We have noticed that the Bin Prayin cell group has different characteristics than the others. They have Bin Watchin, Bin Waitin, Bin Fastin and Bin Longin for their Master, Jesus Christ to return.

NO CHURCH IS EXEMPT!

(However, you can spot them if you've bin lookin and bin goin.)

Benevolence Fund News

OUR CHRISTIAN BENEVOLENCE PROGRAM is anxiously awaiting our 3rd annual Action! Auction. Join the fun by donating your action or item and participating in the awesome silent auction. This will enable us to continue our outreach effort. We were unable to help several families last month with the following: three partial rent (overdue), two car repairs (tune-up and brakes) and one electric bill (overdue). FORTY-THREE requests were made by ten families (11 adults and 13 children): Seventeen gas (limited gallons for work and interviews), three partial rent (overdue or eviction), one each partial water and electric bills (turn offs). Ten Food Gift cards and 6 bags of groceries from our basement food shelf were also provided. Two more of our recipients were able to find jobs and will once again be self-sufficient because of your donations. God will bless you as you become a blessing to others!

God Is the One with the Good Plan

Imagine in heaven, God lovingly shows you His plan for your earthly life. You see footprints walking through each day. On many of the days, two sets of footprints appear. You inquire: "Father, are those my footprints every day, and is the second set of prints when You joined me?"

He answers, "No, My precious child. The consistent footprints are Mine. The second set of footprints are when you joined Me."

"Where were You going, Father?"

"To the destiny I planned for you, hoping you'd follow."

"But Father, where are my footprints all those times?"

"Sometimes you went back to look at old resentments and habits. Sometimes, you departed from My path and chose your own instead. Other times, your footprints can even be seen on another person's path because you liked their plan better. At other times, you simply stopped because you would not let go of something you could not take with you."

"But even if I didn't walk with you every day, we ended up OK, didn't we?"

He holds you close and smiles, "Yes, child, we ended up OK. But, you see, OK was never what I had in mind for you."

"Father, what are those golden treasure boxes on certain days?"

"Blessings, My child, I had for you along the way. Those that are open are those you received. Those still closed were days you did not walk with Me."

Walking with God in the pursuit of daily obedience is the sure means of fulfilling each of His wonderful plans.

The Board of Evangelism

Excerpted from "Breaking Free"
a Bible Study by Beth Moore

Good News Is Coming

I HAVE GOOD NEWS FOR YOU is a 10 week study on the basic teachings of Christianity. In it we will study the following lessons:

1. *About a God Who Cares for You*
2. *About a Bible Which Guides and Frees You*
3. *About a Savior Who Saves You*
4. *About a Spirit Who Converts You*
5. *About a Washing Which Cleanses You*
6. *About a Meal Which Feeds You*
7. *About a Devotional Life Which Blesses You*
8. *About Keys Which Lock and Unlock*
9. *About a Stewardship Which Is Fully Committed*
10. *About a Life Which Never Ends*

This 10 week course written by Reverend Donald Ginkel will be offered here at St. James this fall. It will be a blessing for you to attend and will provide a great opportunity for you to invite your friends, neighbors, family members, co-workers, non-Saint James members, Saint James members, strong Christians, those who have neglected their Christian walk, those who are unsure about their faith, and anyone else who would like to learn more about our Christian faith.

Watch the church bulletins for further information and details about this important study and please keep this in your prayers so that it may be a blessing to both our members and to non-members.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on

KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

September 5-Choose Life-Many today believe we live in a world where nothing is absolutely wrong or right all the time. But why do they only feel that way about spiritual and moral values? (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

September 12-Looking for the Lost-Many today believe we live in a world where nothing is absolutely wrong or right all the time. But why do they only feel that way about spiritual and moral values? (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

September 19-Serve One Master-We have gone from serving one Master to serving two masters: God and ourselves-and we are well on our way to kicking God out of the picture altogether. (Luke 16:1-13)

September 26-The Savior Takes a Sinner Home-Presenting a classic Lutheran Hour message by the Rev. Armin Oldsen, originally broadcast in 1952. (Luke 23:43)

School News

From Our Parish Nurse

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can stand against the devil's schemes. Ephesians 6:10-11

The theme for the 2010-11 school year is actually Ephesians 6:10-19. Our theme will be based on the armor of God. Each month we will focus on one of the parts of this verse. The month of September will deal with the "belt of truth." We pray for God to bless this upcoming school year. We pray

for Him to be with our students, staff, pastors and parents throughout this year.

We thank God for bringing us a healthy number of new families and students to our school. We are excited in welcoming them to our school and having the opportunity to provide them with a Christian education.



September Events

- 7... First day of school
-Chapel at 8:30 AM
- 12.. Rally Day Sunday
-Service at 10:30 AM
- 13.. First day of preschool
- 21 .. Book Fair / Open House
-at 6:00 PM

Highlights from the Voters' Meeting

Board reports were given and the budget was approved with no salary increases.

It was also decided to change the accounting system back to the calendar year.

This month I would like to focus on family health and FAMILY COMMUNICATION. We can recognize the big difference between being talked at and being understood. Communication means to "bring near" and is similar to words we often use such as community, common and communion. In the art of communication there must be a sender of a message and a receiver of the message. There are many barriers in the sending of and the receiving of the message. Some of the barriers are the tone of our voice, loudness or softness of our voice, clearness, speaking directly eye to eye, body language and often the vagueness of our words. We can't assume the receiver of the message can figure out the message if we are leaving out important aspects or if we are hinting at something without actually saying the words.

Today we communicate many different ways- email, voice mail, texting, videos, face to face, in writing and of course the telephone.

To be an effective Listener we must:

- Fully attend or listen carefully to the speaker
- Consider what is said, How it is said, both verbally and non-verbally (80% of communication is shared non-verbally)
- Clarify what was shared so you can fully understand what the speaker means. Asking open ended follow up questions and providing non-judgmental feedback can be very helpful.
- Affirm the speaker and the message. Let the speaker know you understand what was shared and offer a word of encouragement or support.
- Avoid approaches that demean the speaker and halt communication such as interrupting, telling them how they feel, changing the focus to the listener's issues, and or ridiculing and/or labeling.

To be an effective speaker we must:

- Share thoughts, ideas and feeling.
- Use direct communication, speak to the person do not tell your message to someone else.
- Balance messages of concern with praise and encouragement.
- Accept feedback.
- Accept responsibility for your own communication; avoid blaming someone else for miscommunication.
- Separate the person from the behavior.

PROVERBS 22:11 speaks to *Thoughtful* communication. He who loves a pure heart and **whose speech is gracious** will have the King for his friend. (I added the Bold print)

MATTHEW 18: 15, 16 talks about *Direct* communication. *If your brother sins against you go and show him his fault, **just between the two of you.** If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.* (I added the bold print)

ACTS 20:2 addresses the message of encouragement. He (Paul) traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people.

MATTHEW 7:3 relates to avoiding blame, accepting responsibility for our own actions and behaviors. *Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?*

By thinking before we speak we can avoid many problems in communication. Also we can role model healthy relationships and communication skills to our children and grandchildren.

Just a few tips on the lowly but amazing cucumber

Some of you may have read these in the Wright Co. Advertiser!

Cucumbers contain most of the vitamins you need every day. Vitamin B1, B2, B3, and B6, folic acid, Vitamin C, iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium and zinc.

Need an afternoon pick-me-up? Eat a cucumber instead of reaching for that cup of coffee.

Rubbing a cucumber slice over a fogging mirror will clear up the fog.

Eliminate your garden of grubs and slugs by placing a few slices of cucumber in an aluminum pie plate. The chemicals in the cucumber react to the aluminum giving off a scent that is undetectable to humans but is unpleasant to garden pests.

Eating cucumber slices will help headaches.

Cucumber slices work to shine your shoes.

Squeaky hinges will be fixed with rubbing cucumber on them.

Feeling stressed out - cut up a cucumber and put it in boiling water, the steam will relax you if you breathe in the relaxing aroma and steam.

Cucumber slices will remove tarnish in your kitchen sinks. Also will erase pen or crayon marks on your walls.

I certainly have not tried all of these and take no responsibility for their effectiveness, but I thought they were interesting. I do really like the taste of cucumbers and hope you enjoy the ideas offered.

Whether it is vegetable tips or communication tips, my prayer and hope for you and your family is healthy relationships.

In Christian love, Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene Lind

Stewardship-The Blessings of Honest Work

On Monday, September 6, Americans and Canadians will observe "Labor Day," a legal holiday set aside to honor labor. Work is often thought of as drudgery--something that you have to do to make a living. So we sometimes call work toil, a chore, an obligation, or even a necessary evil. The New World Dictionary does not agree with that, but holds work up as honorable and positive. Part of its definition goes as follows: "*work is physical or mental effort exerted to do or make something and be involved in purposeful activity.*"

The Bible takes an even higher view of labor. Labor is actually a gift from God meant to fill our hours and days with meaningful activities that honor God, respect His creation, and provide blessings for others and ourselves. It was God who put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15). This work was given to Adam before the fall into sin and thus was a blessing from God. It is true that after the fall into sin, work became wearisome toil as the ground was cursed so that sinful human beings would have to earn their daily bread by the sweat of their brows until their dying day (Genesis 3:17b-19). But, in spite of that curse, labor or work remains a blessing from God.

Dr. Martin Luther (who wrote much on the subject of vocation) believed that vocation was a calling, which encompassed the whole of the life of the believer, and was NOT narrowly defined as a job, trade, or even a religious vocation. Luther believed that the honest work of a janitor, maid or housewife was just as important and pleasing to God as the work of a president, pastor, teacher, doctor, scientist or any other vocation held in high esteem.

Ecclesiastes 2:24-25 (NIV) reads: "*A man can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in his work. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, for without Him, who can eat or find enjoyment?*"

St. Paul in writing to the Ephesians and Thessalonians said: "*He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.*" (Ephesians 4:28 NIV). *For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat."* (2 Thessalonians 3:10 NIV).

God's redeemed people understand that Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, **in managing all of life and life's resources** for God's purposes. Giving money to support the work of the church and other institutions, giving time to help with honest efforts, and using our talents to bring glory to God and blessings to others are all important parts of Christian stewardship. This truth is summed up beautifully in these words from 2 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV): "*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*"

This Labor Day and every day give thanks to God for the blessing of work. Giving thanks for honest labor is something that Christian stewards can remember to do in their daily thoughts and prayers. So, enjoy whatever you are doing to observe Labor Day, and then continue your daily work with joy and enthusiasm.