

SPENCER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ in Central Wisconsin

B3942 State Hwy 13, P.O. Box 47, Spencer, WI 54479

SERVICES SCHEDULE: SUNDAY 9 a.m. Bible Classes; 10 a.m. Worship

WEDNESDAY 7 p.m. Bible Classes

UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark your calendars now!

***Feb 25- Pack the Pews -Clint is taking some of the youth to Four Lakes to worship - see Clint for more details.**

***March 25-30** Spring break campaign/VBS

VBS Theme is Mountain Climbers

March 25th will be a **Singing Day** in the afternoon and we will be having an evening worship. PLEASE mark your calendars now; plan to attend yourself and invite someone to come with you!

If you know anyone who we can visit or might want to study, please get the name to Rodney or one of the elders!

WELCOME VISITORS

PLEASE JOIN US WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR OUR BIBLE GEOGRAPHY CLASS!
The Kid Sing begins about 6:45, and Bible class is at 7 p.m.

PRAYERS NEEDED:

-Marie Anderson-Krohns

└Jerry Weichelt and family- Please send a card!

*Deanna- foot

*Those traveling-Our shut-in's; our missionaries

PLEASE EMAIL PRAYER REQUESTS TO RHONDA!

Our speaker this morning is Brian Howard from World Video Bible School



It is so exciting that both Waylon and Lexi Schultz were baptized into Christ on Wednesday! Welcome to the family, Waylon and Lexi!!

OUR ATTITUDE
LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING:\$1588
BUDGET: \$2118

EVANGELIST

Rodney Nulph
330-988-7063

RODNEY'S OFFICE HOURS
(Be sure to call BEFORE you stop to be sure he is in)
Tuesday-Friday
8 a.m.-4 p.m.

OUR LEADERSHIP

ELDERS:

Duane Anderson
715-659-2327
Russ Draeger
715-600-3983
Gary Nieman
715-897-2248

DEACONS:

Dan Anderson
715-659-4530
Mark Anderson
715-659-4117
Clint Nieman
715-650-7988
Don Nieman
715-659-4574

SERVING	TODAY	NEXT WEEK
SCRIPTURE	Kyle	Joshua
ANNOUNCE/PRAYER	Duane	Duane
SONG LEADER	Dan	Paul
PRESIDING	Gary	Mark R
SERVING	Keith	Jesse
SERVING	John	Kaleb
SERVING	Clayton	Levi
CLOSING PRAYER	Don	Collin

“OH, WHAT A TANGLED WEB WE WEAVE...”

“Tragedy indeed!” “How could this have happened!” “Guns are to blame!” “The FBI dropped the ball!” These, and many more were the comments after Florida’s horrific school shooting this past Wednesday afternoon. Folks on both sides of the arguments are in heated debate, each trying to blame the other for Nikolas Cruz’s violent revenge shooting, resulting in 17 people dead and numerous other ones wounded and everyone changed forever in some way! Of course, what happened on Wednesday in Florida is certainly not new. Our daily news is inundated with these types of vengeful, hate-filled rampages. Acid being used to terrorize others, bombs strapped to people who believe they are religious, guns being wielded and used to destroy others, cars being driven into crowds, and on and on it goes. What has happened? Who is to blame? How can we fix this epidemic? Sadly, what happened in Florida on Wednesday is tragically the result of the “web we have been weaving” for decades! While I certainly do not have all the answers to the above questions, I do have some. Three major areas are the reason for Florida’s shooting.

Firstly, the **BREAKDOWN OF THE STABLE HOME**. The very first institution that God ordained was the home (Genesis 2). Anytime that Divine institution is left to man’s wisdom, tragedy is the result! For years, society has been advocating their “wisdom” on the home. All, (with the possible exception of the shooter @ Virginia Tech), of the recent mass shootings have one common thread running through them; the shooters have all been children of single mothers. These young men had no male role models in the home! Harvard sociologist Robert Sampson has written that “Family structure is one of the strongest, if not the strongest, predictor of variations in urban violence across cities in the United States.” His views are resounded by the criminologists Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi, who have written that “such family measures as the **percentage of the population divorced, the percentage of households headed by women, and the percentage of unattached individuals in the community are among the most powerful predictors of crime rates.**” Amazingly, God our Creator instituted the home with one man and one woman and then come children, not the reverse or anything different (cf. Genesis 2:7; 18-19; 4:1). Godly fathers matter (Ephesians 6:4)!

Secondly, the **BOLSTERING OF SINFUL HABITS**. Greed, violence, revenge, and self-centeredness is what drives our society today. Sadly, there is a generation walking the halls of many schools that believe life is all about them. If you do not believe this is true, try to talk with many young people and see if you can hold their attention for more than a minute before they look at their phone or answer a text. Also, there is a generation being raised that live in a virtual world. While I am not bemoaning all electronics or social media outlets, I do believe that an abuse and overuse of such, causes serious problems. The “virtual” world teaches people that when something bad happens, you hit reset and get a do-over. However, life does not come with a reset button. Choices have consequences! When we fill our minds with worldliness (through social media, video games, television, movies, etc.) worldliness is what will spew out of us (Proverbs 23:7; Mathew 12:34; Luke 6:45). Our society will not even give God a couple hours a week but can sit before their face-book account into the wee-hours of the morning! When we are quick to read the posts of our friends, but seldom pick up the Word from the Friend of friends, we are in trouble! Friendship with the world is enmity with God cf. (James 4:4).

Thirdly, the **BELITTILING OF SINCERE HOLINESS**. Society has mocked God, and dear friends we are reaping exactly what we have sown (cf. Galatians 6:7). Why would anyone marvel at a mas shooting today; we have forced God out of our lives on every front. Prayer, Bible reading, and any mention of spiritual things are banned in our society. We have told God to leave and then we wonder why Satan has a foothold. 19-year-old, Nikolas Cruz carried out exactly what our education system has filled him with since his childhood. He has been told you have come from animals by chance, no design or Designer and therefore he behaved exactly like he has been trained to behave, like a brute beast. I wonder if this story’s outcome would have been different if those evolution filled science books would have been burned and God’s truth regarding this young man’s origin would have been shared. CNN reported, “On social media, Nikolas Cruz did not appear to be a peaceful man. He made quite clear his desire to perpetrate the exact type of violence of which he now stands accused”. How could Nikolas had known peace without knowing the Prince of Peace? With tears I marvel!

Wednesday’s school shooting in Parkland, Florida was undoubtedly a sever tragedy. For the families that lost loved ones our heart aches. For all involved, even the shooter himself, we must check our emotions and feelings with the Word of God, so we will not be guilty of hate and violence as well. We must, as a nation, as a society, and as individuals seriously consider why this happened. Maybe instead of pointing our fingers at everyone and everything we see, maybe we ought to look closely in the mirror and ask ourselves, “have we contributed to this tragedy”. What is my home like? What habits am I passing along? How holy am I? Sin is a web, and oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!

-Rodney-