



Lewiston Church of Christ October 30, 2022

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*

Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM
Sun. Day/Evening Groups
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education: Rick Richardson
Finance: Tom Hill
Outreach: Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman
Custodian: Hannah McKee
Fellowship: Joe/Carrie Bieren
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns
Secretary: Renee Hill
Technology: Eric Kjorness
Technology: Cody Dawes

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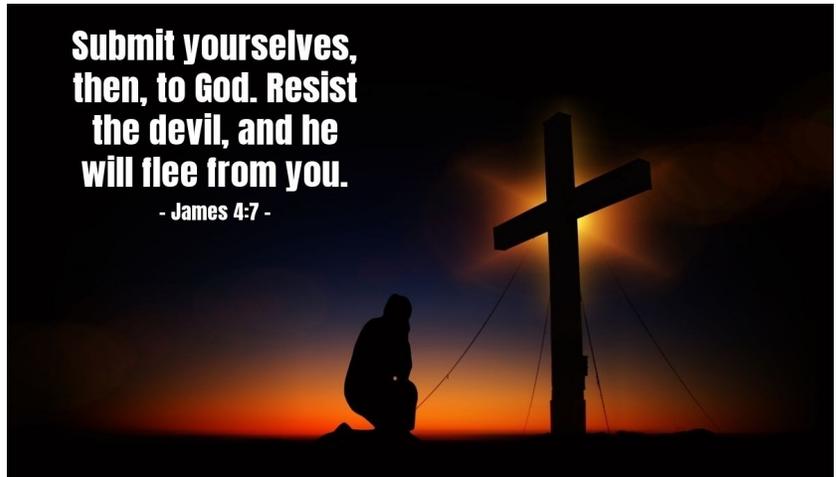
Web Site:
www.lewistonchurchofchrist.org

FB:
Class & Sermons online
Check email notification

Monthly Service Schedules:
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.

**Submit yourselves,
then, to God. Resist
the devil, and he
will flee from you.**

- James 4:7 -



Trick or Treat?

“Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
(James 4:7)

When a child at our doorstep says, “trick or treat”, we just toss them a *treat*. They don’t really want a *trick*. That’s just verbal baggage from a time when “*tricks*” were deemed necessary to ward off the devil or evil spirits.

The idea that the devil needs to be tricked goes way back. The wish, “Break a leg” comes from the notion that a frank call for good luck may signal to Satan an opportunity to thwart a blessing. So, we can *trick* the forces of bad luck by casting an apparent *jinx* instead. Also, I’m told that baseball announcers resist mentioning the fact that a no-hitter is in progress. In so doing, he could jinx the pitcher and squander his effort.

Resisting the devil takes more than silly *tricks*. Wearing a cross around your neck has no more power than a placebo pill. A robed cleric waving incense is not enough. And just getting dunked in a tub of water won’t cut it. Baptism is ordained in Scripture but not as religious trick but as “an appeal to God for a good conscience.” (1 Peter 3:21).

Bible-believing Christians realize that the devil is real. The apostle Peter tells us he “prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8). We cannot trust in tricky measures to resist his evil agenda. The devil is such a serious adversary that it took God’s Son to deal with him. The apostle John wrote, “The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8). And that he did—ultimately. Following Jesus, we trust in the power of His gospel to deliver us from temptation and reconcile us with God.

Jesus obediently did His part on the cross, then rose from the grave. Our part is to repent and turn to Him. Then, an obedient leap of faith into the waters of baptism actually takes on eternal significance as an act of **trust**, not a *trick*. JMS

