



Lewiston Church of Christ

December 20, 2020



Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM

Sun. Worship 10:45 AM

Sun. Day/Evening Groups

Wed Bible Study 7:00 PM

MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Jerry Bolm: 208-360-9186

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

DEACONS

Education – Rick Richardson

Finance – Tom Hill

Outreach – Mark Whittaker

AREAS OF SERVICE

Building – Ken Vogtman

Custodian – Ron & Cindy Roberson

Fellowship – Joe & Carrie Bieren

Grounds – Cody & Doyle Dawes

Music Ministry – Ron Roberson

Secretary – Renee' Hill

Technology – Eric Kjorness

Technology – Cody Dawes

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Don't Sink the 'SHIP'

Living alone is on the increase. More people work from home and eat alone and watch TV alone. It's hard to get commuters to carpool because we prefer to drive alone. Making "friends" has become an internet phenomenon requiring less personal effort. Marriage rates have fallen as divorce rates rise. More babies are born to single mothers than ever before. Then, a pandemic and lockdown arrive to isolate us even further.

In 2020, "*koinonia*" has taken a hit. That's a New Testament word that cannot describe anything experienced in isolation. *Koinonia* was one of the main marks of the early church (Acts 2:42). Depending on the context, *koinonia* can be translated as "sharing" (2 Corinthians 8:4), "participation" (1 Corinthians 10:16), "partnership" (Philippians 1:5), a "contribution" (Romans 15:26), and "fellowship" (2 Corinthians 13:14). Paul even used *koinonia* to refer to the fellowship found in a godly handshake (Galatians 2:9).

Christians cannot give up on *koinonia*. Fellowship is essential. I oppose any politician, journalist, preacher, or pundit who claims that the fellowship of Jesus' church is "nonessential." Of course, a viral contagion may call for some serious adjustments, but adjusting is NOT rejecting! If you are staying home, that does not mean you have rejected *koinonia*. It only means you are seeking new ways to reach out to others. I have received wonderful encouragement through the mail from Christians whom I have not seen in a while. That's the spirit of *koinonia*.

Here's a personal example. Last month, when Mary Ellen tested positive for the COVID virus, I cared for her while keeping a distance. She understood. No need for details but I managed to dodge the virus. Our temporary adjustments in married life did not alter our love for each other. Accordingly, when church members make temporary adjustments to deal with a pandemic, they are not turning their backs on fellowship. Serious adjustments come and go but we will never let our fellow'SHIP' sink.

Joel Solliday