

Dear Families:

Today we continued our study of the Ten Commandments. So far, we have learned Commandment 1 (Put God first), 2 (Don't worship idols) 3 (Use God's name with respect) and 5 (Honor your father and mother). Today we learned Commandment 6: Thou shalt not kill.

This one seems pretty easy! Most of us don't accept killing people we don't like as acceptable behavior; even people who don't believe in God usually think murder is wrong. But it is a bit more than that. Since God made all life, we can honor this commandment by respecting all life. If there is a beating heart, we need to let God decide what happens to it, not us. We need to treat all living things with respect. God does not value one person over another- He created all of us equally and in His own image. Therefore, we need to treat everyone with respect.

Jesus takes this a step further in the Gospels. In Matthew, Jesus said "You have that our ancestors were told 'do not murder.' If you commit murder, you are subjected to judgement. But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subjected to judgement. If you call someone an idiot, you are in danger...and if you curse someone, you are in danger..." So, not only are we to not decide who lives and who dies, we are commanded to not disrespect anyone that God created. An action or hurtful thought towards others is displeasing to God. And that is probably an area in which we all need to ask God for forgiveness and His guidance.

The class has already begun making plans for this year's Christmas Pageant. We have changed the date to Sunday December 14th to accommodate more student participation. We hope you will be able to celebrate the season with us as we learn the true meaning of Christmas!

This week, we are holding our mini-rummage sale. Support LOL by purchasing an item. Next week, we will be assisting the congregation by collecting loose change to donate to the Olean Food Pantry. We hope you can join us!

Thank you for being with us today!

Carol McClellan, CE Director