



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Truth ♦ Relevance ♦ Inspiration

Bethlehem Family Childcare



Tips For Success – May 2023

Excuses – What are they? Explanations given to justify a fault. We are all tempted to make excuses, *but it is better to take responsibility for our actions.* When it comes to church-related excuses, sometimes they are justified, *but they can also be spiritually harmful.*

Examples of excuses for skipping church:

- Legit: I am hospitalized or physically ill (*if so – let me know so I can pray, visit*).
- Lame: I need my sleep (*if so, attend Sat*); I no longer drive (*request a ride*); I need to do my hobby, prepare a meal, spend time with family (*if so, please keep reading*).

When it comes to weekly Divine Service attendance, the Bible is clear:

- NAU **Exodus 20:8** “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy” – that is, *gladly gather and freely receive God’s precious gifts.*
- NAU **Hebrews 10:25** “...not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near” – in other words, since the day of Jesus’ return is drawing closer every day, *be faithful in assembling and receiving.*

When we assemble with open ears, minds, and hearts, the Holy Spirit is at work to:

- ✓ Convict us of our sins – *godly sorrow is a good thing!*
- ✓ Focus us on who Jesus is and what He has done for us – *very positive and uplifting!*
- ✓ Assure us of forgiveness through our God-given trust in Jesus – *a great source of peace and joy!*

Sometimes attending is impossible, but: The next time you decide on an excuse, try to imagine sharing that excuse with Jesus ☞ who put on flesh **for you**, ☞ who lived without sin **for you**, ☞ who was punished **for you**, ☞ who opened the one way to heaven **for you**, ☞ who is ruling in heaven **for you**, and ☞ who will return **for you**.

Your excuse may stand the test, or *God’s amazing love may melt your excuse away* 😊.

The LORD bless you now and forever!

Be a Devoted Christian

~~TOO TIRED.~~
~~TOO HARD.~~
~~TOO BUSY.~~
~~TOO EARLY.~~
NO EXCUSES

Success & Excuses do not talk together. If you want Excuses, forget about Success. If you want Success, do not give excuses!!