

TAPIOLA APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY – 2026

SCHEDULE

Sunday Bible Study and
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Service: 11: a.m.

Wed. Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

*(No Bible Study May 20 –
Semi-annual congregational
meeting @ 7 p.m.)*

SPEAKERS

May 3: Ivan Niemela, *Holy
Communion*

May 10: Ivan Niemela

May 17: Ivan Niemela

May 24: Ken Storm

May 31: Herb Jarvi

CONTACTS

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Our Lives Are Not Our Own

“For ye are bought with a price...” – 1 Corinthians 6:20

Prevalent in today’s society is a large focus on selfishness, or, another way to say, the “me” mentality. What is this “me” mentality? It is a doctrine of the flesh, for the flesh. The “me” doctrine is not a Godly doctrine. As Christ says in Matthew 6:23, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* When you focus inward on your personal gain and wants, there lies the true desire of your heart. We often justify our desires, wrapping them in pretty bows and disguising them with fair words. This is self-justification, making excuses about why you need to put yourself first.

Mankind as a whole, is a feelings-based society. Our carnal feelings often lead ahead of our decisions. When it comes to a decision to decorate your house or which car you like, then yes, judge according to your feelings. But on the much more important scale, carnal feelings have no part in the Kingdom of God. *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings”* (Jeremiah 17:9-10). This is not to say that the word of God doesn’t elicit feelings, no, it most certainly does.

The danger of trusting ourselves allows Satan to plant an evil worm of pride in our minds. Kept unchecked, this worm grows and spreads, causing spiritual sickness and wickedness in us and among us. As Christians, we often socialize and associate with other Christians. Sometimes we may not agree with someone on a particular matter, and the ugly worm of pride rears its head. This leads to prideful anger on both sides, lacking the edifying conversation of God. Why do you think there is so many false doctrines out there? God has given his divine, inspired work, written down for us to be saved by. As Paul wrote to Timothy, *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”* (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The lover of self is a denier of God, which is a blasphemy of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. If Jesus had put himself first, then he would not have gone to the cross in our place. The love of self, is ultimately unbelief. Everyone who was and will be, is born with that subconscious knowledge that there is a God (Romans 1:20). Because of this, people will often take on a form of godliness without God. *“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away”* (2 Timothy 3:5). They want the fellowship for the wrong reasons; they keep up appearances for themselves and for others. People like this are often indistinguishable from true believers. *“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish”* (Matthew 25:1-2).

Satan’s ultimate goal is too blind and keep those he snares in captivity. *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the*

light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” (2 Corinthians 4:4). The church, has now become a house of Satan and a den of thieves. And because Satan is cunning, he disguises himself as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:13-14). When a foothold is established, anger and division will rule the heart. No longer will you love your brother; no longer will you help your neighbor. Instead, you will serve the pleasures of your flesh, you will serve mammon and Ba'al. You may unintentionally serve the purpose of growing that bitterness among others. All because you turned towards more compromising desires.

As evident by society today, this decay has spread. The murdering of children, a blasphemous, bloody, satanic ritual (Deuteronomy 13:31). Women with women, men with men. Mankind leaving the natural use of the body, recreating themselves into their own image. This is blasphemy against Gods holy, intended design. *“Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created” (Genesis 5:2). Also read Romans 1:20-31. Coming at this from a moral stand point, everyone has this knowledge. A lot of unbelievers live a morally correct life, and in some cases, making Christians look like heathens. This causes societal strife, good versus evil at the most basic level. If you were to ask a morally just person why they think this is wrong, they would tell you, “Because it’s not right to do this”. Ask them why, and its usually followed up with, “because it is against nature” or something similar to this.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, you were crucified with Christ and raised again with him. *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6:3-4).* Continue on this pilgrimage, always remembering who conquered death, hell, and the devil for you. Always look to Christ, that continual repentance of turning to him. Never, ever turn inward for your strength, because He is your only strength and stay.

God’s Mercy and Peace be on to you all,

Eric Olson