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Things Change

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Hello friend,

Things are changing. (I guess that's always the case, isn't it? :)

Well, some changes are more significant than others.

And if you're new to the Penny Creek ward, we recognize that this is a big change.

I happened to be telling some co-workers about the boundary changes last week, and they were intrigued. I was trying to relate how big of a deal this was because we are generally required to attend a certain congregation based on where we live. They couldn't quite understand why we were so strict about this. One of them was Catholic and said they could attend wherever they wanted. In fact, they didn't like the service that was closer to their house, so they attended a different one that was farther away.

I tried to explain that we are really involved in serving each other and it just makes things easier to keep track of, but I don't think I was very convincing. It's just hard to explain to someone who hasn't experienced it what it means to be a part of a ward family. It really is something different.

I think there is a good explanation in Moroni 6:4.

"And after they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ; and their names were taken, that they might be remembered and nourished by the good word of God, to keep them in the right way, to keep them continually watchful unto prayer, relying alone upon the merits of Christ, who was the author and the finisher of their faith."

We take names, to keep each other in the right way. So, we're really glad to have new ward family names.

This means things will change a bit for our ward. But this is still the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, so many things will be the same. In fact, many times in the scriptures the Lord says "I am the same yesterday, today, and forever" so we can count on Him to be a constant.

The change is that there will be more people for you to get to know and love. And I always count that as a blessing. Our lives are richer and more colorful, with a wider variety of experience, as more people enter our life. And as we remember that we are all brothers and sisters, it increases our awe, respect, and faith in our Father and Jesus Christ, in the massive work they are doing.

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." (Ephesian 2:19)

Other things that have changed is that our state governor has declared that we can move to phase 3, which means that all indoor spaces can have up to 50% occupancy. This means that we should be able to allow all ward members to attend in person every week, instead of dividing into two groups.

March 21st will be our Ward Conference, so we'll invite everyone to join then anyway. After that you can attend in person every week if you are comfortable. We will still offer the Zoom webinar for those who feel more safe staying at home.

Another change is daylight savings time. Spring forward tonight! (But I'm sure you already knew about that.)

See, things are always changing. And hopefully you too. As you grow closer to Christ, your heart and mind will change to want what He wants. Like what happened to the saints after King Benjamin's powerful sermon, "the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which has wrought a mighty change in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually." (Mosiah 5:2)

We're all on the same journey. To change. And to do good continually.

Glad you're here.

Take care,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- We have an awesome new story on our ward web site by one of our youth, Zach Palmer. Check out how his prayers were answered: <https://pennycreek.org/2021/03/13/the-test/>
- A big thanks to everyone who showed up Saturday morning to clean the church. March is our month, so we'll be looking for help next week too. Many hands make light work!
- On Sunday, everyone is welcome to attend in person, so we can see who is new in our ward. But if you'd still like to watch remotely, join us at this Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/92685846361>

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