

March 2024 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

"Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the

Lord. Walk as children of light" (Ephesians 5:6-8)

There sure is a lot of talk going on these days. It is an election year after all, and we are reminded by Paul to "Let no one deceive you with empty words...". The talking heads are out doing what they do anymore, lie, cheat, and deceive with empty words.

It is not just the empty words that bring on the wrath of God, Paul is telling the congregation in Ephesus to run from sexual sins and idolatry, for these are the things that bring God's wrath upon the sons of disobedience. And there are those "spiritual leaders" out there in the world that will tell you that this isn't so. God desires you to have your best life now...they say. So, many mainline Christian denominations have cast aside the pure Word of the Lord in favor of more people and money filling the coffers. This becomes "empty words" as they allow people to remain comfortable in their sinfulness and even celebrate it. The empty words of the wayward pastor leads those who follow him or her to the depths of the eternal abyss. God's wrath is coming.

As we venture down the path of Lent to Holy Week and the Passion of Good Friday, let us consider our own "darkness" and repent of these things. For Easter Sunday is coming with the risen Christ who took upon Himself all your prior darkness in which we once lived. Some of that darkness still exists in the dark corners and recesses of our heart.

As Paul says, we are "children of light." During this Lenten journey, may we seek to have Jesus, the "light of the world" shine brightly into those dark recesses of our heart and shine His bright light of redeeming grace on all those dark places to cleanse you of all that darkness, when the bright light of the Easter dawn breaks upon our lives.

--Pastor



From the Deacon's Desk

BIBLICAL TRUTHS

RUTH 1-4

The first five verses in the book of Ruth tell us of Elimelek from the tribe of Ephriam and his wife Naomi. They along with their two sons Mahon and Chilion needed to leave Bethlehem in Judea because of a famine. The journey took them north to Jerusalem and Jericho before going east to cross the Jordan River to Moab. There they settled. After Elimelech died, the two sons took Moabite wives, Opah and Ruth. The two sons lived only ten years after marrying, leaving their widowed wives and their mother Naomi to fend for themselves.

One morning Naomi announced that she was returning to her own people and strongly encouraged Opah and Ruth to return to their fathers' families. "But Ruth said. 'Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people will be my people, and your God my God. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.' " (Ruth 1:16-18). This statement of faith says volumes about this Moabite woman Ruth. Although she was a gentile she was also a descendant of Lot. She heard God's word in the religious worship of her husband, the head of the family. All the false gods of Moab had left Ruth empty and searching. When she married her Hebrew husband and heard the promises of the living God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all the miracles God had done, Ruth's heart was changed forever. May we be like Ruth. Remember Egypt, the Passover, the Red Sea, the Forty Years, the Crossing of the Jordan, Jericho and the Promised Land.

During this 2024 Lenten season may our hearts be changed forever.

Bible Trivia Question: February answer – Josephus

Bible Trivia Question: March question – For which book of the Bible does the oldest known manuscript exist? It was written over 2000 years ago.

In Christ,

Deacon Nick DeRose



From the Trustee's Bench

One of the solar units had faulted. Denny was able to reprogram it and it is back up and running. Also had some issues with a couple of cameras. Installed a new extender network and all cameras are again working. Cleaned up the back field, trash, and pine needles. Our landscaper is planning on trimming the oleanders on the east property line.

Bless you all for your continued support.

Trustees
Denny



Kitchen News

Thank you to all that donated coffee, cookies, and money. It helps defray the cost of supplies. Much appreciated.

God Bless
Jean Coburn



LWML News

Thank you all for your donations on "Undie Sunday". I will be taking them to the District Board Meeting on March 2nd.

Undies:	161 pair
Socks:	257 pair
T-Shirts:	21
Mittens:	1 pair

PSD LWML Convention—June 7-9, 2024, DoubleTree by Hilton in Rosemead, CA. Early registration ends on March 31, 2024—\$135.00. After March 31st—\$160.00. For more information see me or go to the District's website (psdlwmlorg). Registration must be done online.

Linda Merkle



Stewardship News

Cherish What God Has Given

In the Small Catechism, Luther follows a pattern when explaining the Ten Commandments. With each commandment, there is something prohibited, and something commanded. There is something wrong which must be avoided, and there is something right which must be done.

The one time this pattern is not followed is with the Sixth Commandment.

"You shall not commit adultery. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other" (SC I).

Here, the catechism focuses solely on the positive: we should live in a chaste and decent manner in both word and deed, and husbands and wives should cherish and honor one another.

Keeping this commandment, and all of the commandments, is a lot easier if you see your chastity and your spouse as a gift from God that is to be protected and cherished. In the same way, you will find keeping the Fourth Commandment easier if you see your parents and other authorities as a gift from God, given to you for your blessing.

This is the key stewardship insight that runs through all of the Christian life: Everything that we have has been given to us by God. We deserve none of it. All of it comes to us by God's fatherly kindness and open-handed generosity. If I know that everything I have — every possession, every relationship, every ability — is a gift from God, then my perspective changes. All of these things are both gifts to be cherished, and things that I should direct towards God's purposes. My possessions should be shared generously according to how God has called me in my family, church and community. My spouse should be cherished, loved and encouraged in faith. My children are on loan from my own Heavenly Father, and I have but a brief time to show them the path of righteousness. My neighbor is a gift from God so that I can imitate His kindness toward me.

No matter the gift, everything has been given to me by God so that I may participate in His own goodness and open-handed generosity.

Elders

By Member's Last Name:

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Daylight Savings Time Begins on Sunday, March 10, at 2:00 a.m. Remember to set your clocks AHEAD on Saturday night, March 9 before you go to bed.



March Birthdays

- Alicia Ferrell 2
- Jan Blanton 3
- Sue Brooks 3
- Curtis Todd 9
- Jean Coburn 16
- Marty Hall 17
- Deslyn Holtgreffe 18
- Stacia Robin 18



March Anniversaries

- Red & MaryAnn Beck 3/12/1983
- Mike & Kathy Benzow 3/23/2006

