

May 2024 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

"Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit." (Psalm 32:1-2)

What blessed words we read in the Psalms. God in Christ Jesus has forgiven you all your sins. Blessed are you indeed. There is nothing sweeter than these Gospel proclamations through out God's Word.

These words from David remind us that there is no sin that cannot be forgiven. Remember, David was a man, a human being just like you and I. David was also termed, "a man after God's own heart." We also know that David was the greatest king to ever sit on the earthly throne in Jerusalem. But what we also know is that David was a sinner, just like Paul, Peter, James and John, the rest of the disciples, you, and I. David committed adultery, murder and deceit. And yet, when Nathan the prophet confronted him about his scandalous actions, David immediately repented. David's heart was broken once he realized what he had done against God.

What we also know is that our Father forgave David all his sins, even though David's life would, from this time forth, be filled with the consequences of those sins. Yet in God's eyes, David was now completely forgiven. His sin has been covered, and the Lord no longer counted David's iniquity against him.

The heart and the soul of such people like you and me, along with David, cannot help but shout for joy and praise our God who has covered all our sins with the blood of His Son, Jesus. Therefore, God no longer counts your sin and iniquity against you. This is all a matter of God's great mercy and grace, through faith in Jesus.

When you were baptized you were baptized into Jesus. His death is now your life. His innocence and sinless life are now yours. You are dearly loved by your Creator, as He has washed you and made you clean in the blood of the Lamb.

Rejoice and be glad! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed.

In the name of Jesus and for His eternal glory. Amen



From the Deacon's Desk

BIBLICAL TRUTHS

1 Samuel 9-21

KING SAUL

Saul was the first king of all the 12 tribes of Israel. He was a fine-looking young man, a head taller than any of the people. His father's name was Kish, a man of wealth from the tribe of Benjamin (1 Sam 9). In chapter 10 Saul is anointed king by Samuel. Some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?", but Saul held his peace (1 Sam 10:27). In chapter 11 Saul defeated the Ammonites, the descendants of Lot's youngest daughter, Ammon. After the victory, the kingdom was renewed. "So, all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the Lord. Then they gave the sacrificial peace offering before the Lord, and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly (1 Sam 11:15). Despite Saul's military victories, his relationship with Samuel suffered. Samuel was responsible for religious affairs to ensure God's continued favor. Fighting the Philistines, Saul grew impatient while waiting for Samuel. Taking matters into his own hands, Saul administered the burnt offering himself, committing a great sin. Samuel told Saul "You have done a foolish thing.....the Lord has sought out a man after His own heart and the Lord has appointed him to be ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you" (1 Sam 13:13-14). While Saul was basically a humble man, he now shows himself to be impatient and not always trusting in God's faithfulness. In chapter 15 the Lord has rejected Saul. David is secretly anointed king in chapter 16.

Chapter 17 is the story of David and Goliath which is the start of David's service to the Kingdom of God. Saul's faith continued to decline due to anger and jealousy. While seeking the help of the medium of En-Dor (1 Sam 28), Saul concedes the fall of his reign. With news of the Philistines killing his sons, Saul took his own life by falling on his sword (1 Sam 31). Don't be like Saul. Never forget that God is God and His word is true forever and ever.

Bible Trivia Question Answer April - Nathanael (John 1:45 & Matt 10:3)

Bible Trivia Question May question – Which book instructs to prove all things and hold fast that which is good?

In Christ,
Deacon Nick DeRose



From the Trustee's Desk

Sunshades for solar inverters have been rebuilt with a permanent construction. Thanks to Ray Coburn.

Working on Sunday School hall lighting, replaced two 3-way switches and in the process of replacing some faulty fixtures. Ray has been assisting with this project. Several 4-foot fluorescent fixtures have been converted to LED direct-wire, eliminating the need for expensive ballast replacement.

The lighted bulletin sign out front has been rewired and new LED tubes were installed.

Weed removal on back field and solar area is continuing by Jean and Denny.

Our Landscaper has made gains on weed mitigation around the property. This year has seen a bumper crop of tumbleweed plus other weeds.

Other, smaller projects have been completed.

God Bless

Trustees

Dennis Coburn



LWML News

Only 6 weeks until the 40th Biennial PSD Convention (June 7-9, 2024, Rosemead, CA), "Jesus The Hope of all Nations". It's not too late to register. Cost is \$160, after May 1st \$185 (meals and mission walk t-shirt may not be available after May 1st). See me if you would like to attend. We still need 1 more voting delegate for Ascension. We will be voting for new officers, one of which will be president. Also Mission Grants for the next biennium will be voted on. Our own Zone 20 Grace, Lancaster has requested a grant of \$10,000 for scholarships for their school.

Linda Merkle
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Stewardship News

More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without technically lying. You tell just enough of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing how close we can get to

sinning without technically going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

Elders

By Member's Last Name:

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L-R: Mark Amer	602-619-2232
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May Birthdays

Melinda Coburn	2
Mindy Hanson	3
Doreen Peterson	15
Mark Amer	18
Jacob Nelson	30



May Anniversaries

Ken & Doreen Peterson	5/28/1980
David & Mindy Hanson	5/30/1992
John & Arlina Luley	5/14/2005

