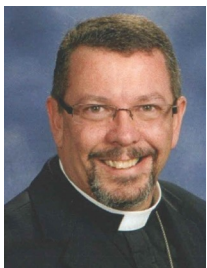


SEPTEMBER 2019 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

"What your eyes have seen do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end." (Proverbs 25:7-10, ESV)

Wisdom. The Book of Proverbs is a book in scripture that teaches us wisdom. Wisdom is not something that comes naturally, it is something that is learned. One would be wise to learn wisdom from the Word of God. But that would mean that we would be wise enough to do so in the first place. I would say that the majority of people learn wisdom through the school of hard knocks.

The aforementioned Proverb is the Old Testament Reading for the first Sunday in September. With the coming of September comes Back to School. Our children, grandchildren, or great-grandchildren are back in school to get an education. Yes, they will learn to read and write, to do mathematics, geography, economics, and all sorts of other subjects except one. The United States Public School System would do well to teach every children wisdom. But those who are administrators in the public-school system, those who call the shots, would do well to have wisdom themselves. With a little wisdom in the persons calling the shots and making policy and procedure, our public-school system could be really doing something positive in our children, and in the world in which we live. But then again, wisdom protects against sinful personal gain financially, honor, or authority.

Wisdom is something we could all use more of. I chose this text for the newsletter article because it is something that we all, including myself, need to heed. This is an 8th Commandment issue. We all struggle with gossip, every single one of us. It is something that comes natural to us. Why? Well, it is because gossip is something that our old sinful nature loves. And as a baptized and redeemed child of God, our lives are to be lived differently. The Holy Spirit has sanctified us, He has made us holy and continues to work in our lives to change them, as the Apostle Paul says in Romans 8, *"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be **conformed to the image of His Son**, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified."* (Romans 8:28-30, ESV)

Being conformed into something we are not is hard work, especially when we drag our feet or straight up rebel against the Holy Spirit's work. It becomes painful as the unremitting sin continues to tear down people, dishonor our family and friends, and will burn more bridges than it ever has tried to build. Gossip is one of those sins that cannot be undone. It would be like taking a down pillow, cutting it open and flinging all the feathers to the wind. It is impossible to go back and pickup all those feathers, and each and every feather has had an impact on the person who has it...and that can never be removed once it has happened.

Jesus dealt with such stuff also. The Pharisees and Scribes and Sadducees bad mouthed Jesus. They spread lies about Him. They found nefarious individuals who they could pay to bring false testimony against Jesus. This led to His false arrest, His mock trial, false condemnation,

and crucifixion. The tongue is a powerful weapon. James says in his epistle that it is impossible to tame the tongue. We use it to praise God then turn right around and bad mouth our neighbor, spread gossip, and slander to make ourselves look better in the eyes of the world around us.

Jesus Christ died that you and I might be freed from our sinful nature, forgiven of our sin, and given the promise of everlasting life. The blood of Jesus shed on the cross does bring forgiveness of sins, that is very true, but with true repentance, there is always a change of heart and action. Yes, indeed it is impossible for us to be perfect, especially with our tongue. Wisdom says that we dare not to reveal the secrets of our neighbor, because in doing so, great shame and ill repute are surely the wages of that sin. In making ourselves look better than our neighbor, we are brought lower than the low.

"And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them." (Luke 6:31, ESV)

With the start of the new school year comes a new focus on our Catechetical article: Holy Baptism. The interesting thing about Luther's treatment on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, he also ties in Confession and Absolution. There are four parts to Luther's explanation of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. The first of which is answering the question of "What is baptism?"; the second part answers the question of "What gifts or benefits does baptism grant?"; the third part answers the question of "How can water do such great things?"; and the fourth and final explanation from Luther answers the question of "What then is the significance of such a baptism with water?"

Therefore, with no further commentary from me, here I present to you the very words of Luther on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

CATECHETICAL ARTICLE

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism:

In a simple way in which the head of a house is to present it to the household

First

What is baptism? Answer:

Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead it is water enclosed in God's command and connected with God's Word.

What then is this Word of God? Answer:

Where our LORD Christ says in Matthew 28[:19*], "Go into all the world, teach all nations, and baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Second

What gifts or benefits does baptism grant? Answer:

It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the words and promise of God declare.

What are these words and promise of God? Answer:

Where our LORD Christ says in Mark 16[:16*], “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be damned.”

Third

How can water do such great things? Answer:

Clearly the water does not do it, but the Word of God, which is with and alongside the water, and faith, which trusts this Word of God in the water. For without the Word of God the water is plain water and not a baptism, but with the Word of God it is a baptism, that is, a grace-filled water of life and a “bath of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,” as St. Paul says to Titus in chapter 3[:5-8*], “through the bath of rebirth and renewal of the Holy Spirit, which he richly poured out over us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that through that very grace we may be righteous and heirs in hope of eternal life. This is surely most certainly true.”

Fourth

What then is the significance of such a baptism with water? Answer:

It signifies that the old creature in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily contrition and repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? Answer:

St. Paul says in Romans 6[:4*], “We were buried with Christ through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we, too, are to walk in a new life.”



"For I consider that the sufferings of this present times are not worthy to be compared to the glory that is to be revealed to us" Romans 8:18

We studied the above verse in the Wednesday Bible Study. It seemed so appropriate to our church family at this time.

2019 has been a difficult year so far. We've lost members and family of members. There have diagnoses that seem so very hard. There are many members doing the best they can with chronic pain.

The painful reality goes deep.

Please remember that you are not alone. Jesus loves you and knows your pain. The life the Lord gives us can be bumpy. The joy of our love for Him, no matter what, is uplifting and can iron the bumps out. Our eternal life with Him will be glorious.


Call your Elder if you have a need or just want to talk.

- Rick Ferrell
- Ernie Schmidt
- Ken Porter



Small Group Bible Study
(AKA: Life Support Groups)

Small Group Bible Study will be meeting on September 6 and 20, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Nick DeRose's home. On September 6 we will be studying Genesis Chapters 48 & 49. On September 20, we will be studying Genesis Chapter 50 & Exodus 1.

 **NAMI Family To Family Support Group**

The Family to Family Support Group will be meeting on September 12 and 26 from 6:00—8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.



Men's Club

The next meeting of the Men's Club is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, at 8:30 a.m. All men are welcome.



Evangelism Committee

The next meeting of the Evangelism Committee will be held on Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the office building of the Church.



Mature Youth Group

The Mature Youth Group will be meeting for breakfast on Saturday, September 7 at 10:00 a.m. at Lil Bit Country Café—14335 Hesperia Rd., #101, Victorville, CA 92395.

ELDERS

By Member's Last Name:

- A-I: Rick Ferrell 760-694-3309
- J-R Ernie Schmidt 760-242-5348
- S-Z: Ken Porter 760-792-1069

SERVING THIS MONTH

- Elder: Rick Ferrell
- Reader: Ralph Hollins

ALTAR WORKERS:

September Birthdays

- Robert Jackson 3
- Emily Reyes 11
- Dennis Coburn 12
- Maurice Gamas 13
- Michelle Powell 17
- Rick Ferrell 22
- David Hanson 24
- Shari Nelson 24
- Ed Hanson 27
- Timothy Harris 28
- Eunice Harris 29



September Anniversaries

- Ray & Melinda Coburn 9/20/1986

