

PASTORAL MUSINGS

Jesus said:

"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

"Again, it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

"Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"

***From that time Jesus began to preach saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand."
Matthew 4:4, 7, 10, 17***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Glory be to Jesus!

In our struggle with life in this fallen world, repentance must be the central theme. Only in repentance will we find the true meaning of life, for by the grace and mercy of God and through faith in Jesus Christ it is only in repentance that one can enter into true communion with God. This life has been given to us for one purpose, that, we might be united with God in a pure and sinless relationship of love, as was His purpose from the very beginning. In our fallen state, our brokenness keeps us separated from God, for our darkened soul cannot see clearly without the work of the Holy Spirit. Repentance is the door through which the Holy Spirit enters and does His work of clearing the way for union with Christ, fellowship with God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit, and making us whole, preparing us for the work of witnessing Christ to all in this world.

Dr. Martin Luther on repentance:

"To repent means to feel the wrath of God in earnest because of one's sin, so that the sinner experiences anguish of heart and is filled with a painful longing for the salvation and the mercy of God."

"Repentance is not penitence alone but also faith, which apprehends the promise of forgiveness, lest the penitent sinners perish."

What Christ meant by His call to Repentance:

1. Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying: "Repent ye" (Matthew 4:17), wanted the entire life of believers to be a repentance....
2. He does not, however, mean inward repentance only; in fact, such inward repentance is not real at all if it does not outwardly produce various mortifications of the flesh.

"This first is a living and true repentance: to separate the soul from vices for God's sake, to keep it separated, and to separate it ever more."

"It will be no small gain for a penitent to lay hold, before all else, on the memory of his Baptism, confidently to recall the promise of God which he has forsaken, and to plead it before the Lord, happy that he is still within the stronghold of salvation, is baptized, and abhors his wicked ingratitude of falling away from faith and its truth. For wondrously will his heart be comforted and he will be encouraged to hope for mercy when he considers that the divine promise which God made to him and which cannot lie is still intact and unchanged, nay, unchangeable by any sins, just as Paul says (2 Timothy 2:13): "If we believe not, He continueth faithful, He cannot deny Himself." This truth of God, I say, will so sustain him that if all else goes to ruin, this faith of his will not fail him. For in it he has a shield against the assaults of the enemy, a reply to the sins that trouble his conscience, an antidote for

the horror of death and the judgment, and, in fine, a comfort in every temptation, namely, the one truth that he expresses when he says: God is faithful in His promises; His sign have I received in Baptism; if God be for me, who is against me? (Romans 8:31)."

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, as we draw the current church year to a close, with eyes heavenward in anticipation of the glorious and triumphant return of our Lord and the life everlasting that awaits all by faith in Him,

let us draw near [to God] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
Hebrews 10:22-25

The Grace of God be with you all.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Scott



Echo

It's November, the season is changing, and our thoughts turn toward Thanksgiving. It's a time for family, friends, and the best home cooking in the world. But, every month and every day, should be a time for thanks-giving? We go through our busy lives, trying to cover all our bases, doing the best we can to uphold our faith, church, and family. Leading a Christian life, helping others, doing what is right, but are we forgetting something? I know we say grace at mealtime, and pray for our family, friends and those mentioned in prayer requests, but it seems easy to forget to give thanks for all the blessings we see (and don't see) each day. We take so much for granted, and really need to slow down a little, and take time to thank God for all he has done, and is doing in our lives each and every day. Please thank God for the power of prayer, for with prayer all things are possible.

As I was looking on-line for ideas for this short article, I found a prayer written by a young lady that pretty much sums up Thanksgiving. Have a blessed November and Thanksgiving; remembering to thank God for our very salvation through His son, Jesus Christ, in His name we pray.

"Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day, and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen." (prayer by Debbie McDaniel, Crosswalk.com Contributor)

-Tom Griffith



Christmas Program

Have you thought about Christmas? We hope to do a children's Christmas program of some type this year but need to know which children will participate. If your child/children would be in this year's program I really need to know as soon as possible so the program can be adapted to the children participating. Please contact me Sharon Schrader to get your child/children in the program. Practices will be on the Sundays during Sunday school time beginning Nov. 22. We'd love to have all the available children in the program. I can also use some assistance with the program.

College Student Names Needed

The Women of Messiah will be putting together **care packages** for our college students to be sent just before finals. We need your help in collecting names and addresses so none of the students are forgotten. Please give the names and addresses to Judy Kunkel This information is needed no later than Nov. 15th.



Christmas Project for Bokenkamp

Bokenkamp Childrens Shelter, operated by UpBring (formerly called Lutheran Social Services of the South), is a temporary shelter located here in Corpus Christi. It serves unaccompanied teens ages 12-17 who flee their home countries because of war and violence. The children served at this facility receive lifesaving support, including food, clothing, shelter, case management, education and clinical, medical and spiritual care. Upbring makes sure that children at Bokenkamp receive 24-hour support and supervision. Their goal is to encourage their personal and academic development and empower them with the skills and resources they need to have productive lives once they are reunified with family members or a sponsor.



To help make their Christmas brighter, the **Women of Messiah are adopting these children** as their Christmas project. We invite the congregation to **help us give a wrist watch to every child** in the facility for Christmas. We are asking for monetary donations for the watches so that all watches will be of equal value. Donations can be given to Judy Kunkel, Sharon Schrader or Laura Lopez or placed in the special donation box on the LWML table in the narthex. Donations will be taken through mid-December.

Thanks for helping us make Christmas special for these children.



Recurring Giving Made Easy

We are truly grateful for your donations to Messiah. It's though your gifts that allow us to provide services and carry out acts of ministry in our area.

Have you thought making your regular gifts to Messiah using our eGiving tools? Our eGiving tools make it easy to schedule recurring gifts – the gifts you make every week now. By using recurring gifts with our eGiving services, your gift always arrives when you intend and in the correct amount.

Our eGiving options include:

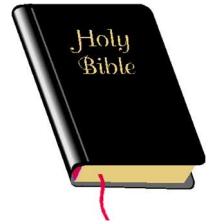
- Online giving through our website www.messiahlcms-cc.org
- The free GivePlus mobile app from the App Store or Google Play



You can set up recurring gifts here or give a one-time donation. This is convenient way to ensure your gift is made, and you don't have to remember to bring cash or your checkbook to services. Plus, if you have to miss services one week, your gift will still be made.

Sunday school and Bible Class

Classes start at 8:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages and will add more if needed. Please bring you children and join us when you're ready to delve into the scriptures. We are ready for you. If you would like to volunteer for teaching or being a substitute teacher please talk to Sharon Schrader in person.



Greeting Cards

Miscellaneous greeting cards for all occasions are located on the spinning rack in the narthex. If you take a card, please make a donation of any amount to the Benevolence Fund. These donations can be put in the red box on the table next to the card rack.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continues to meet on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. We continue to study "Divine Design" by Sharla Fritz. This is done with video and book. Each week is an opportunity for fellowship and study as we delve into scriptures to help us understand what God desires for us to be. Please join us for this study. **We will not be meeting on November 25** so we can prepare for Thanksgiving. Questions? Contact Sharon Schrader.



Women of Messiah

The next meeting of Women of Messiah, LWML will be Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex at Messiah. We will be assembling care packages for College students and planning the Shut-in/Senior bags to be given out. We will also discuss the Christmas project to Bokenkamp and what still needs to be done. Signup sheets for committees and duties will also be passed around. Please join us for a time of fellowship and activity as we prepare for the holidays. The Women of Messiah is open to all confirmed women of Messiah.



Your Mites at Work



Each first Sunday of the month mites are collected for Mission Grants. These mites are sent to the LWML Texas District to support missions. One of the current Texas District projects is

Let the Little Children Come — St. Paul, Dallas — \$20,000 St. Paul Lutheran Church through its Christian Academy offers the only Christ-centered preschool and before and after school care for children and families to become part of the St. Paul family. A van will expand outreach to those in need.

MEETINGS

ELDER'S: Monday, Nov. 9th, 6:00 pm
VOTER'S: Sunday, Nov. 15th, 11:15am
COUNCIL: Thursday, Nov. 19th, 6:00 pm

Continued Prayers Requested For:



Janie Guerrero (Marge Lopez's cousin), Marlene DePau, Cindy Divers (Julie Brynestad's sister), Pastor Jim Sturgis, Floyd Hoff, William Bluntzer, Judy Wilson, and Mike Clevenger



OUR MILITARY

Gary Roznovsky, LCDR – Naval Aviator – Alexandria, VA
Cole Wilson, MK3 – USCG – Cutter, Seneca. Portsmouth, VA
Cheyenne Wilson, E3 – USCG, ANT Unit – Morgan City, LA
Jeremiah Sims, SFC – Ft. Campbell, KY
Dillon Anderson, PFC – Fayetteville, NC
Brandin Diamond, SSG – USAF – Deployed, Japan
Cristopher Diamond, PV2 – USAC – Deployed, Korea

November Servers

Elders: John Polen
Ushers: Robert Kunkel, Jason Schrader
Acolytes: Parker Bluntzer, Cody Wilson
Alter: Devereaux Brewer

Flower Schedule



Nov. 1-
Nov. 8- Laura & Ed Lopez- Judy Kunkel
Nov. 15-
Nov. 22-
Nov. 29-