

## 2018: A Year of Marriage OCTOBER: Being the Light of the World



As we continue our year-long treatment of the subject of marriage, this month I want to look at the state of sexual morality in our country and the condition of marriage, and to encourage us as Christians to be light in this very dark world. We can do this by our example, and even more importantly, by proclaiming the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins. Meanwhile and always, we ought to pray.

One of the sad realities about our beloved country is that we have become a sexually permissive and indeed sexually perverted land. And perhaps the saddest part of all is that so large a segment of our population does not see this, but on the contrary celebrates what they believe to be progress. We have taught young people to shed all inhibitions about their sexuality. They now explore and experiment openly, as a normal part of adolescence. And this is considered “progress”. The “antiquated” idea has been put away that a man and a woman should be united in an exclusive union for life. Sexual unions can now take place whenever our fickle and selfish natures desire. And this is progress? The “enjoyment” of pornography is increasingly regarded as harmless. And this is progress? The definition of marriage as only a male-female union has since *Obergefell v. Hodges* (Supreme Court decision of 2015) been replaced with a broader definition that includes same-sex unions. And this is progress?

In fact, all of the above represent neither improvement nor progress but a downward slide toward a pit of depravity. God designed marriage to be the foundation of a strong society, providing the secure and loving environment within which children, under the care and direction of their father and mother, can thrive as they are taught about God. Our society is crumbling, and it is not hard for the perceptive observer to see why. We have attacked the foundation! We have assaulted God’s institution of marriage.

But before we fly off the handle about this situation, let’s be careful where to pin the ultimate blame. Remember Paul’s teaching in Ephesians 6: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood”—*that is, our ultimate enemies are not our fellow man*—“but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places”—*that is, our ultimate enemy, and the true instigator of all the moral depravity and perversity in our land, is the devil, with his evil angels.*

So what should we do? We should turn to God for help. We should above all pray, asking God to frustrate the evil plans and purposes of the devil. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven” becomes a powerful prayer for such a time as this. Likewise the petition “Deliver us from evil.” The petition “Give us this day our daily bread” helps us to acknowledge the good marriages among us to be gifts from God. And, the petition that God forgive our trespasses—well, it hardly needs to be mentioned that each of us shares in the guilt of having sinned in various ways against God’s gifts of sexuality and marriage. So, through the Lord’s Prayer we learn to have humble and repentant attitudes, without which our voices in society will sound like nothing but holier-than-thou, loveless rants.

Over >>>

You see, here's the key thing: At the center of this whole discussion about sex lies the (only) pure and holy One, God's own Son, Jesus Christ. He of all people would have had the right to summarily condemn our whole depraved human race. However, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17). Jesus came to earth, in love, to offer His pure and holy flesh and blood as the sacrifice to make us all righteous before His Father—all of us, including and especially the people of our day. However immorally we have thought, spoken, or behaved, "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1). Repentance and forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in Jesus' name today! The comfort of being right with God purely through faith in His Son, that comfort is mine, it is yours, it is ours!

And that is the most important way for us to shine as lights in this dark world today. Knowing the Gospel of the forgiveness of sins, we share it. How we and all the people need it! Those whom God brings to see the emptiness and deep sadness of a sexually immoral life, those people God will also invite to experience the newness of life that comes through His forgiveness and grace in Christ *as we come alongside them to share the Gospel*. God grant it!

And empowered by the Holy Spirit we lights of the world also shine as we live out the will of God and keep His commandments. There is a dramatic contrast between the speech and conduct of those who are God's children and those who are not, between those who have the Holy Spirit and those who do not. Martin Luther teaches us that the petition "Hallowed be Thy name" is a prayer that God would help us to keep teaching His Word purely and also to live holy lives according to it. By God's grace His Christian people speak respectfully, discretely, and modestly about sex. By His grace God's Christian people conduct themselves with purity, exercising self-control in matters of sex. By God's grace His Christian people live holy lives whether single or within the bond of marriage. *And in all of this the world is given a chance to see what God's good design looks like, and the joys it brings.*

Dear friends in Christ, fellow redeemed, may God help you and me, each of us according to our unique calling, to shine the Gospel light of Jesus into this world, for the good of the world—this world so deeply loved by the God who for our salvation sent His only-begotten Son (John 3:16)!

*Pastor Groth*



## **“Making Abortion Unthinkable: The Art of Pro-life Persuasion”**

*Saturday, November 3, 2018*

Mark your calendar for this day-long seminar designed to equip you with the tools confidently and winsomely to present the pro-life position. Pastor Groth, who is the pastoral advisor for the Denver chapter of Lutherans For Life, is going to host this video-based seminar right here at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church. Each participant will receive a booklet containing the lesson materials laid out in clear outline format, as well as pertinent articles and other useful resources. There is a \$10.00 fee for the boxed lunch, and a freewill offering will be received. Pre-registration is required. **Register now.** You may register by emailing LFL Denver President Jude Donovan ([Heyjude264@aol.com](mailto:Heyjude264@aol.com)) or by emailing LFL member Lyndsay Johnson at [Lyndsay.johnson101@yahoo.com](mailto:Lyndsay.johnson101@yahoo.com).

## THOSE SERVING IN OCTOBER

### Ushers

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Dave Esslinger  
Craig Ludwig

Mike Brown  
Wayne Mericle

Rick Mericle

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### Elders

10/7      Cliff Evans & Mike Brown  
10/14     Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle  
10/21     Cliff Evans & Mike Brown  
10/28     Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

### Acolytes

10/7      Aaron Brechbuhl  
10/14     Damien Dittrich  
10/21     Bradley Dittrich  
10/28     Nicholas Little

### Altar Guild

Lynda Meisner and Deann Davidson





THANK YOU  
THANK YOU  
THANK YOU

A few months ago, I sent out a notice in the messenger letter asking for volunteers from the Beautiful Savior congregation to lend a hand. At that time the Trustees needed help working around the church grounds and the Altar Guild was in desperate need of additional hands. I am very happy to say these two committees received that help. For that I and many others thank each of you greatly. You not only stepped up and lent a hand but showed your love and concern for our little church and school.

I wish I could say all needs have been met so sit back and relax. Unfortunately, that is not the case. As with any church, business or other service-committed organization there is always need of continued help. I prayerfully ask that you also continue with these tasks and be an example to others.

There are still several committees needing your voice and direction in guiding and enhancing Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and School. As members, everyone has opinions and ideas of what they would like to see at church as well as how they would like to see it guided. Being on a board or committee gives you that opportunity. And every board or committee wants to hear your ideas. No one is too busy, too unknowledgeable, or too old to be a part. Time requirements are minimal, sweating is minimal, and cursing is not allowed. Doesn't sound bad to me even if sometimes that last one is difficult.

Think of it this way; if you just lived in your home and left all the work and decisions up to someone else to do, how long do you think it would be before you press or even smash the unhappy button?

God bless you and thank you for all your help and prayers.

Submitted by Rick Mericle  
Elder zone 3





## October Birthdays

Oct. 2	Elaine Brinkey
3	Souwanthong Pigors
4	Chelsea Cozad
5	Sebastian DeFoe
9	John Brinkey Lynda Meisner
13	Siglinde Ferlet
14	Johnathan Acker Sue MacDonald
20	Sandy Akmenkalns
22	Jordan Dittrich Stephanie MacDonald
26	Dixie Cassily
28	Linda Frederking
30	Evlyn LaVoy Nora Ulrich Martha Vinqvist
31	Anita Yanke



## Don't Mess with Kids

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up and say, 'There's Jennifer; she's a lawyer,' or 'That's Michael; he's a doctor.'" A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, "Now, class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it, and I would turn red in the face." "Yes," the class said. "Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?" A little fellow shouted, "Cause your feet ain't empty."

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The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made a note and posted on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching." Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

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A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle, the phone rang, so she asked her four-year-old daughter to answer the phone. "It's the minister, Mommy," the child said to her mother. Then she added, "Mommy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."



Behold!

A young minister had just got out of the seminary, got his first church, and was preaching his first sermon. In the seminary, they had taught him that if he forgot something, just back up and repeat what he had said, and maybe it would come back to him.

He started out with a quote, "Behold, I cometh..." but he couldn't remember the rest of it.

So he tries to regain his composure, backs up and starts again... "Behold I cometh..." but he still couldn't remember.

So he rears back and shouts again, "Behold I cometh!" but this time he trips over the pulpit and falls right into the lap of a little old lady sitting the front row!

He was embarrassed and started apologizing, but before he could finish the woman muttered, "It isn't your fault sonny - you told me you were coming three times. I should have moved!"





*“The Lutheran Hour”*  
**Sermon Schedule for October 2018**

LHM produces and airs radio and TV programming around the world in more than 80 languages. *“The Lutheran Hour”* began in 1930 and is the world’s longest-running, continually broadcast Gospel radio program. It proclaims the message of Jesus Christ to more than 1 million people every week on more than 1800 North American radio stations! Please tune to **850 KOA (AM)** at **6:00 a.m.** on **Sunday** mornings OR go on-line to hear and/or download the current or any of the previous messages: **[www.lutheranhour.org](http://www.lutheranhour.org)**

- Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**     **“God Created”** (Genesis 1:27)  
Life is a precious gift. Rev. Hart warns against our culture’s devaluation of life and calls us to see ourselves and others as precious people, created by God, redeemed by Christ.  
(Guest Speaker: Rev. Perry Hart)
- Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>**    **“We Will Not Fear”** (Psalm 46)  
Dr. Hoffmann says, “Fear is a fact of life . . . but faith in God harnesses fear and points it in the right direction”. (Guest Speaker: **Dr. Oswald Hoffman**)
- Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>**     **“We Preach Christ Crucified”** (1 Corinthians 1:23-24)  
In a classic message from 1955, Dr. Hoffmann talks about all the things that change – and the God Who doesn’t. (Guest Speaker: **Dr. Oswald Hoffman**)
- Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>**     **“Stranger Than Fiction”** (Romans 3:19-28)  
God is the Author Who becomes part of the story – our story. The Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler presents his first message as Lutheran Hour Speaker.  
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or [mbrown\\_llrmd@comcast.net](mailto:mbrown_llrmd@comcast.net) with any questions you may have about *“The Lutheran Hour”* or any of the **Outreach** and **Training Resources** available from **LHM**.

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*Lutheran Hour Ministries* is a congregational outreach ministry supporting The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and partnering churches worldwide. It is independently funded by generous Christians who want to spread the pure and powerful message of our Savior’s love in their own communities and throughout the world. For more information, please visit [www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org) or call **1-800-876-9880**. *THANK YOU!*





## *Our Stewardship Message*

(October 2018)

Why do we give? Is it simply because God commands us to? Or is there more to it? To be sure, the instruction and Word of God in the Bible says we should give, and this is sufficient to encourage us to give (Luke 6:38; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:7; Gal 6:6).

**But** there's more to it than just obligation. We're not just trying to fulfill a work of the Law. We are bearing fruits of the Spirit given to us by our Father in heaven through His Son our Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we're not just doing what our Father said, we're also doing what He did.

Children emulate their parents. When they grow up they often carry many of the same mannerisms and characteristics as their parents, but there is more to it than that. Children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything.

And children try to copy it, which can be quite humorous when parents wish they wouldn't. It can be uncomfortable and embarrassing if a child copies or repeats something less than polite that they learned from a parent. Sitcoms thrive on these situations. It only happens because children emulate their parents because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God, by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan: "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father."

We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs – heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. We want to be like our heavenly Father. We want to emulate His generosity by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the Church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven.

More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer: "**Give us this day our daily bread.**" *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, God gives us everything we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds. Therefore, we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week to set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the Church.

We don't do this simply because He has commanded us so to do; it is because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.



### ***In Christ, for the Church and the World***

*“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is vigorously to make known the love of Christ by word and deed within our churches, communities and the world.”* (LCMS Mission Statement – 2010)

#### ***Dear Family in Christ:***

Greetings in Christ! As the Lord continues to bless us in our *Life Together*, let us continue to pray for His strength and grace to be faithful as we **Witness** His love in a world of increasing darkness and despair.

#### ***The Word of Christ vs. the Will of Man***

(Rev. Jeffrey Ries, Zion Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA – The Lutheran Witness, March 2015, Vol. 134)

Jesus’ first words in the Gospel of Mark are the summation of everything He wants to proclaim and everything He wants us to do: ***“The Kingdom of God is at hand, repent, and believe the Gospel!”*** (Mark 1:14)

In Mark 4, Jesus teaches a large crowd in parables about the kingdom of God: the Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:26-29), the Parable of the Seed Growing (Mark 4:26-29), and the Parable of the Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-32). Our first inclination might be to think that Jesus is trying to use these parables to convince His hearers concerning the Kingdom of God. But then He tells us in Mark 4:10-12 that He has a very different reason for doing so: ***“so that they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”***

Jesus is as good as His own parables. Just as the sower would not make a very efficient farmer (sowing without regard for the condition of the ground on which the seed falls), so too Jesus would not live up to the expectations of modern day evangelism efforts. Just as the Lord called Isaiah to preach to an unbelieving Israel who would not understand anything they heard or saw, so too Jesus teaches in parables to unbelieving crowds so that they would also not understand.

To modern wisdom concerning Christian outreach, Jesus’ approach seems every bit as futile as scattering seed over thorny or rocky ground. Yet all of the seed parables that concern the Kingdom of God deliver an equally important message: ***Trust the Word of Christ!*** The sower doesn’t bother to worry about the condition of the ground because the power is in the seed, the Word. Jesus teaches in parables so that those who come to believe do so not through their own understanding, but through faith given by Christ via His Word.

We need not cultivate our proclamation of the Word in order to cater to a specific demographic or cultural climate. ***We faithfully proclaim His Word and the good news of His Gospel and trust that Christ’s Word will do as He promises.*** In short, Jesus doesn’t call us to be innovative with the Gospel; He calls us to trust in Him and proclaim His Word faithfully. ***We are simply to be in His Word ourselves, hearing it proclaimed to us, receiving its gifts, and learning from it in the fellowship of our brothers and sisters in Christ.***

Right now the Church’s efforts in evangelism seem rather insignificant. Our temptation is to worry that the “same-old-same-old” sharing of God’s Word is not effective by itself. But like the man who scatters the seed and then does nothing more than sleep and rise as it grows, ***we share the Gospel and rest in Christ as He does His work in the hearts of humanity***, and then we rejoice in the harvest!

Jesus begins His ministry with the proclamation, ***“The Kingdom of God is at hand!”*** So let us repent and believe the Gospel and then pray, as He taught us, ***“Thy kingdom come.”***

Your fellow servant in the Lord; Mike Brown, President Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School  
Ph: 303 438-5766 / E: [mbrown\\_presbslc@comcast.net](mailto:mbrown_presbslc@comcast.net)

*“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus”* (Philippians 4:6-7)

***To God Be the Glory!***