

The Messenger

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
6995 West 120th Avenue
Broomfield, Colorado 80020
303-469-1785
www.beautifulsavior-lcms.org



Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church
PO Box 8
Broomfield, CO 80038-0008

2018: A Year of Marriage NOVEMBER: Thanking God for Devout Spouses

November is the month of Thanksgiving, so this month brings thankfulness to God for the blessing of a Christian spouse.

In the Small Catechism, Dr. Martin Luther explains the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer in this way:

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.

Dr. Luther includes a Christian spouse under the heading of "daily bread". And how true it is that a Christian husband or wife is a great blessing and a treasure! Here are some of the reasons why:

- A Christian spouse can attend church with you, hearing God's Word and receiving Holy Communion together with you.
- A Christian spouse can pray with you.
- A Christian spouse can be support and strength as you face life's struggles, because together you and your spouse know to look to God and to trust His Word.
- A Christian spouse can keep you humble and teachable, as she or he lovingly points out your faults, and a Christian spouse can comfort you with forgiveness.
- A Christian spouse can pray for you.
- A Christian spouse can be a good partner in parenting, for he or she will desire to raise children with you according to God's design and will, rather than the world's ways.
- A Christian spouse can enjoy life's good things with you in the correct perspective—that all good things we enjoy are gifts from God (see the Fourth Petition's meaning above).
- A Christian spouse can keep you focused on eternal life—especially if she or he dies first. You learn from your spouse's example to love the Lord more than the passing things of this life.

You can probably list many other reasons why a Christian spouse is a blessing. Let us who are married heartily thank God for the undeserved blessing of our spouse. Let those widowed give thanks to God for all the blessings and joys received during their years of marriage. Let us join in prayer that God would be pleased to grant a Christian spouse to all those who are single and seek a believing husband or wife. And let us thank God for sending His Son, the Church's Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, whose faithful love and mercy is our great and eternal blessing. Happy Thanksgiving!

Pastor Groth



THOSE SERVING IN NOVEMBER

Ushers

Dan Adams

Scott Davidson

Roger Ruff

Fred Brechbuhl

Elders

11/4 Mike Brown & Cliff Evans

11/11 Cal Meisner & Rick Mericle

11/18 Cliff Evans & Mike Brown

11/22 9:00 Thanksgiving Cliff Evans & Cal Meisner

11/25 Rick Mericle & Cal Meisner

Acolytes

11/4 Joey Weinstock

11/11 Aaron Brechbuhl

11/18 Damien Dittrich

11/22 9:00 Thanksgiving Nicholas Little

11/25 Bradley Dittrich

Altar Guild

Jeanne Mericle Amber Mericle Jenn DeFoe



"Jots and Tittles"

October 11, 2016

*(Jesus said) "For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."
Matthew 5:18*

* Forty-five years ago, on the shore of the Dead Sea, an ark -- a storage box -- was found.

* Inside that box a charred scroll was discovered.

* Both the box and the scroll were located in a Jewish synagogue, which dated to the sixth century.

The sad part about the find was the scroll was so burned it was absolutely impossible for anybody to unroll it without destroying it. That's why, in the 1970s, the scroll was placed into storage where both temperatures and humidity could be controlled.

For almost 50 years that scroll stayed in storage.

It stayed there until recently. That's when the Israel Antiquities Authority wondered if advancements in technology might be able to read the mysteries the scroll contained. To find an answer, they sent the scroll to the University of Kentucky. Using 3-D imaging technology, the scientists were able to "unwrap" the scroll without actually doing so.

For the first time in 1,500 years, someone was able to read 18 lines of text which some forgotten hand had written so many centuries ago.

Scholars in America and Israel were overjoyed to find they were reading the first eight verses of the Old Testament book of Leviticus. Then, with the verses in hand, investigators started doing some comparisons.

Those scientists wanted to know just "how many changes and errors had crept in between our time and the day that Scripture had been penned?" What they discovered was shocking! What they found was this: there wasn't a single change between that ancient document and our contemporary Scriptures.

Not one. Zero. Zip. Nada.

The manuscript may have been copied hundreds of times, but so great was the ancient's desire for accuracy and accountability, the verses remained unchanged. Not a single jot or tittle had been removed, replaced or relocated.

Did I say it was the copiers' desire to keep the text accurate? So it was. But it was also the will and direction of the Holy Spirit that kept those ancient eyes focused, those hands steady and faithful.

This He did so that you, living far removed in time and distance from that ancient synagogue, might be sure: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, the discovery of this small manuscript is a little thing, but it is a little thing You have used to assure me of a big truth: Your Holy Scriptures are able to point me unerringly toward heaven. For this I offer my thanks in the Savior's Name. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,



Pastor Ken Klaus
Speaker Emeritus of **The Lutheran Hour**
Lutheran Hour Ministries

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November Birthdays

- Nov. 4 Marianne Burnworth
5 Joey Weinstock
7 Benjamin Ulrich
8 Jamie Benson
Millie Johnson
9 Randy Brech
Pat Sall
14 Fred Brechbuhl
15 TJ Williams
26 Jaci Brown
Jeanne Hayden
Kitty McDaniel
Bobbi Schasny
Jim Woodburn



November Anniversaries

- Nov. 3 Dan & Heather Brechbuhl
7 Dave & Cheri Esslinger
28 Mani & Patrisha Boniek



The Things Kids Say . . .

A little boy walked down the beach, and as he did, he spied a matronly woman sitting under a beach umbrella on the sand. He walked up to her and asked, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes." "Do you read your Bible every day?" She nodded her head, "Yes." "Do you pray often?" the boy asked next, and again she answered, "Yes." With that he asked his final question. "Will you hold my quarter while I go swimming?"

One day a space shuttle crashed to the ground in the yard of a preschool. When he finally struggled out of the wreckage, the astronaut shouted, "I'm free! I'm free!!!" At this point, one of the little children standing there shouted back, "Big deal, I'm four!"

A Sunday School teacher asked her class, "Does anyone here know what we mean by sins of omission?" A small girl replied: "Aren't those the sins we should have committed, but didn't?"

A bright 8-year-old child was being tested by the Speech Teacher and was given analogies and asked to describe the following differences: Speech Teacher: "What's the difference between an oak tree and a Christmas tree?" Child: "One has leaves and the other has needles." Teacher: "Very good! What's the difference between a saucer and a plate?" Child: "One flies and the other doesn't."

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

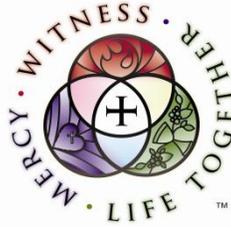
Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?" "Because white is the color of happiness and today is the happiest day of her life," her mother tried to explain, keeping it simple. The child thought about this for a moment, then said, "So, why's the groom wearing black?"

On the first day of school, the Kindergarten teacher said, "If anyone has to go to the bathroom, hold up two fingers." A little voice from the back of the room asked, "How will that help?"

A three-year-old boy went with his dad to see a litter of kittens. On returning home, he breathlessly informed his mother, "There were two boy kittens and two girl kittens." "How did you know?" his mother asked. "Daddy picked them up and looked underneath," he replied. "I think it's printed on the bottom."



A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible -- Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the verse. Little Bobby was excited about the task, but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Bobby was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my shepherd . . . and that's all I need to know!"



In Christ, for the Church and the World

“In grateful response to God’s grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments, the mission of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is to vigorously 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! In our ***Life Together***, we as individuals, and as the Body of Christ, are being continually challenged on many fronts in regard to our religious liberties and freedoms. In just a few more days we’ll be going to the polls to cast our ballot for a number of state candidates and new legislation. I pray that this repeat of a previous article will inspire all of us to be pro-active in witnessing our faith and to exercise our freedom and responsibility to ***VOTE*** in this year’s mid-term elections.

Engaging The Issues – We Can No Longer Stay Silent

(By: Becky Rogness – The Lutheran Witness, May 2016 – Page 22)

As baptized children of God, we have dual citizenship. God has given us a blessing in our earthly citizenship. Americans can uniquely participate in the political process and engage in policy discussions in the public square. As Christians, we consider our vocation as United States citizens through the lens of our heavenly citizenship.

In Matthew 5, Christ calls us to let our light shine. We do this by advocating for good order and good Government, recognizing that the authorities over us were put there by God. We pay our taxes (Matt. 22-23), and we pray for our leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2) but we don’t stand idly by as our leaders make choices that conflict with our faith and pull our nation away from God’s laws.

We don’t have to look very far to find an abortion facility where the unborn are torn apart daily. We only have to turn on the news to find another business, school or church being forced to conform to the government’s mandates against their religious liberty. And we see couples of the same gender at our courthouses taking vows reserved for an institution created by God to be between only one man and one woman.

Yes, we live in dire times where God’s good order is being assaulted at every turn. For far too long, we have taken a passive approach. We assumed someone else would engage in the public square for us. And we listened to the critics that told the Church to stay far from the state. **We can no longer stay silent!**

Asked and Answered:

One common question is, “What can I do to get involved?” How do we engage in the areas of life, marriage and religious liberty? The answer is, “It depends.” There is so much to do in these areas that each Christian should consider his or her own God-given gifts and find activities that utilize those strengths. While one person can’t imagine standing on the sidewalk outside of an abortion facility, another may find it to be the perfect fit for their abilities.

Where do you fit best as we engage in life, marriage and religious liberty issues?

(OVER)

GET ACTIVE – You can take an activist approach by participating in a religious liberty rally on the steps of your courthouse or by marching in the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. These events need bodies at them to capture the attention of lawmakers and the media. You might organize a petition to elected officials about legislation that protects religious liberty or you might write a letter to the editor proclaiming that children fare best when raised by a mom and dad. Finally, you can protect the unborn and defend marriage and religious liberty when you vote for candidates that have pledged to remain strong on these issues.

START SERVING – We serve our neighbors when we volunteer our time at organizations advancing the causes of life, marriage and religious liberty. Our littlest neighbors and their mothers benefit when we do something as simple as folding baby clothes at a pregnancy resource center. We serve those caught in the crossfire of the religious liberty debate when we patronize a florist, baker or photographer who refused to condone actions contrary to our Christian beliefs.

SPEAK UP – We witness when we proclaim the truth on these issues either verbally or just by showing up. Sidewalk counselors will tell you they always need more loving people outside of abortion facilities or to participate in prayerful efforts like 40 Days for Life. We don't show up to condemn those pursuing an abortion decision but rather to encourage life and show God's love and mercy to them. With two-thirds of adults on social media, we recognize that we can witness on these channels too. We share articles rooted in God's Word and filled with reason that inform our friends and family about the unborn; one man, one woman marriage; and religious liberty.

These ideas, to engage through activism, service and witness, are just a sample of how you can let God's light shine. Opportunities abound. Get involved, and don't give up. On the days your efforts seem futile, don't despair. When you are bullied for your beliefs, pray for those who persecute you. Christ warned us that we will be hated for His name's sake (Matt. 24:9) Remember that our earthly citizenship is only temporary.

We have citizenship in heaven that will last for all eternity. Through Baptism, we were marked as one of Christ's own. Christ is on the throne yesterday, today and forever. (Heb.13:8) He is the true light that the darkness of abortion, same-sex marriage and government coercion cannot overcome. **No matter how welcome or unwelcome we are in the public square, Christ will continue His reign** and we will continue as citizens of His heavenly court.

By God's grace, may we always be well informed and stay up-to-date on the news surrounding life, marriage and religious liberty issues. ***Free to Be Faithful*** (lcms.org/freetobeforthful), ***LCMS Life Ministry***

(lcms.org/life) and ***Lutherans for Life*** (lutheransforlife.org) are very good places to start. May we be steadfast in prayer for the protection of life, for those in same-sex unions and that we may freely continue to live out our God-given faith and convictions. Serving our neighbors, loving one another and voting will always be active means of witnessing God's love and truth in these troubling times.

Your fellow servant in the Lord;
Mike Brown, President
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church & School
Ph: 303 438-5766 / E: mbrown_presbslc@comcast.net

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

“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)



Our Stewardship Message

(November 2018)

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or overseas than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like – how we are supposed to love our neighbor.

The fact that we don't like hearing about stewardship certainly means we ought to face it. Here are a few simple and practical realities.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. This means we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and give that first. We write the check to the Lord's work in the Church before we pay the mortgage or pay for our medicine or pay for anything else.

We don't pay for all the stuff we need, and think we need, and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of "sacrificial."

Next, how could the starting point for Christian generosity and sacrifice really be anything less than a tithe – 10 percent? The ceremonial law of the Old Testament was never arbitrary. In the Old Testament, the Levites received this tithe so they could be full-time ministers.

Does the New Testament have a ministry that is larger or smaller? It is far larger: "Make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19).

And we are still to have a full-time ministry: "The Lord has commanded that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel" (1 Cor. 9:14).

So, if 10 percent was needed in the Old Testament, and we have a bigger mission need in the New Testament, how can we expect the Lord's work to be done on less than a tithe?

First-fruits, sacrificial, generous giving – that's the way. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've out-given God's goodness or that we've given plenty.

We might be tempted to think so but consider – no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

Or, as St. Paul said, bringing the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church:

"I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

As you can see, what the Bible commands about our stewardship can sting. It's law, and the law shows our sins. It calls us to repentance.

The law is meant to expose and accuse for the sake of showing us Christ and His fulfillment of the law. If first-fruits, sacrificial giving has you squirming, that's the point.

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 5,000, Jesus took the disciples' five loaves and two fish and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing.

(Over)

Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing.

He, who fed His people in the desert with manna every morning, doesn't need their bread. But they need to give it. And what they give, however little it might be, however grudgingly they do so, He blesses it.

He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them, the givers – not just in that they wind up with (a basket full for each loaf) but that they learned to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

He does all things well and works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, they love Him, and they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.

We are "Consecrated Stewards" to the Glory of God!



Send a Card – it could brighten someone's day

Listed below are the names and addresses of some of our members that are either homebound or due to distance and/or lack of transportation are not able to worship with us on a regular basis. Take a minute, send a card, make someone smile!

Mr. & Mrs. John (Elaine) Brinkey, 11121 Dahlia Way, Thornton, CO 80233

Mrs. Dixie Cassily, 5405 E. 125th Place, Thornton, CO 80241

Mrs. Maxine Craiger, 269 Garnet Street, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Gerd Crandall, (in the process of relocating)

Mrs. Wilda Davenport 1232 Tipperary, Boulder, CO 80303

Mr. Hubert Diedrichs, The Argyle, 4115 W. 38th Avenue, Room 213, Denver, CO 80212

Mrs. Linda Frederking, 225 Waneka Pkwy, Room 108, Lafayette, CO 80026

Mrs. Patricia Kubat, 12431 King Court, #243, Broomfield, CO 80020

Mrs. Roberta Nigon, 1213 Jefferson, Louisville, CO 80027

Mr. James Nuoffer, 9160 W. 64th Avenue, Apt. 1, Arvada, CO 80004

Mrs. Pat Sall, 12610 Hudson Street, Apt. 317, Thornton, CO 80241

Mr. & Mrs. Ron (Jeanie) Savage, 2001 W. 92nd Ave, #766, Federal Heights, CO 80260

Mr. Bill Schierkolk, 11150 Irving Drive, Apt. 102, Westminster, CO 80031

Mrs. Ruby Stolz, 10300 Sheridan, Suite 103, Westminster, CO 80020

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sylvester, 2425 S. Miller Court, Lakewood, CO 80227

Mrs. Verna Walsh, 12975 Sheridan Blvd., Room 231, Broomfield, CO 80020



“The Lutheran Hour”
Sermon Schedule for November 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**

- Nov. 4th** ***“The Problem of Heaven”*** (Rev. 7:9-18)
What if we get to heaven – and we don’t like it?
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**)
- Nov. 11th** ***“What is Heaven?”*** (John 17:1-5)
A message by Michael Zeigler for the The Lutheran Hour based on John 17:1-5.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**)
- Nov. 18th** ***“Once And For All”*** (Hebrews 10:11-19)
Rev. Dr. Tony Cook shares God’s message of forgiveness – “In Jesus, our Great High Priest, we have found the perfect and permanent solution to our separation and sin”.
(Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook**)
- Nov. 25th** ***“Birth Pains”*** (Mark 13:1-37)
A message by Michael Ziegler for The Lutheran Hour based on Mark 13:1-37.
(Lutheran Hour Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**)

Please contact Mike Brown at (303) 438-5766 or 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**.

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 or call **1-800-876-9880**. **THANK YOU!**





What is Advent?

The Church divides the year into different seasons that emphasize the life of Christ and the life of the Church. Beginning on Sunday, December 2, 2018, we will enter the season of the Church year called Advent. Advent is the season of preparation and anticipation leading up to Christmas, and continuing to Epiphany Sunday on January 6, 2019.

The focus of Advent is two-fold. On the one hand, we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and man so that our sins might be forgiven. On the other hand, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and bring an end to this world. Those will be scary days, but we can look forward to the end of the world with hope because through faith in Jesus, the end of this world will mean the beginning of a new life with Christ for eternity.

Advent, then, is a time for us to repent and believe. Knowing that Jesus was born to forgive our sins, we repent (admit our failures to God) and believe that we are forgiven because of the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf. Also, knowing that Jesus is coming back, we repent and believe that when He returns, He will give us eternal life.

Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

“The Coming King”

What God has done for the world is most intimately expressed in the life of His Son Jesus. In “***The Coming King***”, explore God’s marvelous work through the lives of those who were on the scene at the time of the Savior’s birth.

The coming Savior’s birth was foretold by the prophets of old and later experienced by many who were on hand as He came into this world. Mary and Joseph, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon, shepherds, wise men from the east, a legion of angels, and even King Herod – all play their parts in the Gospel narratives that speak of the Savior’s incarnation. Explore the many ways their lives were touched as God became one of us, for each of us, in “***The Coming King***”.

If you would like to join thousands of other subscribers for these daily inspirational messages please go on-line to www.lhm.org/advent to read, download, listen and/or share these messages with your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

Note: As an added feature to this year’s Advent Devotions, there are questions in the appendix for each day’s message. These can be used for self-study or as prompts for discussion when reflecting with others.