

Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.”

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Pastor Wurm

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities.

For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

Romans 13:1

Prayer for our Governing Authorities

Undoubtedly you have noticed milieu of campaign ads filling your mailbox, the local television commercial slots, radio station breaks, and the front yard of the house on the corner for all to see. It is election time once again. Something you may or may not notice is that almost every week, in the prayers of the church during the Divine Service, we pray for our elected and appointed officials that govern over us and our neighbor. The prayer usually goes something like this: *For our Congress, our president, our justices and all in authority in our land, that God would grant them wisdom, courage, civility and honor as they carry out their difficult responsibilities, let us pray to the Lord: Lord, have mercy.*

A number of years ago I recall watching our LCMS President, Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, testify before the U.S. Department Health and Human Services (HHS) congressional committee concerning the new health care bill. That bill required employers to pay for pregnancy ending drugs called abortifacients. That kind of action would not be permissible for our synod's institutions and insurance plans, so President Harrison spoke up. He testified (witnessed) to the HHS con-

gressional investigative committee that every week the president and the congress of the United States are lifted up in our corporate prayers of the church. The efforts of the LCMS World Relief and Human Care touches the lives of tens of thousands every year. The work of our parochial schools, universities, nursing homes, orphanages, and other care agencies would all effectively close if the government were to fine our religious agencies noncompliance.

A Congressman at the hearing asked President Harrison what would happen if the bill wasn't changed or an exemption given. Harrison replied that our synod's stance on abortifacients would not budge. We would go to jail before we would condone the ending of life in the womb. The rest of the panel, a Baptist church leader, a Roman Catholic Cardinal, and an Orthodox Jew all agreed. The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment for exercising the free exercise religion defended their position.

Holy Scripture does not say we must agree with the governing authorities placed over us, but we are to be subject to them (Rom. 13:1). God gives us our elected and appointed officials for our protection and our good. Whether we agree with them or not, we still owe them our taxes, revenue, respect, and honor (Rom. 13:7). They are given for our benefit.

In the United States we are blessed beyond measure because of the form of our government and its balance of power. Within this respectable system, we can have a voice and use it to make a difference as President Harrison showed in his testimony before the HHS committee. We can speak and we can vote and we should do both in order to benefit our neighbor's needs first. Most importantly, we should pray for our governing officials, and we do. **Lord have mercy.**

In Christ,

Pastor Matt Wurm

A Word From Pastor Bauer



The Un-Churched Witnessing, Part 4

“Un-churched.” “Non-churched.” “De-churched.” “Seekers.” “Non-religious.” How do we describe people who are not Christian? This question has been on the table for a very long time, but these terms of ours are all relatively new answers that we’ve come up with.

What do words such as “un-churched” imply? What sort of person might you call “un-churched”? Perhaps Bob is a guy you know from work. You’ve gotten to know him a little bit. You often hear about what his kids are up to and the family vacation they’re planning for Christmas. You think, “Bob’s got a lot of great things going on, and he’s such a nice guy, but man it would be good for him to be a Christian. But unfortunately he’s un-churched.”

“Unfortunately he’s un-churched.” That simply doesn’t get at the severity of the situation, and this is where our new words fail us.

Do you know what everybody used to call people who didn’t go to church or who didn’t believe in the one true God? Unbelievers. Heathens. Damned. Outside of salvation. Destined for hell. Irreligious. Pagans. God-less. Anathematized.

If, by default, everybody *despises* God and his Word (we do believe in original sin, don’t we?), then tamed-down terms like “un-churched” simply don’t cut it. What these terms do instead is make it seem as if something is missing in the person’s life—as if Christianity is a welcome addition to an otherwise blessed existence.

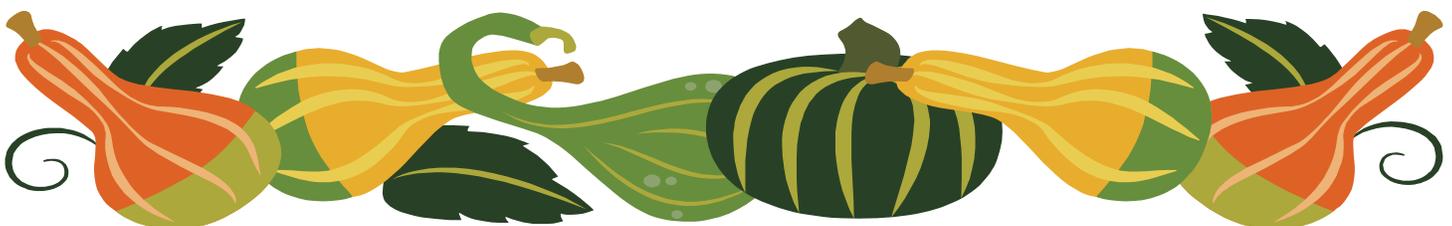
False. Christianity is not a fringe aspect of a person’s life. It is the foundation upon which we stand. Being baptized, and therefore highly valued, is the reason we get out of bed in the morning. Jesus’ blood is the right by which we continue to live here and now and will live eternally with him. Jesus’ word and Spirit are *the* means by which we can interpret the world around us to be anything but karma or random chance.

Without Jesus, unbelievers are lost. And it’s good to identify them as such because the Son of Man came to seek and to save, not the slightly misguided or unfulfilled, but the lost. If Bob doesn’t deserve death, then Jesus shouldn’t have gone so far as to die for him. If Bob already has a pretty good understanding of the world, then Jesus must have been mistaken when he identified himself as *the Way, the Truth, and the Life*.

This is not to say that we must always think of Bob as an evil person. He’s no more evil than you are, apart from Christ. He probably is a very nice guy who really takes care of his family and volunteers every weekend and yada yada. He may well even be a “better person” than you are. There’s even a chance that he likes some of what the Bible has to say (it is both true and reasonable, after all). But he does not want the one true God to be the one true God. Nobody does. Not until the Holy Spirit, working through the Word and Sacraments, makes them. And so Bob is damned.

This is our impetus to proclaim to Bob the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection. If Bob is simply un-churched, he might get along just fine without us. If Bob is outside of salvation, however, then he needs to be saved from sin, death, and the devil. He cannot do it on his own, and, unless he repents and believes, these will be his destiny, now and forever. Let’s stop using nice-sounding language to downplay the significance of the Gospel.

In Christ,
Pastor Bauer



Date	First Reading	Second Reading
November 1	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Matthew 21:1-22
November 2	Jeremiah 1:1-19	Matthew 21:23-46
November 3	Jeremiah 3:6-4:2	Matthew 22:1-22
November 4	Jeremiah 5:1-19	Matthew 22:23-46
November 5	Jeremiah 7:1-29	Matthew 23:1-12
November 6	Jeremiah 8:18-9:12	Matthew 23:13-39
November 7	Jeremiah 11:1-23	Matthew 24:1-28
November 8	Jeremiah 20:1-18	Matthew 24:29-51
November 9	Jeremiah 22:1-23	Matthew 25:1-13
November 10	Jeremiah 23:1-20	Matthew 25:14-30
November 11	Jeremiah 23:21-40	Matthew 25:31-46
November 12	Jeremiah 25:1-18	Matthew 26:1-19
November 13	Jeremiah 26:1-19	Matthew 26:20-35
November 14	Jeremiah 29:1-19	Matthew 26:36-56
November 15	Jeremiah 30:1-24	Matthew 26:57-75
November 16	Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34	Matthew 27:1-10
November 17	Jeremiah 33:1-22	Matthew 27:11-32
November 18	Jeremiah 37:1-21	Matthew 27:33-56
November 19	Jeremiah 38:1-28	Matthew 27:57-66
November 20	Daniel 1:1-21	Matthew 28:1-20
November 21	Daniel 2:1-23	Revelation 18:1-24
November 22	Daniel 2:24-49	Revelation 19:1-21
November 23	Daniel 3:1-30	Revelation 20:1-15
November 24	Daniel 4:1-37	Revelation 21:1-8
November 25	Daniel 5:1-30	Revelation 21:9-27
November 26	Daniel 6:1-28	Revelation 22:1-21
November 27	Isaiah 1:1-28	1 Peter 1:1-12
November 28	Isaiah 2:1-22	1 Peter 1:13-25
November 29	Isaiah 5:1-25	1 Peter 2:1-12
November 30	Isaiah 6:1-7:9	1 Peter 2:13-25

Daily Liturgical Dictionary

WHERE WE STAND



September 2018

Baptism: Malix Harrington

Transfers In: Rusty, Megan, Lia, Josie & Oliver Olson
Dave, Jessica, Colby, Kynslee, Ava & Boedy Gatzke

Marriage: Matt & Monique (Mack) Konrad

Funeral: Shirley Wiese

Darlene Carpenter	The Neighborhoods, 2421 Yorkshire Dr. Ash #6	
Delores Carpenter	ULC, 405 1st Ave. #112	
Amy Heidemann	1615 Main Ave. S.	
Barb Hines	ULC, 405 1st Ave. #307	692-4423
Pearl Huether	104 4th St. #116	692-5810
Joyce Peters	2410 Sunrise Ridge Cir. #107	692-4781
Tyler Krump	17267 W. 3rd St., Redfield, SD 57469	605-472-4323
Floyd & Alyce Melrose	1906 12th St. S. #33	692-5755
Chris Wellnitz	701 1st Ave. NE #104, Watertown, SD 57201	605-886-6449

Our church family includes a few people who are not able to attend church and church activities regularly. The listing above is those considered home bound. We ask our active members to please remember these folks with visits, cards and/or prayers.

GROUPS WITH NEWS



Ladies' Morning Out will enjoy an evening out on Friday, November 16 when the gals put paint brush to canvas and create a fabulous piece of art. Come to church at 6:30pm. No art experience required. All ladies of Mt. Calvary are welcome to come for a fun evening out and enjoy some cookies too! See Pamela Baker with questions.



Mt. Calvary LWML/Aid met October 4 with 14 members present. Pastor Bauer led the devotion. The Birthday Song was sung for 2 members. The League Pledge was said and the minutes of the previous meeting and the Treasurer's report of \$1,686.02 were approved. Human Care have 21 quilts finished and material to be bought for 22 more. Cards were sent to those needing cheer. There was 1 funeral served. Blankets are to be tied at 1:30 on October 18. The Fall Festival is October 6. There will be fun, food and friendship. October 7 is LWML Sunday with handouts, pens and a noisy offering. Brookings Zone Rally will be on October 27 at 9:00. All assignments have been filled. A Christmas tea/luncheon will be December 8 at 9:00am. All mothers, daughters, sisters and friends are invited. Ladies' Morning Out will be November 16 with canvas and cookies. Hostess for November is Laura. The meeting adjourned with the Table Prayer.

Submitted by Secretary,
Pat



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.

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.

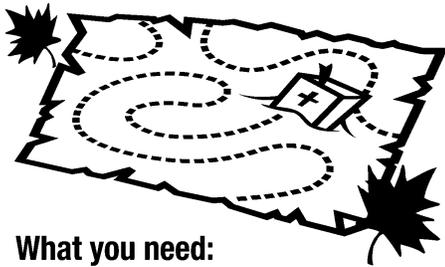
The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly or asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord.

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.

CALVARY KIDS CORNER

FALL SCAVENGER Hunt

Enjoy searching for seasonal aspects of God's creation!



What you need:

- Family members and friends, divided into groups if desired
- Maps of local areas
- Lists of fall-related items (one per person or group)
- Digital cameras or smartphones
- Prizes

What you do:

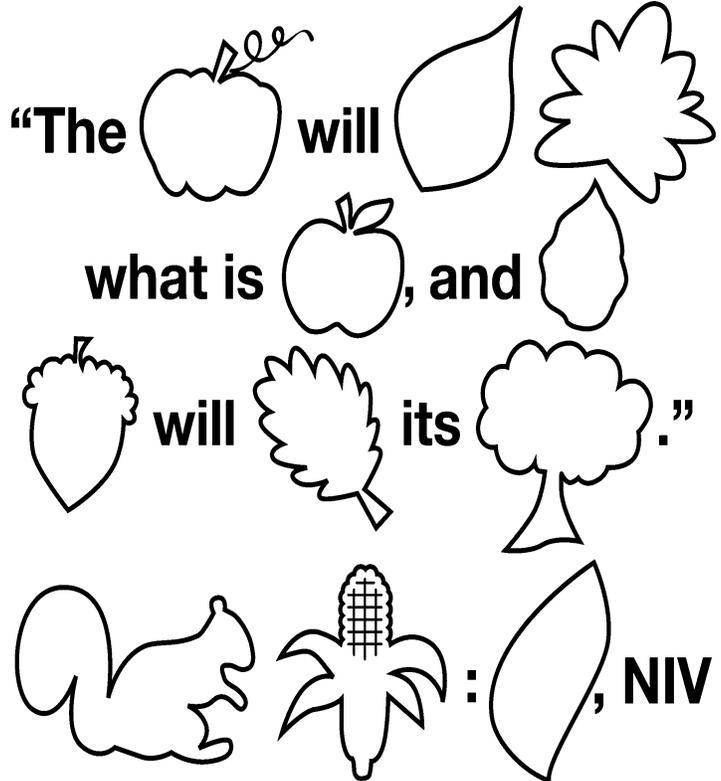
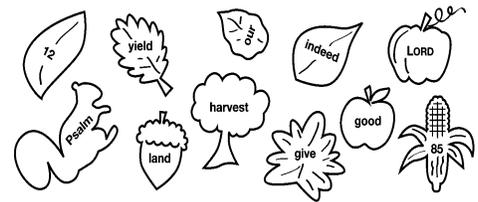
1. Hand out maps and lists of items (scarecrow, pumpkin, red leaf, squirrel, apple tree, pine cone, acorn, bug, bird, sunflower, etc.)
2. Instruct participants to walk through their assigned area, find and take photos of the items, and report back at a specific time.
3. When everyone returns, share your photos. Award prizes for the most items found, the most unusual item and so on.



HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.



Answer: "The LORD will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest." Psalm 85:12, NIV