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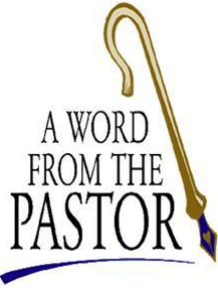
Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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QUIET MUTTERING

The Impossible Task



Living a Christian life, especially the proper shape and rhythm of devotional practices, has been a question on the minds of believers ever since the beginning. A question I too have

and continue to grapple with regularly. Christians from all over the world have painted pictures of an ideal Christian life ranging from living alone in the desert, to faithfully carrying out one's daily tasks in the midst of normal life. But no matter the final picture of what a good Christian life should look like, things eventually come back to the underlying issue. What is the point of living? What are humans actually created to do and be?

The answer to these questions can be found quite clearly in the iconic sermon of Moses held in the book of Deuteronomy:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.” - Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Love God.... What does it mean to Love God? It is a question that sits at the heart of all Christian life and expression. It is something I have found myself completely unable to understand in my own personal life. Either, I obsessively drive to express this full bodied love with puritanical regularity and sterile structure. Yet in this obsessive drive to “love” God, what should be times of devotion become grudging chores of obligation, or mindless repetition. But when desperately trying to avoid this, I relax into

apathetic forgetfulness, wandering around, struggling to find the time, energy, or will to approach such a lofty task as loving God with my whole being.

There seems to be no in-between. A basic human ineptitude to even begin this journey of being. The more I have learned, the scarier this reality has become – everyone who says they have figured it out are just plain lying. There is no guru or path to enlightenment. We sinful humans have no commonality with a holy – perfect – God. Yet at the same time, this is the same God who spoke us into existence. The one who is the source and sustainer of our very life, without Whom we would be less than nothing: uncreated, formless, and void.

This dissonance is not something that can be dismissed. It is a basic part of our human conundrum. An element that finds expression in every area of our lives. It is a problem that screams for an answer. The answer that so often seems to be: “try harder,” “spend more time,” “just be a better person.” Yet no matter how hard we try, nothing but failure and disappointment lie down those roads. The words of Isaiah are bitter truths in our ears: “We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.” - Isaiah 64:6

Our human inability to love God is summed up succinctly in the words of R.C. Sproul in his book *The Holiness of God*:

“How can we love a holy God? The simplest answer I can give to this vital question is that we can’t. Loving a holy God is beyond our moral power. The only kind of God we can love by our sinful nature is an unholy god, an idol made by our own hands. Unless we are born of the Spirit of God, unless God sheds His holy love in our hearts, unless He stoops in His grace to change our hearts, we will not love Him.”

The radical power of the Gospel is that it makes the impossible possible. In and of myself there is no love for God. I can work and toil, sweat and groan but the works of my heart crumble into dust in my

hands. But through the work of Jesus, there is another way.

All humans are moving in a direction. In our sinful condition we are moving away from God. The fractures of sin and evil threaten to pull us apart piece by piece, hurtling us ever closer to the uncreated chaos of nothingness. In the words of St. Athanasius:

“Evil has not from the beginning been with God or in God, nor has any substantive existence; but that men, in default of the vision of good, began to devise and imagine for themselves what was not.” - Contra Genetis §7

In essence, evil and sin is striving for what is not. Desiring and seeking after what God has not created and is not good. To love God is to be completely recreated. Pulled, not toward nothingness, but toward connection with the maker Himself. It is in God alone that we find order for our disorder, peace for our chaos, wholeness for our fractured beings. It is in returning to the origin of our creation that the Creator teaches us how to love again. Apart from Him we have nothing, especially not love.



In life this looks like a constant journey to return to the lost reality of God's good creation. Yet this reality is not lost, it is here - now - in the work and will of Jesus. Not just being restored, but reimagined and recreated by the powerful hand of God. “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at Hand!” rings true today just as it did during the earthly ministry of Jesus. God is with us reaching into our mess to lovingly pick up our broken pieces.

My prayer for this new year is that the Holy Spirit may turn our hearts to enter into this love that surpasses our human understanding. That in all our comings and goings this love may reign supreme.

“We love because he first loved us.” - 1 John 4:19

Amen. May it be so.

**In His Grip,
Pastor Brenden Harrell**



Nov	10	Edda Bevilacqua
Nov	11	Nancy Cullen
Nov	13	Dena Maddison
Nov	14	Xavier Vargas
Nov	16	Kelli Zamudio
Nov	17	Nalea Galeana
Nov	25	Lily Vargas
Nov	29	Rebecca Foley



Nov	22	Noel & Clara Rowe
Nov	26	Randy & Crystal Shaffer
Nov	28	Bruce & Heidi Summers



**Daylight saving ends on
November 2, 2025**

MOWING for NOVEMBER



**Nov 01 – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
Nov 15 – Hathaway, Mayes
Nov 29 – Williamson, Tate, Oliver**



Nov 01 Mowing – Atrops, LaBelle, Allred
 Nov 01 1:00 pm – Doreen Fasig memorial
 Nov 02 9:00 am – SS/Bible Study
 Nov 02 10:00 am – Comm. Svc.
 Nov 04 Special Election (SH)
 Nov 04 3:00 – 4:30 PM – SH in Use (Shelter)
 Nov 05 10:00 – 11:30- am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study
 Nov 06 4:00 pm – Elders' Meeting
 Nov 06 5:00 pm – SH in use (Lange)
 Nov 07 3:00 pm – Wedding rehearsal (Lange)
 Nov 07 4:00 pm – SH in use (rehearsal dinner)
 Nov 08 1:00 pm – Lange-Jones wedding
 Nov 09 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
 Nov 09 10:00 am - Worship Svc.
 Nov 10 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Men's Group
 Nov 11 9:30 – 11:30 am – Quilters
 Nov 12 10:00 – 11:30- am – Sm. Grp. Bible Study
 Nov 14 6:00 – 8:00 pm – Parents' Night Out
 Nov 15 Mowing – Hathaway, Mayes
 Nov 16 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
 Nov 16 10:00 am – Praise/Comm. Svc.
 Nov 16 11:00 am – Council Mtg.
 Nov 16 2:00 pm – Adult Fellowship
 Nov 17 9:00 am – Nov. Ministry Availability Due
 Nov 18 5:30 pm – P/S Board Mtg.
 Nov 20 9:00 am – Nov. Newsletter Deadline
 Nov 23 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
 Nov 23 10:00 am - Worship Svc.
 Nov 29 Mowing – Williamson, Tate, Oliver
 Nov 30 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
 Nov 30 10:00 am - Worship Svc.

ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE



Nov 02 – Comm. Svc. – All Saints
 10:00 AM – Peggy Payne
 Flowers: Blessings received - Langes

 Nov 09 – Worship Svc.
 10:00 AM – Emma Riley
 Flowers: OPEN

 Nov 16 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Stephanie Clavin
 Flowers: OPEN

Nov 23 – Worship Svc.
 10:00 AM – Lori Williamson
 Flowers: 52nd wedding anniversary – Rowes

Nov 30 – Worship Svc.
 10:00 AM – Kelly Olney
 Flowers: Shaffers in memory of Kiersten
 Shaffer, Thomas Shaffer, & Christopher
 Dykes' birthdays

ELDER'S CORNER

Obedient Servants

Healing by miraculous means is done in prayer and obedience in how and when the word speaks to us. We must realize that healing in any life or instance comes by God's power in our lives and only through Him and his power does the healing and is made perfect. Many times we act out of pity or our generosity to others in need. Our mode of operation or our actions should be through love just as Christ loved us! Ultimately God's Love and healing changes hearts.

In Colossians 4:5 Paul says; "make the most of every opportunity"! We not only can do what is before us, but God allows us to excel in all we do and accomplish, even more with Him as our guide. Every day something requires us to take action, or someone needs our help or assistance to get by. Sometimes there is danger or peril. How do we react? Difficult times or situations require us to have a sound foundation! That foundation is in Jesus Christ! Sometimes our conscience troubles us, when we do not pray and act when we could have. God continually works in us encouraging us to do what is right in His eyes. He says when you help one of these you are helping Me! That should motivate us to do the will of our Father! God's Divine love and grace flows through us to others!

When we don't have the answer, we have a loving source available! Our deliverer Jesus Christ! The Holy Spirit warns us and Angels keep guard around us. We as Christians, move as the Holy Spirit works within us. Christians pray and ask God for help for each day and the challenges that unfold. II Corinthians 2:14 Says "For the love of Christ controls and urges and impels us, because we are of the opinion and conviction, that if God died for all, then all died; and He died for all, so that all those who live, might live no longer to and for themselves,

but to and for Him Who died and was raised for their sake."

We all have a "ministry". John the Baptist was a servant of God, as he baptized all who believed in Jesus Christ. We are all called as well, to be servants, to do the work of God when the Holy Spirit moves us. II Corinthians 5:18 says; "But all things are from God. Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself (received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself) and gave us the ministry of reconciliation-that by word and deed we might help bring others into harmony with Him". So, God says that through Jesus Christ, God draws us to Himself, so we like Him, can be servants of all, allowing us to grow and become what God wants us to be, all motivated by God's amazing Grace and Love for us. We then thru grace have "That favor and harmony in Christ"!

Being a servant of all, allows Christ to work in and through us. Being a servant of God we grow daily in everything we do and say! Read and pray about it! I also know in my heart that God has much more in store for us and what direction we're heading in. God has much more to reveal to us through our faith and trust in Him and His grace!

Remember the song: "If you wanna be great in God's Kingdom you gotta be a servant of all!"

In His Love, Truth and Grace!
Tom Heuchert



You are invited to join your church family for Thanksgiving on November 27th. We will be eating our feast prepared by the Foleys around 2pm. Please RSVP to Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443 or sign up on the patio. When you do so, please sign up to bring napkins, dessert plates, dinner plates, plastic ware, cups, a dessert, or rolls.



Once again, we are collecting non-perishable food items the first three Sundays in November (9th, 16th, and 23rd), for those who may need some extra help during the Thanksgiving holiday. Please bring your food items, like canned vegetables and fruits, soups, peanut butter, cereal, rice, plus Thanksgiving food items like stuffing mix, canned yams, canned cranberries, etc. and place them in the basket in the Narthex upon entering church. If you know of anyone (you, your family, your neighbors, your friends, your acquaintances) who could benefit from this, please let Linda Sweeney know at 805-934-3112.



Join the fun at **Parent's Night Out** hosted monthly in Stanhke Hall for our preschool and church families. Children play from 6-8pm, while the parents get time to themselves. Sign up to volunteer at the next event scheduled for November 14th and December 19th. For more information, contact Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.

COULD YOU TELL US YOUR BIRTHDAY? YOUR BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAY, THAT IS!



Anytime in the next few weeks, you could email us, or use the form found at the usher's table and drop it in the box at the rear of the church. For you and each person in your household, we would like to have as much as you know of: Month, day, year, and where. If you do not know for sure, we would still appreciate your best guess as to the MONTH. You can email the information to the church office @ lcosoffice22@gmail.com. Thank you.

WEDDING BELLS TO RING



*You are cordially invited to
the wedding of
Bonnie Jo Lange
and
Greg Jones
on Saturday,
November 8, 2025,
1:00 pm
at
Lutheran Church of Our Savior*



Continue to follow BWABKenya, formerly known as Fikisha, on Instagram at bwabkenya or on Facebook at Boy With A Ball Kenya. The latest post says, "Education is a cornerstone of community growth. Our kids' outreach initiative ensures that every child, regardless of background, has access to quality learning support. Through tutoring and mentorship, we nurture confidence, strengthen academic foundations, and inspire a lifelong love for learning." Thank you for the continued support of this mission outreach in Nairobi, Kenya. A mission trip is being planned for Spring 2028. Contact Paul and Lisa DiModica for more information.



Over 30 volunteers made the 2025 LWML yard sale a success. \$2,848 of "stuff" was sold! Also 3 pickups and 3 trailers were used to take "leftover stuff" to the thrift store. On October 7 those attending quilting/LWML meeting, distributed the funds. \$1,000 to Care Net Pregnancy Center in Santa Maria to purchase 5 square feet to assist the Center in their renovations of their newly acquired facility, particularly the ultra sound room. \$1,000 to help pay shipping costs of the 210 shoeboxes LCOS plans to pack next month. \$800 (or up to \$800) to purchase a reliable, straight stitch sewing machine for quilting. The balance of \$48 will remain in the treasury.



YIKES! It's Shoebox time! Items needed to fill LCOS's proposed 210 gospel opportunities are: 1000 pencils, 200 rulers, 93 hairbrushes, 130 sharpeners, 143 wash cloths, 2-3 reams of paper or 20-30 notebooks. Donations may be placed in Samaritan's Purse box in Stahnke Hall. National Collection week is November 17-24.

IN MEMORIAM

LCOS extends its deepest sympathy to Ed Fasig and family on the recent death of his wife, Doreen. A memorial service will be held at LCOS on Saturday, November 1 at 1:00pm followed by a light reception.



NOVEMBER 2025
CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD/FLOWERS
2 Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Ali Mayes	Mark Hathaway Art Atrops	Mike Foley	Melanie Mayes	Chad Thorstenson	Altar: Peggy Payne Flowers: Blessings received - Langes
9 Sunday	10:00 AM	Drew Schofield	Rudy Stowell	Diana Brown	Gary Lange	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Emma Olney Flowers: OPEN
16 Praise Sunday	10:00 AM Communion	Trevor Schofield	Dennis Payne Todd Martin	Jim LaBelle	Becky Zielke	Ed Buchholz	Altar: Stephanie Clavin Flowers: OPEN
23 Sunday	10:00 AM	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Paul Mattson	Debbie Heuchert	Diana Brown	Altar: Lori Williamson Flowers: 52nd wedding anniversary - Rowes
27 Thanksgiving	9:00 AM	Elder	Mark Hathaway	Bill Williamson	Michael Southern	Dennis Payne	Altar: Kelly Olney Flowers:
30 Sunday	10:00 AM	Elder	Rudy Stowell	Michael Southern	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Altar: Becky Foley Flowers: In loving memory of Kiersten Shaffer, Thomas Shaffer, & Christopher Dykes birthdays by the Shaffers
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		ACOLYTES *Mark Hathaway 937- 9675	ELDERS *Dennis Payne 934-1101	USHERS *Art Atrops 937-0485	READERS *Todd Martin 801-3873	MEDIA *Dennis Payne 934-1101	ALTAR GUILD Becky Zielke 598-6924 FLOWERS Connie Hathaway 937- 9675 FLOWER MINISTRY Debbie Heuchert 264-4599

1. PLEASE ARRANGE FOR ANY CHANGE(s) BY TRADING WITH ANOTHER MINISTER
2. PLEASE NOTIFY THE PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT OF ANY CHANGE(s).
3. INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES(s) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE - 937-1116

NOVEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Mowing: Atrops, LaBelle, Allred Fasig mem. 1pm
2 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Comm. Svc. DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS 2AM	3 4:00 pm Elections set-up	4 6:00 am – 9:00pm Special Election 9:45AM – P/S Chapel (Sanct.) 3:00 – 4:30 PM – SH in Use (Shelter)	5 10:00 – 11:30 AM Small Group Bible Study	6 4:00 – Elders’ Mtg. 5:00 pm SH in use (Lange)	7 3:00pm Wedding rehearsal (Lange-Jones) SH in use all day	8 1:00 PM Lange-Jones wedding
9 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM –Worship Svc.	10 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Men’s Group	11 9:30 – 11:30 AM – Quilters 9:45AM – P/S Chapel (Sanct.) 5:30 PM – P/S Bd. Mtg.	12 10:00 – 11:30 AM Small Group Bible Study	13	14 6:00 – 8:00 PM Parents’ Night Out	15 Mowing: Hathaway, Mayes
16 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00 AM – Council Mtg. 2:00 PM – Adult Flwshp	17 December Ministry Availability Due OCC Collection	18 9:45AM – P/S Chapel (Sanct.) OCC Collection	19 OCC Collection	20 December Newsletter Deadline OCC Collection	21 OCC Collection	22 OCC Collection
23 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc. OCC Collection	24 OCC Collection	25 9:45AM – P/S Chapel (Sanct.)	26	27 9:00 am Thanksgiving Svc.	28	29 Mowing: Williamson, Tate, Oliver
30 9:00 AM – SS/Bible Study 10:00 AM – Worship Svc.						