

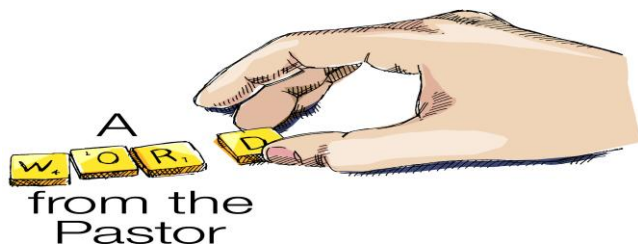


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The Artificial Mountain

Previously, we discussed two dimensions to keep in mind surrounding technology.

1. Technology is a good but damaged (because of our sin) gift from God.
2. Technology often seeks to defend from or fix some effect of sin and its curse.

With these two dimensions in mind, we can approach the next major biblical narrative that illuminates humanities fraught relationship with technology: The Tower of Babel.

A simple summary of the story following the framework we have outlined goes like this:
Language (an internal tool) and Brick and Mortar (external tools) are divorced from connection to God. They are then used for the pride and elevation of man over and against God.

The human dream seems to start innocently enough. An idea is carried by language into a set of physical technologies: "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly.' And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar"- Gen 11: 3 (ESV).

Sounds a lot like the techno-hype we live in today. "Hey look at this new shiny tool! The world will never be the same!"

While claims like this may be true, and the potential for a technology may indeed be exciting, apart from God their use seems to always lead to a false hope for human utopia. For the builders of Babel this hope was right out in the open:

"Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth" - Gen 11:4 (ESV).

On a first read, this technological dream seems mundane enough. No one today would get too excited about yet another plan to build a tower and city. Yet in this dream we see the echoes of all human pride that has followed throughout history:

- The upward dream: conquer heaven with a tower and become like God.
- The downward dream: control humans with a city, reputation... an empire....

In fact, the tower is far worse than we may realize at first. To reach up to heaven on their own means that the architects of Babel set out to construct a human and artificial version of the high place of God. The same kind of high place promised by the prophets to be built by God's hand - not humanity's:

"It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it" - Micah 4:1 (ESV).

Throughout Scripture, mountains and high places were where God is encountered and met (see my essay [Mountains of Scripture](#) for a full list) but humans have always had the problem of trying to force these high places and use them according to our human will and sinful desires.

In other words, they were making an artificial mountain. An attempt to reorient their society not around the mountain of God, or His dwelling, but a human-built center of gravity. This ends up being an attempt at their own artificial garden of Eden coming about because of technology.

It was an artificial mountain on the plain, rather than a real mountain in a range. From the false holy place, they planned to gather people together around their human accomplishments.

A world gathered around one language and an artificial mountain is nothing short of humanity that has completely cut themselves off from God.

That dark human dream has never really gone away.

The Israelites made all kinds of false high places. And chased after the "advancements" of the nations

all around them (a new Assyrian style altar anyone?
see 2 Kings 16:10-16).

Interestingly, the core technology that God disrupts
is not the external one (brick and mortar) but the
internal one (language):

“Behold, they are one people, and they have all one
language, and this is only the beginning of what they
will do. And nothing that they propose to do will
now be impossible for them” - Gen 11:6 (ESV).

In breaking up the internal tooling, the external
tooling crumbles. The once proud and indomitable
plan disappears as quickly as it was proposed.

Today we live in a world where the dream for a
techno-utopia is right out in the open. Yet while the
technologies themselves may be different and more
complex, the human dream is the same sinful one
deeply set within human consciousness. Afterall, if
technology can undo some effects of sin and
brokenness, maybe it will get us all the way back to
the garden?

Summary, the dream for techno-utopia is old and
rears its ugly head whenever we:

1. Use any technology to “free” ourselves from
God.
2. Hope to “save” humanity by technological
means (be that internal or external tooling).

Pastor Brenden Harrell



Nov 01 2:00 am - Daylight Saving Time Ends
Nov 01 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
Nov 01 10:00 am – Communion Service
Nov 01 1:00 pm – New Member class
Nov 03 6:00 am – Elections
Nov 03 3:00 pm – SH in use (Shelter)
Nov 04 10:00 am – Small Group Bible study
Nov 04 6:30 pm – Handbell practice
Nov 08 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
Nov 08 10:00 am Worship Service
Nov 08 1:00 pm – New Member class
Nov 09 4:30 pm – Elders’ Meeting

Nov 09 6:00 pm – Men’s Group
Nov 10 9:30 am – Quilters
Nov 11 10:00 am – Small Group Bible study
Nov 11 6:30 pm – Handbell practice
Nov 13 6:00 pm – Parent’s Night Out
Nov 14 Mowing – Mayberry, Tate, Oliver
Nov 15 9:00 am – SS/Bible Study
Nov 15 10:00 am – Praise/Communion Service
Nov 15 11:00 am – Council Meeting
Nov 15 2:00 pm – Adult Fellowship
Nov 16 9:00 am –Ministry Availability Due
Nov 16 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 17 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 18 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 18 6:30 pm – Handbell practice
Nov 19 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 20 9:00 am – Nov. Newsletter Deadline
Nov 20 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 21 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 22 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
Nov 22 10:00 am – Worship Service
Nov 22 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 23 OCC Shoebox collection
Nov 25 6:30 pm – Handbell practice
Nov 26 10:00am – Thanksgiving Day Service
Nov 28 Mowing – Williamson, Weiting
Nov 29 9:00 am - SS/Bible Study
Nov 29 10:00 am – Worship Service



Nov 10 Edda Bevilacqua
Nov 16 Kelli Zamudio
Nov 29 Becky Foley



Nov 22 Noel & Clara Rowe
Nov 26 Randy & Crystal Shaffer

MOWING for NOVEMBER



Nov 14 – Mayberry, Tate, Oliver

Nov 28 – Williamson, Weiting



The Old Adam, Frank Sinatra and God's Will

*"It is God's will that you should be sanctified..." —
1 Thessalonians 4:3a*

The other day, while reading my daily devotion, I came across one for October 20 titled **"Is God's Will My Will?"** It really made me stop and think. And, as sometimes happens when God gets our attention, I found myself facing a few uncomfortable questions!

Here is what the devotion said:

*"It is NOT a question of whether God is willing to sanctify me; it is a question of **am I willing to let God do in me all that has been made possible by the Atonement? Am I willing to let Jesus be my sanctification, and to let the life of Jesus be manifested in me?"***

Now, those are some pretty tough questions! We live in a world where the prevailing attitude seems to be, 'I Did It My Way!'—as Frank Sinatra famously sang. The trouble is, sometimes we sing it with such enthusiasm that we forget God might have a different song in mind! We like to make our own decisions, follow our own plans, and generally let God know that we appreciate His suggestions—especially when they happen to agree with ours!

But these questions require us to look honestly in the mirror and ask ourselves: **Am I really willing to submit my will to God's will?**

Unfortunately, if we are honest, the answer isn't always what we would like it to be. We want God's blessings, His forgiveness, His protection, and His peace. But when He starts suggesting changes in our attitudes, our priorities, or our behavior, we sometimes become a little less enthusiastic!

It's a bit like praying, "Lord, change me!" and then adding, "But please don't change *that* part. I'm rather fond of it!"

The truth is that our sinful nature, what Martin Luther calls the *Old Adam* in us, doesn't particularly care for the idea of being sanctified. The Old Adam would much rather remain in charge. He likes his



NOVEMBER ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

Nov 01 –Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Kelly Olney

Flowers: -

Nov 08 –Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Marianne Heuchert

Flowers: -

Nov 15 – Praise/Comm. Svc.

10:00 AM – Peggy Payne

Flowers: -

Nov 22 –.Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Jill Murdock

Flowers:

Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Svc.

10:00 AM – Sara Chaney

Flowers: - John Pfingsten for Joe Pfingsten's 64th birthday

Nov 29 –Worship Svc.

10:00 AM – Peggy Payne

Flowers: - Shaffers in memory of Kiersten's birthday

A trip to Fikisha in Nairobi, Kenya, is planned for June of 2028. Start saving your funds. We are always happy to host Moses and Frank here, but this is your chance to visit them and be an eyewitness of the mission we support. For more information, please see Paul and Lisa DiModica.

comfortable habits, his favorite excuses, and the freedom to do whatever he pleases. He isn't especially interested in surrendering control—even when the One asking for it is God Himself!

Why? Because deep down, we sometimes act as though our lives belong entirely to us. We forget that they have always belonged to God in the first place.

Thankfully, **our salvation does not depend on our ability to get everything right!** If it did, we would all be in serious trouble.

Through faith in Jesus Christ, we receive the forgiveness and new life He won for us through His life, death, and resurrection. Sanctification is not something we accomplish by trying harder, behaving better, or earning a few extra points with God. It is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit in us, shaping us to become more like Christ.

As the devotion reminds us, everything Jesus made possible through His Atonement becomes ours through *the free and loving gift of God.*

What an amazing thought! God loved us even when we weren't particularly interested in Him. He sent His Son to save us, not because we deserved it, but because of His boundless grace and mercy. And now, through the Holy Spirit, He continues to work in us, helping us grow in faith and live lives that reflect His love.

No wonder the Apostle Paul declares that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:39).

The devotion concludes with these words:

“Sanctification makes us one with Jesus Christ, and in Him one with God...”

And what does that look like in our daily lives? The devotion points to “obedience, service, prayer, thanks and adoration.”

In other words, God's grace changes more than our Sunday mornings. It changes how we treat our neighbors, how we serve others, how we forgive those who have wronged us, and how we respond when life doesn't go according to our carefully constructed plans. (Which, as we all know, happens from time to time!)

As we approach Thanksgiving and soon enter the season of Advent, let us remember that we have so much for which to be thankful—not the least of which is God's patient, forgiving, and transforming love.

And let us pray that God will continually make His will our own. May the Holy Spirit help us loosen our grip on our own agendas, quiet our sometimes stubborn Old Adams, and open our hearts to the work He wants to do in us.

After all, **God doesn't ask us to earn His love. He asks us to live in the joy of the love He has already given us through Jesus Christ.**

May our response to His amazing grace be lives filled with faith, obedience, service, prayer, thanksgiving, and love—always remembering *that the glory belongs to Him, not to us!*

And when we find ourselves slipping back into the familiar habit of doing things *our way*, may God gently remind us whose we are—and graciously help us get back on track.

To God alone be the glory!

Respectfully submitted, Dennis Payne



Parents Night Out is back! Come play with our preschoolers once a month at Parents Night Out. We host the kids from 6-8pm so the parents can have a date. For more information, contact Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.



It's that time of year again! Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night (10/31) or you might be the first one to church on Sunday!



Join your church family to give thanks to our Lord on Thanksgiving Day at 2pm for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The Foleys will be cooking the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and all the fixings. Please sign up to attend. You and your family are welcome. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. For more information, ask Lisa DiModica at 805-354-4443.



Dear Sisters and Brothers, We thank God for what he has done in you and through you, especially for our family at this difficult time. Your outpourings of love have sustained us as we deal with Pastor Dave being gone from our todays; even as we look forward to that blessed tomorrow when we will be reunited forever, with our Lord and Savior.

Thank you from Debbie, Jesse, Julie, Luke, Zach, Erin, Doug, Abby, Chloe, Ben, Sara, Hannah, Malachi and Faith.

Special Dates for November 2026

- All Saints' Day, *November 1, 2026*
- Daylight saving time ends, *November 1, 2026*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2026*
- Christ the King Sunday, *November 22, 2026*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2026*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2026*



Youth Sunday School Volunteer Needed!

We are looking for a volunteer to help lead our Youth Sunday School program and support the spiritual growth of our young people. You won't be doing it alone! This role will be shared with other church members, and you can work together to create a schedule that works for everyone.

If you have a heart for serving the Lord and encouraging the next generation in their faith, we would love to have you join us!

Please contact Kelly Olney at 805-354-3213 if you are interested or would like more information. Thank you for considering this opportunity to serve!



THANK YOU, LCOS. You are so wonderfully supportive. Thanks to your generosity, shipping for ALL 210 gospel opportunity shoeboxes HAS been funded! After all, it is all about Jesus.

Please keep these shoeboxes in prayer and their recipients. There are about 10 shoeboxes under the Christmas tree in Stanhke Hall that need a little more **love** to be full. Please adopt one, fill and return it (under the table) before November 16.

Volunteers are welcome during Collection Week, 11/16-11/23, sign up in Stanhke Hall.





Once again, we are collecting non-perishable food in November until 11/22, 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.

A Thanksgiving Prayer of Gratitude

Almighty God, our Creator, Redeemer and eternal Companion, we come before you overwhelmed by the boundless goodness you bestow upon us.

On this special day, we remember how you blessed those who came to this land seeking the freedom to worship without restraint or hindrance.

We are immeasurably grateful for our heritage. We pray that our faith may be as fervent as the faith of those who left everything familiar to journey to a strange land, where they themselves were strangers.

We gather as grateful beneficiaries of your faithful servants who paid a costly price to glorify you and serve you. Mindful of the first Thanksgiving meal shared by newcomers and Native peoples, we now gather around our own tables with family and friends.

We come before you with love and deep appreciation for your constant grace and abundant gifts. The beautiful food before us is a visible reminder of your generous provision.

Ever giving and ever-loving God, we humbly thank you for all your blessings. We ask for one gift more: the honor of your presence. Be our Guest, so that we may enjoy fellowship with you and with one another. We pray in the name of your greatest gift to us, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

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Bible Quiz

What did St. Paul teach about how people can recognize the existence of God?

- A. They would have no understanding of God unless someone told them.
- B. They could see evidence of God by observing creation.
- C. God cannot be known in any way except through Jesus.

Answer: B (Romans 1:19-21)

The Journey of the Church Year

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, in 2026. In many Christian traditions, Advent also marks the beginning of the church year. Rather than starting with a new calendar, the church begins by preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Advent leads to Christmas, followed by Epiphany, traditionally observed on January 6, 2027, to remember the revelation of Christ to the nations and the visit of the wise men. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10, and guides believers toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday, March 28.

Forty days after Easter, Christians observe Ascension Day on May 6, remembering how Jesus “was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9, ESV). Pentecost follows on May 16, 50 days after Easter. On that day, the Holy Spirit empowered Christ’s followers and united them for the church’s mission.

The season after Pentecost continues until Advent arrives once more, inviting the church to begin the sacred journey again.

NOVEMBER 2026

CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	GREETER	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	USHERS	LESSON READER	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
Sunday 1	10:00 AM Communion	Amarals	Trevor Schofield	Mark Hathaway/ Greg Amaral	Bill Williamson	Trista Fry	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Kelly Olney
								Flowers: OPEN
Sunday 8	10:00 AM	Kirsten Escobedo	Piper Chaney	Paul DiModica	Diana Brown	Lisa DiModica	Julie Martin	Altar: Marianne Heuchert
								Flowers: OPEN
Praise Sunday 15	10:00 AM Communion	Andrew Foley	Lucy Chaney	Dennis Payne/Greg Amaral	Jim LaBelle	Jill Murdock	Terry Murdock	Altar: Peggy Payne
								Flowers: OPEN
Sunday 22	10:00 AM	Clavins	Carter Schofield	Todd Martin	Paul DiModica	Brent Clavin	Julie Martin	Altar: Jill Murdock
								Flowers: OPEN
Thanksgiving 26	10:00 AM	Kathy Lee	Elder	Tom Heuchert	Michael Southern	Gary Lange	Dennis Payne	Altar: Sara Chaney
								Flowers: John Pfingsten for brother Joe's birthday
Sunday 29	10:00 AM	Sally Symonds	Drew Schofield	Mark Hathaway	Mike Foley	Michael Southern	Estelle Schofield	Altar: Peggy Payne
								Flowers: Shaffers in memory of Kiersten
Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve>>>>>		GREETERS	ACOLYTES	ELDERS	USHERS	READERS	MEDIA	ALTAR GUILD
		*Estelle Schofield 598-6907	*Mark Hathaway 937-9675	*Tom Heuchert 934-1051	*Art Atrops 937-0485	*Todd Martin 801-3873	*Dennis Payne 934-1101	Becky Zielke 598-6924
		*Sarah Ganschow 266-0046						FLOWERS
								Sara Chaney 714-8031
								FLOWER MINISTRY
								Becky Z 598-6924
								Jim L 260-2742

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 CHANGE(s) IS/ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Saving Time @ 2AM 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Communion Svc. 1:00pm New Member Instruction Class	2 2:00pm Elections set-up	3 Elections all day 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter)	4 10:00am Small group Bible study-Revelation 5:00pm P/S Task force	5	6	7
8 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc. 1:00pm New Member Instruction Class	9 4:30pm Elders' Meeting 6:00pm Men's Group	10 9:30am Quilters	11 10:00am Small group Bible study-Revelation 6:30pm Handbell practice	12	13 6:00pm Parent's Night Out	14 Mowing: Mayberry, Tate, Oliver
15 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Praise/Comm. Svc. 11:00am Council Mtg. 2:00pm Adult Fellowship	16 Ministry Availability Due OCC Shoebox collection	17 OCC Shoebox collection	18 OCC Shoebox collection 6:30pm Handbell practice	19 OCC Shoebox collection	20 Newsletter Deadline OCC Shoebox collection	21 OCC Shoebox collection
22 OCC Shoebox collection 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	23 OCC Shoebox collection	24	25 6:30pm Handbell practice	26 10:00am Thanksgiving Day service	27	28 Mowing: Williamson, Weiting
29 9:00am SS/Bible Study 10:00am Worship Svc.	30	1 3:00pm SH in use (Shelter) 5:30pm P/S Board Mtg.	2 6:30pm Handbell practice	3	4	5