

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT: Steadfast in the Word, Bethlehem Lutheran Church shares Christ and serves people with friendship in His love in all God's world.

Grace and peace be yours in abundance, fellow sojourners!

In preparation for our Wednesday evening “See Through The Scripture” Class, I came across an article that I found thought provoking. It was written by Ernest Campbell, who served as pastor of Riverside Church in New York City. Campbell's point is that God calls us beyond merely believing in Jesus as Savior to following Him as Lord. He wrote:

“It began innocently enough—a friend recommending a book, Christology at the Crossroads by Jon Sobrino. The Salvadoran Jesuit blew most of my theological ducks out of the water. He threw a hat down on my scrabble board and messed up many of my combinations. He forced me to contend for the ground I had claimed. The question that Jon Sobrino put to me I must share with you: Are you following Jesus, or believing in Christ?

“Plunge into the Gospels anywhere and you will likely find Jesus asking someone to follow. The Greek verb used for ‘follow’ represents a dominant motif. Why, then, do we hear so little about following Jesus in the church today? I’ve been in, with, and around the church for more than fifty years, and no one has ever asked me, ‘Are you following Jesus?’ Not when I was in the communicants’ class; not when I joined the church; not when I became a candidate for the ministry; not when I was ordained; and never in any of my services of installation. Always the questions have dealt with belief:

Do you believe in God—Father, Son, and Spirit?

Do you believe in the truthfulness of the Scriptures and the Westminster Confession?

Do you believe in the unity and purity of the church?

“Do you believe in Christ? It isn’t hard to answer that. What is wanted is an affirmative response to treasured propositions about the second person of the Trinity. But when someone asks, ‘Are you following Jesus?’, this can get to be expensive. This question has to do with my life-style, my attitudes, my values, my surrender.

“If I’m following Jesus, why am I such a good insurance risk? If I’m following Jesus, why, when I have done my giving, have I so much left over for myself? If I’m following Jesus, why do my clothes closets bulge when so many are unclothed? If I’m following Jesus, why do I have so many friends among the affluent, and so few among the poor? If I’m following Jesus, why do I have so much privacy in a world that is starved for love? If I’m following Jesus, why am I tempted to overeat in a world where so many beg for bread? If I’m following Jesus, why am I getting on so well in a world that marked him out for death?” (End of quote)

Campbell's point is this: Yes, we need to know something about what the Bible says about the God revealed in the Bible, and Jesus' Person and atoning work. Most certainly! However, Jesus does more than call us to know Him as Savior, and to look to Him for forgiveness and trust in Him for eternal life. He calls us to follow Him as Lord and Messiah in all we do. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament will empower us to bring many to faith in Jesus the Messiah as Savior, and inspire and empower them to follow Jesus the Messiah as Lord.

+ + +

I look forward to seeing you each Sunday morning ... worshiping and studying with you ... lifting up and exalting our great God with you! Come with a smile on your face, a bounce in your step, your Bible in hand, and that friend you personally and intentionally invited. Also, bring a joyful, eager attitude to be touched by the Risen Christ, together with a hungry heart for spiritual vitality and victorious living that comes each time we encounter God's renewing presence in Word & Sacrament!



Life Newsbytes

Canada Reports Nearly 2,000 Assisted Deaths in First Year of Legalization – Data from Health Canada on assisted dying reveals 1,982 assisted deaths occurred in the first year since its legalization. The report shows between June 17, 2016, and June 30, 2017, a total of 1,977 euthanasia deaths and five reported assisted-suicide deaths took place. In addition, 167 reported euthanasia deaths took place in Quebec before the federal government legalized assisted death. The total number of Canadian assisted deaths as of the end of June stands at 2,149. In the first six months since its legalization, 803 Canadians died by assisted death; in the second month, 1,179 died. This means an increase of nearly 47 percent from the first half of the year to the second. Overall, 0.9 percent of all deaths in Canada from January to June were doctor-assisted suicides. The majority of patients (63 percent) had cancer, followed by neuro-degenerative disorders and respiratory and circulatory failures. Most were between 56 and 64 years at the time of death. Alex Schadenberg of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition points out the lack of oversight of the law since the government’s self-reporting system allows the same doctor carrying out the death to also report it. As such, he feels it is possible that under-reporting and abuse of the law occurs. (*LifeSiteNews.com, 10/10/17; CLR LifeWire, 10/12/17*)

For those who have had an abortion

Speaking Up For Life

“People do not like to face the fact that their soul will live on in eternity. We need time to be alone with God, to hear His Word, to read it every day, and to pray to Him. This is where we get food for our soul. We need to sit as a family and let God feed us with His Word, have our devotion, and pray together.” *Rev. Homer Larsen, Christian Crusader radio program*

“The Apostle Paul seemed to have thought that giving thanks was front and center in the life of the Christian: ‘Give thanks in all things’ (1 Thessalonians 5:18), ‘Always and for everything giving thanks’ (Ephesians 5:20), ‘In everything by prayer ... with thanksgiving’ (Philippians 4:6), ‘And be thankful ... with thankfulness in your heart toward God ... do everything ... giving thanks to God the Father’ (Colossians 3:15-17), ‘Continue steadfastly in prayer, with thanksgiving’ (Colossians 4:2).” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James*

“[A]fter our nation has celebrated Thanksgiving, I encourage God’s people to continue with a thankful spirit. We who have heard the angels tell of God’s Good News of great joy ought to be rejoicing. We who have seen the fires of hell and know we don’t have to go there should continuously praise God Who sent His Son to give His life so we might have eternal life. Indeed,



boys and girls; age categories: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14. Items to include : A "Wow " item, Clothing and Accessories, School Supplies, Crafts and

Activities, Personal Care Items. Items NOT to include: Candy; toothpaste; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans. A detailed list will be displayed in the narthex.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff Atkinson who was presented the Human and Spiritual Values Award by the Kiwanis Club of Palestine at their Installation and Awards banquet on October 16. This award is presented to the Kiwanian who best demonstrated commitment to Kiwanis' First Object by giving primacy to the Human and Spiritual rather than the material values of life. Jeff will also serve on the Kiwanis Club of Palestine's Board of Directors for a three year term..

THE ALTAR GUILD is seeking new members. Your commitment could be just one month a year and you can designate which month you would like to serve. If you would like to volunteer, see Lori Fortner.



Thanks for your kindness in placing Sheila on your prayer list, for the use of your facilities and the help in serving the food. Again we ask that you please remember our family in prayer as we wait for God to heal.
The family of Sheila Riggs

FOOTBALL PARKING

The youth are parking cars for the Palestine Wildcat football games as a fundraiser this year. The cost is \$2. November game date is the 3rd. If you would like to help, please see Yanneth Harris.

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

In September Bethlehem collected \$807 for Hurricane Harvey relief. With the matching funds offer from Thrivent, we were able to send our donation to LCMS Disaster Response .



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH

Make sure you "fall back" by resetting your clocks. Use that "extra" hour to be present in Bible class!

LWML BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH 9AM - 2PM



Islam in Light of the Cross:
Mission to Muslims
A retreat on Saturday, November 11, 2017

Bible Study will

- † Discover how God can use you in a special way to share the Gospel with your Muslim neighbors
- † Not only inform Christians about Islam but form them as disciples of the cross

Circuit #14 Retreat

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1515 S. Loop 256, Palestine, Texas

Saturday, November 11, 2017

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Rev. Karim Baidaoui, Presenter

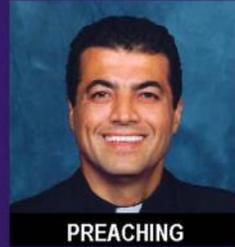
Former Muslim turned Lutheran pastor

Registration \$20 (includes lunch)

Please register at your local church by Saturday, November 04

**Islam in Light
of the Cross
Mission to
Muslims
with**

DOW
Disciples of the Way
Ministries



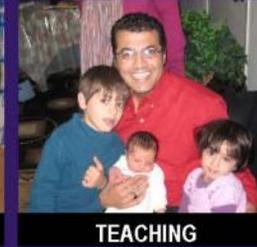
PREACHING

As a missionary, Rev. Karim Baidaoui is a former Muslim who is now a Lutheran pastor. He will discuss Muslim outreach in his discourse, "Reaching Muslims and Making Disciples of the Cross from All Nations."



REACHING

As Director of DOW, Rev. Baidaoui will share an exposition about 'Islam in Light of the Cross'. His passion is his mission to Muslims and planting "Cross" centered churches of All Nations Rev 7:9-10.



TEACHING

Teaching Rev. Karim Baidaoui loves to lead Bible Studies and give presentations to spread the Gospel, and tell the wondrous story of the baby Jesus who desires that all God's children would come to him and enter the Kingdom of God.

Rev. Karim Baidaoui

"Reaching Muslims and Making Disciples of the Cross from All Nations"

NOVEMBER 11, 2017



making disciple makers from all nations" 2 Timothy 2:2

Planting churches of all nations Rev 7:1

Disciples of the Way Ministries (DOW)
a ministry of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
6500 Greenville Avenue, Suite #100, Dallas, TX 75206



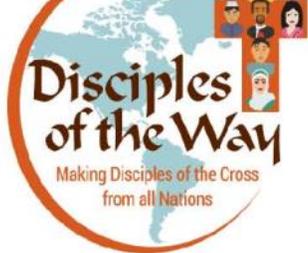
Mission to Muslims
Bible Study with
Rev. Karim Baidaoui
"ISLAM IN THE LIGHT OF THE CROSS"
What does this mean?

This is a Bible Study...

- † To discover how God can use everyone in some special way.
- † To become more involved in the cross-culture ministries of Christ's church.
- † To gain in-depth exposure to missions and missionaries.
- † To view yourself as vital in becoming a "sending church".
- † To catch the vision of reaching a specific people, beyond just sending and supporting missionaries.
- † To understand that the great commission still stands for every believer in the church.
- † To realize the privilege in God selecting our church to witness and share the Gospel with our Muslim neighbors and others.
- † To not only inform Christians about Islam, but to form them as disciples of the cross.
- † To study the contrast between religion and faith, contending that the cross of Christ crushes religion so that faith may arise.
- † And to learn the contrast between the theology of the glory and the theology of the cross.

Rev. Karim Baidaoui is an LCMS missionary to Muslims in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. God has blessed the life of Karim Baidaoui as Pastor, Teacher, and Missionary-at-Large first through his baptism, followed by his ordination (Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) in 2005. Pastor Karim began to wonder how the work of spreading the Gospel with ever expanding Muslims around us was going to happen. How? By making disciple makers (2 Timothy 2:2) and Planting churches of all nations. Rev. 7:9-11.





A Ministry of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
*Disciples of the Way Ministry exists to **Reach, Teach and Live** among Muslims and others, to raise up Spiritual leaders from them and establish Christ centered communities among them.*

HISTORY OF DISCIPLES OF THE WAY MINISTRIES (DOW)...the story of this ministry begins with the conversion of Karim Baidaoui from



Islam to Christianity. His conversion in 1991 convinced his heart to serve Christ in pastor in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. In this new role, Pastor Baidaoui was called as a Missionary to the Texas District (LCMS). Over the course of 10 years, missionaries, staff members and volunteers have joined the ministry, while at the same time, hundreds of immigrants, primarily from Middle Eastern and Muslim backgrounds have been served by this ministry. In 2013, this ministry established its own 501c3 under the name Disciples of the Way Ministries (DOW). Disciples of the Way receives no public funding support. Financial support for this ministry comes from individuals, congregations and the Texas District of the LCMS. DOW's mission: "Reaching, Teaching and Living among our neighbors and making disciples of the Cross from All Nations." Matthew 28:19

CURRENT SITUATION... Disciples of the Way has recently moved all of its operations, including the administrative office, to location closer to the Vickery Meadow community, home to 35,000+ immigrants, who are the neighbors served by DOW. Current programs include DOW's Sewing Seeds of Faith (SSOF) sewing program, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, Computer classes and Wednesday Morning Bible Study. In November of 2016 DOW opened a Refugee Service Center (RSC). The RSC focuses on job placement and job readiness training so that our neighbor refugees can become self-supporting. RSC also provides help with applications for medical assistance, and registration for other social services assistance. The RSC staff along with some of DOW's volunteers make home visits weekly to share fellowship, prayer and the Gospel with those who do not yet know Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The SSOF program includes leadership training for the women who can then go out into their community and/or return to our SSOF program as teachers and/or obtain jobs to help support their families. The sharing of Pot-Luck lunches and devotions are a part of each sewing class. All fabric, sewing machines and supplies used in the sewing program are donations from LWML sisters and Lutheran congregations all across Texas and the U.S.

Mission and Ministry Church Planting to share the Gospel is a very important part of DOW. During the last 10 years, Pastor Baidaoui has mentored Eritrean, Arabic, and Pakistani ethnic Lutheran pastors to plant churches of All Nations, 2 Tim 2:2. Current, Dow mission plants in progress: A Korean Mission in Watauga, Tx is steadily growing with Prayer Services every morning, Bible Studies twice a week, Two Worship Services on Sunday and ESL classes twice a week involving a total of 40+ people; also a Pakistani/Indian congregation worships at Concordia Lutheran Church, Garland. "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no-one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb..." Revelation 7:9-10

Please keep Disciples of the Way Ministries, its Staff, Missions and Ministries in your prayers. Visit DOW's web site for more information www.disciplesoftheway.org. We also invite you to come

In Dresden, there was a walk through Semper Opera House and Zwinger Palace. The area we visited was a beautiful walk through the cultural older restored part on the banks of the Elbe River.

We went on to Leipzig and saw the Thomas Church where Bach was cantor and choir director. Also Leipzig was where Luther debated Johann Eck and denied the divine origin of the papal supremacy.

The tour then went to Nuremberg by way of Coburg. At Coburg we did a nice detour through the country around a traffic accident.

In 1933, Nuremberg was turned into a national shrine of the Nazis. We visited the Zeppelin Field of the Nazi Party Rally Grounds which left me with a very sobering feeling realizing the sufferings that started there.

Our next stop was Augsburg where we visited the church of St. Anna.

Also, Augsburg was the place where Phillip Melanchthon presented the Augsburg Confessions at the Diet of Augsburg in 1530.

Our final stop on our trip was in Munich with a walk to the Koenigsplatz plaza where the famous animated clock is located. At 11:00 A:M the clock put on a show for everyone.

The afternoon was free so we had the option to take a tour to the Dachau Concentration Camp located north of Munich. Out of our group of 50, 30 of us took the tour that afternoon.

Words cannot describe the evils that happened in those camps from 1933 until the end of World War 2 in 1945.

In summary, our trip was a close up experience into why and how the reformation took place.

It also was a close up to what started and the results of World War 2 in Germany and Europe.

Yours Truly,



Church of Our Lady



Elbe River



Bach [St. Thomas Church]



Gil called the meeting to order. Pastor Adler opened with devotion on Psalm 25 & prayer. Minutes were read. **Motion by Lea, 2nd by Melanie to accept. Motion carried.

REPORTS

VP - Albert working to set time to cut and split firewood; will talk to Jerry.

Financial Secretary - Lea reported September income \$13,418, expenses \$12,649. Loan balance \$53,255 & CEF report.

Treasurer - Mary Lou gave account balances & income report; budget report for September & year-to-date. **Motion by James, 2nd by Albert to accept financial reports. Motion carried.

Elders - James reported average attendance for September was 70.

Christian Education - Melanie reported on Sunday School; Children's Christmas Service December 17th. Jerry agreed to help teach.

Evangelism - Donna reported Bible Jamboree was cancelled.

Stewardship - Steve no report.

Social Concerns - Megan working on October 29th movie & fellowship, researching questions for Jeopardy. We will have lunch on November 11th with guest pastor speaking; Thanksgiving dinner in November, Advent meals begin December 6th.

Property - Jim waiting for parts to fix lights. Brown lawn service will mow every other week beginning in October; suggested add CO detectors. Thank you to Paul Tugwell, Paul Stevenson, Jerry Hartenberger & Jim for work getting communion rail moved, need carpet.

Youth - Albert reported working on Operation Christmas Child, goal of 100 shoe boxes; 3 more parking for football games, inviting friends to help. Planning Fall Fellowship. Helping with younger Sunday School classes.

Pastor - church sent invitations to churches in circuit to hear Pastor Baidaoui on November 11th. Thanksgiving Eve Service; Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Gil mentioned communion rail moved, need new carpet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steve presented proposed 2018 budget. **Motion by Albert, 2nd by Melanie to present budget of \$159,880.83 + \$11,088 missions (6 1/2%) to voters. Motion carried.

**Motion by Lea, 2nd by Mary Lou to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned and Pastor closed

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise, and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as (good stewards of His varied grace,) (1 Peter 4:10) we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's holy Word, as an offering. Thus, all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also offerings to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies, share with our family,

neighbors, and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by the holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.



Thus we place all that we have into God's hands, and He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing, and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for the celebrations of Thanksgiving, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. "For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance" (Matthew 13:12).

God's Share First

QUESTION: What do scholars of Christian truth have to say about tithing?

ANSWER: T. A. Kantonen in "A Theology for Christian Stewardship" says, "I am convinced that the Tithers in our churches are, by and large, not Pharisees, but humble and sincere Christians who have been led to use this ancient device as a helpful means for steady expression of their gratitude and faithfulness to their Lord. But I am also con-

plete surrender to the Love of God in Christ."

We urge our members to use percentage giving as a special symbol whereby we demonstrate that Christ is the Lord of all our living.

We believe that regular systematic giving is called for in the New Testament living. We urge its members to use percentage giving as a special symbol whereby we demonstrate that Christ is the Lord of all our living. We also urge our mem-



*"Store up for yourselves treasures
in heaven, where moth & rust do
not destroy, & where thieves do not*

We had to indefinitely postpone our Bible Jamboree scheduled for October 14 due to lack of sufficient available help.

Our latest information on Wyatt Steele is that his latest surgery was a success, but his O2 saturation level was low.

Just a reminder; please don't forget to continue handing out the small gospels of John and also our hospitality bags for those you see asking for help along the roads.

We have received instructions for how to obtain Red Cross training relative to using our facility as a storage/respite center. It is computer based and Randy and Sandy Teets have already completed it. We will need your help. Please see Sandy Teets for pertinent instructions.

On November 11 and 12, 2017 we will be hosting Pastor Karim Baidaoui, a former Muslim. Pastor Baidaoui is an LCMS pastor. His organization is entitled "Disciples of the Way". He will be speaking on Saturday, November 11 at the church on "Islam and the Cross". The program will run from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. A lunch will be provided by Bethlehem (hopefully LWML!). After lunch there will be an opportunity to ask questions. Then on Sunday, Pastor Baidaoui will teach adult bible school (with kids also invited) and handle preaching chores.

Adopt-A-Highway is scheduled for December, 2017. We will be forthcoming with the actual date. We only had 10 picker-uppers in September and as a result we could not finish even though we worked for 4 hours. We will meet at the church at 8:30 a.m. Please help. The more volunteers we have, the faster we finish!

God has truly blessed our committee, with an enthusiastic group, please continue to pray for his guidance and that He would get the glory!



HEALTH NEEDS—MEMBERS:

- Melanie Jackson - broken wrist
- George Nelson - recovering from a stroke
- Marjorie Smith - recovering from a broken hip
- Anne Yarbrough - recovering from a heart attack

HEALTH NEEDS—FRIENDS:

- Cheryl Bailes - [Mary Unk's daughter] - infection in foot
- Lois Creighton - [Mary Unk's sister] - brain tumor
- Steve Goen - [friends of Jackson's]
- Luke Grumbles - [son of co worker of Devin Jackson] - leukemia
- Bill & Ava Hogan - [Milton Hogan's parents]
- Carlie Hutton - [Hutton's daughter in law] - problem pregnancy
- Ruth Lawson - [Mary Unk's sister] - recovery from fall
- Steve & Katie Lund - [former members] - ongoing health concerns
- Clarence Mindrup - [Patti Lestig's father] - cancer treatment
- Lorie Owens - [Julie Schoppe sister & Ken Koehler's daughter] - recovery from surgery
- Bonita Randall - [Neva Shugart Broad's niece] - ongoing health concerns
- Floyd Rogers - [friend of Mary Bleicher] - health concerns
- Floyd Ruhnke - [Marjorie Smith's cousin] - health concerns
- Phyllis Shafferkoetter - [Mary Unk's sister] - lupus
- Bethany Stansbury - [Marcy Hogan's friend] - problems with pregnancy
- Theresa White - [Alicia Hutton's grandmother]
- Orville Wilbanks - [friends of the Hughes'] - cancer treatments
- Gene & Patsy Worsham - [Tim's parents] - ongoing health concerns

Please

help

us

keep

this

list

updated.

Thanks

HOMEBOUND:

- Benjamin Garcia [Robert Garcia's brother], Dorothy Jackson, Martha Kaudelka, Neva Kosted, Ardelle Samford, Johnnie Weaver, Gladys Pfeffer

OTHER: Aaron Jackson— attending Concordia University, Seward, NE

THOSE SERVING IN OUR NATION'S ARMED FORCES:

- Members Kyle Lawson and Kyle Shepherd, as well as Robert Garcia [Juanita's son], and Jeremy Stafford [Marcy Hogan's nephew]

Please inform the Pastor and the Church Office regarding the status of submitted prayers so we may be timely and up-to-date in petitions to our gracious God.





6:30 AM on 91.9 FM KAVX Lufkin, TX
Sunday at 10:30 AM on 97.5 FM KTTB Tyler, TX
Sunday at 12:30 PM on 91.5 FM KHCB Madisonville, TX

Online at www.lutheranhour.org

DATE: November 5, 2017
TITLE: "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart"
TEXT: St. Matthew 5:8
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

This weekend many churches observe All Saints Sunday, remembering those who have died in the Christian faith. That prompts us to ask, what does it take to get to heaven? Jesus tells us in St. Matthew 5:8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." What that means is this week's Lutheran Hour message.

DATE: November 12, 2017
TITLE: "More Than a Wish"
TEXT: I Thessalonians 4:13-14
SPEAKER: Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Not so long ago over 370 million tickets were sold for a Powerball drawing. Each person who made a purchase had hope that they might become rich. Most were disappointed. In I Thessalonians 4, St. Paul explains how the resurrection hope of Christians is better than the hopelessness of the world and far more solid than groundless wishful thinking.

DATE: November 19, 2017
TITLE: "The Reckoning"
TEXT: St. Matthew 25:14-30
GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Dale A. Meyer

You hear little talk about the "Fear of God" anymore, but if you don't in some way fear your Creator who judges you down to your inmost being, why would you love your only Savior whom He sends you? A message about fearing and loving God.

DATE: November 26, 2017
TITLE: "Show Me"
TEXT: St. Matthew 25:31-46
SPEAKER: Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

In Lerner and Loewe's musical, My Fair Lady, Eliza is being wooed with words by a weak and wimpy suitor. She comments: "Don't talk of stars, burning above. If you're in love, show me. Tell me not dreams, filled with desire. If you're on fire, show me." In Jesus' description of Judgment Day, the Savior goes on record: true love needs to show itself in action.

November 8 - Johann von Staupitz, Luther's Father Confessor: Johann von Staupitz (ca. 1469–1524), vicar-general of the Augustinian Order in Germany and friend of Martin Luther, was born in Saxony. He studied at the universities in Leipzig and Cologne and served on the faculty at Cologne. In 1503 he was called by Frederick the Wise to serve as dean of the theological faculty at the newly founded University of Wittenberg. There he encouraged Luther to attain a doctorate in theology and appointed Luther as his successor to professor of Bible. During Luther's early struggles to understand God's grace, it was Staupitz who counseled Luther to focus on Christ and not on himself.

November 9 - Martin Chemnitz, Pastor and Confessor: Martin Chemnitz (1522–1586) is regarded after Martin Luther as the most important theologian in the history of the Lutheran Church. Chemnitz combined a penetrating intellect and an almost encyclopedic knowledge of Scripture and the church fathers with a genuine love for the church. When various doctrinal disagreements broke out after Luther's death in 1546, Chemnitz determined to give himself fully to the restoration of unity in the Lutheran Church. He became the leading spirit and principal author of the 1577 Formula of Concord, which settled the doctrinal disputes on the basis of the Scriptures and largely succeeded in restoring unity among Lutherans. Chemnitz also authored the four volume Examination of the Council of Trent (1565–1573), in which he rigorously subjected the teachings of this Roman Catholic Council to the judgment of Scripture and the ancient church fathers. The Examination became the definitive Lutheran answer to the Council of Trent, as well as a thorough exposition of the faith of the Augsburg Confession. A theologian and a churchman, Chemnitz was truly a gift of God to the Church.

November 11 - Martin of Tours: Pastor born into a pagan family in what is now Hungary around the year A.D. 316, Martin grew up in Lombardy (Italy). Coming to the Christian faith as a young person, he began a career in the Roman army. But sensing a call to a church vocation, Martin left the military and became a monk, affirming that he was “Christ's soldier.” Eventually, Martin was named bishop of Tours in western Gaul (France). He is remembered for his simple lifestyle and his determination to share the Gospel throughout rural Gaul. Incidentally, on St. Martin's Day in 1483, the one-day-old son of Hans and Margarete Luther was baptized and given the name “Martin” Luther.

November 14 - Justinian, Christian Ruler and Confessor of Christ: Justinian was emperor of the East from A.D. 527 to 565 when the Roman Empire was in decline. With his beautiful and capable wife, Theodora, he restored splendor and majesty to the Byzantine court. During his reign the Empire experienced a renaissance, due in large part to his ambition, intelligence, and strong religious convictions. Justinian also attempted to bring unity to a divided church. He was a champion of orthodox Christianity and sought agreement among the parties in the Christological controversies of the day who were disputing the relation between the divine and human natures in the Person of Christ. The Fifth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople in A.D. 553 was held during his reign and addressed this dispute. Justinian died in his eighties, not accomplishing his desire for an empire that was firmly Christian and orthodox.

November 19 - Elizabeth of Hungary: Born in Pressburg, Hungary, in 1207, Elizabeth was the daughter of King Andrew II and his wife Gertrude. Given as a bride in an arranged political marriage, Elizabeth became the wife of Louis of Thuringia in Germany at the age of 14. She had a spirit of Christian generosity and charity, and the home she established for her husband and three children in the Wartburg Castle at Eisenach was known for its hospitality and family love. Elizabeth often supervised the care of the sick and needy and even gave up her bed to a leper at one time. Widowed at the age of 20, she made provisions for her children and entered into an austere life as a nun in the Order of Saint Francis. Her self-denial led to failing health and an early death in 1231 at the age of 24. Remembered for her self-sacrificing ways, Elizabeth is commemorated through the many hospitals named for her around the world.

November 23 - Clement of Rome: Pastor Clement (ca. A.D. 35–100) is remembered for having established the pattern of apostolic authority that governed the Christian Church during the first and second centuries. He also insisted on keeping Christ at the center of the Church's worship and outreach. In a letter to the Christians at Corinth, he emphasized the centrality of Jesus' death and resurrection: “Let us fix our eyes on the blood of Christ, realizing how precious it is to His Father, since it was poured out for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to the whole world” (1 Clement 6:31). Prior to suffering a martyr's death by drowning, he displayed a steadfast, Christ-like love for God's redeemed people, serving as an inspiration to future generations to continue to build the Church on the foundation of the prophets and apostles, with Christ as the one and only cornerstone.

November 29 - Noah: Noah, the son of Lamech (Gen 5:30), was instructed by God to build an ark, in which his family would find security from the destructive waters of a devastating flood that God warned would come. Noah built the ark, and the rains descended. The entire earth was flooded destroying “every living thing that was on the face of the ground, both man and beast” (7:23). After the flood waters subsided, the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. When Noah determined it was safe, and God confirmed it, he and his family and all the animals disembarked. Then Noah built an altar and offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God for having saved his family from destruction. A rainbow in the sky was declared by God to be a sign of His promise that never again would a similar flood destroy the entire earth (8:20). Noah is remembered and

Lutherans place their faith in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who has made us, redeemed us, and empowers us for Christian living.

We believe Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, who came to earth as a man, suffered and died in our place to win for us forgiveness of sin, and who rose again to life, assuring us that we, too, can live with Him eternally.

We teach that we come to stand in right relation- ship with God not through our own goodness or righteousness, but through our faith in Jesus as Savior. Faith alone receives the full promises of God.

We believe that the two Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, were instituted by Christ and offers forgiveness of sin to all who receive them in faith.

Concerning Baptism, we teach that infants should also be baptized, since they, too, are sinful and need God's grace. God can work faith in them, even though they are too young to intellectually grasp the Gospel.

We believe that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the Lord's Supper through miraculous means, and that only Christians who are in full agreement with our all our beliefs should commune with us.

We believe that God speaks to the world through His Word in the Bible.

We believe that God loves every person and intends for all a life of dignity and meaning.

We believe that Marriage is a life-long union of one man and one woman. We reject any other “union” called “marriage” as immoral and contrary to God’s will.

We assert the vital importance of the Christian congregation as the community of believers in which the Gospel is correctly preached and the Sacraments are rightly administered.



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

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