

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601
(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

September 2017

The Seventh Commandment

You shall not steal.

Catechism Explanation

We should fear and love God, so that we do not take our neighbor's money or goods, nor get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.

What do we actually own? Scripture teaches that God is the Owner of all things (Psalm 24:1; Haggai 2:8). We are stewards of His gifts. God graciously gives us money and goods through honest labor, gifts, or inheritance. He wants us to be faithful managers, using His gifts to His glory and for the welfare of mankind.

The Seventh Commandment reminds us that God is also the Owner and Giver of all things to our neighbor. Therefore He commands: "*You shall not steal*"; for to take our neighbor's money or goods, or get them in any dishonest way, is also to steal from God Himself.

Besides outright robbery (stealing by force) and theft (stealing by stealth), we may break this commandment in many ways. We steal when we charge too much for something, inflating its value by a false sales pitch, false weights and measurements, or excessive interest. We steal when we do less than honest work and get paid for it. We steal when we file dishonest tax returns to come out ahead.

In love for our neighbor, God wants us "*to improve and protect his goods and means of making a living.*" But what about when we look the other way instead of helping to improve and protect another's property? What about when we undercut our employer, treating his assets carelessly instead of improving them, or speaking ill of him instead of protecting his interests. What about when greed motivates excessive lawsuit or gambling, seeking gain at another's loss?

All of this is poor stewardship of the money and goods God gives. It fails to use His gifts to His glory and for the love and welfare of our neighbor.

When we hear in the news that a manager or CEO of a company has been caught acting fraudulently, greedily reaping gain at the expense of others, we would not feel much pity if he were fired and lost everything – and even spent time behind bars with common thieves.

What if God were to treat us as our sins deserve and fire us for our unfaithful management of all that is His? What if due to our great debt of sin, He were to send us to the prison of hell until we repaid the last penny (Matthew 5:26) – forever?

Thankfully, God has settled our great debt by the riches of His grace in Christ. "*For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich*" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

As the Son of God, Jesus is the Owner of all things. And as the Son of Man, He was the perfectly faithful Steward of all. In unselfish love, He always helped to improve and protect His neighbor's best interests.

Yet, He who knew no sin became the utterly poor sinner before His Father. For our sake, He went to the cross as a common criminal, bearing our debt of sin. He paid the debt for all our greed, dishonesty, and selfishness with His innocent life and priceless blood. He rose again to declare us forgiven every debt before God. He lives to grant us His eternal riches. Through faith in Him, we are heirs of His heavenly Kingdom!

How does this grace of God in Christ move us to live? It gives us confidence that He will provide all that we need in due time – in His right, honest, and loving way. For "*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*" (Romans 8:32). The immeasurable riches God freely gives us in Christ moves us to live thankfully, using all that He gives us in service to His glory and for the welfare of others.

In Christ,
Pastor Glenn Smith

"LET US WALK IN THE LIGHT OF GOD!"

(A newsletter of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's Board for Home Outreach)

A young woman walked into a church to talk to the pastor. She told the pastor that although she did not regularly attend church she believed in God, had a prayer life, was kind to people, and tried hard to live by the Ten Commandments. Despite it all she could not rid herself of a nagging sense of sin and guilt.

"Why is it," she asked, "that my friends who do not believe in God, who freely admit that they do not take religion seriously, are never troubled by any consciousness of guilt?"

Her question was not a new one for the pastor. "Tell me", he said, "if I were to lay a hundred pounds of stone upon a corpse, would it feel the weight?"

"No. I'm sure it wouldn't", she replied.

"Why not?"

"Because the corpse has no life in it and is unable to feel the load."

"Exactly!" replied the pastor. "And that is why the person who is indifferent to his spiritual needs can say that he doesn't feel the weight of sin. He is dead, spiritually."

It has always been true that the Christian has been more conscious of his personal sinfulness in the sight of God than the careless unbeliever.

King David admitted, "*For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.*" (Psalm 51:3)

The Christian sees his sin. A person who walks in the darkness can't see the smudges on his clothes. But once he walks in the light he immediately becomes conscious of his filthy condition.



There is nothing surprising at all in this young lady's concern over her personal sin. In fact, her deep concern was a sign that the Spirit of God was indeed working in her heart.

"If our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart and knows all things." (1 John 3:20). God, who is greater than our hearts, looks at us, not in our sins, but in Christ Jesus. Because of Jesus all of your sins are forgiven!!!! As the book of Romans so wonderfully reminds us, "*There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*" (Romans 8:1).

September 2017 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." (2 Corinthians 8:9)</i></p>					<p>1</p> <p>Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM</p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Mandy Hunter</i></p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Nick & Cathy Tousey</i></p>
<p>3 <i>Pentecost 13</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>All Congregation Outreach Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 PM (With ELS outreach counselor, Rev. Larry Wentzlaff)</p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Gabriel Smith</i></p>	<p>8</p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 <i>Pentecost 14</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary Richard & Margaret Howard</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday William Ore</i></p> <p>Circuit Pastor's Meeting Myrtle Creek</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Andrew Hunter</i></p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Philip Smith</i></p> <p>CLWMS Women's Meeting 4:00 PM</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 <i>Pentecost 15</i></p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Voters Meeting and Potluck After church at the Smiths'</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p><i>Fall begins</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Susan Reeder</i></p> <p>Women's Mission Society Rally @ Saved by Grace Gresham, OR</p>
<p>24 <i>Pentecost 16</i></p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p> <p>Worship at Crystal Terrace 1:00 PM</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Youth Catechism 4:00 PM</p>	<p>30</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Sara Shepard</i></p>

**Christ Lutheran Church
127 North Spring Street
Klamath Falls, OR 97601**

September 2017 Newsletter