

# Christ Lutheran Church

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

October 2017

## **The Eighth Commandment**

*You shall not bear false witness  
against your neighbor.*

### **Catechism Explanation**

*We should fear and love God, so that we do  
not lie about, betray or slander our neighbor,  
but excuse him, speak well of him, and put  
the best construction on everything.*

"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me." So the saying goes. But God gave this commandment because words can hurt very much – especially if one person tells lies about another.

Consider what happens if a person bears false witness against his neighbor in court. If he tells a lie under oath, an innocent person may be fined, imprisoned, or otherwise punished wrongly, hurting him for life; or a guilty person may go free, to ruin the lives of others.

Consider what happens if a person speaks lies against his neighbor in society. Slander is saying unkind or untrue things about someone. Sometimes, one person will spread a bad report about another. Though it is untrue, it spreads like wildfire. So for a lie, a person's business might be ruined, or he may not be hired at a job, or he may be unwelcome in certain places.

There are even times when telling the truth may be spoken with evil intent. In the gossip circle, people share how someone has acted wrongly. But their interest is not speaking the truth in love; they do not care about helping that person repent. They delight merely in the juicy gossip of another's downfall.

The story is told of a young man during the Middle Ages who went to a monk and said, "I have sinned by telling slanderous statements about someone. What should I do now?" The monk replied, "Put a feather on every doorstep in town." The young man did it. He then returned to the monk, wondering if there was anything else that he should do. The monk said, "Go back and pick up all the feathers." The young man replied, "That's impossible! By now the wind will have blown them all over town." The monk replied, "So has your slanderous word become impossible to retrieve."

A good name is a valuable thing. It affects our livelihood, relationships, living conditions, and so on. So by this commandment God protects our neighbor's reputation. As far as we are able, in keeping with the truth, God would have us "excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything." It is part of "*speaking the truth in love*" (Ephesians 4:32). For love "*does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things*" (1 Corinthians 13:6-7). Love hopes for the good of one's neighbor.

This is not the same thing as protecting evil. If we witness someone caught in sin, Jesus tells us what it means to speak the truth in love: "*If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.*" (Matthew 18:15) Again, it does not mean that we are to be naive. If we witness a neighbor committing a dangerous crime, the best way to speak the truth in love may be to report him to the proper authorities God has given, to protect society from evil.

Once again, we must confess that we have not kept this commandment in our words, or even in our hearts, in the spirit of love. We have not always spoken in a most constructive way to another, or about him; nor have we spoken up to defend his name.

But again, we can be thankful that our Savior has fulfilled this commandment for us. Jesus always spoke the truth in love, even to His enemies. His loving heart always hoped for repentance, wanting to share forgiveness. In love for us sinners, even when we were guilty, He came to our defense as our Savior. For our sake, He allowed words to hurt Him in the worst way. He was slandered and lied about, condemned and crucified. Yet by this, Jesus paid for all our loveless words and every sin.

Now, our risen Savior speaks in our defense at the right hand of His Father (Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1). As our Advocate, He covers us in His perfect life, and cleanses us by His forgiving blood. Thus He presents us with a pure and holy name before His Father.

Rejoicing in His good Name,  
Pastor Glenn Smith

**Welcome preschoolers and parents!**

# **“Jesus’ Little Lambs”**

## **WHAT IS JESUS’ LITTLE LAMBS?**

It is a Bible-based preschool program for children ages 2-5 and their parent.

## **WHY INCLUDE PARENTS?**

We believe that parents are their children’s first and most loved teachers. At Jesus’ Little Lambs, parents are involved in their child’s earliest structured learning activities and are equipped to bring the love of learning home!

## **WHAT WILL MY CHILD DO?**

Jesus' Little Lambs features a curriculum with a strong academic core, focusing on mathematics, literacy, fine motor development, science, and social studies. These learning concepts are experienced through music, crafts, and play. Young children have an opportunity to learn in a structured classroom environment with their parent readily at their side to help them discover learning concepts and experience new social settings inside a classroom.

## **WHERE IS IT?**

Jesus' Little Lambs will be held at Christ Lutheran Church. We are located at 127 N. Spring St. in Klamath Falls.

## **WHEN IS IT?**

It will be held for four Wednesdays – October 18 and 25, November 1 and 8. Class time will be from 10:00–11:00 AM. We plan to continue future programs in the spring and fall. For those interested, a half-hour parenting Bible study will be offered afterwards from 11:00-11:30 AM, with babysitting provided.

## **HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

You may register by calling the Christ Lutheran Church office at 541-884-1635.

## **WHAT IS THE COST?**

The cost is \$10.00 per family, for the four weeks of class.



# October 2017 Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <i>Pentecost 17</i> <b>Worship with Communion</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM <b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM <i>Happy Birthday Cade Harrington</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  Jesus Cares Ministry 2:00 PM	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <i>Pentecost 18</i>  <b>Worship</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM <b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  Council Meeting 5:00 PM	<b>11</b>  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	<b>12</b>  CLWMS Women's Meeting 4:00 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> <i>Pentecost 19</i>  <b>Worship with Communion</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM <b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Elizabeth Karp</i>	<b>18</b>  Jesus' Little Lambs Preschool Program 10:00 AM  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> <i>Pentecost 20</i>  <b>Worship</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM <b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Neal Eberlein</i>  Jesus' Little Lambs Preschool Program 10:00 AM  Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      William Morrow</i>	<b>28</b>  Circuit Reformation Service At Faith Lutheran Church in Medford. Service at 12:00 PM, followed by lunch.
<b>29</b> <i>Reformation Sunday</i>  <b>Worship</b> 9:30 AM <b>Sunday School &amp; Bible Class</b> 10:45 AM <b>Worship at Crystal Terrace</b> 1:00 PM	<b>30</b> <i>Happy Birthday                      Virgil Teigland</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Reformation Day</i>	<p><i>“My little children, these things I write to you,                      so that you may not sin.                      And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father,                      Jesus Christ the righteous.”                      (1 John 2:1)</i></p>			

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

**October 2017 Newsletter**