

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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November 2020

*“Oh, give thanks to the LORD,
for He is good! For His mercy
endures forever.” (Psalm 106:1)*

On Thanksgiving Day, and every day, it is good for us to count the many blessings God provides for us, and to give thanks to Him.

The Lord is good and merciful to us! Even in a year like this, which has seen many challenges, we can count the many daily gifts God continues to provide for us – from the family and friends by which He warms our hearts, to the food by which He satisfies our hunger, to the clothing and shelter by which He comforts our bodies...

We give thanks to God for providing every need of life, every day. Psalm 145:15-16 reminds us: *“The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.”* The Creator of all provides for every creature – not only humans, but even animals, look to His hand.

Yet how easy it is to worry about our daily needs, instead of entrusting our lives to His loving care. How often we act as if our happiness and well-being depended on our fretting and striving to provide for ourselves.

This is why Jesus told us in Matthew 6:25-26: *“Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”*

It is an argument from the lesser to the greater. We are more valuable than the birds and animals, because God has created us, not only with a body

but a soul. He has created us in His image with the ability to know Him and live with Him forever. Therefore, if He provides for the birds of the air, will He not also provide our daily needs?

Worry indicates a lack of trust. Imagine a child constantly worrying if his parents will provide daily needs like food, shelter, and clothing. That child must not know his parents' love; there must be something missing in that relationship.

As fallen children of Adam, sin causes something to be missing in our relationship to God. In perfect love, He provides what He knows is best. But our sinful nature causes us to doubt His love and His way of satisfying our needs. It leads us to turn in on ourselves and trust our own solutions instead.

We needed a right relationship with our Creator and Life Giver. And God has provided that right relationship between Himself and sinners. He has shown His goodness and mercy toward us in the ultimate way, by sending His Son as our Savior. Jesus has given His life to redeem us from sin and death, so we may live forever with God in heaven.

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 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 8:31-32).

It is an argument from the greater to lesser. God has given us the greatest gift of all in His Son, to win our eternal life. Therefore, we can trust Him to provide all things that we need in this life.

When we see how God has satisfied our every need of life – not only for time, but for eternity – it leads us to say: *“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”*

In His loving care,
Pastor Glenn Smith

What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran?

(By Evangelical Lutheran Synod President John Moldstad)

For many people today, the *Lutheran* label may not mean what it ought to mean. Much of Lutheranism, as observed on the world scene, is considerably liberal in its theology. A large number of Lutheran scholars do not accept the foundational premise that Dr. Martin Luther himself took for granted: the Bible is verbally inspired and inerrant in its entirety.



In describing genuine Lutheranism, the following brief summary may be of some help: To be truly Lutheran is to acknowledge *justification* as the central teaching in Scripture. Luther re-discovered this at the time of the Reformation. We acknowledge that we are by nature sinful and enemies of God and would perish forever in hell without God providing his plan of salvation for us. Yet, Jesus Christ, God's own Son, took upon himself our human flesh without sinning and willingly carried out complete satisfaction for the guilt and punishment of our sins before God. He substituted his life of holiness for ours and also substituted his accursed death for the hell we had deserved. God declared the whole world forgiven through Christ's death and resurrection. A sinner is now justified (declared "holy") in the sight of God only and entirely by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no room for work-righteousness (i.e., earning salvation by one's efforts) in Lutheran doctrine. Only God's grace in Christ saves (Romans 3:20-24, Ephesians 3:8, 9). This grace is received personally by faith as created and sustained through the work of the Holy Spirit.

A true Lutheran also confesses that God brings the forgiveness of sins in Christ to our individual hearts by using certain means: the Word, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Only through these means does the Holy Spirit work faith in the hearts of sinners. The message of the Gospel is not just a statement of historical fact; it is a powerful, living Word that brings life to the sin-darkened soul. Baptism is not just a symbolical washing; it is a "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." The Lord's Supper is not just a meal of bread and wine reminding us of Christ's death; it is the true body and blood of Christ which is offered the recipient for the remission of sins.

Many other things fall under the heading of true Lutheranism. The teachings are listed in the *Book of Concord*, which contains the Lutheran Confessions (the three universal Creeds, the Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, and the Formula of Concord). A true Lutheran accepts these Confessions because they are the doctrines found in God's Word. The Lutheran Confessions especially help a person distinguish between the two important teachings in the Bible: Law and Gospel.

A true Lutheran confesses and teaches only what is clearly taught in Scripture, not going beyond it and not being satisfied with less. Although a teaching from Scripture may not seem logical or reasonable, a Lutheran accepts it as truth because it is *God's* truth, and all doctrines in the Bible support the main one: justification by grace through faith in Christ. This is why we often use the three "alones" to describe Lutheranism: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone.

(From our Evangelical Lutheran Synod's website – <https://els.org/2020/10/30/to-be-lutheran/>)

November 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>All Saints' Day</i> <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	2	3 <i>Election Day</i>	4	5 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gerry Hasskamp</i>	7
8 <i>Last Judgment</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	9 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Bobbie Hauck</i>	10 <i>Martin Luther's</i> <i>Birthday</i> Pastors' Meeting (Myrtle Creek)	11 <i>Veterans Day</i>	12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Susan Eberlein</i> Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	13	14
15 <i>Saints Triumphant</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship with Communion 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>JoAnn Teigland</i>	17	18	19 Youth Catechism 4:00 PM	20	21
22 <i>Last Sunday of Church Year –</i> <i>Christ the King</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	23	24	25	26 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i> Thanksgiving Service 9:30 AM	27	28 <i>Happy Anniversary</i> <i>Virgil & JoAnn Teigland</i>
29 <i>Advent 1</i> Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM) Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> <i>Gayle Adams</i>	<p> O give <i>thanks</i> unto the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever. Pslam 107:1 (KJV) </p>				

November 2020 Newsletter

“Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (James 1:17)

Happy Thanksgiving!

We thank God for providing every good gift of life – from the family and friends by which He warms our hearts, to the food by which He satisfies our hunger, to the clothing and shelter by which He comforts our bodies, to the first responders and medical caregivers by which He protects us and blesses our health...

We thank God for every good and perfect gift – especially the gift He has given in His Son, our Savior. Through the innocent life and death of Jesus for us, God has satisfied our souls with His greatest gift of forgiveness, salvation, and everlasting life!

*We welcome you to join us for a Thanksgiving service,
Thursday, November 26th at 9:30 AM
Sunday worship weekly at 9:30 AM*

*Christ Lutheran Church
127 North Spring St., Klamath Falls*