

Christ Lutheran Church

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

(541) 884-1635 www.lutherankf.org

September 2021

"I give you my word." When someone says this, it means: "You can trust what I say. With my word, it is as good as done. It need not be written in a covenant and signed. You have all the proof you need in my word."

But as we know, while we may be able to trust some people at their word, we cannot trust others. Sometimes, even if a person is very trustworthy, yet despite their best intentions, they may be unable to keep their promise due to unforeseen circumstances or weakness.

But when God gives us His Word, we can trust Him absolutely. What He says, He is fully able and willing to do. When He speaks, it is as good as done. All the proof we have, all the proof we need, is in His Word.

When God speaks, His will takes effect and things happen. At creation God spoke, and it was so. At His Word, all things came to be. To this day, God's Word sustains all things in His creation.

After the fall, God spoke His Word promising the Savior, who would crush Satan's head and redeem us from sin, death, and hell. And in the fullness of time, it was so. The Word of God, who spoke in the beginning to bring forth the heavens and the earth, came into His creation. The Word of God, who spoke through His prophets in Scripture, became flesh and dwelt among us. In Christ, God reveals Himself to us, and all of His promises are fulfilled. On the cross, God spoke and declared His Son to be our sin and punished Him instead of us. Through the active obedience and perfect merits of Christ, God declares us righteous. So He has spoken, and it is written in His Gospel covenant, signed with the blood of His Son.

Now through His ministry of reconciliation, we receive that forgiveness and salvation which God's Word in the flesh accomplished. Through Scripture, the Word of God continues to speak. And what He says happens. He declares to us His forgiveness and eternal life, and His Holy Spirit in that Word makes it ours through faith.

Now, even through the mouths of His sinful and imperfect servants, God speaks His infallible and

inerrant Word, and it is so. In His Holy Absolution, we speak His Word: "In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins." And it is so: God removes the sins of the penitent as far as the east is from the west. In Baptism, we speak His Word: "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." And it is so: God places His saving name on us, pouring out His Spirit, faith, and salvation on us His children. At His Holy Table, we speak His Word: "This is My body... This is My blood... for the remission of sins." And it is so: the Word of God in our flesh gives Himself to us for our forgiveness, life, and salvation.

As the redeemed of God in Christ, His holy priesthood of believers, God has given us the distinct privilege to speak His Word. This is the basis for all our mission work – whether it be in our personal witness of the gospel to friends, relatives, acquaintances, and neighbors; or whether it be supporting the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth through our prayers and offerings. By the grace of God, "*We believe and therefore speak*" (2 Corinthians 4:13); and by the power of His Word, God makes it happen.

What a privilege it is to share His Word with one who is lost and troubled in sin: "God was in Christ reconciling you to Himself; in Christ, forgiveness and eternal life are yours." And it is so. The Word of God, who created and redeemed that precious soul, is present to speak His forgiveness, His Spirit, and His life into that soul through faith.

What a privilege it is for us to share His Word with one who is burdened and troubled with the cares of life: "God, who sacrificed His own Son for your eternal life, by that same infinite love is caring for you today." And it is so: the Word of God who carried all our sorrows, understands; and He is present to speak His comfort and peace to that precious soul.

What a privilege it is to share His Word with one who is facing death: "He who died for you, also rose to give you eternal life. The Word of God who conquered death says: '*Because I live, you will live also*' " (John 14:19). And it is so: at His life-giving Word, we have passed from death to life eternal.

We can take God at His Word; for when He speaks, it is so. Therefore, we will live to see the fulfillment of Jesus' promise: "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away*" (Matthew 24:35). Let us share His Word boldly and broadly in this world. Until soon, together with all whom He gathers around His throne, washed by the blood of the Lamb, we will have the joy of speaking the heavenly language of Him who is the eternal Word, our Creator and Redeemer, our God and our Brother, the Word who speaks and gives us eternal life. Truly as we sing:

God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations. Amen.

In Christ, Pastor Smith

WANT TO GET INTO GOD'S WORD?

Welcome to a new Bible study:

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Beginning Sunday, September 19

What Martin Luther said about Romans:

“In this epistle we thus find most abundantly the things that a Christian ought to know, namely, what is law, gospel, sin, punishment, grace, faith, righteousness, Christ, God, good works, love, hope, and the cross; and also how we are to conduct ourselves toward everyone, be he righteous or sinner, strong or weak, friend or foe—and even toward our own selves. Moreover this is all ably supported with Scripture and proved by St. Paul's own example and that of the prophets, so that one could not wish for anything more. Therefore it appears that he wanted in this one epistle to sum up briefly the whole Christian and evangelical doctrine, and to prepare an introduction to the entire Old Testament. For, without doubt, whoever has this epistle well in his heart, has with him the light and power of the Old Testament. Therefore let every Christian be familiar with it and exercise himself in it continually. To this end may God give his grace. Amen.” (*Luther's Works*, AE, 35:365, 380)

Recent Prayers posted on our Evangelical Lutheran Synod website:

<https://els.org/about/blog/>

Prayer for Haiti

Heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of all things, we bring before you in loving concern the people of Haiti, who are suffering from civil unrest and are now recovering from a powerful earthquake. We ask You to maintain peace in the nation through effective government. Raise up leaders who will rule with fairness and justice for all people. We especially pray for our brothers and sisters in the growing Lutheran churches and schools, that they may remain strong in the faith. Grant them peace through faith in Jesus as they recover and rebuild. Let Your Word continue to spread and grow and use this disaster for good, bringing many more to faith in Your Son.

Prayer for Afghanistan

Heavenly Father, on this day when our hearts are broken by the violence and death in Afghanistan, we come to You for comfort and to ask for Your guidance in this time of turmoil. Give comfort to the families of the soldiers who gave their lives in service to our nation and also to the families of the civilians who have been killed. Guide our elected representatives that they may lead our military, our citizens and friends in Afghanistan, and our nation to a peaceful end to this crisis. Frustrate the plans of those who seek violence and bring about their downfall that all may live in peace. Open the hearts of all people to find true peace in Jesus Christ through the Gospel. In His name we pray. Amen.

A Prayer for the Persecuted Church

Gracious Father, we thank and praise You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. We pray that this Good News of our Savior may spread to all the world without hindrance. Be with all our brothers and sisters in the faith who face suffering at the hands of those who would stop Your Word from reaching the hearts of the lost. Strengthen Your faithful through Word and Sacrament, giving them peace in the sure and certain hope of salvation through Your Son. Open the ears of their persecutors, that they might listen to Your life-giving Word, that their hearts may be changed to receive that Word through faith, and that they might turn from their evil ways to the truth found only in Jesus. As in all things, we ask that Your will be done. In the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

September 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>“The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.” John 6:63</i></p>			1	2	3	4
<p>5 <i>Pentecost 15</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p>	<p>6 <i>Labor Day</i></p>	<p>7 <i>Happy Birthday Gabriel Smith</i></p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 <i>Happy Anniversary Richard & Margaret Howard</i></p>	<p>11 <i>Patriot Day</i></p>
<p>12 <i>Pentecost 16</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Voters Meeting After church</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 <i>Happy Birthday Philip Smith</i></p>	<p>15</p> <p>Southern Oregon Pastor's Meeting Klamath Falls (9:30 AM – 2:30 PM)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19 <i>Pentecost 17</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 <i>Fall Begins</i></p>	<p>23 <i>Happy Birthday Susan Reeder</i></p>	<p>24</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p>Women's Missionary Rally Our Savior Lutheran Church Grants Pass, OR Friday – Dinner at 6:00 PM Saturday – Opening at 8:00 AM (See details on cover)</p> </div>	
<p>26 <i>Pentecost 18</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p> <p>Sunday School & Bible Class 10:45 AM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 <i>St. Michael and All Angels</i></p>	<p>30</p>		

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September 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Dates:

Friday–Saturday, September 24-25

Circuit 12 Women's Missionary Rally

at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grants Pass, OR

Guest Speaker: Rev. Thomas Heyn (ELS Board for World Outreach Administrator)

Topic: “Divine Comfort in Affliction”

Saturday, October 30

Regional Reformation Festival

at Christ Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, OR

Guest Preacher: Rev. Roger Emmons (Redmond, OR)

We celebrate our Lutheran heritage, emphasizing God's unchanging truth in Scripture Alone, and salvation by God's gift of Grace Alone, received through Faith Alone in the finished work of Jesus Christ.