

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

August 2021

Volume 136

LEARNING TO THINK CRITICALLY

The Apostle Paul traveled to many towns teaching about Jesus' death and resurrection and the free gift of forgiveness and salvation. Some towns were open and inquisitive to what he had to say while others were very antagonistic. Several towns ran him out and other places he could have been killed.

It's interesting how people respond to ideas: whether they be true or not. Some people accept what is said or taught simply based on the one speaking. If he is trusted then nothing is questioned. Others accept what is taught because they accept the speaker's worldview: they are on the same page. Perhaps some accept what is taught simply because it sounds good or logical and they don't want to check it out.

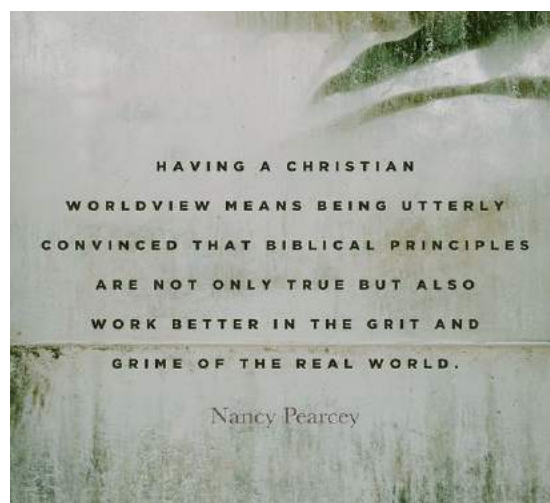
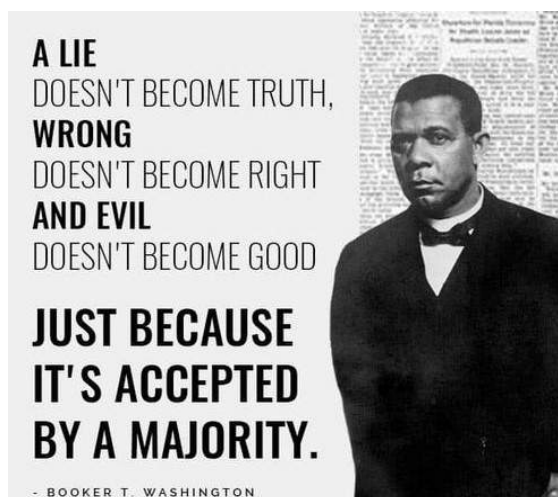


However, what happens when inaccuracies are challenged with truth? Sometimes people will respond by pushing back, plugging their ears or even shouting at them so they can't be heard and they backdown, remain quiet and or leave. That's called cancel culture; taking away one's public platform, silencing a speaker because they don't like what they have to say. This happened to Paul in Thessalonica. *Acts 17:4-5* Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women. But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city. They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. The Jews didn't want to hear the truth, they weren't open to what he had to say so they silenced him.

However, in the town of Berea the people listened: both Jew and Gentile. They didn't resist his teaching nor did they accept everything upon hearing it. They were concerned about learning and teaching truth and not someone's agenda or opinion- even from a teacher like the Apostle Paul. So, what did the people do after listening to him? *Acts 17:11* Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures everyday to see if what Paul said was true. The Bereans were fact checkers. They went right to the source of authority: the bible (OT for them) and searched until their questions were answered. I would say these Christians studied and knew the bible to some extent in order to verify what was taught.

Shouldn't we do that today? If you have a question that comes up in a sermon, Sunday school, commune etc., don't hesitate to ask. But more importantly we need to be telling and teaching our children to think critically. Not negatively, rather by way of fact checking, researching and verifying what is taught. Because ideas lead to behavior and behavior has consequences. This applies not just to the Bible, but what they learn in school, movies, all social media, books, TV, and more. Gone are the days when almost everyone could be trusted. Also, it's not just what is taught or said, but just as important, what is not said. For example, the today's teaching of American history not only inserts misinformation such as systemic racism, but leaves out our Christian heritage or it is vivified. Our children must know the truth about history and about God, to develop a Biblical worldview and not a humanistic, materialistic, and atheistic worldview taught at every turn. The Biblical worldview begins with God, the opposite of humanism. To think critically begins with a Biblical worldview which begins with reading and studying God's inerrant word, prayer and worship. In my estimation, not to teach a Biblical worldview is a form of child abuse because any other worldview will lead one away from God and away from reality: beginning with the realities that God exists, we are made in His image and we are accountable to Him. *Hebrews 9:27-28* Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Socialism's foundation is atheism (a war against religion), the foundation of Christianity is "In the beginning God. . ." In our time it can't be overestimated how important it is to teach the Word of God to our youth.



Pilot Knob Lutheran Church
2391 330th St
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August 2021

Dear Friends

Summertime is a little slower for the church council. Many of our outreach projects take place during the school year, Sunday school is in session then and the kids are a buzz. It has been very exciting for me to get to meet all the new people who will be joining our church along with the visitors we have had this past summer. Hopefully you have taken this opportunity to meet someone new or even make a new friend.

We are still working on some clean up projects at the church – both physical and non-physical. Our lightbulb situation continues to challenge us – I am sure you are thinking how hard can it be to change a light bulb? I have learned it there is much more to it than one could even imagine. But I believe in our team and it will get done! We have also noticed some mildew growing on the exterior of the church building which is being cleaned up. Jeff Edelen has agreed to assist us in sprucing up the church yard and we greatly appreciate his expertise in this area! And we are working at cleaning up some of the verbiage in our bylaws. Once we are satisfied with our final draft – there will be a congregational meeting to approve those.

Bobbi Elbert is already planning for our participation on Operation Christmas Child. Bobbi has spearheaded this project for our church and would love input and volunteers on ways we can grow, involve the youth, and reach out to more people. I have a map below that shows all the places our boxes have reached in the world! It is quite remarkable how much of an impact a small toy or book, a new outfit and a few school supplies can mean to a person so far away. I listened to an interview from an adult who as a child had received a shoebox and was asked what meant the most to her. Her reply, "Having my very own toothbrush". These are the things we take for granted each and every day. The bulletin board at the church has lots of great info as does the OCC website.

Blessings to you all

Cathy Caldwell
Council Chairperson





MOTHERS AND CHILDREN LIVE TOGETHER IN RECOVERY AT HEALING HOUSE

Hi, my name is Amanda. I am 26 years old and have struggled with a meth addiction for the last 6 years. The first time I tried it, I was 14. I was introduced to it by my oldest sibling. I have been smoking weed and drinking since the age of 12 but that didn't get bad until I was about 15. I have 2 brothers and 2 sisters.



My childhood was stolen from me at such an early age. One of my older siblings had me smoking cigarettes and watching porn

at age 8. I was physically and sexually abused from the age of 7-9 and my brother was the lookout. My dad was a good dad and he did the best he knew how, but he worked all the time to afford to raise us 4 children. He did not know what was going on. At age 9, I told my mother what had been going on and she just never sent us back. We had a few good years from that point, but in middle school, I started noticing changes in my mom. I didn't find out until later that she too struggled with addiction. In middle school, she was doing well until she wasn't. She got very sick with pneumonia and she also had a stroke. She was in a coma for a long time and when she came out of it, she wasn't the same. I started stealing from stores, credit cards, drinking at school and rebelling. My grandpa couldn't handle me anymore so he called my father for us to go back and live with him. I met my oldest sister, after many years, and she introduced me to meth while I was in high school. I knew I loved it. I also met the father of my children in high school and we started dating shortly after graduation. It wasn't long after my son was born that one of my boyfriend's family members said they'd tried meth and really liked it. They knew I knew how to get it. That was the big start of my full-blown addiction. Our relationship was good at first, as they all are, but it didn't take long before it became verbally and very physically abusive. When I first became pregnant with my daughter, 9 months after my son was born, I was arrested for a probation violation and I had to sit a few months in jail. When I got out, the father of my children was still using. Of course I wanted to be that mother who was strong enough to say no, but the reality of it was that it was my drug of choice and it came before anything and it was around me. I wasn't full-blown while I carried my daughter, but I had my binges and my doctor warned me, if I didn't quit, they would take her. I quit until she was born. My addiction took us from shelter to shelter until one day the cops stopped us. We both had warrants so Child Protection Services took our children. I did everything right to get my children back, and I did. But that wasn't the last time I would have CPS involved.

This addiction is so strong and so powerful, it will come before anything else if given the chance. I let it take control so many times. Even when I was around my children, if I was high, I was not there. My children didn't have a mom the way they should have. My son went to visit his father in South Carolina while I was in another treatment and he got in trouble, and again, CPS. This was 2019. I did everything right again but it took that and my father, who I was extremely close with, passing away, for me to truly

understand that I was missing something in my life. That something was God. CPS in South Carolina was the biggest blessing in my life! I still have a real, authentic relationship with the foster family there. I brought my son home to Minnesota and the family kept in contact. They helped me so much in knowing how much God loves me and my children. She believed in me every single day, that I would truly find God and find recovery through Jesus. That is what I have done here at Healing House. Since coming to Healing House with both of my children, who have lived with me full-time, I have completed all of my probations and I am no longer on paper. I have paid off all of my fines in full and bought a new vehicle. Healing House of Metro Hope saved my life! God saved my life! My children pray every single day and night before bed, they understand who Jesus is, who God is, and the place for the Holy Spirit. We have read the Children's Bible twice, cover to cover and that's pretty much all they want to read. We are a family and God is in our center. I have over 8 months clean and a life I am truly proud of and it is thanks to everyone I have encountered here at Healing House and especially God. I love, love, love Healing House and whenever I see someone struggling like I was, I tell them about Healing House. I have so much more to continue to grow in but I know with God, anything is possible. I know my dad is extremely proud of me right now. ~Amanda

Amanda graduated on May 8 after successfully completing her programming. She had a job 2 days later, driving kiddos to and from school, which she loves! She also volunteers her time at Healing House. Amanda and her children will continue to live and grow at Healing House. Jesus restores families!



Andy is a graduate and this is his family that God restored! "I'm so grateful to God and Metro Hope for saving my life 3 years ago or I would not be here today to celebrate the graduation of my daughter", said Andy. God rescued Andy from suicide and brought him to Metro Hope. Lives saved for eternity and addiction destroyed! This is the power of Jesus Christ at Metro Hope!

SAVE THE DATE

August 21 - Motorcycle Ride for Recovery

September 30 - Annual Gala, Midland Hills, Roseville

December 18 - Christmas Concert with Fernando Ortega, North Heights Lutheran, Arden Hills
details to follow

I love Metro Hope! Recently, I was in Chapel with our men. I'd heard that the beautiful flowers in the yard were purchased from a pool of funds the men donated to. When I asked them about this, they confirmed that it was true. I replied, "What other recovery center in the city can say their residents love the program so much that they would spend their own money on flowers?" A man raised his hand and said, "We don't see this as a recovery program. This is where we are getting better and growing closer to God"! I was speechless! Then another man said that one of our teacher's daughters is a missionary in Guatemala, building houses for \$1500 for the Guatemalan people. He went on to say that the men had pooled their money and purchased a home. Now, I was crying! That is the power of Jesus in this ministry, living proof of changed hearts and minds! A new graduate recently said, "The same spirit that raised Christ from the dead is in us and in this house! A sermon seen is more powerful than a sermon heard." Come and visit us, experience the power of Jesus Christ! ❤️

Cammy Oren, Board President



Metro Hope Ministries 2739 Cedar Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55407

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Metro Hope Ministries is a 501©3, tax-exempt organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent of the law.



Enhancing Trust

OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE LIVES

Sponsorships and Projects

Did you know that Metro Hope's **Healing House** is the only Christ-centered, addiction-focused program in the Twin Cities that allows mothers to bring their children into recovery with them **FULL TIME?**



Many of the families God brings to Healing House come with only the clothes on their backs. There is NO taxpayer funding to cover the expenses of these precious kiddos.

CHILD SPONSORSHIPS

YOU can become a SPONSOR to care for our children!

Your \$40 monthly sponsorship will provide all of their needs including food, shelter, clothing, shoes, toys, childcare-while their mothers are in Christ-centered programming, a bed and an abundance of the love of Jesus!

The bond between mother and child is strengthened, not broken, while they live, heal and grow together through the power of Jesus Christ. Our families are with us for 9 months to 2 years, depending on their needs. We are excellent at helping mothers regain custody of their children.

It's easy to become a Sponsor! Visit our website, metrohope.org, go to the Donate page, click Child Sponsorship under fund, make it a reoccurring donation and sign up with your credit card.

You will receive a monthly email highlighting a child, along with a photo. We will have special events during the year so you can meet our children. As mothers graduate and move on to their own housing, your sponsorship will move to the next child that God brings through our doors.

**FOR VOLUNTEER AND PROJECT INQUIRIES,
 CONTACT CAMMY,
 CAMMYO@METROHOPE.ORG**



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OPPORTUNITIES TO CHANGE LIVES

Volunteer

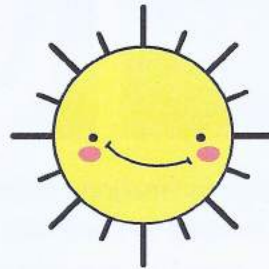
Mentoring - Our residents need people of godly character to invest in their lives. We are looking for men, women and married couples to walk along side our men, women, mothers and children, mentoring them in their new walk with Christ and their families.

Front Desk Administrator - We are in need of volunteers to answer our phones, greet visitors, collect mail and chat with our residents. 4 hour morning and afternoon spots available at both centers.

Sponsorships and Projects



Praise The Lord!
 We are dry and chilly! Our new roof and HVAC system at New Hope Center, for our men, is finished but we still need to raise \$100,000 for the bill.



Our elementary age kiddos go to a full-time summer program for fun and learning! We have 9 children attending at the cost of \$300 each, \$2,700 total.



We always have resident rooms that need some TLC! This room was sponsored by Calvary Lutheran Church of Golden Valley. They painted, added new bedding, window coverings and other items to give our residents a *Home Sweet Home*



3 Acoustic guitars for our men, please!



The City of Minneapolis says we have a leaking underground pipe that must be repaired or capped. Our best bid is \$2,300.



Our level 3 & 4 men are able to attend a Prayer Retreat for 3 days at \$12/person/day! \$500 will cover the cost of lodging, food, gas and a deeper relationship with their Savior!



MORE ON THE OTHER SIDE!

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AMERICA'S FRONTLINE DOCTORS

(<https://americasfrontlinedoctors.org/>)

(This is an excellent site with a huge amount of information and videos to keep the public informed about COVID, vaccinations, alternative medicine such as Ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine and much more. Read the following, Who We Are and visit their site, it's worth it.)

WHO WE ARE

Honest Healthcare Solutions — From the Ground Up

The doctor-patient relationship is being threatened. That means quality patient care is under fire like never before. Powerful interests are undermining the effective practice of medicine with politicized science and biased information. Now more than ever, patients need access to independent, evidence-based information to make the best decisions for their healthcare. Doctors must have the independence to care for their patients without interference from government, media and the medical establishment.

America's Frontline Doctors (AFLDS) stands up for every American looking for the best quality healthcare by empowering doctors working on the front lines of our nation's most pressing healthcare challenges. We help to amplify the voices of concerned physicians and patients nationwide to combat those who push political and economic agendas at the expense of science and quality healthcare solutions.

AFLDS is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization.

Our growing community of member physicians come from across the country representing a range of medical disciplines and practical experience on the front lines of medicine. Our programs focus on a number of critical issues including:

- Providing Americans with science-based facts about COVID-19
- Protecting physician independence from government overreach
- Combating the pandemic using evidence-based approaches without compromising Constitutional freedoms
- Fighting medical cancel culture and media censorship
- Advancing healthcare policies that protect the physician-patient relationship
- Expanding COVID-19 treatment options for all Americans who need them
- Strengthening the voices of front-line doctors in the national healthcare conversation



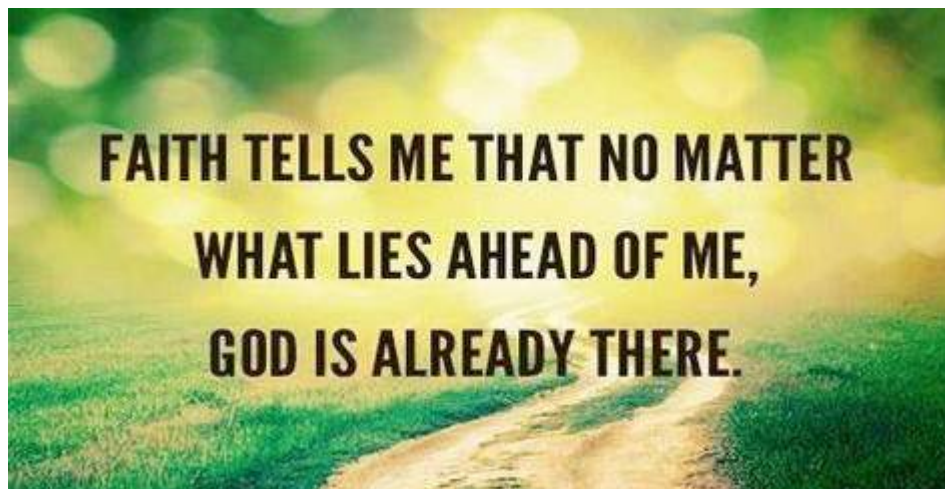
WHAT WE BELIEVE

- AFLDS believes that the American people have the right to accurate information using trusted data derived from decades of practical experience, not politicized science and Big Tech-filtered public health information.
- We support devolving critical public health decision-making away from Washington and closer to local communities and the physicians that serve them. We are steadfastly committed to protecting the physician-patient relationship.
- We support incorporating front-line and actively practicing physicians into the nation's healthcare policy conversation.
- We believe that organizations like the AMA and other sources of medical information have lost their independence and should be treated with greater skepticism.
- We believe that safe and effective, over-the-counter COVID preventative and early treatment options should be made available to all Americans who need them. We reject mandatory government lockdowns and restrictions not supported by scientific evidence. We support focused care for the nation's at-risk population, including seniors and the immune-compromised.

Most of all, America's Frontline Doctors is committed to maintaining the physician-patient relationship in the face of government encroachment. We are not the media – please share what you learn here.

ABOUT THE FOUNDER

AFLDS founder Simone Gold, MD, JD, FABEM, “the doctor who went viral,” is a board-certified emergency physician and author of the best-selling book “I Do Not Consent: My Fight Against Medical Cancel Culture.” She graduated from Chicago Medical School before attending Stanford University Law School to earn her Juris Doctorate degree. Dr. Gold worked in Washington, D.C. for the Surgeon General, as well as for the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee.



August Sermons/Scriptures

🍷 August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: Wonder Bread

OT Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 4:1-16

Gospel Lesson: John 6:22-35

🍷 August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: God's Power on God's Terms

OT Lesson: Isaiah 29:11-19

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:22-33

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:1-13

🍷 August 8, 2021

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Run in Fear

OT Lesson: 1 Kings 19:1-8

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Gospel Lesson: John 6:35-51

🍷 August 29, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service & Church Picnic

Sermon: Be Careful

OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 6:10-20

Gospel Lesson: Mark 7:14-23

🍷 August 15, 2021

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Watch Your Step

OT Lesson: Proverbs 9:1-10

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 5:6-21

Gospel Lesson: John 6:51-69



August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Greeters: Don/Bobbi Reader: Rick	2	3	4	5 Quilting- 10am	6	7
8 Greeters: Randy/Deb Reader: Anie	9	10 Deacons- 5:45pm Council- 6:30pm	11 Bday: Deb Stensrud	12 Bdays: Skyler Pedely Kazra Swanson	13	14
15 Greeters: Grea/Sherrv Reader: Grea	16 Bday: Rachel Snitzer	17 Women of Life Bible Study- 2pm	18	19 Quilting- 10am	20	21
22 Greeters: Steve/Jan Reader: Tony	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Church Picnic	30	31 Bday: Zade Swanson				