

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

November 2022

Volume 151

Yes, it is November, and in three short weeks we will be carving up Tom the Turkey or slicing a ham. As always, there should be no shortage of food on the Thanksgiving table. This we have come to expect living in a land of abundance.

Around the world and even places in America, people will lack the resources for an abundance of food for various reasons. We need reminding that each meal we eat, be it a home cooked meal, at a restaurant, or at someone's home; what is set before us is a gracious gift from God. We must not take God's blessings for granted for when we do they become entitlements.

Thanksgiving Day is an annual reminder that there is someone greater than ourselves who is behind the food, goods, and services we have come to expect and sometimes demand. When the Hebrews left Egypt and were living in the barren desert they had no natural source of water, no gardens or orchards. They were completely dependent on the gracious hand of God to provide for all their needs; and God was faithful. I am sure most of us depend more on the local grocery store, big box store and perhaps Amazon to provide for our needs. Even those outlets are there by the grace of God.



Living in an agricultural community is a little easier to see God's hand at work providing a good harvest. Especially when I hear farmers say they are surprised considering the lack of rain or flooding or intense heat or whatever the extremes may be for a given year. Behind it all is God's grace upon grace, which we need to pause and open our eyes to see His hand of love, compassion and provision through His grace. John 1:16 *Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.*

Have you paused long enough to recognize His grace, to think about it and to stop and give thanks? Write down what you are thankful for and offer thanks. Do this not just the days leading up to Thanksgiving, but once a month and see how it shapes your perspective on daily life and God.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Pastor's Conference

Bearing Christ's Light in a Culture of Darkness was the theme for this year's pastor's conference held October 24-27 in St. Paul, MN.

The key note speaker was the Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, bishop of the Minnesota South West District., LCMS. A great deal of information was covered in his four sessions. He began by explaining how we arrived at our postmodern times; from losing the grand story of scripture (biblical worldview) through the quagmire of Nihilism, our narcissistic epidemic to postmodern thinkers such as Sigmund Freud and Friedrich Nietzsche (God is dead) to the postmodern key features of moral confusion, critical race theory and cancel culture. How do we shine the Light of Christ in such darkness? Are we to do something totally different, accommodate the patterns in society to attract people, go back to the first century church or what?

We have been taught through the years that the purpose and mission of the church was the Great commission of Matthew 28:18-20 *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* When originally given by Jesus, was it to be the sole purpose for the church until the end of time, and if so, how is it to be understood? Interesting thought, nowhere in the New Testament does the Great Commission function as a mission statement or imperative for the church.

Dr. Woodford takes a hard look through the lens of the third article of the Apostle's Creed as a means of bearing Christ's light in our present darkness. *"I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen."*



What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church, He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day, He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

What is the church called to be in the world? Is its goal to be a megachurch, a wealthy church, a successful church, or a socially influential church? No, her call is to be an Apostolic church, one grounded on the writings of the apostles, aka, the New Testament which would include the Old Testament. "Faithfulness, not numbers or status, should be the characteristic that shapes the witness of the church. . . . If the church is to recover her identity and mission, it begins with the unabashed proclamation of Jesus Christ crucified and risen from the dead. Scripture alone, grace alone, faith alone is the beating heart of the church's mission.

It boils down to the Word of God that the Holy Spirit works through to change lives. This is nothing new, just forgotten or buried under the techniques of the world.

One last point. Regarding our vocation and proclamation: “each vocation brings people into contact with people around them, first to serve them according to that vocation, and then during the natural course of interactions, and with intentionality, to proclaim the good news of Christ.” Vocation is not restricted to a career outside the home, it includes the student to the grandparent, whatever your position is in life at a given time. So, as we all go about our vocation, or as Martin Luther says, our station in life, when opportunities naturally arise through normal interaction, we should take advantage of the open door and plant a seed or two of truth depending their openness. Never force it. Then after the seed is planted allow the Holy Spirit to use it as he sees fit.

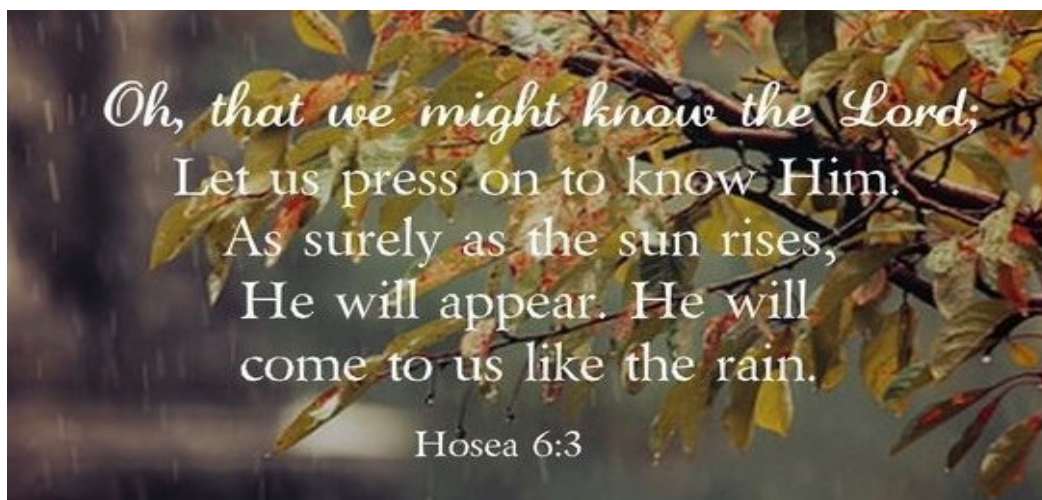
It all comes back to the inerrant and infallible Word of God; it is alive and active.



Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

Rev. Dr. Cary Larson



November Sermons & Scriptures

■ November 6, 2022

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: Strange Fire

OT Lesson: Exodus 3:1-15

Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

Gospel Lesson: Luke 20:27-40

■ November 13, 2022

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: The Great Day

OT Lesson: Malachi 4:1-4

Epistle Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15

Gospel Lesson: Luke 21:5-28

■ November 20, 2022

Mission Sunday

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Missions

OT Lesson: Malachi 3:13-18

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 1:13-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 23:27-43

■ November 23, 2022

Thanksgiving Eve

Evening Worship Service

Sermon: Thanksgiving Eve

OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:6-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 17:11-19

■ November 27, 2022

First Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Soon Upon Us

OT Lesson: Isaiah 2:1-5

Epistle Lesson: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 24: 36-44



November Serving Schedule

	Nov 6	Nov. 13	Nov. 20	Nov 23	Nov. 27
<u>Readers</u>	Nick	Brandon	Bobbi	Pastor	Jack
<u>Acolyte</u>	Sophia	Sophia	Sophia	Sophia	Sophia
<u>Communion</u>	Nick				
<u>Ushers</u>	Deb/Randy-----				
<u>Greeters</u>	Billy/Angie	Jesse/Rachel	Michelle	_____	Val/Cathy
<u>\$ Counters</u>	Billy/Bobby/Jesse	Billy/Bobby/Jesse	Billy/Bobby/Jesse	Billy/Bobby/Jesse	
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<u>Sound</u>	Greg	Don	Derek	Steve	Devon
<u>Computer</u>	Dave	Rachel	Dave	Bobby	Donna

If you find that you have been scheduled for a ministry time when you are unable to serve, please find a replacement, then let pastor know. Thank you.

NOVEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Confirmation- 4:30 Bday- Kayla Dontje	3	4 Bday- Ruth Sunne	5 Bday- Matt Swanson
6 Daylight Saving Communion Sunday Greeters: Billy/Angie Reader: Nick Bday- Ashley Keel	7	8 9-6 OCC Packing Party Deacons- 5:45 Council- 6:30	9 Confirmation- 4:30	10	11 Veterans Day Bday- Levi Stensrud	12
13 Greeters: Jesse/Rachel Reader: Brandon	14 Bday- Kyle Elbert OCC Dropoff	15 Women's Study @ Pat Hagen's- 2pm Bday- Val Johanson OCC Dropoff	16 Confirmation- 4:30 Bday- Elsie Felland OCC Dropoff	17 OCC Dropoff	18 OCC Dropoff	19 OCC Dropoff
20 Greeters: Shelly Reader: Bobbi OCC Dropoff	21 OCC Dropoff	22 Bday- Pr Bob Snitzer	23 Thanksgiving Eve Service- 6:30pm	24 Thanksgiving	25 Bday- Kathy Hanna	26
27 Greeters: Val/Cathy Reader: Jack Bdays- Marian Lenz, Laurel Yost	28 Bday- Tony Gray	29	30 Confirmation- 4:30			