

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

February 2023

Jewish Holidays

In four short weeks we will begin the season of Lent, a sure signal Spring is around the corner. It is also a time to reflect on the life and death of God's only son and its importance in our lives. Focus is generally on the New Testament gospels since they tell us about the life of Jesus.

This year we will look at Israel's Holy Days or holidays. There is nothing in the bible that is not significant, things we can learn from regarding how the holidays connect to the Messiah and any reflection it has in the New Testament and for us today.

By learning about them we see the spiritual traditions Jesus grew up with and practiced. It will also help us understand Christianity's spiritual roots in our Jewish heritage. In Leviticus 23 there are listed twelve feasts or sacred days, we will look at a number of them. How were they observed in the past, the present and prophetic fulfillment.

Have you ever wondered about the feast of Tabernacles, the feast of Passover, the feast of Trumpets, the day of Atonement and the day of Purim? In the coming weeks leading up to Easter we will look into these holidays and their Messianic implications.

Lent will begin February 22, a Wednesday service and continue on Sunday mornings to obtain maximum attendance. I am looking forward to examining our Jewish roots with you.



GRATITUDE MATTERS

Though we celebrate many holidays filled with feasting, family, and friends, giving thanks is an everyday grace for bringing the sacred into any moment.

On the spiritual side, gratefulness is more than an attitude. It can also become a holy habit that draws us closer to God, strengthens our faith, and brings us freedom from worry.

That's worth fighting for, isn't it?

TRUTHS ABOUT GRATITUDE

Gratitude matters. It makes a difference every single day. Thankfulness reminds us of many blessings that come from God's good presence in our lives.

Gratitude is an everyday grace. Holidays are important, but gratitude and thanksgiving are an important daily practice connected to our relationship with Christ. Paul instructs believers to give thanks in everything we do and say: "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:17, ESV). In everything, doesn't that indicate gratitude is an everyday practice?

Gratitude is a choice. How do we love God more than the things that bring us the most delight and pleasure in life? When we remember that every good gift is from our Father, the gift can draw our attention and gratitude to God.

Let your gifts and blessings become windows to see God's heart for you. Gratitude is inseparable from love. Count your blessings each day, whether mentally or on paper.

Gratitude is a gift. God gives us the gift of gratitude to help us not take our blessings for granted. In the trials of life, gratitude empowers us to continue to trust God as we remember His faithful gifts of the past.

Gratitude opens the door to peace. On our best days, and even on our worst, thankfulness makes a difference. An integral part of prayer, giving thanks opens the door to experiencing God's peace. "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:6-7, NLT).

No matter the need or the request, let's learn the holy habit of saturating our prayers with thanksgiving!

Gratitude is the foundation of joy. Gratitude, contentment, and joy are some of life's sweetest blessings. Where we find one, we often experience the others as well. A grateful life is also a joyful life. What fills you with joy today?

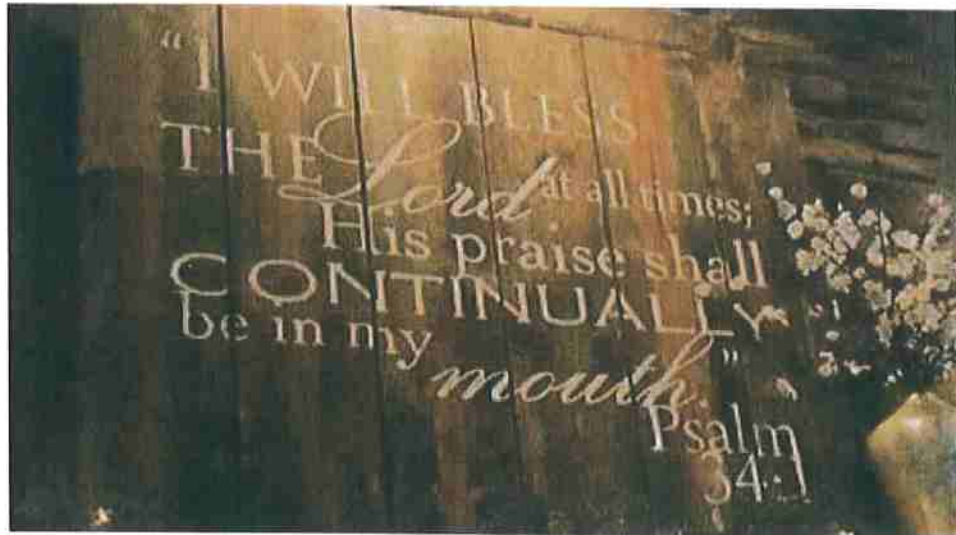
5 Tips for a Grateful Life

Building good habits and experiencing grateful moments doesn't just happen. It takes intention and practice. When is the last time you started your day in a good mood and all it took was one thing going wrong to plummet your good mood to negative thinking? Here are a few practices to up the gratitude level in your life:

1. **Thank God for who He is, not only for what He gives.** Let every gift, each blessing, large or small, become a reminder of the magnificence of God. Stretch your heart to look beyond the gift to the wonder of the Giver. When our gratitude is dependent on the gift, we develop a consumer mindset toward God. In *A Godward Life*, John Piper writes, "God is not glorified if the foundation of our gratitude is the worth of the gift and not the excellence of the Giver."
2. **Enter God's presence with gratitude.** Thank God for something specific every time you enter into His presence through prayer. We need to be specific when giving thanks – this keeps us focused and personalizes it beyond a rote practice. King David, writer of many psalms, instructs us that thankfulness is the appropriate attire of the heart. Psalm 100:4-5a (NASB) says, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good."
3. **Challenge yourself to give thanks in every circumstance.** It takes resilient faith to look for something to thank God for in the midst of hard times. We may not be thankful FOR everything that happens, but we can, at the least, be thankful for God's promises that apply even ON our most difficult days. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thess. 5:16-18). If we really look for something every day to be thankful for, we will find it. This will create a habit of thanksgiving that is a fundamental part of a joyful life.
4. **Express gratitude by giving to others.** Because God has loved us, we can freely love others. In Christ, we are full and complete, so we have grace and mercy to extend to others. God has forgiven us, so we can forgive others. Forgiving someone releases us from the burden of resentment and anger. The sacred habit of gratitude is one way the Holy Spirit works in our lives to teach us how to live God's way. Holiness on the inside, changes the way we live, making a practical difference in our days. "Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude" (Col. 2:6-7, NASB).
5. **Keep a gratitude journal of what you are thankful for as part of your daily time with God.** Writing adds a kinetic and visual aspect to expressing gratitude. As you keep a list of things you are thankful for, you have a tangible reminder of God's goodness. It is fun to watch your blessings mount up, taking more and more space in your journal. Cultivating a grateful heart takes time and intention that is worth our every effort. As thankfulness becomes a holy habit and a natural part of your day, you will experience a

deeper life with God. Are you ready to discover how gratitude can change your life?
Let's start TODAY!

-Ginger Harrington-



Interesting facts about the Pilot Knob Lutheran Cemetery:

- Currently there are 242 graves.
- Oldest gravestone is dated 1831 and belongs to Anders Teigen.
- Newest grave is from 2022 belonging to Russ Daggett.
- Oldest by age is 100 all the way down to infant.
- Average age is 63.



Did you know that the word LOVE is mentioned in the Bible 551 times?

LIST OF SPECIAL FUNDS TO CONTRIBUTE TO:

SCHROEDER MISSIONARY
BUILDING
SAMARITANS PURSE
MEMORIAL (FOR FUNERAL GIFTS)
BENEVOLENCE
METRO HOPE
FOOD BANK
KITCHEN FUND
LIVING LAST SUPPER
EMERGENCY FUND
CHURCH RELIEF FUND (AALC CHURCHES ONLY)
COMPUTER/TECH
PKLC GOOD SAMARITAN FUND (HELP OTHERS IN NEED)
HWY 9 SIGN FUND
BIBLE CAMP (FOR YOUTH CAMP)
ROOF FUND (NEEDS APPROX. \$5,000)
CARING PREGNANCY
UKRAINE (AALC CHURCHES THERE)
SOUND SYSTEM (NEEDS \$2,000)
KIOW (ON-GOING, MONTHLY NEED IS \$212.00)



QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT PR. BOB OR ANY COUNCIL MEMBER

CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

LELAND PEDERSEN, SANDY SMITH, BETTY WADDINGTON,
DAVE PETERSON, DR. CARY LARSON (AALC) PASTOR AND
FAMILY, PR. SCOTT YOUNT (UKRAINE), PRESIDENT,
ISRAEL, POLICE, MILITARY, GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY,
AALC, PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS, LUKE & RUTH
SCHROEDER (WMPL;PHILIPPINES), DEANNA JORDAN (CARE
CENTER)

NOTICE

**PLEASE MAKE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN YOUR
DIRECTORY**

Phone Numbers:

Jack Smith (Cell) 641-590-7391
Sandy Smith (Cell) 641-420-3278
Derek Jordan 641-529-6722

Address:

Mohlis, Joe & Cathy: 225 N State Ave. (Crystal Lake, IA)

Birthdays:

May 18th Clara Zacharias (not Mohlis)
May 1st Don Reese

Email:

Emily Daggett emilyd@wctatel.net

Email Prayer Chain:

Sue Reese dsreese@wctatel.net



February Sermons & Scriptures

February 5th, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: Are You a Witness?

OT Lesson: Isaiah 58:3-9a

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:13-20

February 12th, 2023

Sixth Sunday of Epiphany

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Only Two Choices

OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 5:21-37

February 19th, 2023

Transfiguration

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Trans-Figured

OT Lesson: Exodus 24:8-18

Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 17:1-9

February 22nd, 2023

Ash Wednesday

6:30 PM Service

Sermon: The Kings Wisdom

OT Lesson: Joel 2:12-19

Epistle Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26th, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: The King Betrayed

OT Lesson: Genesis 3:1-21

Epistle Lesson: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:1-11

Believe
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
HAVE NOT SEEN, YET BELIEVE

FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 <u>Communion Sunday</u> Greeters: Michelle & Marty Reader: Joel Showalter	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Greeters Matt & Diane Reader: Brandon Cink <u>Annual Meeting 10:25 AM</u>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> Council 5:45 PM Deacons 6:30 PM Council Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 Griefshare 2:00 PM Greeters: Joel & Bert Reader: Tony Gray	20	21 B-Day Michelle Jordan Women's Bible Study 2:00 PM B-Day Sophia Reese B-Day Jack Smith	22 Ash Wednesday Church Service 6:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Greeters: Betty W & Vickie Reader: Bobbi Elbert	27	28				

Volunteers:

February Ushers: Don and Sue Reese
February Custodians: Randy and Deb Stensrud
Acolyte: Sophia Reese