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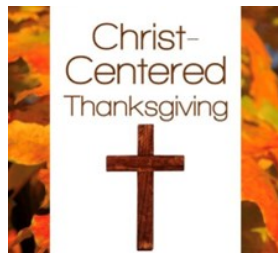
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Redeemer's Christian Connection

November Newsletter

Pastor's Page



GIVING THANKS EVEN for CONFLICT

Earlier this year I took part one of an online class called “Coaching People to Reconcile,” which the Rocky Mountain District made available through The Ambassador's of Reconciliation (a recognized service organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod). One of the things this course reminded me of is how we can thank God even for times of conflict. So, during this month, which includes a special day of Thanksgiving for God's blessings (November 23rd), I decided to adapt a “Pastor's Page” article from my first full year as your pastor, to help us again remember that whenever we're faced with conflict among family members, members of our church family and others, THE conflict resolution is our crucified and risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

While I think it's safe to assume that none of us like conflict, it is something that we all must deal with, especially as Christians in a world full of sin (in us and around us). Wouldn't it be great if our times of conflict could be turned into times of blessing for others and ourselves? God certainly makes this possible through His Word, especially His Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. Our understanding of how God has already resolved the greatest conflict in our lives (the conflict between Him and us as a result of our sins) through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, and through the gift of faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, serves as our starting point and the power behind our ability to turn times of conflict into times of blessing.

In an article by Ted Kober (the Senior Ambassador Emeritus for Ambassador's of Reconciliation), he quotes four principles which help us to understand some of what God's Word teaches about resolving conflict (see also Matthew 18:15-20).

+ **Glorify God** - How can I please and honor God in this situation, and how can I give witness to what he has done for me through Christ?

+ **Get the log out of your eye** - How have I contributed to this conflict and what do I need to do to resolve it?

+ **Go and show your brother his fault** - How can I, in love, help others to understand how they have contributed to this conflict?

+ **Go and be reconciled** - How can I demonstrate forgiveness and encourage a reasonable solution to this conflict?

Here is one example that Ted used to demonstrate how some of these “Four G’s” can be put in to practice. A high school student named Chris signed up for a work-study program in the gym so that he could pick up a few easy credits and fulfill his requirements for graduation. This work-study program used an honor system and required Chris to keep a record of what he did for approval by his teacher at the end of the semester. At first, Chris completed the required tasks and documented his work. But over time, he got lazy and began skipping out on his responsibilities. When it came time to turn in his log book he decided to fudge the entries in order to get the needed credits. Then he stopped. What are you doing? Chris asked himself. You’re a child of God and this is a lie. I can’t make up stuff I didn’t do. But now what? If I’m honest, I’ll fail this class and maybe miss graduation. What will my teacher say? Or my friends? Or my parents! Lord, I’ve made a mess of things—help me to know what to do.

Chris prayed for God’s guidance right up to the moment he faced his teacher, Mr. Thomas.

“Well, Chris, let me see your log book.”

“I can’t show it to you, Mr. Thomas.”

“Why not?”

“Because it’s a lie.”

Chris explained to Mr. Thomas that he often skipped his scheduled gym time and intended to falsify his records to get the needed credit. But because he was a Christian, he realized his sin and decided to be honest with himself and his teacher. Chris confessed that he failed to fulfill his responsibilities and deserved an F. Mr. Thomas gave Chris a puzzled look.

“Why would you tell me this?” asked Mr. Thomas. “I don’t understand!”

“I told you, Mr. Thomas. I’m a Christian, and because of what Jesus has done for me, I cannot live this lie.”

Chris then told Mr. Thomas about Jesus Christ and what He meant to him.

Mr. Thomas shook his head and said: “I’ve never met a student like you. You’re right, Chris. Your work is incomplete and you deserve to fail. But you demonstrate an integrity that exceeds what I’ve found in any other student. I’m going to pass you anyway.”

Although Mr. Thomas made no profession of faith, Chris understood his responsibility was to do what was right before God. Chris’ confession of sin also became his opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Through his faith, God enabled Chris to turn this time of conflict into an opportunity to glorify God, serve others, and grow in his faith.

Can you think of a way you, by the grace of God, can turn a time of conflict in your own life into an opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ? When times of conflict bring us back to the message of the cross of Jesus Christ, blessings will result. For this we give thanks to God.

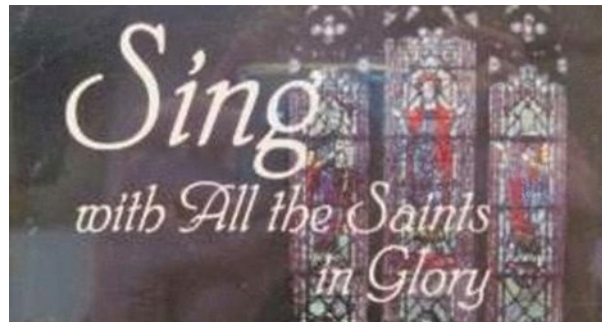
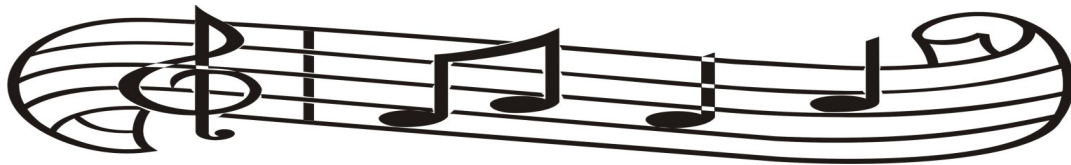
In Christ Jesus, Pastor Van



REDEEMER'S THANKSGIVING DINNER
Sunday, November 19th at 6pm

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex which covers all the necessary items for the meal.
Please sign up, and bring a guest! All are welcome!

Hymn of the Month



LSB 671

One of the reasons I chose “Sing with All the Saints in Glory” for November’s Hymn of the Month (from the Church Triumphant section of Lutheran Service Book) is because it reminds us that not only will we be singing about the glory of heaven when we’re in heaven, but that we can also sing today with the saints in heaven even though we’re not yet in the final heaven. Why can we sing today, even in the midst of this troubles in this world? Because, “Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, **to former days belong.**”

What is meant by “former days”? I can’t help but think of those days when we didn’t know of God’s promise of salvation through Jesus Christ. Even though most of us were raised in a Christian home, there are many days during which we act like we have forgotten the salvation that is ours in Christ Jesus. Those days may include times of conflict, like I mentioned in the previous article. But, again, “Death and sorrow, earth’s dark story, **to the former days belong.**” Jesus assures us of this through His resurrection from the dead.

The former days, before Jesus’ work of salvation through the cross, included death and sorrow. Jesus’ cross stands at the crossroads of the former days and the new day. Jesus is the first fruits of the new creation. *“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death”* (1 Corinthians 15:20-26).

God also reminds us that “Death and sorrow, earthly dark story, **to the former days belong,**” by giving us sunny, blue skied days after the storms of this life. “All around the clouds are breaking; soon the storms of time shall cease,” off and on during these days, and forever in the day to come.

All glory be to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Birthdays

Natalie Jordan—November 5
Sue Morris—November 6
Jackie Robirds—November 9
Chuck Sidor—November 9
Benjamin Kindschy—November 9
Michael Guerra—November 10
Vera Loose—November 11
Mel Mertens—November 11
Hannah Wacker—November 11
Marilyn Liebetrau—November 12
Frank Candelaria—November 24
Samuel Buchman—November 25
James Brewster—November 25
Tom Nagoda—November 27
Marie Buchholz—November 28

Baptismal Birthdays

Gordon Wagner—November 6
Morgan Andasola—November 7
Josie Kindschy—November 8
Sandy Holden—November 10
Ashley Kindschy—November 11
Char Waggoner—November 12
Mary Miller—November 19
Jordan Oeltjenbruns—November 20
Renee` Beck—November 24
Hannah Wacker—November 24
Benjamin Kindschy—November 25
Eveli Strassle—November 28

Wedding Anniversaries

Rodney & Karen Karp—November 8
Herb & Holly Kruger—November 11
Steve & Eileen Burnick—November 19
John & Char Vastag—November 26
Tom & Marguerite Wingfield—November 27

THE LORD'S MINISTRY

Redeemer Lutherans attendance figures and financial blessings that were given for the month of October to further maintain the Lord's ministry.

Date	Attendance	Communicants	Offerings Received Gen./Designated Funds	Needed Operating Budget
10-1 -2023	89	70	\$5,042.00/\$1,811.79	\$4,455.06
10-8 -2023	87	72	\$2,680.50/\$980.00	\$4,455.06
10-15-2023	74		\$3,769.00/\$25.00	\$4,455.06
10-22 -2023	91	68	\$3,114.00/\$2,229.00	\$4,455.06
10-29-2023	76	53	\$1,362.00/\$72.00	\$4,455.06

Life Thoughts in the Church Year

November 5 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26A) – The Lord our God has given us sexuality for relationship, family, and community. These matters cannot become merely private choices or personal preferences. What we do with our bodies also affects our neighbors (1 Thessalonians 4:3-6). Abortion reveals that lust always leads to destruction. Marriage and parenting prove we do not need abortion – indeed, these gifts leave us no room for it!

November 12 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 27A) – Like the parable's bridegroom, Jesus often meets us in unexpected moments (Matthew 25:10). He even sometimes hides in surprise pregnancies or terminal diagnoses in order to rescue and bless. So, we dare not ignore the poor and needy neighbors who cry out for deliverance (Psalm 70:1, 5) from abortion and assisted suicide. If we do indeed love the Lord's salvation, then let us say so (Psalm 70:4)!

November 19 – Pentecost XXV (Proper 28A) – Many around us despair because the world pressures them into the violence and fraud (Zephaniah 1:9) of viewing death as a solution to difficulty. In the sanctity of every human life, we have riches to spare (Matthew 25:15). Gospel hope and joy are not just for us to possess. Jesus brings us faith and life to proclaim and put into practice.

November 26 – Pentecost XXIV (Proper 29A) – Guilt and grief can devastate those who abort their own children (Matthew 25:37-38). The Lord God longs to relieve their wounds with His forgiveness (Ezekiel 34:16). If Jesus overcomes death for us, He can also subdue it for them (1 Corinthians 15:25-26). May our mouths make the joyful noise (Psalm 95:2) of explicitly applying His atoning grace to every sin!

*Give Thanks to the Lord,
for He is good.
Psalm 107:1*

