



The Eighth Commandment by Pastor Glenn Huebel

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

Luther reminds us that the original context of this commandment was the courtroom and that justice and truth are inseparable. Justice requires knowledge of the truth because when truth is hidden or distorted, the guilty are set free or the innocent are punished – or both. The jury must apply the law to the facts as they are presented, but if the testimony they hear is not really true, their verdict will likely be unjust even if they apply the law correctly. That’s why there are severe laws against committing

perjury. Our legal system has established a detailed and intricate system of rules and regulations designed to assure that the jury will hear and act upon the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. The system also governs the behavior of Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Judge, and Jury to that noble end. And yet with all these safeguards in place the system still fails occasionally to administer justice. It is difficult to maintain and discern the truth because we live in a fallen world.

anymore. We’ve come to expect it. We need to recognize that all the misery and sorrow in the world today can be traced back to a single lie: “God knows that if you eat of it your eyes will be opened and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.” One wonders if Eve was so gullible because she had never heard a lie before and had no practice in discernment. Most of us learn quickly enough in this world that not every word or person is trustworthy. We know that people lie. Dr. House’s cynical observation, “everybody lies,” is accurate. Deception is a way of life in this world and things will not get better in that regard. Jesus says, “Evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived” (2 Tim. 3:15). This deception will be especially prominent in the church, for “false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders to lead astray, if possible, the elect”(Mark 13:22). Just before the coming of Christ Satan will be loosed to deceive the nations (Rev. 20:7). This must refer to an unprecedented supernatural darkness that blinds the world as its end approaches.

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Rembrandt, *Moses With the Ten Commandments*. 1659. Oil on canvas, 168.5 cm x 136.5 cm. Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

Adam and Eve fell through deception of the devil. Jesus says that the devil is a liar and the father of lies, that lying is his native language. The lie is still the devil’s primary weapon. Indeed, it is a weapon of mass destruction since his original lie has brought death to the entire human race. Lying has become so common-place among us that we don’t think of it as a serious evil

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That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. —John 20:31

Eighth Commandment, cont.

It is clear that God does not consider deception to be a minor problem in the world. When we lie – whether in or out of court - we speak the devil’s language and serve the devil’s schemes.

It is significant that Jesus defines Himself as “the Truth” (John 14:6), encourages us to remain in the Word so that we may know the truth and be set free (John 8:32-33), declares His purpose as “bearing witness to the truth” and identifies His people as those who are “of the truth” (John 18:37). True believers have been begotten through the truth (James 1:18), rejoice with the truth (1 Cor. 13:6), speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), and separate themselves from the lie. The Church is the “pillar and ground of the truth” in this world (1 Tim. 3:15), the lighthouse that calls sinners out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Pet. 2:9). Believers shudder to see the lie enter into the church in any way because deception is devilish no matter how well intentioned it may be. Deception is the serpent’s voice from which the sheep of Christ flee (John 10:5).

All of this should lead us naturally to repentance because it exposes just how often we have been partners with the evil one, using our tongues to destroy others rather than to build them up, to wound rather than heal, to lead astray rather than to guide lost souls. We have learned to lie convincingly, so convincingly that we often deceive ourselves, escaping the call to repentance because we believe our own propaganda (Jer. 17:9). The love of neighbor requires that we be truthful – about him and to him, and that we do all to protect his reputation and honor inasmuch as we can do so honestly. Thank God, Jesus has fulfilled this

commandment for us in His earthly walk, and by His obedience we are declared righteous. Thank God we don’t live under the law, but under grace through faith in Jesus Christ.

The old movie, “Liar, Liar” shows a ridiculous caricature of a person who supposedly cannot lie. Jesus shows us the real beauty of such a God-pleasing life. What practical wisdom does this commandment – and its fulfillment in the life of Jesus - provide the believer who lives under grace? The new man, created in Christ, earnestly desires and prays for truth in the inward being (Ps. 51:6; Ps. 25:5,10; Prov. 8:7; Prov. 23:23). A God-pleasing life is a life of INTEGRITY, an increasingly rare virtue in the world today. Truth today is created, not discovered or received. Modern “truth” is a story that we invent rather than an objective reality. We see this in politics, in marketing, in journalism, in sales, in creative accounting, in social media, in sports, in resume-writing, and in practically every other vocation of modern life. The skill of spinning a story is valued more highly than the virtue of integrity, and receives far greater earthly benefits and rewards. We probably all know of an accountant, teacher, politician, journalist, salesperson, or pastor who suffered in one way or another because he or she refused to play the deception game. And we can probably all give examples of people who have prospered through deception. The temptations to compromise truth abound today for all of us, but our children and grandchildren are immersed in a culture in which integrity has gone the way of chastity. It is considered an archaic virtue.

How can we teach our children and

grandchildren to love truth and hate deception? As in every commandment we model integrity in our own lives. We show integrity when we refuse to believe and get worked up over rumors and insist instead upon hearing all sides of a story before making judgments. We show integrity by giving a fair hearing to our opponents and even our enemies, and acknowledging when they are correct. We show integrity by refusing to present facts in a deceptive and misleading way, or even to participate and give silent consent to such endeavors. We show integrity when we refuse to operate by a double standard, defending friends when they are wrong and condemning enemies even when they are right. We teach our child integrity by resisting the urge to do his class project for him so that he can get a good grade, and allowing him to struggle to produce his own work and receive whatever grade he deserves for it – even if other parents are not doing that. We teach our child integrity when we insist that she keep her commitment to go to the prom with George when the hottest guy in class asks her to go with him two weeks later. We teach our child integrity when we consistently communicate that lying is a worse sin than the one he is trying to cover up. We teach our child integrity when we positively reinforce every little sign of the virtue in her life, ESPECIALLY when she must suffer for the sake of truth.

Finally, and most importantly, we and our children must learn to DISCERN the truth and to separate the wheat from the chaff. The best way to do that is to expose children to the truth throughout their growing years. This comes through abiding

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Eighth Commandment, cont.

in the Word of God. Moses probably gives the best description of such “abiding” in Deuteronomy 6, where he says, “These words that I command you this day shall be upon your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your

eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates” (Deut. 6:4-9). That’s immersion in the Word of truth. Jesus promises that when we abide in the Word we WILL KNOW THE TRUTH. I am told that it is very difficult to pass a counterfeit bill through an experienced bank teller. A teller is so familiar with the feel of genuine money, that a counterfeit bill will immediately be recognized to the touch. Are you and your

children so immersed in the Word that you can discern a lie even before you can intellectually examine it?

“Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law. I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws” (Psalm 119:29-30)

Blessings,

Pastor Huebel



Sing a New Song to the Lord by Kantor Vicki Main

In August we will be learning LSB 652, *Father, We Thank Thee*. Obviously a prayer – a prayer of thanksgiving – for grace and mercy embodied in God’s Son, Jesus Christ for The Church. You may want to read the scriptural references as well – John 6:22-58 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 to further broaden your appreciation of this hymn.

1 Father, we thank Thee who hast planted
Thy holy name within our hearts.
Knowledge and faith and life immortal
Jesus, Thy Son, to us imparts.
Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy pleasure,
Didst give us food for all our days,
Giving in Christ the Bread eternal;
Thine is the pow’r, be Thine the praise.

2 Watch o’er Thy Church, O Lord,
in mercy,
Save it from evil, guard it still,
Perfect it in Thy love, unite it,
Cleansed and conformed unto Thy will.
As grain, once scattered on the hillsides,
Was in this broken bread made one,
So from all lands Thy Church be gathered
Into Thy kingdom by Thy Son.

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The hymn text was translated by **Francis Bland Tucker** (1895-1984). He was born in Norfolk, Virginia and was a Bible scholar, Episcopal priest and hymn composer. He was educated at the University of Virginia and the Virginia Theological Seminary.

The hymn tune – *Rendez A Dieu* – is attributed to **Louis Bourgeois**, a French composer and music theorist of the Renaissance. The doxology we sing [*Praise God from whom all blessings flow etc.*], usually known as Old 100th, is commonly attributed to him as well. He is most famous as one of the main compilers of Calvinist hymn tunes in the middle of the 16th century. Unfortunately little or nothing is known about his early life.

Once learned, this hymn tune will enable us to sing LSB 792, *New Songs of Celebration Render*, as well as LSB 600, *Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering*.

An interesting bit of trivia, this tune has been published in 62 different hymnals.

Vicki L. Main, Kantor

Our Vacation Bible School this year was a huge success. We had 132 students (107 were non-members; 25 were members) attend with 54 volunteers to help. Without our volunteers VBS never could have happened. So THANK YOU ALL so much!!

This year's theme was Tell It On The Mountain: Where Jesus Christ is Lord. Each day the children discussed a different mountain event in bible history. Day one was Mount Sinai. God came down on that mountain to be with His people. The children learned that God gave His people rules called the Ten Commandments that would keep them with Him and with each other. Day two was Mount Carmel. After God's people showed their sinfulness by worshiping another god, He showed them He is the one true God by sending fire from heaven. The children learned that there are many attractive things in the world and we will fall into sin sometimes, but if we confess our sins He will forgive us. Day three was the Mount of Transfiguration. The children pretended to climb a high mountain with Jesus and three of his disciples so God could reveal his Son to them. Jesus was transfigured and became dazzling white. Today God's Son is present with us and through His Word and Sacraments. Day four was Golgotha. Here the children learned how Jesus climbed the mount of Golgotha to save us. They learned how Jesus stepped in for us to take the punishment for our sins and then rose from the dead to show He had won. God gave us eternal life and this life is in His Son. Day five Jesus instructs us to "Go to All!" Jesus told his disciples to meet him on a mountain in Galilee after His

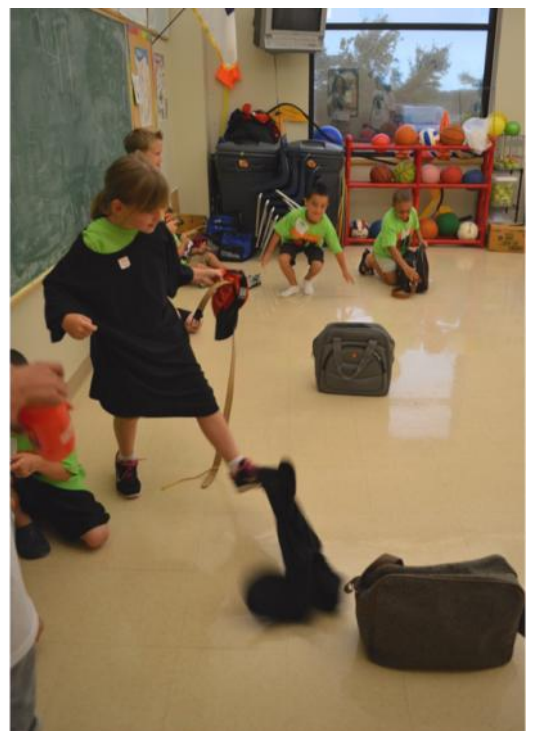
resurrection. There he told the disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations". The children learned that they are also disciples of Christ and they should take any opportunity to spread the good news of Jesus, God's Son and his precious gift of eternal life offered to all who believe and are baptized. Each day had a Take Home Point that was a verse to help them remember the story they learned that day. They also learned some great songs to help them remember what they learned.

This year's mission project was The Storehouse in Keller. Summer is a difficult time for them because schools are out and their supplies are diminished faster because the children are not getting their free meals at school. We were able to collect over 200 items and \$30 to donate to The Storehouse! Thank you to Barbara Brewer for collecting, counting, and delivering the items to The Storehouse after VBS was over.

Also a big thank you to Gray Wolf Promotions for our T-shirts and for the water bottles we were able to send home with every child as a promotion for the school. Thank you to Marcia Huebel for printing up the school promotional materials that were also sent home with all the children.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU to all of our wonderful volunteers who made it possible for VBS to happen. Finally, thank you to all the congregation members who donated items, time or money to make VBS a success.

Elizabeth Johnson and Tamarra Liddle



Tell It on the Mountain

Where Jesus Christ Is Lord



Elders Corner: The Acolyte and Crucifer Program of Messiah by Peter Hibbs



As they grow older, the young men of Messiah are encouraged to assume greater roles of responsibility in the worship life of the congregation. It is our hope and prayer that this program will encourage and enable our young men to become future spiritual

leaders of their homes and congregations. We know how vitally important the father's role is in the spiritual life of the family. Opportunity for service begins at the age of 9 when boys are first trained to become Sunday morning Acolytes. A new training session will be scheduled within the next 6 weeks. Watch for notices in the Sunday bulletin.

The acolyte duty continues through the three year confirmation program where all the young people in our congregation receive their basic theological training to begin bearing the responsibilities of communicant membership. After confirmation, our young men no longer serve as acolytes but have the opportunity to enter into the greater responsibility of becoming Crucifers. Crucifer training takes place at least once per year, usually a few weeks after Confirmation Sunday. All confirmed young men of the congregation are invited to attend these training sessions.

This whole process depends on the encouragement and support of THE PARENTS...and we deeply appreciate the parents who are supporting this ministry. It is the Moms and Dads that on Sunday mornings insist (in many different ways, I am sure) that their sons honor the commitment to serve. It is the Moms and Dads that establish this expectation, encourage the commitment, help support the obligation, and enable the young men to grow in the way that is pleasing to Our Lord.

**Messiah's Board of Elders
appreciates the dedication of these
parents
and the commitments of our
acolytes and crucifiers.**

Opportunity to Work by Peter Hibbs

Today, there are many opportunities for Messiah Lutheran Church and School to apply for various grants and scholarships. We have just received a special grant from the Dannon company to build a playground for our school. This came about by many hours of labor and a huge amount of teamwork. I am confident that the Holy Spirit is touching the hearts of many people to share their blessings with organizations like our Church and

School. Other grants are available that would help us to continue speaking the good news of Jesus and fulfilling our mission.

We need help to find, assess, select, and apply for appropriate grants. It is envisioned that this can be accomplished with a small number of members working individually or in groups of two or three, quietly in the background. Skills needed range from reading, analyzing,

communicating, composing, proofing to drafting documents. Obviously one or two members are needed to help organize this effort.

Please contact me directly if you are willing to help with this work.

Pete Hibbs
Tel: 817-423-4131
Email: jobeejp@att.net (Please note new email address)

Headmaster Search by MLC School Board



Messiah Lutheran Classical Academy is seeking a permanent principal to start in the beginning of the 2014 school year. Ideal candidates should possess the following qualifications:

Education: Master's degree in School Administration or Education with at least 12 hours in school administration preferred. Will consider candidates who are willing to work towards a Master's degree in school administration.

Experience: At least two years of teaching experience is required. At least four years of experience as a successful

administrator of a classical education institution is preferred, but will consider four years of experience as a successful administrator of a modern education institution.

Active membership in an LCMS church is required, but current membership of Messiah Lutheran Church or willingness to transfer membership to Messiah Lutheran Church is preferred.

Interested candidates should submit a resume to Meredith Sifford at principal@messiahkeller.org

Music Ministry Kick-Off Gathering by Kantor Vicki Main

Saturday, August 24th
from 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Please mark your calendar to 'come to the cabin on the 24th of this month as we gather to celebrate the start of another music season. It's a time to eat, meet and greet (friends old and new), eat, laugh, eat, and just enjoy being together – and also eat. It is a gathering for all the instrumentalists & soloists, vocal choir, handbell choirs, those newly interested in joining, *and any and all encouragers of the music ministry* – even if you don't have a voice to sing or play. This is a **"family-thing"** so no need for anyone to stay home.

Ray & I will provide ice, plates, napkins & utensils.

You can bring your choice of beverage and an appetizer OR dessert to share. The address for your navigation system is 945 Stonecrest Road, Argyle. Look forward to seeing you!

Vicki Main + 940-391-8593 + vickinotes@msn.com





Messiah Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

1308 Whitley Rd. Keller, TX 76248

Church Office: (817) 431-2345

Early Childhood Center: (817) 431-6139

Classical Academy (K-8): (817) 431-5486

Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Class: 9:30 a.m.

Rev. Glenn Huebel, Senior Pastor

Rev. Dennis Kitzmann, Assistant Pastor

Mrs. Ellen Malzahn, Principal, Academy

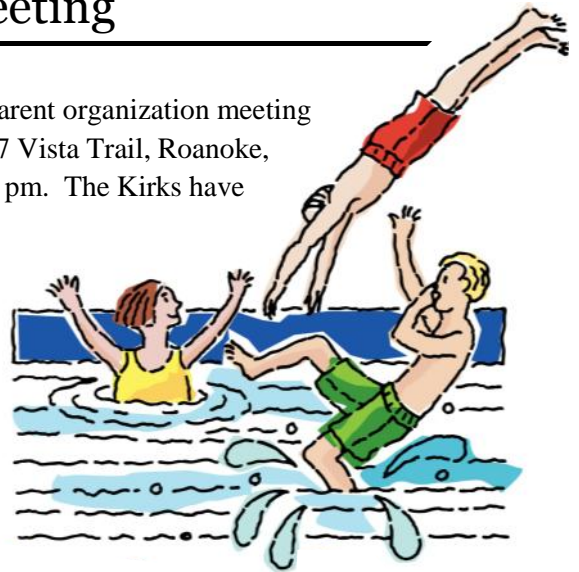
Mrs. Vicki Main, Kantor

Mr. Joseph Sustrik, Financial Director

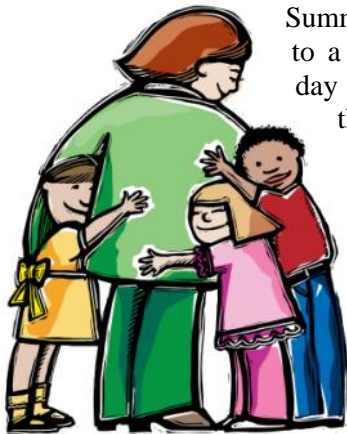
www.messiahkeller.org

Youth Organization Meeting

We will have our traditional youth and parent organization meeting at the home of Jody and Betsy Kirk, 2017 Vista Trail, Roanoke, on Friday, August 24th beginning at 6:00 pm. The Kirks have a pool so bring a swim suit and towel. Please bring a dish or two to pass and your favorite soft drink. We will discuss this year's youth program and set some calendar dates for activities. Our youth program is for youth entering the 9th through 12th grades. PARENTS are also invited and encouraged to attend this important meeting.



Sunday School



Summer is all to quickly drawing to a close. MLCA has its first day of school on the 19th, and the local public schools begin the following week.

Summer Sunday school will also ending soon. Rally Day will be in early September, and all of our children will be in their new Sunday School classes.

The curriculum from Concordia Publishing House is clear and easy to use, with plenty of tools and helps.

What are we missing? Teachers! Classes can be taught by couples, small teams, or individuals. This is such an important ministry! Please prayerfully consider taking a Sunday School class this fall, or regularly helping in one.

Your reward: a full heart and satisfied spirit.

Contact Schel Hoebelheinrich (schelannn@gmail.com) or Melissa Brooke (ebrooke71@sbcglobal.net) if you can help.

VBS 2014

CPH has announced its 2014 VBS program, *Gangway to Galilee*, and a sample pack complete with the Director's Kit is waiting to be ordered.

The theme for next summer is *God gives amazing grace*, using the verse, *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God.* —Eph. 2:8.

Stories included: *Jesus Calls His Disciples*, *Jesus Teaches From the Boat*, *Jesus Calms the Storm*, *Jesus Walks on Water*, and *Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples*.

If you are interested in being a co-chair for VBS next June, please contact Roland Towers or Pastor Huebel.

