

THE VIEW

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Written On Hearts and Stone

Each month I struggle with what to write for the newsletter. This isn't because there is nothing to write about; it is because there is too much. Narrowing things down is my dilemma. (Just imagine how long and tedious the sermons would be without my beloved wife scolding me to stay on track.) Knowing my weaknesses, I find it most beneficial to work on a series for the newsletter. Thus, for better or worse, we will spend the next few months examining the Ten Commandments.

Before we jump headlong into the First Commandment, however, it is essential that we set the proper context for topic as a whole. Dusting off the principles learned in my Elementary School instruction, we set the tone for the detailed examination be first overviewing the who, what, where, when, why, and how. We may have learned these since our earliest days of Sunday School, but Ten Commandments, as a whole, are not as cut and dry as we might assume: there are patterns to their order, there is the not-so-pleasant circumstances of their delivery, there is even disagreement on their content and numbering. Therefore, before we address what it means to have a God, who He is, and why we are to worship Him alone, perhaps it would be beneficial to refresh ourselves on the who, what, where, when, why, and how of the Ten Commandments.

Although I am sure that some critic of Scripture will slither out from under a rock and deny the obvious, the Bible clearly tells us that it is God who personally delivers these Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai that he may bring them to the people. Recorded in the twentieth chapter of Exodus, the text begins by declaring: "And God spoke all these words, saying, 'I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.'" This wasn't some cleverly devised scheme out of the imagination of Moses, nor was it a myth or legend. After freeing the Israelites from their bondage in Egypt, God led them to Mount Sinai to receive His words, and this is what it is. This is the very law of God that had been first written on the hearts of men, since all have a conscience and a natural sense of right and wrong. But this natural law was promptly and repeatedly broke. That there may be no denial of what the moral law entails, it was carved, with the finger of God onto tablets of stone.

For many of us who have been lifelong Lutherans (or previously Roman Catholics) it may come as a surprise that not everyone numbers the commandments in the same way. Other Protestant churches

shift the numbering by listing “You shall not make for yourself a carved image” as the second commandments and then combining the commands to not covet into one. The Eastern Church does something similar. The tradition of the Western Church, which includes Roman Catholics and Lutherans, include the prohibition on carved images as being part of the First Commandment since the text immediately goes on to speak about not bowing down and worshipping them. To compensate and keep the number at ten, they then separate the commands to not covet.

Which one is correct? Well, both technically include all the commands, but the Romans downplayed the graven images bit to keep their statuary without people misguidedly calling them idols, Protestants brought it to the forefront as a rebellion against Rome, and Lutherans simply held to the tradition because it is what people were familiar with and it did not contradict the Word of God. The real issue is that people were looking for clear commands (thou shall or thou shalt not) when distinguishing the numbering, but it is not as simple as that. Technically, a more literal translation from the Hebrew labelling, **תְּיָבְרִים**, **עֲשָׂרַת** (asarah h-dabarim), would be The Ten Words (Statements). Traditionally then, among the Jewish people, the First Word is God’s declaration of who He is: “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” Does this mean that we have the wrong commandments? No. Everything is still there; the message has not changed, even though there are differences in how we reference it.

What is crucial for us in our understanding of the Ten Commandments is that they communicate what is God’s will for our lives, namely, that we trust and love Him above all things, and that we love our neighbor. This forms the basis for categorizing the Commandments into two parts (tables) that we may rightly distinguishing the Commandments pertaining to loving the Lord our God from those that apply to how we love our neighbor. These two tables are two parts to the whole or two sides to the same coin. Loving and trusting God completely, leads to also loving your neighbor. Loving your neighbor is one of the ways we express our love for God.

Another way to look at the Commandments and understand them is to observe how they unpack. Bear with me. This can get a little long...

- If we love and trust God, then we would faithful to Him in all things.
- If you have no other Gods before Him, then you would honor God’s name and cherish His Word.
- If you cherish His Word, then you would be eager to go hear it and receive the gifts that He has promised in it (Word and Sacrament).
- If you obey the first table and the rejoice in the relationship it establishes between you and your Creator, then you would also seek to strengthen the relationships that He has established, especially that first one given to you at conception, by honoring the father and mother who serve as our caretakers and representative of God to us.
- If we honor the life that God has given to us, then we also honor the life that he has given to others and desire to protect it from harm.
- If we seek good for the bodies and lives of others, then we should especially hold sacred the relationship God has blessed us with in marriage where two have become one flesh for the benefit of one another and for the procreation of life.
- If we are cherishing what God has blessed us with, then we should also be respecting what God has given to others by not taking or cheating someone out of God’s gifts to them.

- If we are respecting the tangible things that belong to our neighbor, then we should also respect the intangible things that belong to our neighbor, such as their reputation.
- If we understand what belongs to our neighbor is given by God, then we should rejoice that God has blessed him with these things, rather than being jealous or discontent with what God has given us.
- If we find contentment for both what God has given us and what He has given to our neighbor, then we should also observe the same with the relationships he has brought into our lives and the lives of our neighbor.

The trouble with all this is that we fail at every level, and failing at even one point makes us guilty of the rest. God revealed the letter of the Law to us in the Ten Commandments to take away our delusion of self-righteousness and to peel back the scales from our eyes that we may recognize our need for a Savior. The law is good, but in our sinfulness, it can only condemn. Therefore, even though we strive to uphold God's Command, our hope is not in our successfulness in keeping it. Our hope is in the One who, for our sake, was faithful in all things, even unto death. As we spend some time digging into each of these Commandments, not only will they help us to understand God's will for us, but also how He has made us righteous and holy in His sight through His Son.

Financial News



On Apr 24th, we received \$5,586 in general offerings. For April, we received \$23,534. Year to date, we have received \$120,081. The budget YTD would be \$90,236. The amount per week is \$5,308.

We have two mission trips for 2022 – the Alaska Mission and the Annual Youth Conference. If you wish to support anyone going to one of these, please indicate the person you are supporting or as an open donation towards the mission trip on your envelope and/or check.

Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Mission Board



Youth from Mt. Pisgah are going to teach vacation Bible school this summer in Pilot Station, Alaska. To support the cost of their trip they will sell delicious strawberry short cake on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8th after each service. Servings are \$5 each. This fundraising event is made possible through a grant from Thrivent.

Want to engage in the mission field from your own home? We need you!

Join the Board of Missions on the first Friday of each month at 1 pm in the church library.

We pray for various mission fields. We correspond and encourage missionaries around the world. We spoil and encourage seminary students to work diligently as they prepare to fulfill their call to ministry. We help plant churches and schools in Haiti. We send members of our church on short-term missions to spread the Gospel. We look for ways to relieve pain and suffering around the world. We watch miracles unfold as the Holy Spirit moves among God's people.

This is exciting work. Come be a part of it!

Outreach and Community Concerns

The mission of the month for May 2022 is Amazing Grace Ministries. The mission of this organization is to offer support and hope to the working and suffering, elderly, and veterans in need of clothing, food/basic needs, and disaster relief. Amazing Grace Ministries recently had to relocate to a new location after the building they were in was sold. They are currently raising funds to purchase their new building. Here are some details about what this organization does on a regular basis.

Each year, Amazing Grace Ministries donates:

Crisis Assistance and Disaster Relief – providing food and clothing to families in need

Free Bibles to anyone who wants or needs one

Filled backpacks to Henderson County children in need of school supplies

Daily support to veterans and elderly, including prescription copay assistance

You can find the Amazing Grace Thrift Store at 814-A Kanuga Rd, open 10 am – 5 pm.

Life Walk Update

On April 23rd, a group of Mt Pisgah members walked 3.2 miles at Flat Rock Park to support the ministry of Open Arms Pregnancy Center. Below are some pictures from that day.



Thank you so much for
supporting Housing Assistance!
We truly appreciate you
to your congregation. Your
dollars will be put to
work to provide safe &
affordable housing to low income
families in our community!

Warmly,
HAC Staff

wonderful time - the
resurrection of our
Lord.

Thank you all for
remembering me.

The cookies, candy
& word search book
are so good. Aww,
many, many thanks.

For Christian love
& friendship.

Louise H.
Bauer

God has been so
good to me & my family!

4-13-22

Dear Friends of MT. Pisgah,
Leah delivered a
lovely basket with so many
surprises for Easter. Thank
you so much!

My daughter, Nancy,
and I appreciate your prayers.
She has had some recent
heart surgery and is recovering
well.

Happy Easter to all of you
In Christ.

Gene Nelson

Easter 2022

Dear Pastor Jon and
all my family at
MT Pisgah,

A knock at the door,
& there was Leah
with a basket of
love from you all.

How grateful I was.
Your thoughtfulness
& caring is such
a blessing. I had a
cold & being alone
was not pleasant,
especially at this

Dear Mt Pisgah Lutheran Church -
Thank you for your heart felt prayers
for Glenn - I thank you for your
kindness, thoughtfulness & happy
cheer when Glenn was serving
& helping) Precious memories.
I miss you all. Someday, I hope
to make the trip to see you on
a Sunday for worship service.
Your monthly, sometimes weekly
Prayer card - I thank you.
May Blessings & Honor be ours
to you. Suzi Kurota



News from our Ladies Guild/LWML

Personal Hygiene Kits

Thanks to our church family for contributing so generously to our April project. 80 personal hygiene kits were assembled at our April meeting and delivered to the Hendersonville Rescue Mission. Picture below. This project was to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



Rummage Sale—Bring items in May!

The annual Ladies Guild/LWML Rummage Sale will be held on **Saturday, June 18** in the church fellowship hall. We will begin collecting items in May. We will be serving lunch and **NEW THIS YEAR**, we will be having a bake sale. Proceeds from the food sales (lunch and bake sale items) will be given to our youth to help support their trip to the LCMS youth gathering this summer. **PLEASE—NO CLOTHES OR FURNITURE!**

LWML RETREAT AT CAMP LINN HAVEN:

The Western Zone (of which we are a member) invites you to the Carolinas District LWML Retreat August 19-21. The theme is “Mountaintop Journeys with Jesus”. For more information, see the flier on the bulletin board across from the drinking fountains.

Ladies Guild/LWML Calendar:

Monday, May 9	Monthly Meeting, 1 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Thurs & Fri 6/16 & 17	Set up rummage sale
Saturday, June 18	Annual Rummage Sale in the Fellowship Hall
August 19-21	Retreat at Camp Linn Haven

Lilies that decorated the cross and sanctuary



White Family, Barbara Volk in memory of Jim Volk, Bill Kruse, Rose & Don Steen,
Sylvia Gonzalez in honor of her mother Rosie May,
Homero Gonzalez in memory of Rosario & Julia Mejorado,
Madline Biddle in memory of Bob Biddle, Bob Morin, Herb Spies,
Escude` Family in honor of mother Brenda Price, Jackie Fry,
Carol Heaphy, Chuck Ginter,
Leah Ryel in memory of Don Ryel, Rappley Family for Blessing of family, Adell Keeny for God's Blessings,
Vickie Amato in memory of Gary Amato

Birthday Blessings



05/03 Suzie Karnatz
05/03 Ben Kirchoefer
05/05 John Zagone
05/14 Barbara Hotaling

05/14 Barbara Volk
05/15 Eleney Selius
05/18 Jerome Kaufman
05/19 Lydia Cassidy

05/20 Wendy White
05/26 Jan Tharp
05/29 Erica Genaw
05/30 Donna Clancy

NO NEED TO MISS CHURCH SERVICES OR EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Information for accessing church service or evening Bible Study

Online: Video will be found on the home page at <http://www.mtpisgahlutheran.com>

The service bulletin will also be available on the homepage.

Phone: Service will begin at 10:45 am, dial in direct with no access code to (508) 924-5662 or call toll-free (844) 802-6666 and enter access code 889956

YouTube: Recording link will be published on the home page once it is available.

A DVD is available outside church door in the red box on the wall.





Your School
Correspondence From
Reformatteur de
Hinche
March 2022



Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

It is hard to believe we are 6 months into the school year. In the fall, we declared that we would be walking into the 2021-22 school year in bold faith. The children in Haiti entered school in September, at a time when there were many unknowns. Thanks to the blessings of God, our Father, the schools have remained open, and we have continued to provide over 52,000 meals each day.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things.
Romans 8:31-32

Our feeding program directors want you to know that the meal you provide often gives the children and their families the courage to face the adversities and continue coming to school each day. At a time when the world seems to be getting darker, you are a blessing and a light to the children in Haiti in so many ways.

Enclosed is your spring school correspondence. It includes drawings and pictures from the children attending the school you sponsor. Typically, our feeding program directors send us the letters and pictures through mail. However, in some instances you are receiving a scanned copy. This is because of the continued travel constraints resulting from the political unrest.

Praise be to God that we have access to such technology, even in Haiti! We are so grateful to be able to continue sending you these updates. Thank you for the continued support of your school. We hope smiles on these pages show you the difference you are making. May God bless you abundantly!

Serving Christ Together,

Candace M Cook

Candi Cook, Operations Manager



Sundi. 3 Janvier 2022.

Mwen se elevman lekol reformatè man
fè se ane ^{reformatè} fundamental man lekol
ou mesí pou mange ou ban nou
li fè nou ka etidie lèson nou
bièn. Pa fowa nou pa mange lakay nou
avan nou ale lekol se li nou rivè
nan lekola nou jawn mange pou nou
mange. Nap mande bon Die pou li touye
protege nou pou tout sa ou fè pou nou
lad fè nou jawn mange ya li fè nou pa ma-

Mesi anpil
January 3rd, 2022.

Greetings to you in the name of our savior Jesus.

I'm the children of fourth fundamental years in the school
Reformatè Hinche.

Today we are very happy to write you this letter to tell you
thank you for the food you give us in the school. Because
you give us the food every day, we bless God for that and
bless you too. This helps us to study very well and we aren't
hungry, ill or unwell.
Thank you for that.

Prayer List

Long Term Illness

Pastor Dale Kaster (Kuger)
Les & Mary Jordan
(Doster)
Brian Keeney
Joyce (Kruse)
Neil Motyka (Fry)
Stacy Olson (Ryel)

Ellen Trinkka
(Montgomery)
Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)
Gretchen Sweetser
(Mincer)
Mary Coffman (Coffman)

Mike & Suzie Characky
(Steen)
Annette & Jim Bodden
(Heaphy)
Helen Hutson
(Montgomery)
Judy Fuchs

Surgeries and Illness

Jan Tharp
Miranda Shipman
Wally Rose Mincer
Leah Ryel
Joe Gabriel (Amato)
Jostine McGlynn
(Luecke's)
Bill Chatney (Luecke's)

Cara Kirchoefer Chang
(Kirchoefer)
Joe McCall (Amato)
Kathleen Fox
Grant (McLellan)
Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)
Roberta Perkins
Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)

David Hawthorne
Vicki Fisher
Don Steen
Linda Albright
Louise Bauer
Camilla Stacy (Ryel)
Betty Ude
Nona Schmook

Personal and Family Concerns

Gabriel Escude`
Joan Perez
Annelise Keeney (Keeney)
Sally Hardy
Joann Kapugi
Kaufman Family
Debbie Leger

Nancy (Nelson)
Sandi Rivers (Ryel)
Linda Nielsen (Keeney)
Wayne & Karen Mathis
(Steen)
Mark & Julie Rorie
(Armstrong)

Melissa Shipman-Bates &
sons Will & Cooper
(Amato)
Teresa Fisher & children
Colby & Audrey
(Kaufman)

Homebound

Sue Smith
Ann Cheadle
Kathleen Fox
Lee Marquardt
Dianne Luecke

Jan Nelson
Eleney Selius
Louise Bauer
Warna Berryman
Judy Fuchs

Joann Kapugi
Suzie Karnatz
Nancy Stang
George Fuchs
Nona Schmook

Compassion and Sympathy

Ministry Concerns

Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti

Our Preschool staff, children & families

Pastor Dale Kaster (Missionary, Czech Republic)

Pastor Daniel Jastram (Missionary, Japan)

Pastor Daniel Conrad (Missionary, Mexico)

Pastor Delwyn Campbell (Missionary, Indiana)

Jacob and Marie Sipes (Seminararian)

Scott and Veronica Missling (Seminararian)

Erik and Katie Saunders (Seminararian)

For complete information on church events, please visit the website:

<https://mtpisgahlutheran.360unite.com/calendar>