

# THE VIEW

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## Note from Pastor

### Pondering The Ninth and Tenth Commandments

For several months now, we have been examining the Ten Commandments in our newsletter. As we near our conclusion, we will continue the usual pattern of addressing Commandments Nine and Ten together. Much of Christianity sees these as being one Commandment anyway, and I also somewhat share that view because I lean toward the Jewish way of numbering the Commandments rather than the Roman. Since the numbering of the Commandments was already covered in a previous issue of the newsletter, we will just move forward.

Respectively, the Ninth and Tenth Commandments are: “You shall not covet your neighbor’s house” and “You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.” A case could be made that these two commandments differ because of nuance, such as one pertaining to possessions and the other to relationships. However, the final catch-all at the conclusion of the Tenth Commandment makes a case to invalidate this approach. Luther’s explanation of these commandments touches upon this view, as one explanation focuses on the scheming aspect of coveting and the other is more about our corrupting relationships out of jealousy. In a way, this can be seen as an echo of the Seventh and Eighth Commandments. The Seventh involves the taking of our neighbors property, and the Eighth speaks to the theft of our neighbor’s good name. Likewise, the Ninth and Tenth Commandments could be understood as a similar pairing one sinfully desires our neighbor’s property the other craves the non-tangible things that belong to our neighbor. Regardless, if we spend all our time ruminating on why these should remain separate, we end up missing the forest for the trees.

Both Commandments are ultimately a prohibition against coveting. If you read an annotated version of the Small Catechism, it will define coveting as the sinful desire for anyone or anything that belongs to our neighbor. This explanation always left me with more questions than answers. What exactly qualifies something as a sinful desire? Does this mean that I sin when I see something nice and desire one for

myself? What about the command in 1 Corinthians 14:1, which says, "Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy." If someone has that gift, is it wrong for me to wish I had it too?

I remember asking my pastor about this, and he said I was worrying too much. He said it was just if you plotted to take these things away from your neighbor, but this answer didn't satisfy. It seemed like that was just an extension of the Seventh Commandment. If Jesus said that the desire of the heart can break the Fifth and Sixth Commandments, then wouldn't it also imply that the same would be true of the Seventh? Would it really be necessary for the addition of two more commandments to handle the corruption of the heart on this matter?

Looking to Scripture to better understand this, we find the Apostle Paul confessing in his epistle to Rome that he struggled with this sin. While explaining how the law increases our guilt for sin, but does not contribute to sin, he wrote: "If it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.' But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness." Is Paul constantly plotting to take that which belongs to someone else? That doesn't seem to jive with his repeated bold, and perhaps a bit braggadocios, statements that received assistance from no one, always paying his own way when doing mission work even though he had every right to receive payment. What if we are looking at this the wrong way? Instead of understanding the command not to covet by what we do, what if it is more about why we covet?

Why do we covet what belongs to our neighbor? It isn't just that we want what our neighbor has; it is also that we are dissatisfied with what we have been given. Why can't my home be as nice as my neighbor's home? Why can't my dog be as well behaved as his? If he had a donkey, I might covet that too. When we look at others who seem to have all the things we wish we had, jealousy and hatred toward them may be there, but the heart of coveting is our resentment that God did not give those things to us. We tell ourselves that God is not fair, and in our hearts we hate Him for it. Could this result in us scheming to get what belongs to our neighbor or spitefully desire to see him deprived of it? Sure. Yet the dissatisfaction with what God has given to us is there even if we never plot against our neighbor.

Then what do we do about this temptation to sin against God and our neighbor? We do the same as what the Apostle Paul did about it. "I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13). It is not a sin to recognize and appreciate the good things that God has provided in this world and life, but just because he gives some things to our neighbor, that does not mean that He intends them for us, nor that they would be good for us. However, He gives us all we need and more. Jesus said, "Do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

All things come from the generous hand of God, and He gives good gifts to His children. Remembering this, we learn to be content in every circumstance, whether we have much or little. Instead of being resentful of what our neighbor has, we can recognize that God is generous and gracious to all creation and give thanks. We do not need to harbor hard feelings against God or our neighbor for what he has given to others, when we can simply look to our Father and trust He will provide what we need.

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## President's Article

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

Thank you for the trust you have shown me by electing me as congregational president for 2023. I ask for your prayers and support as we face new challenges after a difficult few years.

Since minutes of the Church Council meetings are not available for distribution until they have been approved at the following month's meeting, we have not been able to publish them in a timely fashion. To keep you informed of what the council is working on I will give you the highlights of each meeting in the following issue of The View. If you ever have questions about anything we cover, please contact me (828-693-5692 or [bgv@ioa.com](mailto:bgv@ioa.com)).

At our January 12 meeting we:

- Appointed Lydia Cassidy to the vacant position of **Board of Parish Life Chairman**. Lydia agreed to serve for one year, so we will be looking for a new chairman in 2024.
- Appointed **Board of Property Co-chairmen** Bill Paris (outside property) and Judy Morin (inside property).
- Reviewed **financial reports** from Treasurer Robert Hamrick and Financial Secretary Sylvia Gonzalez.
- Heard **reports from boards and committees**, including a report from Bill Paris that we have a new pest control company.
- Ratified an email vote to approve **replacing flooring in the preschool** damaged in the flooding from a frozen water line at a cost of \$11,446.80. This will be reimbursed by insurance at a later date.
- Authorized the congregation president as the **lay voting delegate** for LCMS elections.
- Approved a policy that **installation of officers** will be held on the first Sunday in January beginning in 2024.
- Determined that **future council meetings** will be held on the second or third Monday of each month (next meeting February 13).

During the meeting we also discussed two concerns. First, we do not have a Chair for the **Board of Stewardship**. This board assists the members in identifying their God-given gifts and talents, promotes ways they can use their gifts in service to others, and encourages first fruits giving. We hope someone will step up to fill this position or be willing to serve if asked. Please pray about this opportunity to get better acquainted with your fellow members.

The second concern is how to **reinvigorate our members and our church**. We have an older congregation as has recently been apparent. We have within about two months had eight deaths. This has been a shock to our system—so many of our members now with Jesus instead of worshipping with us. We have also had friends move away to be nearer family or for other reasons. We need to develop a plan to uphold and encourage our current members and bring new members into our fellowship. I would like to establish an ad hoc committee to work on this. I hope you will prayerfully consider serving on this committee. If you

are willing to serve, please let me know. The more we have on the committee the more ideas we can generate.

God's blessings to each of you as we serve our Lord here at Mt. Pisgah and throughout the community.

Barbara Volk

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## Thank you

Dianne Luecke would like to thank the carolers that came to her house, she really enjoyed the wonderful singing and the Maloney children. She also wanted to thank the ladies for the bag of treats, she enjoyed them.

Louise Bauer would like to thank everyone for the goody bags, cards and calls. She is very thankful for her Mt. Pisgah family.

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## Prayer List

### Long Term Illness

Adrienne Paris (Paris)	Stacy Olson (Ryel)	Mike & Suzie Characky
Michael Terzian (Keeney)	Brenda Ridgeway (Amato)	(Steen)
Pastor Dale Kaster	Gretchen Sweetser	Annette & Jim Bodden
(Kugler)	(Mincer)	(Heaphy)
Brian Keeney	Mary Coffman (Coffman)	Judy Fuchs
Joyce (Kruse)		

### Surgeries and Illness

Ron Caldwell (Schmook)	Jostine McGlynn	Vicki Fisher
Juana Maria Vela	(Luecke's)	Mary Hill
(Homero's sister)	Grant (McLellan)	Louise Bauer
Jan Tharp	Agapia Dragan (Luecke B)	Betty Ude
Wally Rose Mincer	Joanne Blanchard (Clancy)	
Joe Gabriel (Amato)	David Hawthorne	

### Personal and Family Concerns

<b>Bill Paris</b>	Sue Oetting	Kaufman Family
<b>John Renick</b>	Karen Ude	Debbie Leger
<b>Jerry Kaufman</b>	Nancy Stang	Sandi Rivers (Ryel)
<b>Leah Ryel</b>	Gabriel Escude`	Wayne & Karen Mathis
<b>Linda Rice (McAbee)</b>	Joann Kapugi	(Steen)

Melissa Shipman-Bates &  
sons Will & Cooper  
(Amato)

Teresa Fisher & children  
Colby & Audrey  
(Kaufman)

### **Homebound**

Betty Ude  
Albert & Marianne Bugner  
Sue Smith  
Kathleen Fox

Dianne Luecke  
Jan Nelson  
Louise Bauer  
Warna Berryman

Judy Fuchs  
Joann Kapugi  
Suzie Karnatz  
Nancy Stang

### **Compassion and Sympathy**

### **Ministry Concerns**

Our Preschool staff, children & families  
Evangelical Lutheran Church & School in Laotchikit, Haiti  
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)

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### **Mission of the Month**

## **Outreach & Community Concerns**

# **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2023**



The mission of the month for February is the “Souper Bowl of Caring” which will benefit IAM’s food pantry. Please place soup cans and/or monetary donations in the large soup pot in the narthex

and help feed the needy in our community. The collection will last the entire month of February. Last year we collected \$509 and 193 pounds of soup – let's see if we can beat those numbers in 2023!

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## 2023 Petal Pushers – by Barbara Volk

The Volk/Powers family had the opportunity for the third year to serve as Petal Pushers with Lutheran Hour Ministries for the 2023 Rose Bowl Parade.

This was the 72<sup>nd</sup> year that LHM has sponsored a float in the parade and it is currently the only Christian organization to do so. The mission of the LHM float is “to provide a Christian witness and hope in Jesus Christ to the unchurched, who view the float in person and through the media.”

To help defray the expense of the LHM float, the local committee recruits volunteers (Petal Pushers) from across the country to decorate the LHM float and a variety of commercial floats constructed by Phoenix Decorating. The sponsors of the commercial floats (e.g., Mutual of Omaha, State of Illinois, Mrs. Myers Cleaning Products) pay LHM for the time the volunteers spend decorating their floats. For our family, this was 40 hours (5 people x 8 hours each).

This year we worked on the float of the City of Hope, a comprehensive cancer center in Duarte, Calif. We chose to work on this one because Aiden and Zach wanted to climb on scaffolding! They spent their whole time putting flowers on the trees and other high elements of the float. Carrie, Jason, and I were content to prep and stick flowers around the base.

We were happy to see that the LHM float "A New Day with Jesus" won the Director's Award for most outstanding artistic design and use of floral and non-floral materials and “our” City of Hope float won the Theme Award for most outstanding presentation of the Rose Parade theme, “Turning the Corner.”

If you are interested in working on or contributing to this unique mission talk to Barbara Volk or go to [www.petalpushers.org](http://www.petalpushers.org).

Pictures include a view of the just-completed LHM float, Aiden and Zach on the job, and some of the flowers waiting to be attached.







## *Birthday Blessings*

02/03 Hank Clancy

02/04 Bill Kruse

02/05 Gabriel Excude`

02/05 Debbie Leger

02/05 Rose Steen

02/08 Vickie Amato

02/09 Peyton Alford

02/10 Dianne Luecke

02/13 Homero Gonzalez

02/17 Brendan Keeney

02/20 Madeline Biddle



02/20 Mary Matthews

02/20 Zachary White

02/24 Wally Rose Mincer

02/25 Kay Leyrer

### **An Unexpected Call**

On January 9, I received a call from a nurse at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Venice, Florida, who had been trying to find my name on the computer. She located it in an obituary, (not my own). My sister, Jean Ranallo, had been walking on the beach at Manasota Key the prior evening, as she loved to do each morning and evening, when she seemed to trip & fell on the beach. Thank God, the lifeguard saw her and called 911, when she went down. She was known to the lifeguard, but was carrying no identifying material. After having suffered a massive

cerebral hemorrhage, she was transported to the hospital and placed on a ventilator. The nurse said that the brain was filled with blood, and that Jean would be in a vegetative state if we didn't agree to remove life support. My job was to contact our other 3 siblings (in England, California, and New York State), and to convince them to allow the removal of the ventilator. For once, we all agreed on what Jean would have wanted (just as we would have desired for ourselves). Life support was removed, and I authorized Hospice care. She was moved to Tidewell Hospice in Venice, where she died peacefully at 7:35 a.m. on 1/11. We all miss her very much, of course, but how many of us know of anyone who has died while doing what he or she most enjoyed doing? Jean was lucky, wasn't she? How fortunate we are to have memories of her walking on the beach. She loved sunrises and sunsets viewed from the beach. Thank you so much to all of those who were so kind to me after my loss, with calls and cards expressing sympathy. It means a lot.

Leah Rye

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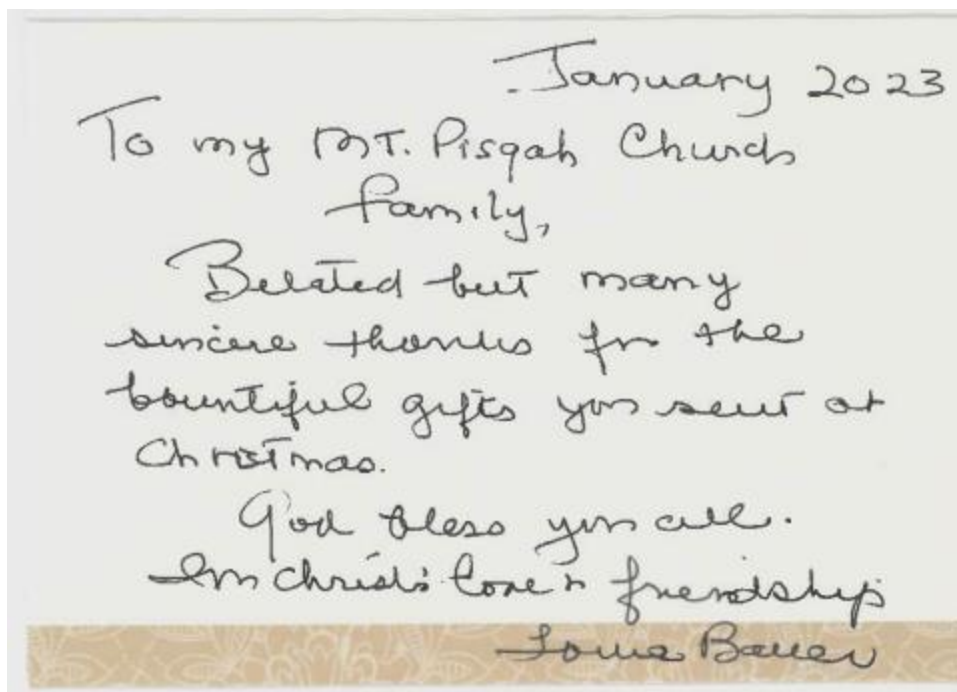
### Note from editor

We never know when something will happen.

Have you planned for your death so that family would know what to do or whom to contact?

If you want or need help planning with final moments, whom to contact and any directives, we have guides in the church office. These are difficult times for everyone involved, think about planning ahead.

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## Dear Friends and Family,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! As of today my vicarage assignment in Billings, Montana, is half complete. Time sure has flown!

### Vicarage Update

From July to December 2022, I preached sixteen sermons. Before vicarage, I had only preached a total of five. Sixteen has felt like a lot! But a pastor who serves a congregation by himself typically preaches more than twice that many in a six-month period. So this is a very good experience for me.

I have also had opportunities to teach Bible Class, assist with confirmation class, go on many shut-in visits, and attend pastors' conferences and circuit gatherings about the Scriptures and Confessions.

Stephen does quite well in church except for the fact that he's still only a year old, and he's getting to be rather quick on his feet. One of these days I fear he will escape from his mother and make it all the way to the pulpit before she catches him.



### Exploring the West

We are very blessed to be in such a beautiful part of the country right now, and we are trying to take every opportunity to go and see the sights. We have taken several day trips to the mountains to go hiking in the wilderness. We went to Yellowstone Park when Katie's parents visited in August. We went to



the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge when Erik's parents visited in October.

We also drove down to southern Colorado to see Katie's sister over Thanksgiving, and visited Denver over New Year's to see her brother and his new baby girl.

## Family News

Speaking of new babies, Katie is expecting our second child on June 21! Naturally, this little bundle of joy is set to arrive just in time for Erik to rent another moving truck and load everything into it.

Stephen is learning to point at mama's stomach and say, "baby," but we're not sure he understands what that really means yet. He is learning all kinds of words these days, but is a little bit stubborn about using them.

Stephen also enjoys doing puzzles, building towers, and knocking them down. Our little bookworm has also made several "mostly peaceful" requests that his mother and I read books to him all day long.



### Reflections on John 1:14

*"And the word became flesh and dwelt among us."* I delivered my first Christmas sermon this year, on the Incarnation of our Lord according to St. John.

Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria from 328 to 373, wrote the following: *"It is similar to when a great king has entered into some large city and taken up residence in one of the houses there. That city is thus deemed worthy of high honor ... it finds itself entitled to total protection because the king has taken up his residence in a single house."*

Athanasius lived in a time when most people did not believe that the true God could actually take on human flesh. This image, of a king dwelling in an ordinary house, illustrates our Lord's Incarnation perfectly: a king, if he is truly king, remains king whether he dwells in the highest palace or in the lowliest manger. Our God is truly God even when he dwells among us in the ordinary house of human flesh. And because He truly has dwelt among us, He has bestowed upon our human flesh all of the gifts and honors of his heavenly kingdom: forgiveness of sins, protection from death and the devil, salvation, and everlasting life.

### Farewell

We miss you and remain ever grateful for your love, prayers, and generous support. God be with you all.

### Love, the Saunders

January 10, 2023

Dear Members of Mt. Pisgah,

I can't begin to summarize the multitude of blessings granted to me during my eight years here. Being accepted as a member of this family has enriched my personal relationship and entire life with Our Lord more than anything I have experienced.

Through the use of The Lutheran Study Bible, the living example of the congregation members, and mostly through the guidance of The Holy Spirit, I have come to know the meaning of the term Christian. The people of Mt. Pisgah have proven to be a truly great family that goes the extra mile to bring a new member into their fellowship.

As I prepare to leave for Indiana I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to my adopted family at Mt. Pisgah. May Our God continue to bless all you do.

Respectfully,



Rudy Eidam



### **February Meeting**

Please join us for our February meeting on Monday, February 13 at 1 pm. We will be enjoying a special Valentine's Day devotion and treats and preparing cards to send to our homebound congregational members. Please bring a stamp or two so that we can mail the cards out that day.

### **Project Suggestions**

Looking ahead, we are hoping to do other hands-on projects to spread His love and the Gospel. If you have suggestions for us, please contact Lydia Cassidy or Kathy Kirchoefer.

## Ladies Tea

In May, we will be sponsoring an outing for a ladies' tea. Look for more details soon!

## Rummage Sale

Our annual rummage sale is coming up in June. This is the main fundraiser for our organization and helps fund our mission projects and donations throughout the year.

Below is a message from LWML that is such a blessing!



As you may know, the LWML Mission Goal for the 2021–2023 biennium is \$2,150,000.

We have great news!

We are filled with gratitude and joy as we announce that God has worked through your generosity and stewardship to **surpass this goal**.

The Mite offerings you have shared now total \$2,154,511!

Let's break this BIG praise report down into small but mighty details:

Each time you choose to give to LWML Mission Grants, you are directly pouring God's mercy and message into the lives of others – some you may know and others you may never meet. The people you are helping range in age from little children to the elderly, and their homes are located across the globe. Some recipients may be right in your neighborhood, others are men, women, and children living abroad. No matter their age, or how near or far, God knows the needs of every single person.

*And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).*

We continue to praise God for His provision and for your generosity in stewarding the gifts you have been given. Thank you for coming alongside LWML as together we proclaim Christ, support missions, equip women, and serve others!

If you would like to take a look at the various ministries the 2021–2023 Mission Grants are supporting, please visit our website: [www.lwml.org/mission-grants](http://www.lwml.org/mission-grants).

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## 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.

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

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