



*August*  
2020

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### *Thoughts from Pastor Stites*

#### **Psalm 88: The Cry of the Faithful or Blasphemy?**

The Psalms are the ancient prayer and hymnbook of the faithful. They have been used by the faithful to one degree or another for 3000 years. Many of them were written by David and others during the reign of ancient Israel and they were used in ancient worship. When the Church began following Christ's Ascension, it was these hymns that the early Church sang. To this day, the Psalms still stand as a wonderful part of the collective prayers and hymns of the faithful.

So what do you do with psalms when they are filled with complaints against God? Are these the honest cries of the faithful in the midst of great suffering and confusion? Or are they the ravings of the blasphemer doomed to hell?

In **Psalm 88**, we see the Psalmist (and all those who pray these words) crying out to God to hear them. Much like Job, the Psalmist seems to have lost everything, even family and friends have shunned and abandoned him. And now as he cries to God to have mercy, it goes beyond just asking for help, and seemingly *blaming* God for all of this pain and suffering.

*"O LORD, why do YOU cast my soul away? Why do YOU hide your face from me? ... I suffer YOUR terrors; I am helpless. YOUR wrath has swept over me; YOUR dreadful assaults destroy me. ... YOU have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me."* (Ps 88:14–18)

I think it is safe to say that you did not recite this with your children at bedtime, nor find comfort in these words at a funeral.

So how are we today supposed to use these words? How are we to interpret them? Can we even speak these words without speaking blasphemy against God?

I do believe first and foremost that the Psalms are the prayers of the saints to God. True worship is a dialogue between God and man, normally God speaks His Word, and we respond. He speaks the Law, we confess our sin. He speaks Gospel, and we sing His praises. But what are the saints to do when they *FEEL* like God has abandoned them, or that God is punishing them?

Psalms like this one give them not only the words to say, but to a degree *permission* to cry out to God in fear and anger. If you think you have a problem with God, who else do you turn to

**\*\*\*continued on next page\*\*\***

except Him? Go to God in prayer, in a sense, vent your anger and frustrations to Him. As long as you do NOT cross that line into judging God, placing yourself over Him, or staying in this angry state forever, there is nothing wrong with this. In fact, when you are angry, scared, and/or frustrated, you SHOULD go to God in prayer.

Now we live in a world that is filled with so much pain and anguish. Many of you have lived through many difficult times, through wars and disasters that have covered the globe, to personal tragedies that you alone suffer. And 2020 has been a year of suffering, and many of us are growing weary and tired, asking God when will this all end? What better words to pray than, “But I, O LORD, cry to you; ... I am helpless.” (Ps 88:13, 15)

But there are also times when the Psalms speak God’s Word to us, *through* the words of the saints, even when they didn’t know it. “Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon?” (Ps 88:10–11)

YES! God the Father answered this ancient prayer by sending His eternal Son in the flesh, so that He would go to the cross, there to defeat the power of sin and death by dying Himself. And having defeated death once and for all, Christ has risen triumphant over death and the grave. And He now lives to give that victory over death and the grave to all who believe, all who trust in His saving death and resurrection. When Christ returns in all power and glory, He will call out to the graves, and the dead in Christ will rise to eternal life to praise Him forever!

So, no matter what we suffer here and now, the great answer to our always Jesus. He lived, died and rose again to save us from the dark and fallen world, and will at last bring us to His side in Paradise. As St. Paul said, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” (Rom 8:18)

But when those dark days come, when you are angry, frustrated, tired and weary of this dark and fallen world, go to God in prayer, pray the psalms, and you will find that God does answer your prayers. Whether He answers them with what you expect, what you want, or not, He will still answer your prayers.

*Pastor Jonathan Stites*

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

**\*Phone numbers and addresses will no longer be published. Please use the church directory or call the church office @ 928-345-9694, if you need someone's number or address for an event\***



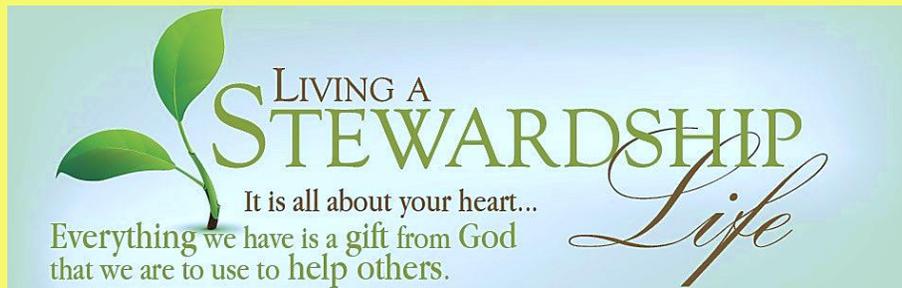
### Online Services & Bible Studies

We will continue uploading Sunday's Services and Bible Studies to our YouTube Channel, for anyone who doesn't feel comfortable attending at this time. You may click on the following link:

[Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page](#)  
or search "Shepherd of the Hills Yuma" in YouTube.



For those who are unable to attend on Sunday's, Pastor Stites will be administering Communion on **Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**. Please call the church office, at 928-345-9694, to schedule a time.



### **Nuggets of Financial Wisdom**

Our Heavenly Father gives us money, and, through His Word, imparts truths on how we are to manage it. Of all the gifts God entrusts to us, money is probably the one that we have the most difficulty in managing according to God’s purposes. As His stewards, we are called to be wise in the handling of money and faithful in its use. Money affects both our material and spiritual lives.

Jesus knows that money and material possessions are very necessary for our lives. He also knows that money and material things are more likely than anything else to replace God at the center of our hearts. Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters... You cannot serve both God and money"* (Matthew 6:24). In order to live lives that bring glory to God, we must control our money—lest our money control us. Unless we honor God in the area of our finances, we will find that our money will become an obstacle to the development of an intimate relationship with our Lord.

May God grant us the wisdom to be...

**"Money Wise."**



#### **When God is our treasure, we . . .**

- Give cheerfully
- Have financial freedom
- Avoid debt
- Attribute success to God
- Seek God
- Trust God
- Desire less
- Are content
- Have inner peace
- Have an eternal perspective

#### **When things are our treasure, we . . .**

- Give grudgingly
- Are in financial bondage
- Abuse debt
- Attribute success to self
- Are self-satisfied
- Trust Self
- Desire more
- Are restless
- Lack satisfaction/ fulfillment
- Live for the moment

**Blessings on your Stewardship Journey!**

*From Ron Chewing – Stewardship Advisors*



## SOTH Evangelism News

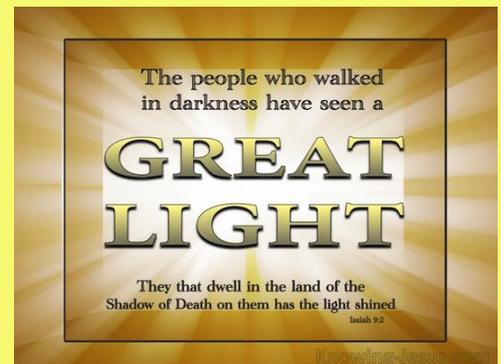
Let your light  
**SHINE**  
before others that  
they may see your  
good deeds and  
glorify your  
Father in Heaven

Matthew 5:16

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven." Matthew 5:13-16

"The concept of light shining in the darkness is one of the primary themes of John's writings, but it also has a strategic place in Matthew's gospel. After Jesus returned from being tempted by Satan in the wilderness, Matthew records the launching of Christ's public ministry by quoting the words of Isaiah the prophet: 'The people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned' (Matthew 4:16; Isaiah 9:2). These words provide the context for His instruction in today's Scripture text about being a light to others." Bill Crowder



*This is from Scripture and Our Daily Bread, July 31, 2020*

Dear Heavenly Father, please give us the strength and will to let Your light shine so that the world will see and glorify You. Amen

Praying all is well and God's Grace and Love continues to carry us through these trying times.

*Winnie Moir - Evangelism*

**To be reviewed and approved at the Council Meeting in August.**  
**SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**July 15, 2020**

Attendees: Jon Weeks, Beverly Ferguson, Pastor Stites, Sharie Jasper, Kelly Hinrichs, Dick Koppe, and Sue Cairns.

President Jon Weeks called the meeting to order at 11:00am.

Pastor Stites opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report: The minutes from the June 17th meeting were distributed. Sharie Jasper moved to accept minutes. Dick Koppe seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Copies of the June Income & Expense Report and Balance Sheet were distributed for review. Sue Cairns moved to accept the treasurer's report. Beverly Ferguson seconded. Motion carried

Pastor's Report: He reported that church services will probably stay the same through July and August. The chancel is finished. We thank Howard and Barbara Stucker for the donation. Thanks also to Bob Engelhardt for moving the eternal light and fixing the lights. They are tabling the purchase of a large TV till later.

President's Report: No Report

Vice President's Report: No Report

Elders Report: Dick Koppe reported that they made 42 calls. Ron Appeldoorn is making calls from his summer home.

Trustee's Report: No Report

Evangelism Report: No Report

Stewardship Report: No Report

Education: No report

Administrative: Kelly Hinrichs reported that she will be having surgery August 18th and August 21st. Verizon tower contract after some dispute will be \$659 per month. She has applied for the payroll forgiveness in the amount of \$25,600. The refrigerator in the kitchen has broken down at this time we will need to replace in the future. If she has surgery there will not be a September newsletter.

Old Business: None

New Business: Copies of the by-laws were given out for review so everyone can make changes that they believe should be made. We will decide together the changes.

Sharie Jasper moved to adjourn. Sue Cairns seconded. Motion passed.

President Jon Weeks adjourned the meeting at 11:30 am.

Pastor Stites led us with the Lord's Prayer.



### August Birthdays

WATSON, Marlene	08/02	KEHLER, John	08/14
KUEBLER, Ervin	08/05	STUCKER, Howard	08/14
KOPPE, Dick	08/08	MCMILLIAN, Shirley	08/15
SANDERSON, Nancy	08/08	MUELLER, Judy	08/15
ZEISS, Bob	08/08	RICE, Carol	08/17
LESPERANCE, Mike	08/09	ALBERY, Sharon	08/24
PICKETT, Bubbles	08/09	LARISON, Marlene	08/24
ERICKSON, Sandy	08/10	WEST, Brenda	08/25
JASPER, Sharie	08/11	LARSON, Maria	08/26
LOMAX, Daniel	08/13	CAIRNS, Sue	08/30
DOCKTER, Karly	08/14		



### August Anniversaries

FERGUSON, Jerry & Bev (63)	08/23
SANDERSON, Nancy & Tom (62)	08/30



### FOOD BANK

July  
\$338

SEASON TOTAL  
January - December  
\$1847

Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.

Deuteronomy 16:17

### Stewardship Corner

When we understand that 100 percent of everything that we have comes from God, we can begin to live as God's stewards. In his book *Think, Act, Believe, Like Jesus*, Randy Frazee gives us the following definition of what it means to be a steward. "The biblical idea is that through a relationship with God, we move from the title of owner to the position of manager. A steward is simply a manager. We deed over to God ownership of all things in our lives—external and internal—and we then take on the management of all He gives. This means not only the physical—money, house, cars, resources—but also our gifts, talents, personality, and intellect. I am all His. All we are and all we own belong to God. He now decides what we receive, what we do with what we have and what we give."



Did you know we have a Website? Go to [www.sothyuma.org](http://www.sothyuma.org)

You can view our monthly newsletter by going to the Connect tab and click on Newsletter. You can also listen to previous sermons (uploaded weekly when available) by going to the Sermon tab and clicking on the date you would like to hear.

# August 2020 at SOTH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
<b>2</b> 9:30am Worship w/ Communion  Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	3	4	<b>5</b> Online Bible Study -click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	6	7	8
<b>9</b> 9:30am Worship w/ Communion  Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	10	<b>11</b> 9:00am Elder's Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>Communion Offered</b> (call church to schedule)  Online Bible Study - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	13	14	15
<b>16</b> 9:30am Worship w/ Communion  Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	17	18	<b>19</b> Online Bible Study - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>  11:00am Council Meeting	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 9:30am Worship w/ Communion  Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	24	25	<b>26</b> <b>Communion Offered</b> (call church to schedule)  Online Bible Study - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 9:30am Worship w/ Communion  Online Service available after 1:00pm - click on following link: <a href="#">Shepherd of the Hills Yuma YouTube page</a>  <b>Mite Box Collection</b>	31					