

Pastors Devotion... Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? *1Jn 5:1-5*

I have chosen this section of scripture this month because, as I usually try, it says something very significant... (But then again, doesn't all scripture do this???) No, this scripture comes, as is often the case when I search for something to base these devotions on from scripture which happens to be, in this 5th month, the month of May, not from the 5th book of either Old or New Testament, but from the 5th book from the end of Scripture...1st John...St. John's first letter to the church.

And since I'm writing this devotion a littler earlier than normal, I'm also writing it with our Lenten series still ringing in my ears...you remember, our look at God's law...the 10 Commandments. You remember...all those "You Shall Not..." and our look at Luther's explanation, "You shall fear and love God so that you..." We also then reflected on what that looks like today, and how we ought to live our lives reflecting a right understanding of what it means to live as people who desire to uphold these truths. Not because we can earn God's love and our salvation by perfectly keeping them, and if we're honest we know we can't, but we live lives and love God so we do these things, as best we can BECAUSE we love Him...

And because we love Him, we believe in Him and do these things, knowing that, as we're reminded by St. John, that they're not burdensome. It's not a burden to keep God first in our lives. It's not burdensome to not use His name in vain, just as it's not burdensome to remember the Sabbath, because we enjoy coming to His house and gathering with our brothers and sisters, the other "Children of God"...and we must really like it, because as I noticed and commented on a few weeks ago...it's really loud in the Sanctuary, as you children visit one with another before worship starts...

So dear brothers and sisters, fellow "overcomers"...as we continue our journey of faith in this new month, full of all the things God has in store for us, let's live each and every day He gives us in gratitude and thanksgiving for this faith which hold us to Him and one another. And "May" the grace of God be with us all...now and forever...Amen!

MAY 2017
NEWSLETTER



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN
CHURCH HERALD

Commentary from Doris...

SHARE OR SHUN OUR FAITH

Let's for the moment, dispense with the word "evangelism." For many that word has too strong a connection with John the Baptist, living the life of a wilderness "wild man" shouting REPENT!

We know that all of us are not gifted at teaching or preaching; and to be frank not many people feel capable or comfortable to even attempt to try that route. So, where does this lead us? Does it mean we shouldn't even respond to Christ's summons to be witnesses of our faith to others? Does it tell us we are licked before we even start?

You who truly BELIEVE and FOLLOW our Lord Jesus' teaching know better. Don't give in to Satan's sly and cunning efforts to convince us otherwise. God will provide—yes indeed—every opportunity as well as every word we need to communicate. You and I are assured of that—where? Well, of course in His Word! And, that Word is both sacred and sincere. Our need is to ACCEPT it as such; and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, we do.

Meet people where they are. Remember, no one teaches unless she/he reaches out. Even if we aren't asked why we attend church Services (but, don't be surprised if we are) we will have planted that "seed" which God Himself will nourish.

We may never see the fruits of those seeds we plant, but letting others know we care enough about them to do the planting is all the reward we need. After all, we are "partnering" with our Lord Himself in this most urgent work; and, hey folks, with Him as a partner the "work" can only prosper.

So, go and tell (don't YELL) in loving concern of God, the Father and His Son, Jesus. Tell of their love for all who just sincerely ask—no matter where they stand in their relationship with the Father and His Son, our Savior and friend.

Readings for May

May 1	Ex. 33:1-23, Luke 7:1-17
May 2	Ex. 34:1-28, Luke 7:18-35
May 3	Ex. 34:29-35:21, <i>Ex. 35:22-38:20</i> , Luke 7:36-50
May 4	Ex. 38:21-39:8, 22-23, 27-31, Luke 8:1-21
May 5	Ex. 39:32-40:16, Luke 8:22-39
May 6	Ex. 40:17-38, <i>Lev. 1:1-7:38</i> , Luke 8:40-56
May 7	Lev. 8:1-13, 30-36, Luke 9:1-17
May 8	Lev. 9:1-24, Luke 9:18-36
May 9	Lev. 10:1-20, Lev. 11:1-15:33, Luke 9:37-62
May 10	Lev. 16:1-24, Luke 10:1-22
May 11	Lev. 17:1-16, Luke 10:23-42
May 12	Lev. 18:1-7, 20-19:8, Luke 11:1-13
May 13	Lev. 19:9-18, 26-37, Luke 11:14-36
May 14	Lev. 20:1-16, 22-27, Luke 11:37-54
May 15	Lev. 21:1-24, Luke 12:1-12
May 16	Lev. 23:1-22, Luke 12:13-34
May 17	Lev. 23:23-44, Luke 12:35-53
May 18	Lev. 24:1-23, Lev. 25:1-55, Luke 12:54-13:17
May 19	Lev. 26:1-20, Luke 13:18-35
May 20	Lev. 26:21-33, 39-44, Num. 1:1-2:34, Luke 14:1-24
May 21	Num. 3:1-16, 39-48, Num. 4:1-8:4, Luke 14:25-15:10
May 22	Num. 8:5-26, Luke 15:11-32
May 23	Num. 9:1-23, Luke 16:1-18
May 24	Num. 10:11-36, Luke 16:19-31
May 25	Num. 11:1-23, 31-35, Luke 17:1-19(Ascension)
May 26	Num. 11:24-29, 12:1-16, Luke 17:20-37
May 27	Num. 13:1-3, 17-33, Luke 18:1-17
May 28	Num. 14:1-25, Luke 18:18-34
May 29	Num. 14:26-45, <i>Num. 15:1-41</i> , Luke 18:35-19:10
May 30	Num. 16:1-22, Luke 19:11-28
May 31	Num. 16:23-40, Luke 19:29-48

Birthdays

- 06 Louis Scheick**
- 14 Katie Smith**
- 23 Jennifer Estep**
- 27 Pam Kujat**
- 30 Josh Chandler**
- 31 Grace Shea Bunch**

Anniversaries

- 05 Duane & Nancy Hoover**
- 16 Jim & Gretchen Plough**
- 25 Josh & Megan Chandler**
- 30 Robert & Kathy Thureau**

LOOKING AHEAD...

Council meets on Tuesday, May 2nd.

LWML Meeting on May 6th. Bible study at OSLC and then lunch at “Tea Room” in Morristown.

CONCERT The great musical masterpiece, The *Creation* by Joseph Hayden will be performed at First United Methodist Church, Morristown, on Sunday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Performers include the FUMC Chancel Choir, Walters State Community Chorale, Soloists and Orchestra. The concert is free and the public is invited.

Pastor’s Conference in Pigeon Forge. Pastor will be out of the office May 8th through May 10th.

Listening Hearts meets every second Saturday in the Fellowship Hall from 9am to noon.

Birthday/Anniversary Celebration is May 14th after Service.

Women’s Fellowship – watch for updates in Church Bulletin.

Mid-week Study will resume in the fall.

Pastor’s Vacation is May 15th through May 19th.

Sunday, May 28th Pastor Michael Thureau will substitute for Pastor Smith so he may enjoy the holiday week-end with his family.