

*OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH*  
*HERALD*



September 2017  
**NEWSLETTER**

**Pastor's Devotion...** There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth. And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people. Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. So Kish said to Saul his son, "Take one of the young men with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." *1Samuel 9:1-3*

So September arrives, as it has about this time every year...so in this 9<sup>th</sup> month, I've looked at and chosen these words from the 9<sup>th</sup> book of the Bible, 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel. And these particular words begin the report of God giving His people just what they asked for...a human king. Yep, the Lord relents and allows His people to become just like everyone else...people ruled by a human instead of the supremely wise and extremely more capable King they had enjoyed...you remember Him...the one who freed them from the bondage of slavery to Pharaoh in Egypt...who with a mighty hand and outstretch arm defeated that same pharaoh when his heart was hardened, and he came to realize, "Now, whose gonna build my cities???"

Yep...The Lord, God gave the people just what they wanted...a man whom they could see, and smell and all the other things they felt they needed from a human leader...with all his faults and foibles...Saul, of Benjamin...the same Saul who would abuse his God-given position and lose God's favor and lead God's people astray...exactly what God didn't want to happen...after all, He wanted to be the One whom His people looked to for guidance...after all, hadn't He been the One who had been with them and lead them and protected them so far???

Well, YES!!! He was...He was the One who had taken these people from being slaves in Egypt, where they had been farmers and builders and such and made them into a feared group of fighters, people who marched into the land sworn to them centuries ago by this very same God. A land flowing with milk and honey and all the other things that awaited them there.

But NOOOO...they wanted to be like everyone else and have a human king...they replaced Him who should have been remembered as "A jealous God, and you shall have no other gods before me"...but who instead thought themselves smarter, and more worthy of another ruler, and that's what they got...a man whose name was Saul. And they were SOOO much better off, weren't they...but were they???



September 07	Nancy Hoover
September 08	Christine Kalagian
	Brenda Siemsen
September 11	Alicia Smith
September 14	Maggie Zeeryp
September 18	Linda Walter
September 24	Abigail Wilkerson
September 25	Dale Price
	Dale Stanton

*Happy Anniversary*

September 11	Dave & Jackie Costello
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*Commentary from our sister, Doris...*

Well, That's That! Or Is It?

Last month was zeroed in on the eclipse-you know-the darkening of the sun by the moon. A natural phenomenon which, I am led to believe, will not occur in America until the year 2024.

This concern with eclipsing-with darkness and light can be a very POSITIVE one for those who say they know Christ and who try (with the Holy Spirit's guidance) to follow His teaching "How's that?" you may ask.

The obvious scriptural reference we have always had is from the Lord Himself who tells all who follow Him: "I am the light of the world." Those who believe and who follow Christ do not walk in darkness. Neither do they stumble (nor even stub their feet).

Well that's assuring! But, wait a minute...it's not an assurance that their lives will always be SUNNY! It is, however, a promise that with Jesus alongside and the Holy Spirit inside us no problems will get the best of us. There is nothing the world can toss our way or that we can bring on ourselves that can "eclipse" God's Son, and thereby blot out our Savior's help and love when we NEED those wonderful "things" ( and-don't kid yourselves, we ALWAYS need them!).

So, dear sisters and brothers in Christ-God's children ALL, keep the Son with you, in heart and mind, and the sunshine in your lives will illuminate the good and yes, the godly things our Creator has already planned for us to do for others and to enjoy for ourselves!

## Pastor's Devotion (Cont'd)

No! As we soon see, Saul's reign comes to an end, but do God's people return to Him??? No, they get another...but he too is just human, and full of the same issues as his predecessor...Leader #2 was a murderer, and an adulterer, among other things, and he supposedly was "a man after God's own heart"...but still even for all the things this improvement was, in comparison to Saul, he was still just a man. And as such, he was nowhere's near as capable of being the kind of ruler the Israelites had enjoyed under their original King.

Now the point I'm trying to make here is that God's people had an awesome King...He knew what they needed, after all, He made them (and us too, by the way!), and everything else we've ever known to exist. And as such this fact makes Him preeminently qualified to be King...Oh that He was...just think of how much better people's lives would be if we let Him rule over all His creation. But could we???

The answer, I'm afraid would be NO!!! Just as the people of Saul's day, people today wouldn't...couldn't give God that control. Too many people don't even want to acknowledge Him, much less let Him rule over them...and think about all those bureaucrats who'd lose their jobs if we handed over the keys to the kingdom to just One "person"...even if He is supremely qualified...

So, I guess I'll wrap up this devotion with just one more point...the human beings we have put in charge have been placed there not in spite of God's plan...but as part of it...because nothing happens coincidentally, but "God-incidentally"...just as the Psalmist says: For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine. *Psalm 50:10-11* and knowing this, may we keep all the leaders of the nations in our prayers, as people who hopefully know the Lord, and hold fast to Him and His wisdom as they lead God's people...each and every one of them...now and forever, AMEN!

## READINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 1	1 Kings 18:1-19, Eph. 1:1-23
September 2	1 Kings 18:20-40, Eph. 2:1-22
September 3	1 Kings 19:1-21, <i>1 Kings 20:1-22:53</i> , Eph. 3:1-21
September 4	2 Kings 2:1-18, Eph. 4:1-24
September 5	2 Kings 2:19-25, 4:1-7, Eph. 4:25-5:14
September 6	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37, Eph. 5:15-33
September 7	2 Kings 4:38-5:8, Eph. 6:1-24
September 8	2 Kings 5:9-27, Phil. 1:1-20
September 9	2 Kings 6:1-23, <i>2 Kings 6:24-8:29</i> , Phil. 1:21-2:11
September 10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29, <i>2 Kings 13:1-18:8</i> , Phil. 2:12-21
September 11	2 Chron. 29:1-24, Phil. 3:1-21
September 12	2 Chron. 31:1-21, Phil. 4:1-23
September 13	2 Chron. 32:1-22, <i>Hos. 1:1-14:9</i> , Col. 1:1-23
September 14	2 Chron. 33:1-25, <i>Jonah 1:1-4:11</i> , Col. 1:24-2:7
September 15	2 Chron. 34:1-4, 8-11, 14-33, <i>Nah. 1:1-3:19</i> , Col. 2:8-23
September 16	2 Chron. 35:1-7, 16-25, <i>Zeph. 1:1-3:20</i> , Col. 3:1-25
September 17	2 Chron. 36:1-23, <i>Philemon 1-25</i> , Col. 4:1-18
September 18	Neh. 1:1-2:10, <i>Hag. 1:1-2:23</i> , 1 Tim. 1:1-20
September 19	Neh. 2:11-20; 4:1-6, 1 Tim. 2:1-15
September 20	Neh. 4:7-23, 1 Tim. 3:1-16
September 21	Neh. 5:1-16 6:1-9, 15-16, 1 Tim. 4:1-16
September 22	Neh. 7:1-4; 8:1-18, <i>Ezra 1:1-10:19</i> , 1 Tim. 5:1-16
September 23	Neh. 9:1-21, 1 Tim. 5:17-6:2
September 24	Neh. 9:22-38, <i>Neh. 10:1-13:31</i> , 1 Tim. 6:3-21
September 25	Mal. 1:1-14, Matt. 3:1-17
September 26	Mal. 2:1-3:5, Matt. 4:1-11
September 27	Mal. 3:6-4:6, Matt. 4:12-25
September 28	Deut. 1:1-18, Matt. 5:1-20
September 29	Deut. 1:19-36, Matt. 5:21-48
September 30	Deut. 1:37-2:15, Matt. 6:1-15

## ***LOOKING AHEAD...***

**FYI ...** Pastor & Laurie will be gone Labor Day weekend to visit his family. Pastor Mike will fill-in for Pastor on Sunday, the 3rd.

**LABOR DAY** September 4<sup>th</sup> (Pastor out of office).

**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY** begins Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

**LWML** starts September 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 in the church quad.

**COUNCIL MEETS** on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>.

**COMING ON PBS** September 12<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00pm; *Martin Luther: An Idea That Changed the World*. The full-length documentary features thrilling reenactments of the sixteenth-century events with commentary from leading church-history experts.

**MITE BOX** will be in the Narthex September 17<sup>th</sup>.

**EAGLE ROCK District LWML RETREAT** is September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**PLAN ON JOINING US ...**September 30<sup>th</sup> for our retreat, “Rock Solid” from 9:30-3:00.