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THE SONSHINE

*The Newsletter
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13*

A Monthly Publication of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota 58701
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• Rev. Paul A. Krueger, Pastor • Rick Jones, Vicar

• Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music & Congregational Ministries • Peggy Trondson, Administrative Secretary/Editor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Greatest Treasure

*"I rejoice in following your commands
as one rejoices in great riches."*

Psalm 119:14

What is the world's greatest treasure? Some people might say it's all the gold stored in Fort Knox. Others might say it's the artwork found in the Sistine Chapel. Still others would perhaps say it's the fabulous wealth once displayed in the palaces of czarist Russia. As a person reads Psalm 119, they discover yet one more opinion, an opinion with which the child of God quickly agrees. The world's greatest treasure is the only

treasure capable of changing a human heart: the Word of God.

At the coronation of England's Queen Elizabeth II, the Archbishop of Canterbury presented her with a Bible and said, "Our gracious Queen: To keep your Majesty ever mindful of the Law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, we present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords."

If the world were somehow robbed of all the splendid things we call treasures, it would be an incalculable loss. Suppose, however, that the world were somehow stripped of the Bible and every trace of its influence. What a barren, blighted desert this planet

would be! Its words speak of hope, deliverance, the care of a Father in Heaven, the sacrifice of a victorious Savior, and the eternal home that awaits each believer.

As God's people there are many things we can treasure, and many things for which we can give thanks. Life, health, home, family, job, plentiful food, shelter; these are simply the beginning. The richest treasure is the one that speaks to our souls and transforms our heart—the Word of God. As we approach the celebration of Thanksgiving 2009, may our hearts be filled with gratitude not only for the physical blessings that we have abundantly received, but for the greatest of blessings that God gives through the treasure of His Word.

Thanksgiving Worship

As a church family, we celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday night, November 25th in a joyous Thanksgiving worship service. Bring your whole family. The worship service begins at 7:30 p.m.

Update: Calling A Second Pastor

Nine candidates for the position of Assistant Pastor for Youth and Young Adult Ministry have been presented to OSLC's call committee by the District President. The committee has been in contact with these candidates and is beginning a series of telephone interviews in order to narrow the list and present the best candidates to the congregation. After the candidate pool is narrowed, the next step will be to

hold a call meeting involving the whole congregation. The process is very deliberate, but at the same time very important. Youth and young adult ministries are among the most challenging, yet most important ministries that a church can undertake. Finding the right pastor is important. Please continue to ask the Lord to guide the process toward the right pastor.

A Pastor-Appreciation Thank You!

Once again I am grateful for the number of cards and gifts that my family and I received from the congregation during October. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are so appreciated! Truly we are blessed to be a part of such a wonderful congregation. Thank you to each one of you for your kindness!

Pastor Krueger

Semi-Annual Meeting

OSLC's Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, November 15th. The meeting starts at approximately 12:15 (following the 11:00 worship service). Agenda items include reports by our boards, the current status of our call for an Assistant Pastor, opportunities that are before us as we look to 2010, the adoption of our 2010 mission and ministry budget, and the election of congregational officers, just to name a few. This is a gathering for the whole congregation. We look forward to seeing you at this important meeting. **If you are a Board Chairman, please**

note that your reports are due in the church office by Friday, November 6th.

Discover Sunday!

What really is the difference between Lutherans? That's the topic of our November "Discover Sunday!" event. Perhaps more timely than ever, Pastor Krueger's "The Lutheran Church Today: What's the Difference?" will be the special presentation. This one night presentation begins at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15th. What do Lutherans share in common? Where do they disagree? What are the motivating factors that determine belief? Find out for yourself. The presentation also includes a question and answer time. In addition, this class serves as one of the membership courses for Lutherans from a non-LCMS background who are considering membership at OSLC. It will be an informative evening. Make plans to attend.

VICAR'S CORNER

Common Ground with Humanists?

E. O. Wilson, a secular humanist (a person who believes not in God but the goodness of humanity's intelligence and ingenuity to solve all of the world's problems) and author of *The Creation*, was just given an award for his efforts in preserving the planet. Often times the topics of conservation and "being Green" create tension between Christian and secular (non-religious) groups. But is this necessarily the case? Is there

something to be done about this tension? Can a Christian be Green? In the book noted above, E.O. Wilson suggests that Christians and Secular Humanists can find common ground when it comes to taking care of the earth. Is this true? Can we, as Christians, really have anything in common with Humanists? My answer is yes. While the fundamental doctrines and worldviews of Christianity and Humanism are vastly different, we are united by our lives on earth. We only have one planet. This should be enough reason for anyone to care for creation. As we explore this common ground we will discover that despite a common desire to care for creation, the Humanist and Christian motivations for doing so are decidedly different.

E. O. Wilson presents the welfare of humanity as another part of our common ground. On this I agree with him only to a point. Both Christians and Secular Humanists care for humanity but our motivations are very distinct. A humanist cares for humanity because he believes humanity can solve all of life's problems. He believes that due to man's highly evolved intelligence, humanity can figure out how to solve all of society's problems and create a utopian (perfect) civilization. Humanists believe the world can be saved through ingenuity. Christians care for humanity because it is their duty from God. Christians understand that the tragedies of this world are all the result of sin. While we can provide care and comfort for the afflicted and suffering, the only true salvation is found in the death and resurrection of Christ. We know that all

of the suffering of this world will pass away when Christ returns, but only on that last day will life be restored to a utopian state. It is the spreading of this hopeful message that the Church is most concerned with. The commission to do so manifests itself by also attending to the physical needs of our neighbor. In the issues before us today, that means caring for the environment—our neighbor's home.

In society's current turmoil many would have us believe that irresponsible care for God's creation has brought the world to a critical point in its ability to sustain life. I am talking, of course, about global warming. Many scientists tell us that because of humanity's pollution and negligent use of the earth's resources, the ecosystem of the entire planet is being thrown out of balance to a tipping point that will bring catastrophic results. Whether or not this is true is not the issue in our obligation to care for the environment. We must take care of the environment because God told us to and as Christians we respect God's commands and His creation.

Many secular authorities have pointed the finger at religious groups (mainly Judaism and Christianity) for perpetuating an attitude of exploitation of the earth rather than conservation. Sadly this accusation is true of some Christians. These groups sometimes think they can bring about Christ's second coming by destroying the earth. Others have seen the earth and the things in it solely as gifts from God to be consumed for the betterment of mankind. Both of these views are

inappropriate. The former is a misunderstanding of God's majesty over all of creation, man included. Everything is accomplished in His time, not ours (Psalm 75:2-3, Mark 13:32). The latter understands that God is the creator and originator of all things, and that Man was given dominion over the earth and its inhabitants (Genesis 1:28), but they misunderstand what that dominion means. A reevaluation of scripture can give us the proper Christian attitude towards the environment.

Starting at the beginning we see, in the first chapter of Genesis, that God created everything—the earth, the oceans, the trees, the animals, and finally man—absolutely everything. This first chapter also ends with the declaration that all of God's creation is good. The realization that we are merely a creature (part of creation) should be enough to know we must respect the creator. Such respect would include caring for the rest of God's creation. This is strengthened by the declaration that creation was good. We should want to preserve that which God has called *good*.

It is true that Genesis 1:28 states that man is supposed to rule the animals and have dominion over the earth. Admittedly this can be understood in terms of dominating or exploitation. However, if we look further ahead in Genesis to 2:15, we see man's position more clearly defined. Here it states that God placed man in the garden to tend it and watch over it. This verse describes the dominion and rule of man over the rest of creation. Man is not to use

nature merely as a means to his own end. Neither is man to rule over the earth as a tyrant. Rather he is to be a steward of creation and care for that over which he has dominion. This is the obligation for a Christian to care for nature. It was mankind's created position. God designed man as a care taker over creation. Man in his very nature is a steward of the earth. It was only in the fall into sin that this position of stewardship was perverted.

The model of a person placed to reign through service should not be altogether foreign to the Christian. Indeed our very identity as *Christians* bears witness to this idea. The word Christian means "to be Christ like." It is no surprise that Jesus himself said, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and give his life—a ransom for many." (See Matthew 20:28.) It was the nature of Christ to serve. It is also ours. Our very name tells us we are to be like Christ. If we are to live up to our name then we are to be like Christ and serve.

We must serve all creation, both man and nature. This can be brought back to the words of Christ as well. Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." (See Matthew 22:37-39.) If we truly love God we will love his creation and care for it in loving worship of the creator. This includes man and beast, nature and society.

So what common ground do we have with Secular Humanists? We both want to care for the earth. This common

ground remains. However, our reasons for doing so are distinct. The Humanist cares for the earth out of self-preservation or hope for the future of mankind. We do so out of love for God and His creation. We care for humanity and nature because God designed us to do so and God cared for us through Christ. We know that ultimately salvation is obtained only through Christ's service to us, but we must also remember that this salvation is also seen through our service as we are called to be (as our name insists) Christ like.

**b MUSIC BEAT
SMALL GROUP AND
VOLUNTEER
MINISTRIES**

Music Ministries

*"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving."
Psalm 69:30*

Argh! The Christmas decorations are out in all the stores already. It would be so easy to let Thanksgiving just slide right by us. I would encourage you to come together with your church family for the sole purpose of thanking our God for His continuous

blessings to us. Our Thanksgiving worship service will be held on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:30. What a great opportunity to offer Him our praise and thanks. There will be no choir rehearsals that evening. See you there!

Small Group Ministries

Are you interested in being a part of our Small Group Ministries? Maybe you just have some questions about how it all works. Please contact me at 852-6404 and let's talk! FYI – I'll be hosting a new small group and we'll be meeting on Monday afternoons at 2:00 p.m. Come and join us!

Our Stewardship emphasis, *Compelled By Love*, will wind up on November 8th. I hope you are being blessed by the weekly Bible studies and daily Bible readings that have been available through our website, e-mail, and also as a hardcopy handout each Sunday. I pray that you have experienced some real growth through the Holy Spirit's work in you as you continue to spend time in His Word.

Volunteer Ministries

Stewardship of our time and talents is key to God's work in us. He calls us to serve others and gave us His Son as a perfect example of a true servant. Are you wondering how to get involved in the various ministries here at OSLC? Wondering how to best use the gifts God has given you to serve others? You can find the answers to these questions at the **Compelled By Love Ministry Fair**, which will be held on Sunday, November 1st before and after

our worship services. Stop by the information tables and talk to the people who are involved in these various ministries. They are passionate about what they do here. And there is a place for you! If you're a contact person for a ministry team here at OSLC, please plan on helping with the set-up of your information tables on Saturday, October 31st. We'll meet at 10:00 to get things looking great and then have some pizza together at noon! So mark your calendars: October 31st at 10:00 for team contacts to set-up, and November 1st for the Ministry Fair. Come and find out where God wants to use YOU!!

Stephen Ministry

It is with deep sadness that I write these words: Kathie Spaulding, our Stephen Leader, along with her husband, Todd and daughter Michaela will be moving to Omaha, NE in early November. The Stephen Ministry program will continue as several of the current Stephen Ministers have stepped up to cover some of the leadership roles. Kathie's desire to provide one on one Christian care giving to as many individuals as possible, led her to launch the Stephen Ministry program here at OSLC. I have been moved to tears when I think about this team which she has inspired and the beautiful caring they provide to the hurting. Truly she has been the hands, feet, eyes, ears and mouth of God to so many. Please join me in thanking Kathie for listening to God's call in her life. Kathie - I know you and your family will be a blessing to people wherever you go!

In His service,

Bonnie Rennich, Director of Music and
Congregational Ministries

*“My purpose is that they be
encouraged in heart and united in
love in order that they may know
Christ.”*

Colossians 2:2

LHLH CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Little Hands, Loving Hearts
Child Development Center, Inc.

“Reflecting the light of God’s love
by embracing children and their families
and encouraging growth in mind,
body, and spirit.”

We all know that “coffee” is the
official drink of Lutherans, but have you
ever tried chai tea? Hmm, it reminds
me of warm pumpkin pie; sweet, with
hints of nutmeg and cinnamon. It always
reminds me of Thanksgiving... and the
abundant blessings God pours out upon
us each and every day! That’s how it
continues to be with Little Hands
Loving Hearts!

We are in the application/ interview
process for staff and we’re not only
grateful for the plentiful number of
individuals applying, but by their high
degree of education, experience, and
desire to become a part of our Christian
mission. Next on the list is to contact the
parents and begin our enrollment
process. To whom may we be a
servant, and a blessing?

Praises are being offered up for the
hearty souls who were “compelled by
love,” to construct the “I Spy”
Observation deck and sandbox for our
natural playscape. What fun and
fellowship we had! You really came
through when LHLH CDC needed help
and we ask God to bless your joyous
stewardship! We also give thanks for
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and
Job Service North Dakota for the grants
we received that paid for this first phase.
We have submitted a letter of intent to
the St. Joseph’s Community Foundation
to complete the project in its entirety.

We are so thankful for the continued
support of the congregation through
your participation in our “Patty-Cake”
Pancake Breakfast and Books Are Fun
event! This annual fund-raiser has
become a favorite for us all and a big
help to our budget! Once again,
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
partners with us by supplying matching
funds. This non-profit organization
really knows how to support the
Lutheran community!

By using our SCRIP gift card
program, you enable us to continue
operating our office so that we can push
forward. So many, many blessings come
through the stewardship of God’s
people at Our Savior Lutheran Church!

Preparations continue to escalate as
we strive for our projected opening date
of Jan. 4, 2010. The LHLH CDC board
is working hard as we fine-tune our
program with Child Care Resource and
Referral and Ward County Social
Services. How thankful we are to have
such guidance and community support!

Lastly, interior renovations will be taking place in the month of November. Work calls are scheduled for Monday, November 2nd from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Saturday, November 7th from 9:00a.m.-1:00 p.m., Monday, November 9th from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m., and Saturday, November 19th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Please call Terry at 852-5454 if you're "compelled by love" to offer a small portion of your time as a stewardship blessing to LHLH CDC. God will bless you many times over for your service to HIM!

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

Humbled in gratitude,
Terry Voeller, CDA
LHLH CDC Director

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH

The Corn Maze Mania event on October 10th was quite aMAZEing! A great number showed up, considering the wicked cold that crept in that day. It will have to be an annual event for sure.

Youth Encounter

Captive Free Concert

November 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to come for a night of great music and fellowship led by college age students. To learn more about the group, check out:

www.youthencounter.org/captivefreecentralplains or contact Vicar Rick Jones with questions at 852-6404.

Thankful Baking
November 25th

Each year the youth hold a fundraising bake sale the day before Thanksgiving. If you would like to donate baked goods to be sold, contact Betsy Jones at 838-0988. Otherwise, we will see you before and after the church service.

Watch out for fundraising activities held by the Senior High Youth (NUTS) to help support them with their summer 2010 mission trip.

For anyone who would like to donate to the youth, you can do so by grabbing a red envelope titled "Youth Scholarship Program" on the usher's table outside the sanctuary and dropping it in the offering plate or at the church office. Donations can be made to the youth general fund or even to a specific youth to help sway the costs of trips or events.

Do you buy groceries??? Our Savior youth need your MarketPlace Foods receipts!!! Every time you make a purchase at MarketPlace Foods, either big or small, ask the cashier for a "WE CARE" stamp. Bring the stamped receipt to church and place it in the plastic envelope on the youth bulletin board in the fellowship hall. 1% of your purchase will be contributed to the youth of Our Savior Lutheran Church. It is that easy! Thanks to those who have already brought in receipts...what a great way to donate with so little effort.

Again, if you have any ideas for events, the Board of Youth would love to hear them. Feel free to talk with Vicar Rick or Betsy Jones, Brent Detlaff, Karla Yates, or Ashley Bergstedt with your ideas or if you

would like to help out with upcoming events. Remember to check out the Facebook group "OSLC-Minot lyf" and the revamped church website www.oslc-minot.org for information on upcoming youth events. God's blessings to all!

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

Caring For One Another is a Bible study for adults whether married or single. We meet every Tuesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. We are *Compelled By Love*. Currently, we are doing one page Bible studies.

We enjoy lively discussions and participation, but do not call on anyone specifically. Thank you for so readily volunteering to read and answer questions. Your "input" is so vital! Just think of the knowledge all of you share. We learn so much and leave with a great sense of satisfaction.

See you on Tuesdays! Have a blessed and thankful Thanksgiving!! Be safe!!

In Christ's love and care,
Duane & Clara Schell
838-4498

SEWING DISCIPLES

We are off to a good start already this fall. The Sewing Disciples, along with your generous donations, were able

to ship 13 Quilts, 47 School Kits and 4 Sewing Kits to Lutheran World Relief in October!

Our next ship date will be in May 2010 and we have lots of work to do before then. Won't you come join us and work on these worthwhile mission projects? We will be meeting November 9th and again on November 23rd at 9:30 a.m. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy a time of fellowship at noon.

The Sewing Disciples started the summer of 2001. Could a small group really make a difference in the world? You bet they can!! Since 2001 they have made the following:

613 Quilts
332 School Kits
56 Layettes
29 Sewing Kits
93 Health Kits

They have been shipped all over the world! The congregation and friends have been so generous in providing supplies and materials needed. We are grateful for your generous support! Many lives have been touched with the love of God through these projects.

Matthew 25:40

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

FOREVER YOUNG

Are you in the 50+ age group? Forever Young is just for YOU! We will be meeting Friday, November 20th

at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck meal at the church. YUM! We invite you to come out and enjoy the great food, fellowship, fun and entertainment.

Speaking of entertainment, do you have any suggestions or ideas we could use for an upcoming program? If so, please contact us!

Have a NICE Thanksgiving!
Duane and Clara Schell
838-4498

NOVEMBER USHERS

8:30 a.m.

Ludwig Bachmeier
William Tkachenko

9:45 a.m.

Ushers Needed!!

11:00 a.m.

Jim Adkins
Ted Krause
Kevin Sickler
Ken Lewis

If you are willing to serve in this vital area of ministry, PLEASE call the church office at 852-6404 and let Peggy know or sign up on the "Usher Sign Up" sheet hanging on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nov. 1 Pamela Trueblood
Gregory Schell

Nov. 2 Cassandra Whorley
Eva Burns
Nov. 3 Deborah Hemstad
Brandie Schaar
Rhanda Krueger
Anthony Steinke
Troy Aga
Emily Meyer
Nov. 4 Ross Yates
Kevin Forbes
Alexander DeMakis
Nov. 5 Dennis Baer
Nov. 6 James Adkins
Kedra Staehr
Nov. 7 Wayne Johnson
Rudy Steinke
Jane Welstad
Tracey Oja
MaLaura Sorensen
Faith Hedberg
Nov. 9 Neil Kitzman
Samuel Kendrick
Kiya Plesuk
Nov. 10 Tom Vera III
Aaron Westman
Nov. 11 Shawn Kramer
Anthony Meyers
Nov. 12 Jeanne Hedberg
Renee Tribitt
Candi Fredriksen
Jacob Rylander
Nov. 13 Carol Podoll
Rodney Hair
Jason Schwarz
Nov. 14 Theodore Krause
Katherine Spaulding
Arenda Fowler
Nov. 16 Carter Gage
Quinn Killmer
Nov. 17 Trevor Schmidt
Lacey Klug
Nov. 18 Lynette Otto

Nov. 19 JoAnn Thull
 Cheryl Gessner
 Lori Walker
 Lynette Azure
 Joshua Nelson
 Kooper Schwan
 Nov. 20 China Allen
 Indira Axdahl
 Nov. 21 Sydney Stein
 Dylan Otto
 Nov. 22 Loa Orvik
 Gail Schmidkunz
 Paul Olson
 Alexis Jenner
 Theodore Manuwal
 Nov. 23 Devin Otto
 Jayden Nelson
 Nov. 24 Vicki Vollmer
 Tami Mattson
 Nov. 28 Nathaniel Hance
 Nov. 30 Jack Zolondek
 Krista Myers
 Jacob Glasgow
 Adam Roedocker
 Avery Dodd

Nov. 13 Jim & Cheryl Walsh
 Nov. 14 Warren & Cecilia Howe
 Nov. 18 Pat & Bonita Donovan
 Nov. 20 Paul & Sharilyn Ogren
 Nov. 25 Michael & Wendi Johnson
 Nov. 25 John & Ronda Rensvold
 Nov. 26 Kevin & Laurie Sickler
 Nov. 28 Rev. Paul & Julie Krueger
 Nov. 28 Tadd & Jody Demars

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Serving Away From Home

Ron Armenta
 Scott Howe
 Blake Hunter
 Marcus Poyer
 Matthew Schmitz
 Chad Schell
 Matthew Voeller

Health Difficulties

Recently Hospitalized...

Earl Fink
 Jaclyn Klebe
 Linda Lee
 Melvin Poppinga
 Rhonda Schmidkunz
 Rory Wegenast
 Archie Zahursky

Happy Birthday and God's richest blessings to each of you! If your birthday is not listed, or if the date is incorrect, PLEASE call the church office and let me know!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Nov. 2 Dan & Candice Saunders
 Nov. 6 Patrick & Naomi Haye
 Nov. 9 Don & Rachel Simonson
 Nov. 10 Curtis & Betty Hahn
 Nov. 13 Max & Tracy Rosin

**FROM THE
 CHURCH RECORDS**

Baptisms

October 11, 2009

Peyton Nicole Perron

Daughter of Justin Perron & Nicole
Head

October 17, 2009

Mason Dean Morin

Son of Terrance and Erin Morin

October 25, 2009

Dayton Daniel Kent

Son of Allen and Laurie Kent

Wedding

October 17, 2009

Joshua Keith Mosser

And

Lisa Renae Dick

LADIES' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't miss out on the Annual Ladies' Christmas Dinner!! It will be held on Sunday, December 6th. We will have a time of fellowship starting at 5:30 p.m. followed by a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to participate, we will have a \$10 gift-exchange—one for the “adult” ladies and a separate one for the “younger” girls (6th grade and older).

If you participated in the “Secret Pal” program this year, “she” will be “revealed” at our party! You won't

want to miss out on all the fun! Hope to see you there!

THREE KINDS OF GIVING

“There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, ‘I have to’; duty giving says, ‘I ought to’; and thanksgiving says, ‘I want to.’ The latter comes from a full heart. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God.”

--Robert N. Rodenmayer

A CHILD'S VIEW OF THUNDERSTORMS

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she feared the electrical storm might harm her child.

Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along. At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile.

Another and another flash of lighting followed quickly and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called to her, "What are you doing?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture."

A GREAT FLAME OF GRATITUDE

James S. Stewart (1896-1990) was one of the last century's most brilliant biblical scholars and preachers. In fact, *Preaching Magazine* ranked him as the best preacher of the 20th century. He taught at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland and wrote many books. A hint of his insightfulness is found in the words he wrote about the book of Psalms: "All the way through the book of Psalms you feel that you are walking on a smoldering volcano of praise, liable to burst out at any moment into a great flame of gratitude to God."

CONTROL

Things we CANNOT control:

- Someone else's faults
- How long we will live
- Another person's opportunities

Things we CAN control:

- *Our* attitude
- The *kind* of life we live
- What we do with *our* opportunities

BIBLE QUIZ

Psalms 121 focuses on the assurance of God's help at all times. The final two verses (7-8) begin: "The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in..." (NRSV). Choose the correct ending of the psalm:

- A. today and every day.
- B. as long as you live a good life.
- C. if you ask God to do so.
- D. from this time on and forevermore.

HAVE WE FORGOTTEN GOD?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and

preserving race, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

--Abraham Lincoln
1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation

THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT

November is the month of Thanksgiving, but it often also includes the beginning of a new church year. This year, November 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. The season of Advent is about Jesus, the Word, “coming.” It’s about anticipating and preparing for Christ’s arrival.

God comes to us in many and various ways. He speaks to us through the prophets and saints. He comes and speaks to us when we are listening. He comes in the beauty and mysteries of nature. Most of all, God comes in the person of Christ, speaking to his listeners face to face.

Pastor Edmund Steimle put it this way: “The Christian story is a story of

God coming into the middle of life, of our lives, opening the dialogue with us.”

That’s what Advent is really all about: God visiting the earth in person to speak with anyone and everyone who is ready to do so.

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING AVERAGES

Attendance:

September Average: 351

October Average: 373

Offering (General Fund):

September Average:

\$6,651.65/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$473.70/Week

October Average:

\$6,434.75/Week

Designated Fund Average:

\$849.06/Week

Children’s Sunday School:

September Average: 91

October Average: 77