



The Sound of Morning Star
Morning Star Lutheran Church ~ Missouri Synod
Lakeside, California
www.morningstarlcms.org

November

2024

Greetings family and friends of MSLC,

Happy Thanksgiving a little early and happy Reformation as well. Since the newsletter comes out right around that time, I decided this year I would share in a crusade I've had for some time. We practice something every Sunday that's not biblical, and I was curious as to why. Every Sunday we consecrate the elements and I wondered why. Reading from the bible, there are various versions, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, took a bite, I believe, then passed it around saying 'take and eat this is my body'. HE did the same thing with the wine, 'take and drink, this is my blood'. As I read, I find no evidence of consecration.

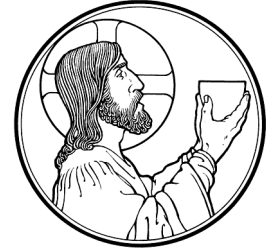
The next step for me, was to continually ask clergy who I encountered, why we do this. Clergy are really good with Christianity 101 and even 201, but the deeper questions are those they aren't really prepared for. The range of answers were, 'good question, we've always done it, not sure, look it up, it's just something we do.

The crusade was going to continue into perpetuity, never ending, until I decided to write about it. I don't consider it a question I would really ask GOD about because this practice looks very man made to me. From my point of view, consecration is unnecessary. Simply take the bread, say 'take and eat the body of CHRIST give for you, take and drink the blood of CHRIST given for you, and by faith you've you received the body and blood of CHRIST.

Enter the HOLY SPIRIT, who decided HE had somethings to say about this. I was first directed to 1 Cor 3, where Paul talks about spiritual food. The immature Christian, who is still hanging on to his or her worldly ways is not ready for meat and potatoes but rather baby food. At this point, I don't get but I will continue on. Next, I went to Mark, where a few weeks ago, Pastor taught about having faith of a little child, the object lesson was placed in the middle of the disciples, and then HE went on to talk about dissuading little ones. I was looking at this from the Greek text and noticed that the Greek word for children and the word for 'little one' was different. I had always assumed that CHRIST was still talking about children but 'little ones' are new believers.

The first epiphany to hit me was the fact that there are different levels of faith. In fact, there are new believers, immature believers, and then different levels of mature believers. I think the founders of the Christian religion had the dilemma on the hands of 'when does it change'? it's not they could accept by faith that the changed occurred, but could those who were new believers or those who faith was weak simply accept body and blood by faith. As I was pondering this, I thought of the wedding at Cana where HE changed the water into wine. We don't know where it happened. Did the servant take the water out of the jar and it was already wine, or did he watch the ladle, waiting to see, only to hear the steward say that it was the best wine of the day.

Sola Gratia Sola Scriptura Sola Fide



Sunday Services

8:45 a.m.

In person, via Zoom, or on
Morning Star's
Facebook page.

Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

For more information,
call the Church office.

619-443-6032



We had a board meeting and there are some changes coming.

October is the month where board members declare whether they intend to serve another 2 years or whether they are done. The board is split it two, so half the member's terms were up while the other half terms are half way done. Most of the executive board will continue for another year. The secretary and the financial secretary are continuing on. The president, me, has decided to end when my term is up at the end of the year. Morningstar will have a new president in 2025.

The 3 Sunday in November is our next Voters meeting. We will be choosing our last benevolence, which will probably go to a disaster relief, passing the 2025 budget, and approving the board for 2025.

Recently, our insurance company did a brief outside survey of our campus. There were three items that they suggested we fix or remove. One of the items was fixing the parking lot. Since this cost will be over the \$2500 the board will need approval from the voters to fix. Not sure as of this writing what the fix will entail.

Jerry

On behalf of all the members and friends of Morning Star, we wish to thank you for your years of commitment to Morning Star as President. We truly appreciate your insights and service! Thanks Jerry! And thanks to all who will be leaving office this year!



Please join us in Classroom 4 at 10:00 a.m. on SUNDAY MORNINGS, and be blessed by Studying God's Word.



By Pastor Richard Ross

“Five hundred seven years ago”: It sounds like a long time when you say it out loud. And it was. But the Lutheran church is young compared to the span of the whole Christian church on earth. So it’s like only yesterday Martin Luther nailed 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, challenging the church-at-large on its doctrine of justification, the forgiveness of sins, the salvation of sinners.

Luther confronted head-on many issues over the course of his life, like the question of good works. From the beginning, Christians have wrestled with what their good deeds mean to God. As Luther studied the Bible, he realized there are many things one can do for their neighbor which are good, which are helpful, and which may even silence the critics of the faith (1st Peter 2:12,15). Luther called these good works, “**proper righteousness.**” However, (and this is where Jesus comes in) for every good work I do, there are a dozen other things I SHOULD HAVE DONE (sins of omission), not to mention the ACTUAL SINS I committed along the way, like pride, lust, and dishonesty. In sum, my good works aren’t going to make me worthy of a single beer in heaven, “no, not one”! Nonetheless, we get our heavenly Oktoberfest because of all the good works Jesus did, which are called “**foreign righteousness.**” (Yes, I am trying to make Oktoberfest a religious holiday) 😊

Do you remember the story I shared about my babysitter who, when I was 7-years old, told me God was going to make me watch a film clip with all my sins before He let me into heaven? St. Paul wrote, “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:27) This means that if you were God, and if you looked at my life as He does, and if you studied a film clip of my life with my evil babysitter, what you would see is the life of Jesus! I am cloaked in His righteousness just as you are cloaked, robed, outfitted with the likeness of Jesus’ righteousness. I am whole. You are whole. Do not let the devil in the babysitter’s clothing tell you otherwise! Alleluia! *Eins, zwei, g’suffa!*

There are all kinds of wonderful discoveries Luther made which we celebrate when we remember the Reformation. But as I’ve already suggested perhaps the most important thing he did was break through the haze of Medieval thinking about how to read the Bible. It was so complicated only religious scholars were qualified to do it, so they believed. But when Luther read the Scripture through the eyes of the first century Christians who wrote it, people like Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, and Paul, he realized that as they read the Old Testament, they were looking for Jesus on every page. Today we call this way of reading the Bible **Christocentrism**, which is looking for God’s promise of a savior, looking for God’s intervention—His acts of grace—on every page.

Jesus is the center of our faith, our theology, our reading of the Bible. It seems natural to us now, but not so in Luther’s time when speculation and humanism raged. But Luther’s idea that Jesus was the center of everything reformed his and ultimately our understanding of what it meant to be a disciple of Jesus .

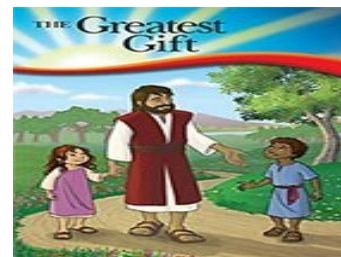


The Bible is not about ethics, though there are some mighty strong words about values and morality in the Bible. The Bible is not a history of the created world, though there are great insights to be gained in understanding God's design of creation in the Bible. Rather, the single most important idea Luther took away from his study of God's Word was that it is the Lord's roadmap for salvation. IT'S ALL ABOUT JESUS. The Lord Himself said so on the road to Emmaus post-resurrection: He told His disciples, "everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" (Luke 24:44).

Brothers and sisters in Christ, may the Lord bless you abundantly as you receive His Word with faith, receive His righteousness with thankfulness, and look for creative ways to be emissaries of this Gospel in this world in which we live. Amen.

REMINDER

Don't forget to pick up one or two Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes and bring back to the church. Deadline is November 17th.



Did you know that Samaritan's Purse has been in operation for 54 years!

The Greatest Gift Storybook

In addition to hearing the Gospel before they receive their shoebox gift, children also receive The Greatest Gift, a storybook that shares the message of salvation. With the Apostle John as narrator, the booklet shares 11 Scripture stories and invites children to follow Christ. Children take this home to share with family and friends. It is used in more than 100 languages.



OLD SCHOOL

SUBMITTED BY JIM BIRREN



OLD SCHOOL

While purging one of my filing cabinets I came across some schoolwork that my younger brother Jerome had submitted in the 10th grade. It must mention that Jerome attended 2nd through 10th grade in a one room schoolhouse in Graham County Iowa, 12 kids and the schoolteacher was his Great Aunt, Mrs. Bolsinger. Much of the class were related to either the Oneill's or the Bolsinger families that had farms along the Turkey River.

Submitted: by Jerome Alan Patrick Birren --**How to test seed corn**

In certain parts of our country the corn crop is a necessity and should be carefully planned and well cared for. In order to get maximum production, the first thing a person raising a corn crop looks for is good seed.

A farmer first looks for quality in seed corn. He can tell little about hybrid corn by simply looking at it, so he makes a test. The test he will first try is the germination test. The purpose of this test is to find the percentage of corn seeds that will grow. This is done by placing 100 kernels of seed corn in a cotton like substance - a substance like cotton that will keep them moist. This group of seeds is then placed in a warm insulated box called a germinator. After the seeds have been kept in the germinator for several days, probably 3 or 4 at a temperature of 70 to 83 degrees F, they are removed from the germinator and the results are recorded. Now the seeds have either sprouted or they will not grow. After the percentage of corn sprouted has been recorded, the test is repeated a couple of more times. Testing seed corn is the wise thing to do, because once in a while a farmer will purchase bad seeds.

What about sowing seeds? Seeds are often used as a metaphor for our actions, attitudes, and spiritual condition. God teaches us about this most important topic and encourages us to sow physical and spiritual seeds as an act of faith and generosity that will lead to abundant blessings and spiritual growth. Sowing seeds represents investing in the growth of God's Kingdom.

The Old Testament contains many references to sowing seeds and reaping harvest. Our New Testament, Galatians 6:7 tells us to not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. This would convey the principle that our actions and choices have consequences. If we sow righteousness, we reap blessings and goodness. But if we sow wickedness, we will reap trouble and sorrow. Proverbs 11:18 says, "A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward."

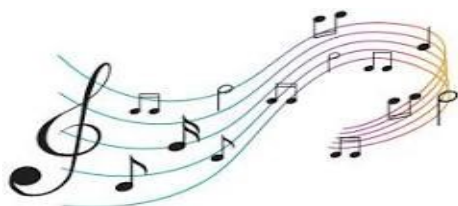
God never uses anyone until He tests them deeply, and His tests are intended for growth and refinement, not leading us into sin. (lead us not into temptation)

And why does God test us? (James 1:3) It is not to imply He already knows us. He tests us to prove what is in our hearts. So, are we good seeds, in the process of germination throughout our life cycle? Are we ready to be planted? At the age of 77 My brother Jerome fell dead, I knew him to be a rock-solid man of Jesus. He was germinated, planted by God to do good works, spreading love and now planted in Lebanon Missouri, but lives with Jesus. A great man, my brother.





*Wishing You a Blessed Thanksgiving
Let us all
Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!*



1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

BIBLE THEMES IN SPANISH (EDITED)

- | | |
|--|---|
| • El que oye y entiende la palabra da fruto
<i>The one who hears and understands the Word bears fruit</i> | • Soy bendecida para ser una bendición / Soy bendecido para ser una bendición
<i>I am blessed to be a blessing</i> |
| • El reino de los cielos es como una perla fina
<i>The Kingdom of Heaven is like a fine pearl</i> | • Dios me conoce muy bien
<i>God knows me very well</i> |
| • Tome su cruz y sígame
<i>Take up your cross and follow Me</i> | • Jesús me ama
<i>Jesus loves me</i> |
| • Somos todos como hijos de Dios
<i>We are all like children of God</i> | • Lleven una vida de amor, así como Cristo nos amó
<i>Walk in love, as Christ loved us</i> |
| • Jesús tiene autoridad en mi vida
<i>Jesus has authority in my life</i> | • El Espíritu es el que da vida
<i>It is the Spirit that gives life</i> |
| • El amor no guarda rencor
<i>Love doesn't hold grudge</i> | • Cristo amó a la iglesia y se entregó por ella
<i>Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her</i> |



Morning Star Lutheran Church



619-443-6032

12821 Ha Hana Road
Lakeside, CA 92040

www.morningstarlcms.org

Pastor Richard Ross

The people of Morning Star believe in the One True God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe that everything God says in His Word, 'the Bible', is true. And we believe in God's promise that He will give us the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus, who died on the cross and rose again to save us.

Sunday Morning

Worship

8:45 a.m.

In person, on Zoom, or
Morning Star's
Facebook page.

Bible Study

10:00 a.m.

Youth Confirmation

10:00 a.m.

(Check the calendar for
the monthly
schedule.)

Ongoing Prayers:



Prayers of Thanksgiving for: *God's
saving grace, through
the gift of faith.*

May Our LORD send HEALING &
PEACE to our World, showing mercy
to all who are suffering.

Pray for those in the
Armed Forces,
especially:

Lucas Nelson Davis United States Navy
(Chris Hill's Grandson)



Prayers for our Pastor and Board of
Directors.

Prayers for His Church, the World and
Creation..

To add prayer concerns to this page, con-
tact the Church Office.

619-443-6032



Morning Star's 2024 Board of Directors:

President Jerry Grambow

Treasurer Wanda Lewellen

Financial Secretary Alicia Grambow

BOD Secretary Anne Ulm

Director of Lay Ministry Dick Collingwood

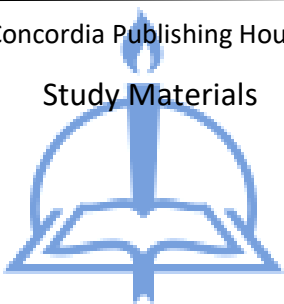
Director of Social Ministry Elizabeth Holland

Director of Operations Travis Carter

Dick Collingwood

Concordia Publishing House

Study Materials



Find daily devotions at

www.cph.org



FOR DEVOTIONS EVERYDAY TO YOUR IN-
BOX— SIGNUP AT : LWML.ORG

Mustard Seed
Daily Devotions

**Wanted: INSPIRATIONAL BIBLE-
BASED ARTICLES.**



Editor, Chris Hill, chrisahill12@gmail.com

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE IS:
November 24, 2024

For Birthdays,
Anniversaries,
and Other
Special Dates in Novem-
ber see the calendar.

Morning Star also has an On-Line
Prayer Chain at:

morningstarlcms.org

~ Jim Birren,

Prayer Coordinator



Leaving this in here another month or two **Here's something that might be fun. We see each other quite often, but maybe we could get to know other better. (Jim's suggestion, thanks Jim). If you would like to participate, please fill out the questions below and turn this slip of paper to Chris Hill. Each month we can highlight one person in the newsletter. What do you think?

Name _____

Hobbies _____

Favorite Color _____

Favorite Food _____

Favorite Song _____

Something most people might not know about me _____



November 2024

Morning Star Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study FOOD DRIVE	4 6:30 PM BOD Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM Praise team practice	7	8	9 Daylight Savings time ends at 2 AM on Sunday morning
10 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation	11 VETERAN'S DAY	12	13 5:30 PM Praise team practice	14	15	16
17 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 5:30 PM Song Fest and Praise team practice	21	22	23 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM LARC Ham Radio testing
24 8:45 AM Divine Service or Zoom 10:00 AM Adult Bible Study 10:00 AM Youth Confirmation \$5 Sunday for Missions	25	26	27 5:30 PM Praise team practice 7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service or Zoom	28 THANKSGIVING	29	30