



GOOD NEWS MARCH 2019

THE BIBLE

The Scriptures are they which testify of Me (Jesus) John 5:39.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

What is the Bible? It is one of the most researched questions in Google and Youtube. Maybe you have a question about it also.

This Lent we will hear the Biblical account of Christ's Suffering and Death. But also, the Bible will shape us as we listen to the following sermons:

Ash Wednesday	Is the Bible trustworthy?
Lent 1	What is the history of the English Bible?
Lent 2	What is the difference between Bible translations?
Lent 3	How does the Bible work faith in sinners?
Lent 4	How is the Bible clear since I don't understand much of it?
Lent 5	How is the Bible without error when people helped write it?
Maundy Thursday	What does the Bible say about the Lord's Supper?
Good Friday	What does the Bible say about Confession?

This Lenten series aims at strengthening your trust in and increasing your use of God's Holy Bible. A Lenten Meal will be served before each service beginning at 5:30 pm.

In Christ,

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CONGREGATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP PUBLICIZE [OUR SAVIOR MUSCATINE](#) How can you help get out the word about our great congregation? One way is to Comment, and/or Share, one of our posts with your Friends. Find us by clicking here: www.facebook.com/oursaviorlutheranmuscatine

Online [OFFERING OPTIONS](#) have increased. Here is a screenshot of what the page looks like. Besides a General Offering, you may also give online to the Sanctuary Renovation Fund, the Mercy Fund, and the New Church Building Fund. Connect with this page [here](#), login with an email address and password, and give. Thank you all for your generosity. Pastor Pautz

The screenshot displays the 'Online Donation' interface for 'Our Savior Lutheran Church'. The page is titled 'Online Donation' and includes a 'Log In' section on the right. The donation form on the left has the following details:

Category	Amount
1-General Operating:	10.00
2-Sanctuary Renovation Fund:	0.00
3-Mercy Fund:	0.00
4-New Church Building Fund:	0.00
Total:	\$0.00

Additional form fields include 'Donation Frequency' set to 'Choose One' and 'Donation Start Date' set to '02/26/19'. The 'Log In' section shows an email address of 'jelpautz@gmail.com' and a password field. A 'Create Your Online Profile' button is also visible.

REMEMBER THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS Many of you have Thrivent Insurance. This is a reminder that if you want your 2018 Thrivent Choice Dollars designated to this congregation or anywhere else, you have until March 31st to do so. Also, please remember that the recurring direction of Choice Dollars to organizations is no longer an option; you must now go through the gift direction process every time you receive notification that Choice Dollars are available. For more information, contact your Thrivent representative.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS If you are in charge of getting an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin, please email it to oslcp@machlink.com by 10:00 am on the Wednesday before the first Sunday you would like it printed.

LWML ZONE RALLY is on April 27th here at Our Savior Muscatine. Starts at 8:30 am with breakfast. We allow 30 minutes for Bible Study. The verse we chose is Psalm 119 verse 105: *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.* Rev. Max Phillips and Kari Smith will be the speakers from Lutheran Family Services out of Davenport. Thanks Becky

QUESTION: What is the role of elders in a congregation?

ANSWER: Strictly speaking, the word “elder” in the Bible (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 5:17-19, Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Peter 5:1-4) refers to those who hold the pastoral office. What we commonly call “elders” in the LCMS are laypersons appointed to serve a congregation in various ways, in keeping with its constitution and bylaws.

Such “elders” hold an office that is humanly defined and is not the equal of biblical elders. As a humanly defined office, the term elder itself does not have a uniform meaning throughout the Synod. Indeed, some congregations prefer the term “deacon” to refer to laymen with similar duties.

Elders (or deacons) typically support and assist the pastor in his spiritual and administrative tasks toward the goal of nurturing and strengthening the spiritual life, mission, and ministry of the congregation.

The office of pastor is divinely instituted and indispensable for the Church, but an elder or deacon is a humanly instituted office. Where it exists, it seeks to provide help, support, and encouragement for pastors.

Elders may pray with and for the pastor, advise the pastor in certain decisions of pastoral care, help to evaluate and encourage his performance in his pastoral and administrative duties, assist him in visitations and in the distribution of the Lord’s Supper, and advocate for the pastor’s and his family’s material, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

In such ways elders may help a congregation and pastor to have a godly and healthy relationship.

The Sunday Morning Struggle

As parents, many of us are all too familiar with the “Sunday morning struggle.” Getting everyone up, fed, dressed and out the door on time can often result in frustration and exhaustion, all before 8:00 a.m.. Couples that struggle with children’s reluctant, cranky or squirmy behavior (sometimes all three!) during the church service, and sometimes the whole production feels futile. Is this sounding familiar to anyone?

I recently read a recent an old article (“Why You Should Keep Taking Your Kids To Church Even When It Feels Pointless”) that encourages parents to faithfully bring children to church, even though it may feel “pointless” at times. I summarized the main points below, but I encourage [read the article in its entirety](#).

1. You Are Teaching the Importance of Church Our children recognize our priorities, for better or for worse. If we expect them to prioritize worship later in life, they must see us prioritize it now, even when we are tired, on vacation or frustrated by the Sunday morning struggle.
2. You Are Creating Habits that will Carry into their Future Regular worship is a healthy habit that children can rely upon later in life. If church is an expected part of the weekly routines, the emotional pull to skip church (I don’t feel like going today) is more easily overcome.
3. Your Children Are Joining a Life-long Community Children meet and interact with other children who are simultaneously growing in their faith. They are expanding their own faith community. They also interact with godly adults who can mentor them, pray for them and support them throughout their faith journey.
4. You Are Building your own Community The church is filled with your own support community as well. This is how you connect to the Body of Christ. The author of the article reminds us that if we stay home from church, “when do [we] have a chance to share [our] needs as well as offer support to others?” We, too, need to be surrounded by a community of believers to support us in our own faith walks.
5. You Are Including Children in the Body of Christ In Matthew 19:14 Jesus says, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” Christ welcomes the little children with open arms, even when they are not on their best behavior!

6. You Are Being Faithful Facilitating familial worship is our duty as Christian parents. We vowed to raise our children in the Word at their baptisms, and not only when it proved easy or convenient. Bringing our children to God's house regularly and worshipping alongside them is the primary way we uphold this vow. So, the next time you experience the Sunday morning struggle, stay strong and take heart! You are doing the right thing by consistently bringing your children to worship. Your efforts are in no way "pointless." God's abundant blessings are poured out in the Divine Service, and we must bring our children to His feet, even if they come (literally) kicking and screaming!

LCMS Stewardship

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the

son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult ...

... problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God’s provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord’s Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God’s provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn’t stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God’s gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16). So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study 11:30 Elders' Meeting	4 9-11 Office Hours 4:30 Office Hours 6:00 Divine Service	5	6 ASH WED 6:30 Men's Group 9:00 Matins Service 9:30 Women's Group 4:30 Office Hours 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Divine Service	7 9-11 Office Hours	8	9
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study	11 9-11 Office Hours 4:30 Office Hours 6:00 Divine Service 7:00 Council Meets	12 9:00-2:00 Circuit Pastor Meeting in Burlington	13 6:30 Men's Group 9:00 Matins Service 9:30 Women's Group 4:30 Office Hours 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	14 9-11 Office Hours	15	16
17 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study	18 9-11 Office Hours 4:30 Office Hours 6:00 Divine Service 7:00 IC if needed	19	20 6:30 Men's Group 9:00 Matins Service 9:30 Women's Group 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	21 9-11 Office Hours 7pm LWML	22	23
24 09:00 Divine Service 10:30 Bible Study	25 9-11 Office Hours 4:30 Office Hours 6:00 Divine Service	26	27 6:30 Men's Group 9:00 Matins Service 9:30 Women's Group 4:30 Office Hours 5:30 Lenten Meal 7:00 Lenten Service	28 9-11 Office Hours	29	

LOOKING AHEAD to April

Thursday, April 18 at 7pm is Maundy Thursday Divine Service

Friday, April 19 at 7pm is Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Sunday, April 21 at 6:30 am is Easter Sunrise Matins Service
at 7:00 am is Easter Breakfast
at 9:00 am is Easter Resurrection Divine Service