



## Greetings in Christ!

Every day, our actions have consequences for ourselves and those with whom we live. Likewise, our words can do great harm or great good for others. But what about our thoughts? We might be tempted to think that our thoughts are hidden from others and that what we think does not matter.

But God's Word has a good deal to say about what we think. Consider Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." We are to think on that which is good, true, and pure. We are not, therefore, to set our minds on that which is impure, false, or ugly.

But God, in His Word, says more about the importance of our thoughts, letting us know why Christians set their minds on that which is good. Romans 8:5-6 says, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace." To be in Christ, forgiven of your sins, born again in Holy Baptism, and a recipient of the Holy Spirit is not only to act in a certain way, it is also to set your mind "on the things of the Spirit." The Christian fights against the urge to fix his mind on satisfying sinful desires and instead sets his mind on the things of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit calls us to believe in Jesus Christ and to trust His Word. The Christian, therefore sets his mind on the Word of God and the forgiveness of sins won by Christ on the cross. The Christian prays this Word of God, recalling God's promises and asking the

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Lord to be faithful to His promises. The Christian recalls and rejoices in his baptism, where the Holy Spirit entered into him. The Christian looks forward to receiving the Lord's Supper and the absolution following confession; there the Holy Spirit works to strengthen faith in Christ.

Colossians 3:1-4 says more about the relationship between our minds and God's future promises in Christ, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. <sup>3</sup>For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory." We are to set our minds on the things that are above and not on the things on this earth. We become occupied with needs of this life which seem so urgent now but which often do not matter for eternity. As Colossians points out, our "life is hidden with Christ in God." Because of Christ's death and resurrection and because of our death and resurrection with Him in Holy Baptism, we look forward to better things. We set our minds on the glorious reality that awaits us with Christ.

Though our thoughts cannot be seen by other people around us, our thoughts can be seen by God. And for our sinful thoughts and our failure to set our minds on the things of the Spirit and the things that are above, we must ask

Him for forgiveness. Our Lord forgives our sins and, by the power of the Holy Spirit working in Word and Sacrament, works in us new thoughts. He does indeed work to transform you "by the renewal of your mind." (Romans 12:2). And having been forgiven of our sins and given the truth of God's Word, we get to fix our minds on that which is true, lovely, and pure. We get to fix our minds on the things above, where our life is hidden with Christ in God. – Pastor Burfiend

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** While Pastor Burfiend is on vacation (August 1-21), Rev. Roger James will distribute our Lord's gifts in the Divine Service at 9 am and teach Bible study at 10:45. Since he will be preaching on the Epistle texts during the Divine Service, he will cover the Gospel/Old Testament lessons during Bible study. On August 28 and September 4, Pastor Burfiend plans to teach a Bible study on sharing the Christian faith with others.

**Wednesday Bible Study:** Wednesday Bible study will not take place during the first three weeks of August, but is scheduled to resume on August 24 at 7 pm. Please join us for a study of the Scripture texts for the coming Sunday.

### YTD Financials from the Finance Board:

Income: \$69,750

Expenses: \$77,471

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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**AUGUST 2022**

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1		2	3	4	5	6
7	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Jer. 23:16-29 Romans 8:12-17 Matt. 7:15-23	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation
14	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> 2 Sam. 22:26-34 1 Cor. 10:6-13 Luke 16:1-9	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation
21	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation
28	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Jer. 7:1-11 Romans 9:30-10:4 Luke 19:41-48		Church Council, 6:30 pm	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Ephesians Bible Study</b> 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Decatur Circuit</b> Pastor's Bible study 9:30-10:30	<b>Upcoming Events:</b> Sept. 11 – Rally Sunday, change to 10 am service time, potluck following the service. Sept. 15-17 – Ossian Days	<b>Sept. 18 – Presentation</b> by LCMMS foundation Rep. during Bible study hour. <b>Oct. 9, 3-5 pm –</b> Nelson's Chicken fundraiser for Bryce B.
	29	30	31				
	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity</b> Gen. 4:1-15 1 Cor. 15:1-10 Luke 18:9-14		<b>Ephesians Bible Study</b> 7:30 am, Courthouse <b>Pre-K Orientation,</b> 6:30 pm <b>Bible Study 7pm</b>				