



Greetings in Christ!

In Genesis 1:3 we read, “And God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” Where there had been darkness, God brought light, and He did it simply by speaking. God’s Word is powerful. God is able to change realities simply by His Word.

But we brought death and corruption into the good creation of God. Even so, our Lord has not abandoned us. He still gives us His Word. At times, that Word is painful for sinful man because God’s Word points out our sin. And on account of the fact that it convicts us, we may want to avoid God’s Word. But even when God convicts us, it is good for us. God identifies our sin so that we may recognize our very real need for His forgiveness and new life – just as a doctor diagnoses a disease before treatment.

And God’s Word is far better than the treatment offered by any mortal man. In His Word, God proclaims to us the One in whom we have the forgiveness of sin. And that Word also authorizes the Church to forgive sin (see John 20:22-23). Sinners are reborn as His Word is connected to water and applied in Baptism. Sinners are given life as the living body and blood of Jesus is given under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins.

In Isaiah 55:10-11, God gives a beautiful description of the power of His Word to create life, saying, “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.” God gives us a picture of the power of His Word by likening its effect to the

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effect of rain and snow on the earth. God’s Word is not an empty, dead letter. God uses His Word to accomplish that which He desires.

God desires that you be saved from sin and death and the devil. He desires that you have new life, hope and peace. He desires that you live forever with Him. God accomplishes what He desires for you through His Word. In other words, the Word of God is good for you.

As Sunday School begins and as our Sunday morning Bible study returns to its regular time, I encourage you to hear God’s Word there and in the Divine Service and also to read God’s Word every day. Our Lord gives good gifts by His Word; these gifts are for you – for your eternal good because He loves you. Our Lord wants to bring light to darkness, forgiveness where there is sin, and new hope where there is despair. Come receive these good gifts this year!
– Pastor Burfiend

Sunday Bible Study Topics:

Sept. 4: On evangelism in preparation for Rally Sunday.

Sept. 11 (SERVICE/BIBLE STUDY TIME CHANGE): Rally Sunday – 8:45 am Sunday School opening in the gym followed by a Bible Quiz Game for adults in the gym and Sunday School classes for children in the Sunday School rooms near the sanctuary.

Sept. 18: Andy Behrmann of the LCMS Foundation will give a presentation on gift and estate planning at 8:45 am. Andy will share information on simple and inexpensive ways to bless family *and* ministry with a few basic techniques! Sunday School for children will still be available.

Sept. 25: We begin a study of the tables of duties in New Testament epistles, considering where God has placed us and the duties which God gives His dear redeemed children in each calling.

Ossian Days – please sign up to help with the booth at the table outside the church office and consider assisting with cookie baking on September 3 and pie baking on September 14.

Benefit for Bryce: Join us for the Nelson’s Chicken Fundraiser for Bryce Bowman on **Saturday, October 15 from 3 to 6 pm**. To purchase tickets (or obtain tickets to sell), contact Amanda Branstrator at 260-413-0482 or Diana Buuck at 260-615-4448. Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up, serving food, and clean-up; please contact Diana Buuck at 260-615-4448 if you can help.

YTD Financials from the Finance Board:

Income: \$77,366
Expenses: \$97,066

(Income does not include donations toward the mortgage)

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SEPTEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Trinity 12 Isaiah 29:17-24 Rom. 10:9-16 Mark 7:31-37</p> <p>9 am Divine Service 10:45 am Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Labor Day</p>	<p>6 Preschool Begins</p> <p>6 pm Installation of District Officers at Zion, Ft. Wayne.</p>	<p>7 Ephesians Bible Study 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse</p> <p>11:10 am Pre-K Chapel</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9 am Mary Martha</p> <p>Pastor's Day OFF</p>	<p>10 10 am Kids' Baking Day for Ossian Days</p>
<p>11 Trinity 13 2 Chron. 28:8-15 Gal. 3:15-22 Luke 10:23-37</p> <p>TIME CHANGE: 8:45 Bible study/S. Sch. 10 am Divine Service 11:30 Carry-in Meal</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Decatur Circuit Meeting Concordia Theo. Sem. 9:45am – 3:30pm</p>	<p>14 Ephesians Bible Study 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse</p> <p>9 am Pie Baking</p> <p>11:10 am Pre-K Chapel</p> <p>Prepare for Sunday Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>15 Ossian Days Noon – Set up 3-9 pm New Hope Booth Open</p>	<p>16 Ossian Days 3-10 pm New Hope Booth Open</p> <p>Pastor's Day OFF</p>	<p>17 Ossian Days 10 am-10 pm New Hope Booth Open 9-10 pm Booth Teardown</p>
<p>18 Trinity 14 Prov. 4:10-23 Gal. 5:16-24 Luke 17:11-19</p> <p>8:45 LCMS Fdn Edn Presentation during Bible study hour 11:30 Voters' Meeting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Ephesians Bible Study 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse</p> <p>11:10 am Pre-K Chapel</p> <p>Prepare for Sunday Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 Pastor's Day OFF</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 Trinity 15 1 Kings 17:8-16 Gal. 5:25-6:10 Matt 6:24-34</p> <p>11:30 am Confirmation</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Ephesians Bible Study 7:30 am Wells County Courthouse</p> <p>11:10 am Pre-K Chapel</p> <p>Prepare for Sunday Bible Study 7pm</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Upcoming Events: October 15, 3-6 pm – Bryce Bowman Benefit October 30 – Reformation Festival Divine Service followed by a carry-in meal</p>