



PRINTS OF PEACE

NOVEMBER 2021

Sow the seed in Word and deed; lead and feed and give heed to human need.



November 11, 2021



The Prints of Peace newsletter is published monthly by:

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This is your newsletter. We welcome all your comments, criticism, letters, articles, questions and whatever else you might have for the newsletter. We would like to thank all those who have contributed articles and who shared their time for this month's issue.

From the Pastor

Psalm 42:5 / Psalm 42:11 / Psalm 43:5

*Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.*

Psalms 42 and 43 have always been important to me. Why? Because life isn't easy. You would think that would not be the case for pastors. We are supposed to have it all together. Yet, the devil seems to work on clergy with greater intensity than others. I suppose that makes sense. After all, the care of souls is an important thing and the devil does not like it.

But pastors are obviously not the only ones under attack by the enemy of God and humanity. We all are.

Instead of the still waters of life that pour over our lips, we taste the bitterness of tears. Instead of the vibrant green pastures of God's goodness surrounding us, we see troubles and hardships in stark black and white.

We have an identity in the very name of God that reminds us we not alone, we are important and loved, we have a purpose in a meaningful life. Yet the world forces us to turn inward and abandon it all so that our lives are often summarized by the 24/7 talking heads.

We are given the greatest gifts of life and salvation by a loving God. Yet we are encouraged to abandon both and look for the answers from within. And that never really ends well.

Read Psalms 42 and 43 in their entirety. Then come back to this article. I'll wait...

The Sons of Korah understood the human condition. It reminds me of the understanding that is spoken of in the hymn "*Just as I Am*" where one of the verses ends with the words "*fighting and fears within, without...*".

We are soon entering the Festival Season of the Church Year. It's that season when we hear again, in plain language, the story of salvation made real in Jesus. As we enter it we do so with all the struggles and pains of life, within and without. Our hearts are cast down from listening to those who have no understanding. Our souls are in turmoil even as the world we live in teaches us that this is to be our "new normal."

But the Sons of Korah also understood the heart of the believer. Within the heart of the believer there is an intense yearning for God, and for the comforting fellowship with Him in His temple. We desire true hope.

Where is this hope found? How can this hope be mine? We find it where God tells us it is to be found. Within the words of these Psalms we find what we are seeking. We find it in the message of the Gospel. We find a hope that does not disappoint even in the face of the turmoil.

Our hope is in God. He comes to us in His son, Jesus. We celebrate that coming as we gather together to hear of its wonder and joy. We have hope instilled in us as we watch in wonder as that Son of God suffers and dies for us, and rises again to life, so that we are also sharing in His victory over sin, death, and the devil. We hear the word of the Risen Jesus who even in Ascension promises us that He will never leave us or forsake us, that He is with us always, even to the end of the age. And we are certain that when He returns, He and all who are His by grace through faith will know the vindication He accomplishes.

Come and be given the Hope of God.



Vocation as Life Organized around the Forgiveness of Sins

Excerpted from Cranach: The Blog of Veith, September 6, 2021

Today I would like to draw your attention to another theologian who has written with great insight about vocation: Einar Billing, author of Our Calling.

In my own writings on the subject, I have drawn heavily on Gustav Wingren's Luther on Vocation. Billing (1871-1939) was another Swedish theologian, a bishop from a previous generation. Wingren (1910-2000) disagreed with Billing, insisting that vocation falls into the category of "Law," whereas the bishop believed that it falls into the category of "Gospel." But it strikes me as an odd controversy. Wingren has a rather idiosyncratic view of the Law, but he certainly brings out Luther's emphasis on God's work and God's blessing in vocation. And Billing says directly that our calling also has a law dimension. What he is addressing is the fact that Luther uses the same word "calling" both for how, in the words of the Catechism, "the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel" and for our various tasks and relationships in ordinary life.

With their different emphases, if you put Wingren and Billing together, you get a rich, multi-faceted perspective on the teaching. Our Calling is a little book of no more than 64 pages.

Here are some excerpts:

Life organized around the forgiveness of sins: that is Luther's idea of the call. (p. 8)

In all our religious and ethical life we are given to an incredible overestimation of the extraordinary at the expense of the ordinary. (p. 29)

When it began to dawn on Luther that just as certainly as the call to God's kingdom seeks to lift us infinitely above everything that our everyday duties by themselves could give us, just that certainly the call does not take us away from these duties but more deeply into them, then work becomes calling. (p. 2)

"Even the smallest act of caring for another person is like a drop of water: It will make ripples throughout the entire pond."

—Jessy and Bryan Matteo

"The more you recognize and express gratitude for the things you have, the more things you will have to express gratitude for." —Zig Ziglar

Where do you live?

A man who resided near the border of two states had been told for years his house was in Minnesota. But when a new survey revealed that he actually lived in Wisconsin, he proclaimed, "Thank goodness! I never could bear those cold Minnesota winters."

Defining where we live certainly affects our attitude. Followers of Jesus, or saints, consider their true home to be in God's dynamic presence. St. Paul was so connected to God through prayer that mystical experiences left him not knowing whether he was in or out of his body (see 2 Corinthians 12:1-10). Living with one foot in heaven and the other on the way there, Paul could know peace. "Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's," he concludes (Romans 14:8). Christian saints who are still living on earth can rest assured: Our true home is always with the Lord.



Honoring our veterans

Veterans Day has its roots in what was called Armistice Day, when a peace agreement ended World War I on November 11, 1918. President Wilson proclaimed that Armistice Day was to be marked with solemn pride in heroism and with gratitude for victory as well as the "opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice." In 1954, the remembrance was renamed Veterans Day to honor all U.S. military personnel. It's a reminder to pray for and honor all who serve and sacrifice, to support and assist their families, and to pray that God will bring peace on earth.



Stewards Walking by Grace

November 6,7, and 13,14, and 20,21



By God’s grace, He has created us and calls each of us by name. He loves and wants His best for us. All of our time, talents, and money are given to us by God. He calls us to use these blessings to share His love with our families, friends, and communities. The Apostle Paul wrote, *“What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?”* (1 Corinthians 4:7). We are recipients of God’s gifts. God is the owner, and we are the stewards. God works through us to share these gifts. By the grace of God, we become God’s hands, feet, and mouth in the world.

Our stewardship emphasis for this year, **Stewards Walking by Grace**, concentrates on just one verse written by Paul to the church in Corinth: *“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all time, you may abound in every good work”* (2 Corinthians 9:8).

As you approach your commitment decision for 2022, seek God’s guidance in prayer. Let love guide you in your decision. During the services on November 20 and 21, we will provide every household an opportunity to fill out a form to make a commitment for offerings in 2022.

You are not required to fill out the commitment form. This form is a tool to guide you in your offerings to the ministry of our church. Your offerings to this ministry should be purposeful, planned, and proportionate to the gifts you have been given by God.

Together we are **stewards walking by grace**.



The journey begins at Advent

When Advent begins on November 28 this year, so does a new church year for liturgical congregations. The church seasons, which correspond to key events in Jesus’ life, begin with the four-week Advent period of preparation for our coming Savior at Christmas. After the 12-day season of Christmas is Epiphany, which begins January 6 and continues through Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. That period of preparation culminates in Holy Week, and then Easter marks the pinnacle of every church year. Forty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Ascension, and 10 days after that, the Pentecost season begins; it lasts until Advent, when the cycle begins again.

“Like a great waterwheel,” writes Joan Chittister, “the liturgical year goes on relentlessly irrigating our souls, softening the ground of our hearts, nourishing the soil of our lives until the seed of the Word of God itself begins to grow in us, comes to fruit in us, ripens in us the spiritual journey of a lifetime.”

The subversive table

"The Lord's Supper [is] a profoundly subversive political event in the lives of the participants," writes Richard Beck in *Unclean*. "The sacrament brings real people — divided in the larger world — into a sweaty, intimate, flesh-and-blood embrace where 'there shall be no difference between them and the rest.'" Beck is quoting Walt Whitman, for whom "them" refers to "the wicked and the righteous."

In our day, I think of political conservatives and liberals who receive equally the grace of God through Christ's body and blood. I think of the man in a church I pastored, who took pride in stirring up controversy. I didn't like him. But at the Lord's table, though "divided in the larger world," we shared a sacrament with no difference between us.

I think of my former parish near an Air Force base. Many members were military personnel and surely knew one another's rank. But in church — at the conference table, the dinner table and especially the communion table — no difference existed between a colonel and a captain, a commissioned officer and an NCO. It was a beautiful example of God's kingdom subverting the world's tendency to divide.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Thankfulness in action

Thanksgiving is a spiritual exercise, necessary to the building of a healthy soul. It takes us out of the stuffiness of ourselves into the fresh breeze and sunlight of the will of God.

—Elisabeth Elliot, *Keep a Quiet Heart*

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch heaven.

—Johannes Gaertner

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer. And let faith be the bridge you build to overcome evil and welcome good.

—Maya Angelou



November 7, 2021



November 1, 2021

A gratitude game

Years ago, ads for a toy-store chain featured an animated kangaroo jumping on a frown to turn it upside down. That reminds me of family life, which can feel like a nonstop attempt to keep everyone happy. Busy schedules, grumpy kids and tired parents can be a bad combination.

When our family needs to turn frowns upside down, we play the thankful game. The rules are simple: We take turns sharing one thing we're thankful for. Everyone plays. No one can pass. No repeats are allowed. Our kids, now teens, still chime in.

As we share gratitude for football, Grandma, hugs, warm brownies, coffee and more, kids tend to stop bickering, and adults get a mental reset. Try playing, and bring on lots of smiles!

—Janna Firestone

November 25, 2021



Time to double down

After you have made a decision that is pleasing to God, the devil may try to make you have second thoughts. Intensify your prayer time, meditation and good deeds. For if Satan's temptations merely cause you to increase your efforts to grow in holiness, he'll have an incentive to leave you alone.

—St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

SERVING THE LORD THIS MONTH

LAY MINISTRY:

11/6 Mike Sheets
11/7 Ken Drewes
11/13 Mike Sheets
11/20 Mike Sheets
11/21 Ron Harder
11/24 Steve Kannenberg
11/27 Mike Sheets

USHERS:

Art Prouty, Chuck Helmuth, Steve Kannenberg

Thanksgiving Eve—Mike Sheets, Ken Drewes,
Don & Denise Clouse

FINANCE COMMITTEE TEAM:

Angela Reed and Diane High

ALTAR GUILD:

Carol Reese, Ron & Kathy Harder, Mike & Nancy Grubb

GREETERS:

Dennis & Trudy McFall; Roger & Lyn Wheatley

FLOWERS:

11/7 Amanda Dittmer
11/14 Open
11/21 Ron & Kathy Harder
11/28 Terry & Carol Reese

ETERNAL CANDLE:

11/7 Open
11/14 Art Prouty
11/21 Art Prouty
11/28 Open

PRAISE-FILLED petals

Create an interactive display of God's provision for a Thanksgiving centerpiece.



What you need:

- Colorful sheets of thin paper
- Scissors
- Black pen
- Dish of water

What you do:

1. From the paper, cut out various shapes and sizes of flowers and petals.
2. In the center of each flower, write a praise to God. Thank him for who he is and for answered prayers.
3. Fold petals inward, toward the center of each flower.
4. Gently place flowers on the water. Petals will slowly unfold to reveal the words.
5. Invite meal guests to participate in this centerpiece that blooms with thanks.



Our next Blood Drive will be on Tuesday, December 14, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall from 3:30 to 6:30pm.



For laughs (or groans!) around your table

Knock knock. Who's there? Arthur.
Arthur who? Arthur any leftovers?

Why was the Thanksgiving soup so expensive?
It had 24 carrots.

If you use boxed mashed potatoes ...
... Great-grandma will turn over in her gravy.

My family said no more Thanksgiving jokes ...
... but I said I couldn't just quit cold turkey.

A new Thanksgiving tradition



At Thanksgiving, we give thanks for things (food, home, clothing, work) and loved ones (family, friends, pets). But if the people we name aren't present, they may never know how precious they are to us. This November, start a new tradition by writing notes of thanks to people you appreciate. Follow Paul's model of starting letters with thanksgiving: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world" (Romans 1:8, NIV). Notice how he thanks his addressees by thanking God for them. Paul is specific too, not writing, "Thanks for everything!"

Expressing genuine thanksgiving to God and another person, you might write something like this:
 Dear Judy, This Thanksgiving I'm thinking about special people in my life. You are one! I thank God for our friendship, for your strong witness for Jesus and for your willingness to lend a hand as a substitute teacher. (Your chocolate cookies are icing on the cake!) I praise God for you! Sincerely, Joan

Paradoxes of Christian virtues

In *Reaching for the Invisible God*, Philip Yancey says each virtue in 1 Corinthians 13:13 "enfolds a paradox." Faith "will always mean believing in what cannot be proven, committing to that of which we can never be sure." Hope isn't "the fuel that keeps a person going" but what "emerges from the struggle, a byproduct of faithfulness." And love — "the greatest" virtue — is very counterintuitive. "Love involves caring about people most of us would prefer not to care about," writes Yancey. "By nature we keep records, right wrongs, and demand our rights; love does not."

A blessing or a curse?

Holocaust survivor and devout Christian Corrie ten Boom recounts how her sister Betsie thanked God for the fleas infesting their packed barracks. When Corrie resisted the idea, Betsie pointed out that 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to "give thanks in all circumstances." Still, Corrie wasn't convinced — until the sisters realized the infestation kept the guards away, giving prisoners in those quarters freedom to worship and pray. The biting pests, which seemed like added misery, became a blessing. Anger and bitterness sometimes cloud our vision, causing us to forget to thank God in all situations, though not necessarily for them. Other times we don't wait long enough for blessings to be revealed. But faith is like waiting through a storm, knowing a rainbow is coming eventually. Meanwhile, the Lord holds an umbrella for us, and the closer with him we walk, the less wet we'll get.

PUZZLE 

GOD'S WILL

God wants us to follow his will, but how can we know what that is?

Directions: Write the letters on each vine in the correct order on the lines provided to complete 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.

e o r c j i
 7 2 4 1 6 3 1

w y i a s a
 3 5 2 4 6 a

 1

continually, p y r a
 1 4 2 3

 1

in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. e g v i
 4 1 3 2

 1

h n t a s k
 2 4 1 3 5

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18, NIV

Answer: rejoice, always, pray, give, thanks

General Fund information as of August 31, 2021

General Fund Balance on 8/1/2021	13,397.01	General Fund Balance on 1/1/2021	4,441.73
Receipts for August	12,003.97	Year-to-date receipts	101,346.24
Disbursements for August	9,294.09	Year-to-date disbursements	89,681.08
Balance 8/31/2021	16,106.89	Balance 8/31/2021	16,106.89

In November 2014 Voters authorized obtaining a line of credit to be used to prevent the General Fund from borrowing net new funds added to the Dedicated Funds since 9/1/2014. No funds have been borrowed on a line of credit through 6/30/2019.



11/1 Brandon Holkan
11/2 Emma Handy
11/3 Matthew Schroeder
11/4 Sue Schneider
11/8 Geoffrey Wegner
11/10 Maggie Williams
11/12 Angela Reed
11/14 Don Hagge
11/14 Jerry Sheets
11/15 Alayna Ballard
11/17 Marilyn Bagley
11/18 Terry Reese
11/18 Karen Ulfers
11/19 Kellie Kramer
11/21 Quinton DeVries
11/21 Arthur Prouty
11/21 Miranda Bingham
11/22 Jacob Goyke
11/25 Caroline Johnston
11/25 Lesa Moehle
11/26 Ed Ross
11/27 Diane Ayala
11/27 Braden Gordon
11/27 Jady Smith-Revell
11/28 Melody Tollerud
11/28 Taylor Baber
11/28 Geysa Munyon
11/28 William Revell
11/30 Christopher O'Toole

11/2 GERALYN Anderson
11/2 Debra Hampe
11/4 Keldon Heuer
11/4 Rick Reese
11/5 Alec Barber
11/6 Lauren Lee
11/7 Hayley Kannenberg
11/7 Erin Mason
11/8 Quinn Wright
11/10 David Jorgenson
11/11 Brooke Green
11/11 Kevin Green
11/15 John Sanders
11/16 Samantha Urlis
11/17 Candy Schrader
11/17 Matthew Schroeder
11/18 Nathan Gordon
11/18 Dan McReynolds
11/19 Alicia Brees
11/19 Mary Gutuskie
11/19 Allyce Page
11/21 Glen Roberts
11/24 Jeremiah Murdy
11/24 Geoffrey Wegner
11/25 Peggy Brees
11/25 Eva Johnson
11/27 Austin Jensen
11/27 Brooklyn Jensen
11/27 Kaitlyn Jensen
11/28 David Baber



11/5 Neng & Heidi Lee—6 years
11/6 Andy & Maggie Williams—28 years