



ASCENSION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

Connecting all people with Jesus

November 30, 2018 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

What Is Hope?

(Resource by John Piper)

When I came to Bethlehem back in the middle of 1980, the signs were repainted to include the name of the new pastor. Rollin asked me what I would like to see painted on the back side of the north sign that faces the parking lot. I said I would like to see the words from Psalm 42:5 — Hope in God!

That's the message I want all of us to have in mind as we enter another week of work. The whole verse says, *"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God."*

A Sermon to Preach to Yourself: Hope in God!

Richard Sibbes, one of the great old Puritan preachers of Cambridge who died in 1635, wrote a whole book (175 pages) on Psalm 42:5. He was called "the sweet dropper" because of how much confidence and joy his sermons caused. He called his book *The Soul's Conflict with Itself*, because in Psalm 42:5 that is exactly what you have, the soul arguing with itself, preaching to itself. *"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God!"*

Hoping in God does not come naturally for sinners like us. We must preach it to ourselves, and preach diligently and forcefully, or we will give way to a downcast and disquieted spirit.

This is evidently not well known among all the saints—this preaching to yourself—because in Cameroon I recommended it to several as a way of fighting off discouragement, and it seemed quite a new thought to them. In fact three months after Noël and I returned I received a letter from one of the young women who struggled most it seemed. She said, "Biblical hope not only desires something good for the future—it expects it to happen."

Indeed! The best sermon you preach yourself this week may be only three words long: Hope in God!

I love the way the psalmists wrestle and fight and struggle to maintain their hope in God. This is normal Christian experience while we are still just saved sinners. And we better own up to it, or else we may grow sluggish and negligent in our fight for hope. And that is very dangerous, as Hebrews 6:11-12 plainly teaches.

The Emotional Reservoir of Hope

If I am put down, I look to the emotional reservoir of hope for the strength to return good for evil. Without hope I have no power to absorb the wrong and walk in love, and I sink into self-pity or self-justification.

If I experience a setback in my planning — I get sick, or things don't go the way I'd hoped in the board meeting, for example — I look to the emotional reservoir of hope for the strength to keep going and not give up.



(continued on page 2)



We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Curt Beaman; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Heidi Buchholz; Arthur Buehler; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Richard Dahl; Dianne Ewald; Rev. Bob & Elaine Feller; Harriet Feree; Cita Figueroa; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Bonnie Guiffre; Carol Hahn; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Jane Heine; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Donna Koelling; Doreen Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Bobbie Metcalf; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Merrill Nelson; Tanner Nelson; Ben Petersen; Anne Pingo; John Pingo; Betty Plachy; Megan Postilli; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Esther Riesen; Darlene Rietz; Darleen Sanders; Austin Soliben; Julie Stewart; Joyce Sutton; Bud Umphryes; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta

MILITARY:

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

BIRTHDAY:

We give God praise as we celebrate the birthdays of Esther Riesen, George Seils, and Penny Kienow.

NEEDS:

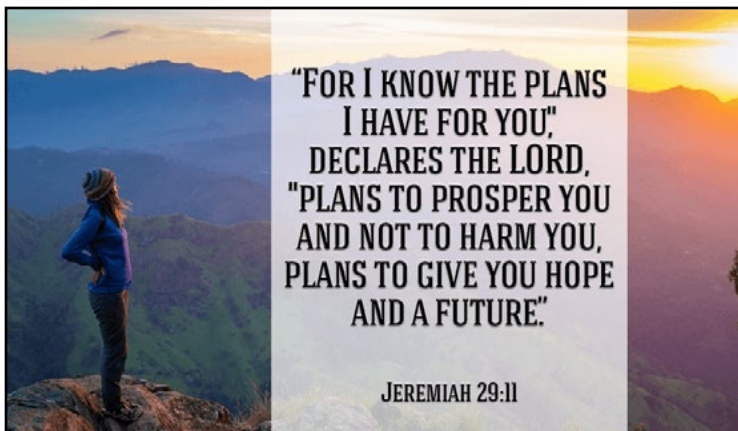
We pray for Frank as he searches for employment; we ask for God to give a family guidance as they go thru changes; we ask God to continue to be with families at the loss of a loved one.

THANKS:

We give God thanks with Troy & family at God's miraculous rescue from the Chico/Paradise fire and the incredible way he has taken care of their lives. We give God thanks for all of our blessings, the ones we daily realize and the ones we daily forget.

CALLED HOME:

We give prayers of sympathy and compassion to the family and friends of Ila Schellpfeffer who was called home on Thanksgiving Day (mother of Kim Rainey).



(What is Hope? continued from front page)



If I face a temptation to be dishonest, to steal, to lie, or to lust, I look to the emotional reservoir of hope for the strength to hold fast to the way of righteousness, and deny myself some brief, unsatisfying pleasure.

That is the way it works for me. That is the way I fight for holiness in the Christian life. And I believe this is the biblical way to make our calling and election sure.

My prayer is that as we focus our attention on our Christian hope throughout this next week, God will fill your reservoir to overflowing, and that deep down in the Hoover Dam of your soul the great hydro-electric generators of joy and love and boldness and endurance will churn with new power for the glory of God.



God has blessed Ascension with the opportunity to help support the children at TWIN PEAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL through prayer, food drives, and other opportunities. The school has asked for assistance in providing food baskets for Christmas for 10 families that could use the help during the holidays. The baskets will include: ham, potatoes, bread, fruit, etc. and the cost should be approximately \$30-\$40 per basket.

We have 2 opportunities to be involved with this outreach project. If you would like to help with the cost of the food baskets, please put an envelope marked Twin Peaks Christmas Baskets in the offering plate, or make that designation on your regular offering envelope. If you would like to help assemble the baskets, please join us at 2pm on Sunday, December 16. If you have any questions, call Carol Colton at 520-344-9649.



900 billion nerve cells* gathered last week as ChristCare members celebrated God's amazing creation and walked in the fight against Alzheimers! (*Did you know? The brain has 100 billion nerve cells (neurons.) <https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/what-is-alzheimers>)



\$22,348 raised!

Gospel Rescue Mission Sponsors have funded almost five rooms, and will continue with painting and laying wooden flooring on Saturday, January 5, 2019. Maybe this could be the first of your New Year's Resolutions! Questions? 742-2882.

REJOICE!



With generous members like you and with thanks to the youth for their donation of funds from the roasted nut sales, we have reached the anticipated \$7,500 to dig the borehole (water well) at the school being built in Zambia. Currently, Tim is traveling in South Africa for 3 weeks. We will keep you updated as Tim provides new details on the status of the drilling, the installation, and the completion of the project. The builders are anxious to have the borehole to eliminate the 1/2 mile trek each way to obtain water for them to make the bricks. Thanks to each of you who contributed to this mission... clean drinking water for the school children.



Please note:
The program is the service.
Dinner to follow.
Please join us!

DECEMBER 15, 5PM WORSHIP

Connecting You through Family Photography

UPDATE ASCENSION PHOTO DIRECTORY

There are still slots available!

On the weekends sign up at the Information Desk.

During the week sign up online at www.ascensiontucson.org.

Web link will be available Monday through Friday only!

Volunteer needed to make Coffee and pick-up donuts for Sunday morning Fellowship between services in Grace Hall. Coffee and donuts will need to be ready to serve at 9:45. You will serve three times a year, on the first Sunday in February, June, and October or the second Sunday in April, August, December. There are 16 people you can call to trade days with, if you are unable to serve on your day. Please call Ruthann Stults 219-1527 or email stultsruthann56@gmail.com

Ascension Lutheran Preschool

Thursday December 20th from 3pm-8pm

Dine In, Pick Up or Delivery!

Remember to mention this ad or put "Ascension"

in the Special Instructions if ordering online and Rosati's will give back 20% of sales to the school!



AVAILABLE NOW!

2018 Advent Five Faith Promises Calendar

Advent is the season beginning four Sundays before Christmas. During Advent, Christians prepare to celebrate Christ's coming as their Lord and Savior. The word Advent means arrival or coming. While many Christmas activities focus on preparing for Christ's birth, Advent refers to the first and second coming of Christ.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"A child has been born for us. We have been given a son who will be our ruler. His name will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God, Eternal Father and Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:1-5</p> <p>Stop for a gift for a family. Set a goal for the year.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 2:1-12.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will be devoted to the Lord my God. I will love him with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>	<p>"I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, mind, strength, and possessions, and my neighbor as myself." Matthew 22:37-39</p> <p>Make a gift for someone who is lonely or needs help.</p> <p>ACTUALIZATION: Read Matthew 22:37-39.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Give to someone who is in need.</p> <p>ACT OF SERVICE: Write a letter to someone who is lonely or needs help.</p>

Pickup a hard copy at the Information Desk or download online www.ascensiontucson.org

Candy Cane Lane
A Christmas Tradition

Free Event
 Family Fun
 Reindeer Games
 Pictures with Santa
 Crafts
 Sweet Shoppe (Goodies 4 Sale)
 Hot Chocolate/Ider
 December 7, 8, and 9, 2018 (5-8pm)

Volunteers needed to help with setup, staffing activities, and donations of goodies for the Sweet Shoppe. Contact the church office at 520.297.3095. This is an opportunity to reach out to the community with the message of God's love.

ROASTED NUTS

1 pound \$15/half pound \$7.50.
STILL AVAILABLE!
PROCEEDS GO TO THE KELLER BOREHOLE PROJECT
Contact Terrie Ashbaugh 520.297.3095
or t.ashbaugh@ascensiontucson.org

Christmas Memories
 A Free Christmas Concert By Ascension
 A nostalgic trip through the ages

Join us as we experience some of our favorite Christmas memories. Clips from our favorite Christmas movies. Our band playing some of the most popular Christmas songs (secular and sacred) throughout history. Tasty holiday treats and drinks provided!

December 14, 7 p.m. | December 16, 3:30 p.m.

A new, relaxed ministry

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON

LOCATION: The ROCK

5pm: FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

5:45pm: WORSHIP

MUSIC
 INTERACTIVE TEACHING
 PRAYER

Childcare will be provided

This week at the Gathering, we look at the sixth beatitude: *"You're blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world."* (The Message) We start with sharing a meal: **BRING YOUR OWN AND/OR SOME TO SHARE.** Join us and bring a friend.

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