



March 15, 2019 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

Love Is Not Envious or Boastful!

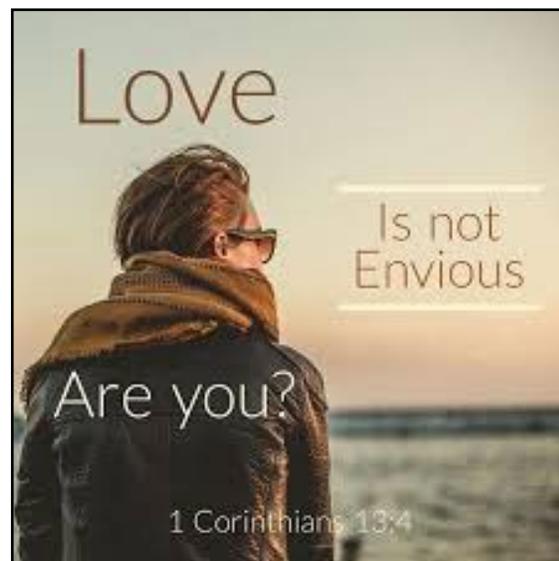
Near the beginning of his outline of love's characteristics in 1 Corinthians 13, Paul tells us that "love does not envy or boast" (v. 4). This is an interesting comment to make, but several considerations show us why the apostle can make this statement.

Jonathan Edwards once defined envy as "a spirit of dissatisfaction and/or opposition to the prosperity and happiness of others." Therefore, an envious heart plainly violates Scripture's instruction on love. It reveals covetousness, that ungodly dissatisfaction with our estate and lust for that which belongs to others (Ex. 20:17). Envious people are unable to rejoice with those who rejoice (Rom. 12:15). When we are envious of others' blessings, we cannot take joy in their abundance, and we cannot truly love them or what our Father is doing in their lives.



Because our culture encourages and rewards envy, an untoward love for whatever is not rightfully ours clearly violates the rule that we not be conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2). Politicians, celebrities, and advertisers exhort us implicitly and explicitly to be jealous of those who seem to have more in the way of status, possessions, or power. Love that does not envy refuses to be jealous of others who are blessed in ways that we are not. It is content with the Lord's provision in any circumstance.

Love also does not boast (1 Cor. 13:4). It is easy to become a cause for another person's stumbling when we are prideful and ostentatious, for such behavior can provoke others to



envy. Creating stumbling blocks is not an act of love (Rom. 14). Those who manifest godly love do not make their own achievements into idols, and they do not build up their self-esteem at the expense of service to others.

Of course, having a negative self-image and manifesting godly love are not the same thing. We are made in God's image (Gen. 1:27), and we must love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matt. 19:19). Caring for ourselves or realizing that we have dignity is not sinful. Actually, as God's image-bearers, we may view ourselves highly if we do not view ourselves more highly than is deserved (Rom. 12:3). Viewing ourselves accurately, Paul also says in Romans 12:3, requires a sober analysis of ourselves. Having a love that does not boast demands honesty about our weaknesses, respect for others, and reverent awe as we live before the face of Him whose image we bear.

Coram Deo

Envy is an easy sin to hide because we can keep our mouths shut about what we are feeling in our hearts when we see others get blessings we have been longing for. It is therefore important to be constantly considering our inward attitudes and confessing them before God and maybe even brothers or sisters in Christ whom we trust. Envy can lead to all manner of other sins, and so we must ever strive to keep it in check.



We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Richard Ashbaugh; Kathleen Bell; John Bock; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Scott Brister; Heidi Buchholz; Arthur Buehler; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Richard Dahl; RJ Denman; Elaine Durham; Dianne Ewald; Harriet Feree; Ed Fowler; Debbie Franklin; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Gizelle Hayes; Katie Hayes; Jane Heine; Carl Heldt; Evelyn Horst; Annette Idso; Christopher Idso; Wally Jakubin; Susan Jerez; Donna Koelling; Brian & Debbie Kowalski; Keith Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Richard Lohr; Alice Masherella; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Rhonda Nash; Lily Navarro; Tanner Nelson; Wayde Nelson; Beverly Osier; Bob Ott; Ben Petersen; Lucy Phelan; Virginia Potter; Pastor Mark Pretzow; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Steve Ratz; Esther Riesen; Oliver Shaw; Annie Walsh; Joe Wells; Wally Wentzel; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta

MILITARY:

Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace

NEEDS:

We pray for Nina Heins as she prepares to go to U of A this fall. We pray for all those in college or starting college – may they seek God’s direction for their lives. We pray that God will bless the travels of Ashley and Monica Keller as they come to the United States seeking help and answers to some medical questions. We ask the Lord to be with those looking for employment. We pray that they remain patient in their search and their trust in the Lord gets stronger.

THANKSGIVING:

We give God praise as we celebrate our school – the children, the teachers, and the administration. May they continue to flourish!

CALLING ALL HELPERS!

Callie is planning a huge high school event and she needs your help. We will be hosting a Wacky Olympics and we need volunteers. The need for volunteers varies from managing check-in, to helping with lunch, to running games, and much more. The event will take place on Saturday, April 6. Set-up will begin at 9am and we will have tear down after the event ends at 3pm. Please contact Callie if you are able to help.

Why Should We Care About the Dignity of Human Life?

Let’s begin in the beginning. God created the heavens and the earth, on purpose and with pleasure. He called it good. And then He made the Human.

Why did He make the Human? Silence for a moment the familiar chorus that “God made us to be in relationship with Him.” True. But, Genesis doesn’t say that. What it does say is that God made the Human to be His image-bearers and to reign. From a place of loving communion with God, the Human was to bear His image and reflect His wise order and loving rule into the world.

When we grasp this broad framework of God’s first creation and the first humans’ role in it, we begin to see what new creation and new humanity are about. In Christ, new creation has begun; in Christ, we become a new humanity, regardless of race, gender, or social status. For the Christian, then, our identity and our vocation have been restored. We are not what we used to be—rebellious against God and degrading other humans. Instead, we have become a sign in the world of what God is like. We bear His image and reflect His rule.

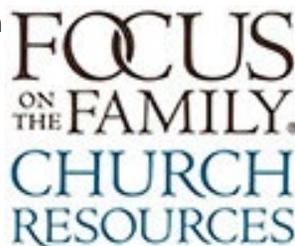
To be clear, this doesn’t mean imposing some kind of theocracy upon unwilling people. Rather, it means showing the world a different reality. You see, in the world where Jesus is King, life—from the womb to the tomb—is holy.

Why do we care about the dignity of human life? Because God’s new creation has begun in us. The work that God will do to remake earth and heaven has begun now in the renovation of our hearts by the Holy Spirit. And that renewing work in us spills out into our work to set things right in our world. Every time we welcome the stranger and open our hearts and homes to orphans, every time we meet the needs of a vulnerable pregnant woman, every time we release people from oppression or help the poor, every time we visit an elderly shut-in and give a cup of cold water in Jesus’ name, we are announcing the Kingdom of God. We are living now as it will be then. We are bearing the image of a loving Creator and reflecting His rule in our world.

We are participating in God’s arriving Kingdom and His will being done on earth as it is in heaven. And this is what we were made to do.

Extracted from an article by Glenn Packiam is the lead pastor of New Life Downtown in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

From **FOCUS ON THE FAMILY. CHURCH RESOURCES** Posted by Ascension Lutherans for Life Beautiful Feet Life Team



Lent, A Time of Christian Repentance

Repentance is one of the most common recurring themes throughout the entire Bible. The Old Testament prophets talked about it and called for it constantly. In Luke 3:6 we learn that John the Baptist was “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” Of course, Jesus emphasized and taught repentance frequently as did the apostles to the early church.

Why do we need to hear about repentance again, and again, and again? Why have God’s people denied their sin and turned away from God for thousands of years? After reading about it again, and again in God’s word and hearing it preached for our entire lifetime, why do we have such a hard time with it?

The answer is disturbing and simple. Our sinful nature would rather be blind to our sin and deny God. Yet, being created in God’s image and by God’s grace, there is a part of us that desperately wants to be connected to him. The deeper and more authentic our repentance is, the more potential we have to be intimately connected to our Father.

Generally, Christians like Matthew 18. After all, it is Jesus telling us how we are to handle one of our brothers or sisters in Christ sinning against us. And, while this might be somewhat uncomfortable, at least it is not “us” doing the sinning.

Of course, far earlier in Matthew’s gospel, Jesus teaches us the priority of repentance, reconciliation, making amends, and forgiveness before seeking forgiveness from God: *“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”* (Matthew 5:23-24)

In Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18-19), Jesus teaches on the right attitude regarding repentance. In this parable, the father is God, and the son is us. *I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”* Clearly, the son is authentically penitent and humble. He is focused on only one thing, his sin, and nothing else. Lacking these attitudes, repentance is nothing but a cheap lie.

Repentance is changing one’s mind—turning away from sin and toward God. The Bible also tells us that true repentance will result in a change of actions (Luke 3:8–14; Acts 3:19). In summarizing his ministry, Paul declares, *“I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds”* (Acts 26:20).

All of salvation, including repentance and faith, is a result of God... drawing us, opening our eyes, and changing our hearts and minds.

2 Corinthians 7

⁸ I know I distressed you greatly with my letter. Although I felt awful at the time, I don't feel at all bad now that I see how it turned out. The letter upset you, but only for a while. ⁹ Now I'm glad – not that you were upset, but that you were jarred into turning things around. You let the distress bring you to God, not drive you from him. The result was all gain, no loss. ¹⁰ Distress that drives us to God does that. It turns us around. It gets us back in the way of salvation. We never regret that kind of pain.

We pray: Father, we beg of you to give us every bit of distress that we need for us to face our sin and repent to get us back in the way of salvation! And father, don't let our “little” sins hide from us. -We know they are not little to you.

Noel Robinson,
Servant of God and Congregational President



Keller Borehole Update

With the seasonal rains, the project has experienced a few delays. Currently, the solar panel installation is waiting for the welder to attach the panels to the tower. Then the pump can be installed, and the system will then be operational. Tim has now started phase 2 of the project. With the generous donations from the congregation, phase 2 will be installing flushing toilets and installing a sink. Materials to install a septic tank has been procured. Once the water is flowing, then the work for the septic tank will begin. More details to follow as the project progresses. Next weekend, Ashley and the girls will be here at all three services. Please take a moment to say hello.

Do you know the new guy on the block?

The LCMS Foundation is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. We are the primary provider of charitable expertise for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Foundation has decades of charitable expertise, helping to ensure that families are provided for and beloved ministries are supported. We are all about stewardship, let me explain.

Someone once said that if you want to hear God laugh, tell Him your plan. Isn't it such a comfort that, as called and chosen children of God, we know He has a plan for our life.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

Because He sacrificed His only Son to make us heirs of His kingdom, we know that the plan He has for us is a great one.

Deep down inside, each of us wants to leave something behind. We want to leave a legacy. We want to be significant. We want an epitaph with substance. God put this desire in us because it is one of our purposes in life.

The most blessed words we will ever hear are those that will come from our Lord as we enter heaven, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in your Master's happiness."* Matt. 25:14-30

The meaning of ... 's

The blessings of faithful stewardship begin with understanding ownership. In my early childhood education, I was taught the meaning of ... 's. It meant possession or showed ownership.

In our world we are caught up in the goal of ownership by saying, "I have this" or "I have that." Remember the saying, "the one with the most toys wins?" The gospel recognizes the one who owns all things. We are therefore managers, not owners. Everything has been entrusted to us to care for until the Master returns.

Apply the ... 's to money. We should learn from the parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-20). Who is going to get what you have prepared? Is this life about building bigger barns for me? It is really about "Transferring the Blessings" for God's purposes, not just my pleasures.

God has called us to Transfer the Blessings entrusted to us so that we will become blessings for others. Our Lord promises to enrich us heart, mind, and soul as we give. And He promises to provide for our needs in such a way that we always have the ability to give to others.

We recognize that God has placed a Personal Gift Plan in each Christian's heart. As a Gift Planning Counselor, my goal is to assist you in discovering that plan God has placed on your heart since baptism, faithfully transferring the blessings God has entrusted to you for the care of your family and the ministries that are near and dear to your heart. It would

be my pleasure to get to know you and to work with you to uncover the plan that God has put on your heart. By the way if you haven't realized, I am the new guy on the block and I look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have about the LCMS Foundation and what we can do for you, with His help.

Ron Grimm
English District
Gift Planning Counselor
(412) 584-7039
Ron.Grimm@lfnd.org



"A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps."
Proverbs 16:9

(Ron will be joining us here at Ascension March 30-31 and will host an information seminar Sunday on planned giving and how LCMS Foundation can help. The seminar will follow a light luncheon served from 12-12:30pm.)

FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS

April 5 join us for BINGO. Starts at 11am followed by lunch at noon. The menu is Ham and Scalloped Potatoes with Carrot Cake for dessert. Food, fun, and fellowship are on the agenda. Bring a Friend!



Thank you!

The March 2-3 Art Show and Organ Recitals, benefiting the purchase of our new Allen Organ, continues to be a success with over 64% of the purchase price already received.

We are grateful to our artists, Carl Heldt, Jean Creighton, Renee Terry, Jackie Wallace, and Elsa Jacklitch, who are donating proceeds from the art work displayed in Grace Hall. Artwork will be on display through March 17.

We are grateful to our organists Mary Stevens, Joanna Myhr-Arrison, Sharon Snyder, and Chris Blanco, who allowed us to see the intricacies of organ music last weekend and then pulled out all the stops.

Remember a birthday, anniversary, or honor a grandchild, child, spouse, or friend:

- Adopt a key \$25
- Adopt a stop \$50
- Adopt a piston \$75
- Adopt a pedal \$100

Checks and online payments should be made payable to:
Ascension's Music Fund.

Take a look at the Grace Hall bulletin board for more information.



Honduras Mission Trip Update

Day 1: One... very... long... travel day down. We departed from the church at 10:30pm Wednesday with a total of 45 bags and backpacks and headed to catch our 12:50am flight to Atlanta where after switching planes we arrived in San Pedro Sula at 12:20pm Thursday. Once again, people just a little ahead of us in the line for the "tax man" e-ray machine were pulled out and had their luggage riffled through for what can be taxed. But when we approached, we ran all 45 bags and backpacks through without even a glance - as if we weren't even there. With all of the new supplies and gear we had that would be ripe to tax, it really is a miracle. That is over 250 bags we have brought down over the years, all without anyone batting an eye.

After all that, we loaded up with our trusty driver Riggo for the 4 hour drive to La Cieba where we are staying the night. Tomorrow we finish our track to Tocoa arriving around lunchtime.

The journey was marked by a lot of tiredness and a lot of laughter. However, we were hit hard tonight to learn that Dinef (the Honduran version of child services) had recently come and removed Jonathan from the Gates of Hope orphanage and placed him back with his family. The same family that had horribly abused and beat and burned him as a young child. The folks at Open Door ministries don't really know why at this point, it's a recent development.

Our team verse for tonight is Ephesians 6:12 *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."*

Satan may think he has won, but it's not over! We have already begun to pray and we invite all of you to pray for this young man. That God will turn this to something good for his purposes. And we have faith that He will do it because we are asking and the one we ask is faithful! Physical needs are important, but our enemy is not flesh & blood and the weapons of our warfare is prayer.

As you can see your prayers are important... and we haven't even yet begun.

Our dear brothers and sisters, we thank you for being in accord with us and keeping us in your prayers. May the Lord richly bless each of you and all of us.

In Him, David Boyd

Day 2: Good Saturday morning prayer partners,

Our mission team had a wonderful day yesterday meeting the children at the orphanage (most of the team members have been before so they got to say hello again). Matthew 6:33 *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Below is an update from Hannah:

Today (Friday) we finished our drive to Tocoa! On the way we stopped at a grocery store for supplies and it was so fun trying to use Spanish to communicate with the Hondurans. When we finally got to the orphanage I was so excited! As soon as we opened the van doors, kids came running to greet us with hugs and smiles. It was so amazing to see all their faces again and to meet the new kids. I especially loved seeing Ulises and Ángel. They are as cute and silly as ever! I've missed them all so much but we were able to pick up where we left off and run around and play. The kids loved teaching us games and dancing with us. We had a delicious dinner and then they had a "culture night" for us. They performed traditional dances and sang to popular Honduran songs. I think the whole team felt so honored that they would put in that much effort for us. They handmade keychains for each of us and made us traditional Honduran food (it was delicious)! I am so thankful that the Contrachos (Hondurans) we're so welcoming and kind! The team loved learning about the kids' beloved homeland and watching the kids do what they love. I can't wait to see how God moves tomorrow and how he continues to grow our relationship with himself and the kids!

For His Glory, Hannah



March 21
from 1-8pm

8445 N Cerius Stra
Tucson, AZ 85742

March School Fundraiser



WELCOMING ALL LADIES to the LWML Spring Retreat in Benson, AZ Saturday, March 23. Peace in the Valley ladies and their Pastor Ron York have been planning a wonderful day of inspiration, Bible Study, and fellowship for Arizona Zone ladies and their friends. The time is 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; the cost is \$15. For a donation, bring school supplies for the Benson schools. Directions: I-10 east to Exit 297 (J Six Ranch Road) go south 1/2 mile, the church is on your left. Prefer to car pool; meet in Ascension's front parking lot by 7:40 a.m. **The sign-up sheet has been moved to the counter across from the rest rooms.** Please take these few extra steps and sign up TODAY! Thank you!



Please join us on March 30 at 1pm in the sanctuary as we sing along with Pastor Thelen to some of our favorite Disney tunes. Snacks and drinks will be served during a brief intermission. Contact Callie at c.baker@alcs-az.org to RSVP by March 28.

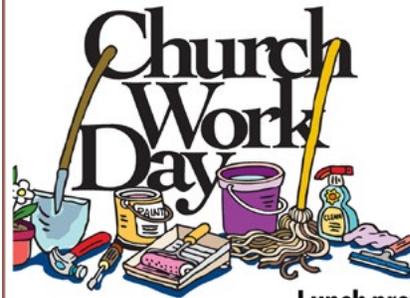
SERVANT SUNDAY

**Sunday, March 31
1-3pm Grace Hall**

Join our Fifth Sunday, Servant Sunday for Youth and their families. Plans have changed as the Organ Concert is postponed during Lent. We are planning to do some landscaping/cleanup work. We have a few projects in mind, but are always open for more. Call 742-2882.



Ascension Lutheran Church and School



**March 16
8-11am**

Lunch provided following clean-up.

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Kindergarten
OPEN HOUSE

Open to All

Learn about our program,
Meet the teacher,
See the classroom

Monday, March 25 | 6pm

1220 W Magee Rd
Tucson, AZ
520.742.6229

Confirmation Lock-in

When:
Saturday, March 30, 8pm-8am

Where:
In The Learning Center
(Sunday School Classroom)

Friends are welcome, but all students are required to complete a permission slip. Contact Callie to RSVP by March 28.

WACKY OLYMPICS

ARE YOU WACKY?
WHAT: CITY-WIDE WACKY OLYMPICS EVENT
WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 10AM-3PM
WHERE: ALL OVER ASCENSION'S CAMPUS

FOR WHO: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
(THIS WILL BE THE FIRST EVENT OUR 8TH GRADERS ARE WELCOME TO JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOLERS)
CONTACT CALLIE AT c.baker@alcs-az.org FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO REGISTER

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