



ASCENSION LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

Connecting all people with Jesus

September 14, 2018 Issue

Come Experience the Power of Grace

Obedience

is not a positive word these days. For some it seems cold and harsh. For others it carries overtones of legalism in religion or control in other venues. Perhaps for all of us it challenges our inherent drive toward autonomy and the individualistic bent that pervades our culture. As Americans we do not want anyone telling us what to do—not even God.

But how many of us have stopped to think that our wariness of obedience may be keeping us from one of the great keys to the enjoyment of God and the transformation of our lives? Are we aware that the Bible and the saints throughout history affirm the insight of John Calvin that “all true knowledge of God is born out of obedience”? We are willing slaves who strive to live our lives to please Him.

NO LONGER A
SLAVE TO FEAR
I AM A CHILD
OF GOD

The High Cost of Disobedience

It takes only a moment's reflection to realize that the cost of disobedience has been high. The world as we know it is not the good world God originally created, nor do we human beings much resemble the image of God in which we were first made. Tragically that image has been shattered, and the world is filled with sin, sorrow, and suffering. The “break” began with one act of disobedience by our first parents. By a deliberate choice, rooted in pride and unbelief, they acted in defiance of God's revealed will. And their self-centered drive for autonomy has passed down to every human being. Perhaps Woody Allen spoke for us all when he famously said, “The heart wants what it wants.”

With our own hands, we forged the chains that bind us, and we now lack the power to free ourselves from them. We want to do what we want to do and cannot escape. Our only hope lies outside ourselves, in the One who loves us and gave himself up for us. In this act of self-sacrificing love, he “who knew no sin” became sin for us “so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). His perfect obedience to God's law as God's loving and faithful Son can now be imputed to us, and our disobedience can be laid upon him, setting us right with God, if we choose it. C.S.

Lewis said, “Obedience is the key that opens every door.” Civil disobedience is another issue. The Bible never teaches to obey evil or to obey Satan. We must obey God and resist Satan. Romans 13:1 teaches that we should obey our leaders only up to the point where their leadership does not violate God's law. It is a false teaching that Christians should never engage in civil disobedience. Our leaders are not our masters, nor are we civilian slaves. We are willing and obedient slaves to only one Master.





We Care and Pray for One Another

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Irene Ahl; Sharon Algar; Bill Amspaugh; Candy Appleby; Richard Ashbaugh; Curtis Beaman; Kathleen Bell; Linda Bennett; Carroll Boettcher; Maun Boettcher; Joel Bott; Peggy Jo Brodie; Heidi Buchholz; John & Joan Burns; Ralph Chambers; Linda Cirelli; Moose Creighton; Richard Dahl; Dianne Ewald; Ron Fast; Elaine Feller; Rev. Bob Feller; Harriet Feree; Cita Figueroa; Walt Goedecke; Richard Greene; Don Gremel; Bonnie Guiffre; Gizelle Hayes; Jane Heine; Evelyn Horst; Michael Horst; Annette Idso; Carol Jennens; Monica Johnson; Sue K.; Matthew Kauz; Marv Klassen; Bud Koehlinger; Donna Koelling; Doreen Leikel; Philip Lenharth; Nancy Maschhoff; Alice Masherella; Shirley Mattausch; Courtney McClattery; Donna McCullough; Tom Mortson; Chris Murphy; Merrill Nelson; Tanner Nelson; Frances Olsen; Ben Petersen; Anne Pingo; Betty Plachy; Virginia Potter; Martin Radloff; Shirley Radloff; Antonia Rafter; Esther Riesen; Julie Stewart; Denise Stoldt; Joyce Sutton; Bud Umphryes; Joe Wells; Eleanor Wood; Marie Wood; Pat Zanta; June Zehe; Chris; Dan

MILITARY:

Chris Bartels (contractor); Isaac Jackson; Tim Mace;

CALLED HOME:

We give prayers of sympathy and compassion to the family and friends of Betty Lou Morrison who was called home on August 22, 2018 and for the family and friends of Randi Nelson-Shipley who was recently called home.

THANKSGIVING:

We give thanks to the Blanket circle for the quilts they made for those who are receiving care at the Veterans Hospital. Let the recipients see and feel the love of Jesus as they are using them.

NEEDS:

We pray for those who have needs and circumstances that only God can take care of—especially do we pray for Natalie Bustamante's step-Mother who had a heart attack and is in a medically induced coma for 3 weeks and for her dad who is struggling and for Esther Riesen's sister, Ila who is recovering from a head injury.



Many thanks to Pastor Luther Esala for shepherding us through The Gospel of John. Intense study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians will begin September 30 during the Adult Bible Study time, 10:30am, in the ROC. Please join us.

WE WOULD NOT GIVE THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD

Those of you who know me will find it difficult to believe that I did not write this, because it sure sounds just like me. However, I really didn't.

The title of this article is the title of Day 22 from an app I have started using called **Pray for Your Church**. It is available for android at **Google Play**. As crazy as it sounds, this is the actual day that I am on today... as I am looking to write this article today! No, I do not believe this is a coincidence.

Ephesians 4:25-27 *"So then strip yourselves of falsehood, and let each of you speak the truth with his neighbor, because we are all members of the same body. Be angry—but be angry in such a way that your anger is not a sin. Do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil any opportunity."*

This is the devotion in full:

We often use the concept of not giving the devil a foothold as an admonishment to not flirt with sin. While this is certainly true, this particular passage is actually in the context of our relationships with one another in the church. When we let anger boil, we are giving the devil a foothold in our church. We often pray that the Lord would bind the works of the enemy as we gather together. Perhaps as we pray this, we should also take seriously what the Bible says about pursuing broken relationships within the church. Not following passages, such as **Matthew 18**, is to give the devil a foothold. Therefore, let us pursue unity and reconciliation as we fight the enemy.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for your work through Jesus of destroying the works of the devil. We thank you for uniting sinners like us into fellowship with You and also with each other. Yet we still live as broken people in a broken world, and as such as, we continue to have broken relationships. Empower us to follow Your word as we pursue reconciliation with one another. Keep us from being so self-righteous and self-dependent as to give the devil a foothold. Help us to see our desperation for You as we reach out to one another in love. Amen.

Noel Robinson, Servant of God and Congregational President

IF YOU CAN COUNT...YOU CAN HELP!

Ascension members: Due to some vacancies on our counting team, we are in need of adding volunteers to this ministry. We meet in teams of 3 people each Sunday morning after the 8:45am service. It takes about 2 hours, from 10am to noon or earlier, to enter and record the offerings into the church data base. It's a great way to serve the Lord joyfully and also a wonderful fellowship opportunity. Looking forward to meeting you... Contact Ruth Ann Stedron for questions or more information, 297-6813 or arizona1669@gmail.com.

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

Bring up church membership and watch people squirm. It isn't that people in culture are against membership as an idea—Costco seems to be doing well.

Perhaps it's because church membership is not often defined well. It's one of those things that when misunderstood seems a bit like eating your spinach—"at least try it before you decide you don't like it." Makes you want to sign right up, doesn't it?

But in the New Testament, people in churches are recognized as being in some sort of community. It's just that the reality of how community is expressed in Scripture has fallen on hard times over the last couple of thousand years.

In fact, in 1 Corinthians Paul doesn't say the church is like a body. He says the church is a body. The phrase he uses to describe the individual connectedness is we are "members of the body."

The word "member" in the Bible is more closely related to the medical word "member" than it is to the common cultural term. As an example, some of you who are reading may have lost a finger or toe in an accident. On that unfortunate day, you were dismembered. That's the actual technical terminology. A member of your body was separated from the body. That is a tragic thing.

Yet today in Western culture, being separated from the body of believers is not tragic. It's almost normal. It is almost understood that Christians and churches should be separated. Lone Ranger Christians are common.

Why then do we have membership? Because regardless of how the culture sees it or Christians misunderstand it, membership is not simply an opportunity to say, I'm a part of a club, but rather a scriptural expression of covenant connectedness to a church. Finally, we recognize biblical membership matters because people need it. People need membership commitment because they need to be connected to a Christian community. This is not just for the sake of the faith community, but also for the sake of the individual.

Individualist Christianity is a myth and a damaging pursuit. At the end of the day we're redeemed. We're placed in the body. The Bible specifically says he has redeemed us. He has transferred us, Colossians 1 says, from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of the Son he loves. A kingdom has a king. The king has subjects and his kingdom has a community together where we function as God's people.

God makes us a part of his larger family when we are born again. But then we should covenant in a local body and live in community with them, agreeing to live by certain established godly principles and standards.

Membership doesn't save us. But it enables us to grow and become spiritually mature in Christ. Not only should we be members of the body, each of us should also be able to express the value of membership. Hopefully, then people will stop squirming when we bring up the topic, but instead passionately embrace the biblical nature of church membership

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2015/july/membership-matters-3-reasons-for-church-membership.html>

Ascension Membership Information Session | Sunday, September 16 | 3-4:30pm ROC

Learn more about Ascension and how your time, talents, and treasures can serve the kingdom of the Lord and connect you with the family of Christ. Please RSVP to 297-3095. We would love to collect your directory info and take a photo so that our congregation can properly welcome you on the weekend of the September 22 and 23 at all services.



New Women's Bible Study

Wednesday evenings 6:15 - 8:15 pm start October 3 through October 31. \$20 scholarships are available. No payment required at signup, payment first night of class. Interested, sign up after church services September 15/16, September 22/23, and September 29/30. Or contact Julie Andreu 520.429.3336 or jeandreu@msn.com.

Special Opportunities for Special People

If you are good at sitting, visiting or just listening, your talents would be a blessing to some of our caregivers. There is a special need for someone to sit with a 90's lady while her family attends the 8: 45am Sunday service. So this would be a great way to serve during a 2-hour spot, weekly or a few times a month.

A second opportunity involves the same type of service but for a 4-hour period on Saturdays, while a caregiver takes care of errands and has a little respite. If you are willing to help, you too would be appreciated more than you could ever imagine!

Contact Jo Riestter 520-730-0045 or tsnazlib@hotmail.com

Gospel Rescue Mission Project

God continues to drop dollars from heaven. As we give thanks for \$20,788 in donations, volunteers are being sought to help paint four Gospel Rescue Mission rooms on Saturday, October 6. The work shift is 7am – noon (or earlier, with our efficient crew.) If you would like to be part of this crew, please call 742-2882 and we will provide carpooling information.

Register Your Child Today



[Click Here](#)

Our new Sunday School sign in is up and running. If you have not already done so, please create an account for your family on Kidcheck.com.

Lutherans for Life invites you to **Save the Date** for several fall events, benefitting the ministry of the sanctity of life. If you are attending any of these, please let Jennifer Jensen, our leader, know at 870-5554 or my4jensens@msn.com. If we want to carpool or sit with other Ascension guests, we'll know who's where.

October 4 6:30pm: Answers for Life presents contemporary Christian music artist and 2006 Dove Award winner, Mark Schultz at the Marriott University Park Hotel, 880 E. 2nd St, as he shares his adoption story. Nominated for numerous Dove Awards, he won his first for the CD/DVD *Mark Schultz Live: A Night of Stories & Songs*. RSVP: 520-330-7014; tables of ten are \$400; banquetreservationsafl@gmail.com <http://afltucson.com/>

October 11 7pm: Hands of Hope presents Stephanie Gray TCC Ballroom. Stephanie Gray has given over 800 pro-life presentations worldwide and was a recent presenter for the series "Talks at Google" speaking on abortion at Google headquarter. Author of *Love Unleashes Life: Abortion & the Art of Communicating Truth* as well as *A Physician's Guide to Discussing Abortion*, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from UBC in Vancouver and a Certification, *with Distinction*, in Health Care Ethics, from the NCBC in Philadelphia. She resides in Vancouver, Canada. <https://www.givehopetucson.com/2018-gala-fundraising-event/>

October 13 6pm: Families First's Chuckwagon Roundup—Bubb's Grubb Dinner and Auctions live and silent auction items. Hundreds of items from gift baskets, crafts, custom jewelry, gift certificates from restaurants, theatres, railways, gardens, zoos and museums, salons, and much more! Advanced tickets required, \$10 per person. The Chuckwagon Roundup will be at Summer Institute of Linguistics 16131 N. Vernon Dr. Catalina, AZ 85739 http://familyfirstpcc.org/chuck_wagon_roundup

Engage Your Family in FAITH practices at home, on the road or while out for a meal.

15 minutes with your family
On the go
FAITH
for on the go families™

Prayer Chair



- ◆ All households invited
- ◆ Sunday, Sept. 30th Grace Hall
- ◆ 12-12:15 pm after 10:31
- ◆ Bring kids and grandkids

"Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts; let them proclaim your power." Psalm 145:4 (NLT)

SAVE OUR KIDS GOLF SCRAMBLE

September 28, 2018



Providing A Future and A Hope For Youth

Oro Valley Country Club

Tee-Off at 1 pm

For more information or to register as a player or sponsor go to:

www.mentoringtucsonskids.org/golf

Mentoring Tucson's Kids

520-624-4765

info@mentoringtucsonskids.org

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