

PLATTE, SD

Trinity Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

The 10 Commandments According to Jesus, Simplified and Intensified

When I teach our Confirmations students The 10 Commandments, I don't start at Exodus 20:1. I start instead at Matthew 22:34-40. You remember the story. A Pharisee, an expert in the law, asks Jesus, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Without hesitation, Jesus replied, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

With His answer, Jesus distilled ten commandments down to two: "Love God and love people." And He tells us if we do this, we will fulfill all the law and the prophets. I like to make things as simple as possible when I teach, so this is where I begin. Instead of having to remember 10 commandments, students can reduce it down to two. Yes, I still make the students learn the original 10 Commandments and their meanings, but I remind them that if we follow Jesus's simplified approach, we carry out the ten, while only having to focus on His two.

You may think teaching the 10 Commandments according to Jesus waters down their meaning. Quite the opposite, when we lean into Jesus's teaching on the commandments, we find a stricter interpretation than that which was originally given on Mt. Sinai.

Take the Fifth Commandment, for instance, in which God instructed us, "You shall not murder." Now, listen to Jesus's interpretation of that commandment from Matthew 5:21-22: "You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or

sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, 'Raca,' is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell."

Jesus takes a commandment that clearly dealt with taking someone's physical life and warns us that when we are angry with someone, our thoughts can take us to a place where we are mentally considering the joy it would bring us to do away with them. He warns us, too, of the "character assassination" our hurtful words can inflict on another. His message seems to be, "Don't just refrain from killing someone, rather refrain from anything that would cause another person harm or despair."

Now, consider Jesus's teaching on the Sixth Commandment from Matthew 5:27-28: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Jesus elevates the original commandment so that adultery is no longer simply the physical act of infidelity perpetrated against one's spouse. He expands it to include lustful eyes and sexual fantasies. He wants us to understand the many and varied forms of sin and temptation. It isn't only our actions that He's concerned about. It's also our words, our thought life, and our wandering eyes.

Jesus was always pushing the envelope on spreading His love to others. In Matthew 5:43-48, He even went beyond the Great Commandment. Listen to what He said: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute

you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The giving of the 10 Commandments ushered in the Old Covenant, a covenant we imperfect people could never obey. Aren't you glad Jesus ushered in the New Covenant, the Covenant of Grace? Thanks to Him, we can be saved—not because we're perfect, but because we believe in the One who is perfect. The Law made us aware of our sinful nature. Jesus set us free from it! Have a wonderful month clinging to the love of Christ!

God Bless, *Pastor Dave*

Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council met Monday August 21, 2023

Present: Pastor Dave, Jim Holter, Kyle Meyerink, Mike Gilbertz, Donna Boysen, Tom Boltjes, Carey Hoffman, Shirley Johnson, Jan DuFrain and Alisha Nachtigal.

Absent: Tony Schrank and Ryan Lantz.

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Holter and Pastor Dave led with a devotion and prayer.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary's report was reviewed, Kyle made a motion to approve, Tom seconded it, the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The council reviewed the treasurer's report. Carey made a motion to approve, Shirley seconded it, the motion carried.

Trustee's Report:

We reviewed Trustees report.

Deacon's Report:

Visits are being done and bulletins are being sent out.

Discussion was had on holding hands during the Lord's prayer and welcoming each other from our pews. This is something that was done prior to Covid so the council felt it was ok to return to this.

Pastor's Report:

We reviewed Pastor Dave's report.

Old Business:

Painting Sanctuary and Fellowship-Jeff Martin will start next week with the painting project.

New Business

Jeff volunteered to fix the water gutters. Two gutters have been completed and Tom will talk to Jeff about the completion of the third.

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Kyle seconded it.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Carey Hoffman

From the WOW Co-Presidents

Pearl Feiock & Dee Rasmussen

Trust in God

I trust You, Father, my hope and my desire. To stay the righteous course, in Your pace. I walked furiously in speed, thinking from the fire. Now I ask Your care and guidance for this race.

To be safe and in Your care is my prayer, filled with Your love, praising Your name. What a delight! Full is my joy to know I am you heir, Your righteousness is mine, Your Holy Spirit, I claim.

Thank You, Father! For forgiveness, this, first. For the promise of peace, your offer, now mine. And for all the benefits of grace and joy, and kindness, I thirst. Where else but in Your, will we find all, in due time.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path.

Proverbs 3:5-6



WOW Sept Mission Project

For Sept, the WOW groups will be helping make fleece blankets for Family Connections. Priscilla and Martha Bible Study Groups are asked to put together at least 10 Health Kits and Hannah Group is asked to donate Toilet Tissue - these two items will be going to Needy Nook in Marty, SD and Tanta's House.

WOW Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand August 1, 2023	\$ 3681.55
Income:	
Dividend	\$ 0.30
Hannah Offering (July)	\$ 70.00
Priscilla Offering (Aug)	\$ 73.00
Hannah Offering (Aug)	\$ 71.00
Balance on Hand August 31, 2023	\$ 3895.85

Bible Study Groups

Martha Bible Study Group

meets Tuesday, September 12
studying Session 4 – Hosea, presented by Jennifer Rothschild

Priscilla Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, September 21 at 9:00 AM
Studying Lesson 8
Lesson Leader: Paula Nelson
Hostess: Deb VanDerWerff

Hannah Bible Study Group:

meets Thursday, September 21 at Noon
at 44 Pizza Plus studying Lesson 8

Health Kits:

(10 or more from Priscilla & Martha groups)

- ✓ 1 Bath Towel (new or slightly used)
- ✓ 1 Washcloth
- ✓ 1 Bar New Soap (bath sized-wrapped)
- ✓ 1 Toothbrush (in wrapping)
- ✓ 1 Tube of Toothpaste (5-7 oz size)
- ✓ 1 Wide-tooth Comb
- ✓ 1 Metal nail clippers
- ✓ 1 small box of Band-aids
- ✓ 1 Shampoo & Conditioner

*Wrap items in towel and tie with ribbon or yarn

*Kits will be donated to the "Needy Nook" in Marty, SD

This Month's Birthdays

**Please remember these special 80+ Birthdays with a prayer, card or phone call*

9/2	Phyllis Daum	9/15	Ella Holter	9/21	Frank Cutler
9/4	Lee Hanten	9/15	David Kott	9/22	Henry Hegge
9/4	Jeremiah Konechne	9/16	Zachary Warejcka	9/22	Bohden Schrank
9/6	Jorie Nelson	9/17	LaDene Nelson*	9/23	Shirley Johnson*
9/7	Mick Warejcka	9/18	Jay VanDerWerff	9/23	Abigail Konechne
9/10	Kali Vanden Berge	9/18	Skyler Hanten	9/25	Kolbi Hoffman
9/12	Hayes Hermanek	9/19	Toby Qualm	9/25	Ryker Nachtigal
9/13	Wendy Wollman	9/19	Tony Schrank	9/26	Kelly Weisser
9/13	Josie DeHaan				

Sept	Greeters	Ushers	Communion Servers	Cookie/Coffee Servers
3	Rick & Lisa Johnson	Frank Cutler & Joel Bailey	Donna Boysen, Kyle Meyerink, Ryan Lantz	Joyce VanderHam, Deb VanDerWerff, Kristi Wagner
10	Kyle & Tricia Meyerink	Frank Cutler & Joel Bailey	No Communion	Wendy Wollman, Sharon & Lizzy Warejcka, Bev Antonsen
17	Hunter & Katie Johnson	Randy Tegethoff & Foster Tegethoff	Donna Boysen, Kyle Meyerink, Ryan Lantz	Cheri Antonsen, Casey Bailey, Vickie Boltjes
24	Chad & Darla Johnson	Randy Tegethoff & Foster Tegethoff	No Communion	Donna Boysen, Caroline Butler, Joyce Carter

God's Way Christian School is Our September Mission of the Month

The Mission Board has selected God's Way Christian School in Tanzania as our September Mission of the Month. Although the school has been thriving in a building they have been renting, they must buy land and build a school to receive government accreditation as a primary school. Please keep the school's founder, Paschal, and their Board of Directors in your prayers as they search for the right piece of land and as they seek to raise funds to finance this much needed venture. Your generosity can go a long way in helping them accomplish this dream. Please make your checks to Trinity Lutheran Church with God's Way Christian School in the memo. The offering will be taken Sunday, September 10th.



The school was blessed recently with a visit from born-again volunteers from Brazil, who stopped by to encourage the staff and students.



Creator of the stars

The stars and sky testify to God’s amazing power and creativity.

Directions: Use the clues and Bible passages to fill in the blanks. Then transfer the circled letters (in order) to the spaces below to complete a verse of praise.

God determines this and calls each star by name. (Psalm 147:4)

○ _ _ _ _ _

The heavens are the work of God’s what? (Psalm 8:3)

_ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _

What does God bring out one by one? (Isaiah 40:26)

_ _ ○ _ _ _

God made two great lights to do this. (Genesis 1:16)

○ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

God promised Abraham this would be like the stars. (Genesis 15:5)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _

The sun, moon and stars have this. (1 Corinthians 15:41)

_ _ _ ○ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _

The lights in the sky serve as what? (Genesis 1:14)

_ _ _ _ _ ○ _ _ _

The heave__s declare the __lory __f __od;
the ski__s __roc__aim the wo__k of his ha__ds.

PSALM 19:1, NIV



SEARCHING FOR SILVER

Godly, biblical wisdom is more valuable than gold or silver. Make this do-it-yourself toy to practice your searching skills.

What you need:

- 12 small, smooth rocks
- An empty, clean egg carton
- Paintbrush
- Acrylic paint (gold or silver)
- Black permanent marker

What you do:

1. Clean the rocks and egg carton. Place newspaper on a table to protect it from paint.
2. Paint all sides of the rocks and carton. Let dry. Add a second coat, if desired.
3. When rocks are dry, number each rock (1-12) with marker. Place rocks in the carton.
4. Play hide-and-seek with a friend. Take turns hiding the rocks in a room, sandbox or backyard. Give clues, if needed, and count the rocks as they’re returned.
5. Use your imagination to incorporate a treasure hunt into study time or family devotions.

Answer: number, fingers, host, govern, offspring, splendor, signs; The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Psalm 19:1, NIV



Platte Community Student Ministry invites **All Junior High students** to our kickoff party **September 6th - 6:30 at the North Park.** Games, Pizza, and Rootbeer floats are also available! **All Parents** are invited to fill out registration forms and are welcome to stick around and enjoy the fun!

Calling All Men: Men's Breakfast to Resume Sept 9

Men's Breakfast will return from summer hiatus on September 9th. We will meet at 7 AM in the Fellowship Hall, beginning with a good home-cooked breakfast and fellowship.

Following breakfast, we will move to the Fireside Room, where we'll watch a video from the Authentic Manhood Series 33 collection. Currently, we are on the topic of "A Man and His Work." After watching the video, we'll discuss what we watched and end in prayer. Come give Men's Breakfast a try. We know guys can't be there every Saturday due to work or family obligations, but for the eight of us, who have attended somewhat regularly, we've had fun meeting together and growing in the Lord. If you're interested in giving it a try, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board south of the Fellowship Hall. This will help us better know how many meals to prepare.

Hope to see you there! God bless, Pastor Dave



Sunday School and Confirmation Kickoff Set for September 10



Parents and grandparents, mark your calendars for September 10th so your kids and grandkids don't miss out on the opening day of Sunday School and Confirmation. We'll kick things off on Rally Sunday with grilled burgers, hot dogs, and lots of goodies, followed by games and other fun activities. Everyone is invited to stay for food and fun!

Confirmation class will once again meet in the North Overflow Room. Students, load up your plates in the Fellowship Hall and head to the classroom, where we'll eat together and play an exciting game of "The Game of Eternal Life."

Sunday School classrooms are clearly labeled. Please drop your children off at their designated classroom, where their teachers will instruct them about picking up their food in the Fellowship Hall. After eating, classes will head outdoors for games, if the weather permits. In case of inclement weather, games will be played in the basement.

Sunday School teacher installation is during worship on Sunday, September 10th. **We still need co-teachers for High School and music.** *If you feel the Lord is calling you to teach this year, please contact the Board of Ed. Caitlin DeGroot, Carla Lantz, or Karis DuFrain.* Thank you for helping our youth grow in their faith & walk with God!