

## Prince of Peace Lutheran Church



# The POP Press



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May 2019

### Confirmed in Christ... What's Next?

What a wonderful celebration we will have Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> as two of our young people will be confirmed in the faith and receive first Communion. This is an exciting time in their lives as they complete the three years of study to get to this point. You could almost hear a collective exhale as they appreciated the end of the classes that they attended.

As we all celebrate with them, you might recall your own confirmation and all that went on as you celebrated and then thought to the future and wondered; what do I do now? What is the next step in my spiritual life? How do I continue on in the church? All are fair questions and it deserves a fair answer. Satan doesn't just take a break and say to himself, "They are confirmed now... I might as well move on to an easier target." Oh no, Satan will come at them all the more trying to separate them from their faith in Jesus and to turn them away from their assurance of the promises of God that has been made to them.

Satan will try to get them to turn to other gods, idolatry: spiritual heart disease that will eat away at a person's faith slowly and surely. It is in this time that they need the scriptures all the more and to use the base that has been established for them, and for you, to withstand the poison arrows that are shot at you as you endure this spiritual warfare in your life.

The devil will try to create conflicts between believers that can lead to confusion, which then results in conflicts that could become so severe that you blame God and turn away from the faith. Differences in viewpoints, gifts, backgrounds, and values can create friction in relationships. As people compete for limited resources, clashes can happen. James identified for us the underlying source of conflict; James 4:1-3

*What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? [2] You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. [3] You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.*

Not all passions are sinful but when we demand that our desires be satisfied, whatever the cost, conflicts results. These passions wage war between the saint and sinner natures of our heart. Our selfish gratification puts us at odds with God and with others. Our spiritual heart disease is evidences itself when we are willing to sin to satisfy our wants. We see this as a First Commandment issue. Conflicts like these ultimately reveal the false gods of our hearts. It happens when we don't get what we want.

In his Small Catechism, Luther explains the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods," saying "We should fear, love and trust in God above all things." Anytime we fear someone or something more than God, love someone or something more than God, or trust someone or something more than God, we are guilty of idolatry. We have a false god. Our heart has replaced the true God with a false one. We have developed spiritual heart disease and if it is left untreated, it can result in serious harm to ourselves and others.

Thinking back to the First Commandment, we'll focus on three kinds of spiritual heart disease that are revealed in conflict - the idols of fears, cravings, and misplaced trust.

The first kind of spiritual heart disease is idolatrous fear. These fears reveal themselves when we experience anxiety or depression over losing something precious. Not all fears however are idolatrous. God expects us to be vigilant to avoid danger. Fear can serve a godly purpose. But when that fear becomes so great that we sin to protect something we perceive as precious, we cross the line. We are no longer fearing God above all things. That fear has evolved into an idol.

A common idolatrous fear is specifically identified in Proverbs 29:25;  
*The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.*

Two kinds of fear are contrasted here: the fear of the Lord (whoever trusts in the Lord is safe) and the fear of man (whoever fears people more than God). A theme throughout Proverbs emphasizes that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The second kind of spiritual heart disease is identified in the Bible as self-desires, passion, or lusts - cravings. This idol begins as a desire and is elevated into a demand. 1 Tim. 6:6-10

*Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, [7] for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. [8] But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. [9] But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. [10] For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.*

Notice that Paul describes the potential danger of clinging to his idol, wandering away from the faith and suffering from self-inflicted pain. Untreated spiritual heart disease results in death. Those that demand what they want, rather than trust God for His provision, seek to serve themselves above all else. The idol takes hold of their heart.

Cravings abound in our world and many relate to idolatrous fears. Addictions are also a form of cravings. Such cravings can include alcohol, or drugs, sexual activity, unrestrained use of the Internet for entertainment, unrestrained buying, and work. Some addictions have physiological factors that affect the craving, but they also represent a spiritual issue.

For Christians, many of the people or things we desire are good gifts from God intended to bless us. But when we love the created more than the Creator, we worship false gods.

Just as with fears, the cravings we worship demand sacrifice. People sacrifice so much to get what they want. They sacrifice their witness to Christ, personal integrity, and the gifts God gives them. In the end, all is lost.

The third kind of spiritual heart disease is misplaced trust. Instead of trusting God above all things, we place more trust in people or things when we follow this idol. One of the most popular objects of misplaced trust is one's self. Proverbs 3:5-7

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. [6] In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. [7] Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil.*

We trust our own judgments, experiences, education and personal thoughts more than what God teaches. We minimize other's views. Pride fuels this idol. We anoint ourselves god. What is the result when we do this? We sinfully judge anyone who doesn't measure up. In other words, we condemn those who don't agree with us or help us get what we want. People struggling with this idol often come across as condescending, and the most common fruit of this idol is gossip.

We recognize gossip as breaking the commandment "You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor." But first and foremost, it is a sin against the First Commandment, "You shall have no other gods." When we gossip, we essentially set ourselves up as gods. We know what's best. We judge and condemn those who don't meet our expectations. We punish them by undermining their reputations. We seek to make ourselves look better by tearing them down. I have a god, and its name is me!

Gossip is idolatry. It is the idol of misplaced trust.

Misplaced trust can also occur as we place more trust in anything other than God. Examples include such things as financial security, reputation, and hard work. We may place more trust in a person than God. The phrase "idolize her" describes what happens. When trust is centered more in people or things than in God, we set ourselves up for potential disaster.

Unlike fears and cravings, this idol requires more than sacrifice – it demands an execution. On the altar of your pride, you execute those that get in your way. Misplaced trust is an ugly god.

Confirmands and dear Christian friends, we examine ourselves daily as we seek to avoid falling into these traps rather than putting all our fear, love, and trust in the one true God. It begins by confessing our sins daily as we remember our Baptism and look to Jesus for all that we need in the situations we find ourselves in.

What does the future hold? It is the promise of eternal life to all who believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son. Keep your focus at the foot of the Cross and lean not unto your own understanding, but stand on the sure and certain rock of faith, Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God keep you and richly bless you in His mercy and grace as you read His Word.

Walking in the Light of Life... (John 8:12)

*Pastor Klawonn*

## Council Minutes April 11, 2019

**Treasury:** Lisa reports our balances are doing better, income is good, but higher heating and snow removal bills have increased expenses some as well.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor provided a detailed written report, which is attached.

**Education:** No report, as Jodi is absent.

**Evangelism(EV):** Stephanie reports they served the Lenten Meal on 4/3 and got positive feedback on the Taco Bar.

**Fellowship(FS):** Amy reports Bingo night coming up Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30 with prizes. They ask that people who want to participate come with a snack to share!

**Property:** Fred reports that the men's group has been taking good care of things through the winter.

**Stewardship:** Andy reports that he's had good help with Tom, and the computerized system to track contributions is working well.

**Worship:** Palm Sunday this coming Sunday. Combined service at 10 AM with a small children's presentation as part of the service. Monday night is Tenebrae practice. Members have been recruited to strip the altar for the Maundy Thursday Service. May 5<sup>th</sup> is confirmation, and new parents are on the way.

**Youth:** No report

### Agenda Items:

#### Old Business:

##### Qualified Charitable Distribution Info Sheets

For those who want to donate to POP, and reduce their taxable income over age 70 ½, a QCD may help. Nancy showed information sheets which may be distributed to the congregation for those interested in this tax benefit.

#### New Business:

##### Training for AED

Now that our AED has arrived and is installed in the building, it might be helpful to look into training opportunities in order to familiarize us with this piece of new equipment. This will help to ensure an effective response in case of an emergency. Consensus is to notify the congregation that we will be offering this training, and to seek training resources.

##### Evansdale Police Contribution

We have received a request for \$125 from the local police in support of local Child Safety program.

##### Easter Sunday Breakfast

Scrambled Eggs, French Toast Sticks, Biscuits and Gravy, and other amenities will be served on Easter Sunday with proceeds supporting VBS.

## Love INC. Golf Tournament

Love INC is hosting their annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 17. It's a best shot tournament designed for all skill levels and the proceeds make a huge difference for Love INC's ministry. Love INC networks 29 churches in the Cedar Valley to meet the tangible needs for the under-resourced in our community in the Name of Christ. Go to [golfloveinc.com](http://golfloveinc.com) for more information and to sign up.



On May 4th, the Spring Concert, by The Proud Image Chorus, will take place. There is a show at 2:00 and 6:00. See Pastor or Jace for tickets or check the flyer on the bulletin board.



### Vacation Bible School

We are working on dates for vacation bible school. It will be July 22nd through 26th, and we are planning a morning session this year. It is from 9:00 to 11:30. Be watching for ways to help and to sign up!

Together we can make this a great week for our youth.

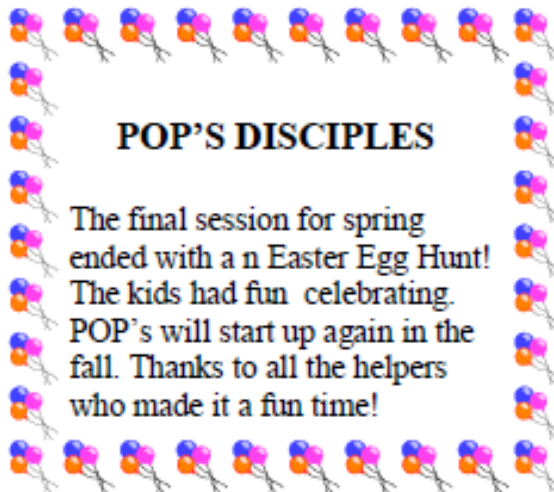
## Events



### Mother's Day Brunch

The Women of Life are hosting a Free Will Offering brunch on Saturday, May 11th , at 10:00. The guest speaker is Amanda Gilbert.

Please sign the sheet on the table in the entry . Please come and enjoy Food, Fun and Fellowship!





## 2019 Graduates

### Our High School Graduates

Alysha Edler— the daughter of Doug and Diane Edler will graduate from East High School .

Zachary Hippe—the son of Nicole Myers and Dan Hippe will graduate from East High School .

JP Richmond son of Tracy Richmond will graduate from West High School.

Congratulations!!!

If we missed a graduate please let the office know.

## Confirmation Sunday

On May 5th, we will celebrate the Confirmation of Bailey Hollaway and Kayla Jeppesen.

We will have One Service at 10:00.

May God continue to be your guide as you share your faith with others.

## Deepest Sympathy

We are saddened to learn that Ellen Conner passed away on Saturday, April 27th. Please keep Keith and Charlotte Haycraft and the rest of her family in your prayers. They plan to have a memorial for her in the fall in Arizona. Memorials may be made to Samaritans Purse or Hospice of the Valley in Ellen's honor.

## Information

### MILITARY BIBLESTICKS

MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH AND WE ARE ONCE AGAIN ASKING YOU TO DONATE TO HELP PURCHASE A BIBLE MEMORY STICK TO GIVE TO OUR MILITARY. A SIMPLE \$25 SPONSORS ONE SERVICE MEMBER AND THEIR FAMILY. WE WILL BE TAKING DONATIONS ON MAY 5TH THROUGH 12TH. PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING WHAT YOU CAN TO HELP PROVIDE GOD'S WORD TO OUR MILITARY. IF YOU GIVE A CHECK , PLEASE MAKE IT OUT TO THE CHURCH. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.



FOR GOD

Our Military Display will be in the entry way for your military memorabilia. This can be pictures, your branch or any info of your time served. This will be set up for May 18th, Armed Forces Day. You can contact the office at 233-1452 with questions.



# MAY Birthdays and Anniversaries

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# May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Zach Schroeder	2 Sam Morris Gene & Martha Elder	3	4
5	6	7 Marty & Sharon Kroenecke	8	9 Jamie Hollaway	10 Jace & Catherine Hicok	11 Sue Meyerhoff
12 Travis & Katie Rodden	13 Nancy Wamke	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Lynn & Judy Powell	21 Karmen Jeppesen	22 Jane Goodin Chuck & Pam Harstad	23 Ron Wamke	24	25
26 Mark & Karmen Jeppesen	27	28 Pastor Klawonn	29 Sydney Hollaway	30	31	