

Salem Lutheran
Church and School

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AUGUST 2024

Newsletter

Pondering a Proverb

Train up a child in the way he should go;
even when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

When we consider the wisdom of the proverbs, we should start here: a proverb is not a promise. This proverb does not promise that training up a child will ensure their faithfulness. What this proverb tells us is a truth for life: the habits and discipline you grow up with and grow into guide you your whole life. And it is good to train in ourselves and in our children habits that lead to better ways of life. Christian habits—like reading and meditating on the scriptures; praying; singing the Lord’s song; devoting your time to the Lord and His Word—these Christian habits help make our lives of faith easier. The Godly discipline of coming to church and joining your family of faith in worship each Sunday helps you continue to live in the way you ought to go. But Godly discipline and Christian habits—the ways you train yourself and your children in the faith—should never become your hope. Your hope—your assurance of your God’s faithfulness to you and your children—cannot be found in your works. What you do does not assure you or your children of anything. No matter how faithful you are or how hard you work to live your Christian faith, this does not deliver you from the evil one. No matter how well you train someone in the Way, this training cannot keep them in the faith on its own. If you and I make this mistake—when we believe that staying faithful depends on our training—then Jesus’s saving power depends on us. And, even more destructive, when someone’s son or daughter departs the faith in Christ, you look at them differently. You start to wonder what they did wrong. You start thinking, *they must not have cared enough about the faith. If they actually believed Jesus rose from the dead, well, they would have done a better job teaching their kids...* Do you see? If we mess up how we hear this proverb, you and I would become self-righteous jerks. We lose sight of wisdom, clinging instead to our own cleverness. When you hear this proverb, “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it,” when you hear this, don’t start with yourself. Don’t start with you or me. Start with Jesus. You start with Jesus. This is where wisdom begins. It starts with the wisdom from on high—with Jesus. So where is Jesus in this proverb? Jesus is the Way. The

Way we ought to go. Jesus is the Way we want to be trained up into, and the Way of Jesus is so different from our way. His Way is a living way. An active Way. The Way of the cross. It is from the cross that Christ makes his Way known to you and to all. At the cross the wisdom of God was made known through suffering and death. Through the sacrifice of his only son, your God opened to you and me an eternal Way. And Jesus, the Way of life, will not sit still. The Way comes to you, rising up beneath every step to meet you. The Way of the cross is not something you can easily depart, for the Way of Jesus continues to pursue every single person claimed at the font. The baptized will never escape Jesus’s pursuit, even as they continue to refuse his grace and mercy. Even those who learn to hate Christ cannot escape his continued attempts to restore them into his Way. So, it is not our own discipline or habits or works that you and I trust to keep us in the Way. It is the Way Himself, our Lord Jesus, who we trust to preserve us and pursue us in the true faith.

I imagine Paul had this proverb in mind when he was writing his letters to Timothy. Timothy is one who embodies this wise saying of Solomon. Lois and Eunice had trained Timothy in the scriptures and the true faith in Christ, and Paul reminds him to hold fast to this training and to the faith he has been given. As you and I consider this proverb, we should consider it with Paul’s trustworthy saying from 2 Timothy 2:11-13 in mind:

The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;
if we endure, we will also reign with him;
if we deny him, he also will deny us;
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
for he cannot deny himself.

The proverb is not a promise, but this is. You and I have that stern warning: deny Christ and he will deny us. You and I and our children can deny the Way of the cross. We can turn away from Christ and depart him. But that isn’t the end. Because even with such a harsh warning, you have a promise: if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for your Lord Jesus cannot deny Himself. This is the heart of the gospel. This is the beating heart of the hope you have in Christ. The Way, Jesus Christ, will never depart from you. Even if you are faithless, He remains faithful. Even if you deny Him, He will pursue you and try to restore you. You can trust Jesus to keep his promises.

“Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” It isn’t a game plan for perfect children. It isn’t a promise. It is not where you and I place our trust. But, through your Lord Jesus and by the work of the Spirit in us, you and I can train up our children and ourselves in the Way. We can build good Christian habits and Godly disciplines that return us again and again to the Word of God. You and I can prepare ourselves and our children for a lifetime of following Jesus, and when we grow old, we can trust that Jesus will not depart from us.

Pastor Schultz

Mercy and Grace Lead to Generosity Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift” (2 Cor. 9:15)! This is St. Paul’s exclamation upon hearing the Corinthian church’s response to the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his request for support for the church in Jerusalem. The Christians in Corinth heard and received God’s mercy in Christ, and they responded to St. Paul’s call to support Christians in Jerusalem with a collection. The Corinthians’ joy filled Jerusalem’s need.

This is the reality of stewardship. Because of God’s generosity in the giving of His Son to die on the cross for us, we are to be generous with all that we receive from Him. What do we receive? Everything. All that we are and all that we have is the Lord’s. He is the creator and the giver. We are His creatures and those who receive what He gives.

It sounds easy. And it is. But then again it isn’t. Stewardship is easy because it is God’s work. Through what God gives, we give to others. Through what God gives, we support the work of the church for the life of the world. He gives; we receive. And like our generous Father in Heaven, we, as His children, use what He gives to us to love and serve others.

But stewardship is also difficult. That is because it goes against our natural inclination to think that what I have is mine to do what I want with. This is our sinful nature. It is our selfishness and our greed. How can we who have been given everything — life, food, clothing, house, home, forgiveness, divine sonship, an eternal inheritance — be so stingy with what we give to the church, the place where we hear about and receive all that God gives us and does for us? We are all guilty of this kind of thinking. And the only godly response is to repent and trust in the Gospel.

For if God has given you His own Son, will He not give you all things? Yes. He will. This is His sure and certain promise. God provides for His people. He provides everything we need for this body and life and for the life that is to come.

The church is a mercy place. It’s a place where God’s mercy in the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, is given and received. For us who believe it means forgiveness, life and salvation in the face of sin, death and the power of the devil. Here in the church, we inhale God’s mercy in Word and Sacrament, and exhale this same mercy in love and service to our neighbor. And that is an enduring, joyful thing to do. Our joy fills our neighbor’s need because His joy filled ours (Heb. 12:2). Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

AUGUST BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

LAKAMP, David P. (David)	1-Aug
LITTLE, Janette L.	1-Aug
WATKINS, Jordan A.	1-Aug
WEST, Melvin	1-Aug
QUIGG, Don B.	2-Aug
WILEY, Morgan E.	2-Aug
DIMMICK, Samuel C.	3-Aug
WARD, Daniel J.	3-Aug
MAGELITZ, Carleen D.	4-Aug
DOYLE, Karen L.	5-Aug
TROWBRIDGE, Michael E.	5-Aug
GOODWIN, Gary	6-Aug
KORDING, Gabriel B.	6-Aug
ECKHOFF, Kevin R.	7-Aug
Frazier, Carsyn R.	7-Aug
MCCLELLAN, Tyler J.	8-Aug
POWELL, Melanie A.	9-Aug
SANDOVAL, Bernice E.	9-Aug
DEVLIN, Karole L.	10-Aug
GARRETT, Jason A.	10-Aug
HANNANT, Marcia	10-Aug
VORTMAN, Gary J.	10-Aug
WHEELER, Joni K.	11-Aug
REEVES, Debbra D. (Debbie)	12-Aug
SCHUMACHER, Bennett W.	12-Aug
HACKETT, Rachel N.	13-Aug
JARMAN, Stephanie L.	13-Aug
Schultz, Rev. Jonah	13-Aug
WHITE, Andrea	13-Aug
WHITE, Rachel D.	13-Aug
WILEY, Mary	13-Aug
SHOEMAKER, Serenity M.	14-Aug
MCCOMBS, Kerry G.	16-Aug
WIEGAND, Jason T. (JT)	16-Aug
LOVEKAMP, Mark E.	17-Aug
SALCIDO, William H.	17-Aug
WERRIES, John R.	17-Aug
STEINACHER, Amelia I.	18-Aug
VALENTINE, Kelsey M.	18-Aug
WANKEL, Lori L.	18-Aug
MILLER, Taylor	19-Aug
BROWN, Carver	21-Aug
BRUNE, Sherri L.	21-Aug
STEINACHER, Deborah M.	21-Aug
STOCK, RODNEY L.	21-Aug
BUTCHER, Sarah N.	22-Aug
LOCKEY, Vickie J.	22-Aug

PAHLMANN, Phyllicia S.	22-Aug
WALKER, Connie L.	22-Aug
WARE, Cheryl L.	23-Aug
BUTCHER, Nicholas W. (Nick)	24-Aug
CRIM, Louella M.	24-Aug
NEWMAN, Grace E.	24-Aug
NEWMAN, Keegan W.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Evan S.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Owen J.	24-Aug
THRASHER, Timothy W.	24-Aug
TROYER, Amy L.	24-Aug
ZIMMER, Gary J.	24-Aug
GOODING, Kash L.	25-Aug
HUTCHISON, Joy A.	25-Aug
JACHINO, Corey A.	25-Aug
LEISCHNER, William L. (Luke)	25-Aug
RUYLE, Alexia F.	26-Aug
STUCKER, Kalie E.	26-Aug
LIETZ, HEIDI	28-Aug
STRUBBE, Linda G.	28-Aug
EVANS, Jennifer M.	30-Aug
LUKEMAN, John C. (Christopher)	31-Aug
PETERSON, Brittany N.	31-Aug

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

REMINDERS: DON'T ASSUME that Pastor knows when you are hospitalized. Please call the Church Office 243-3419 to let us know when you enter the hospital.

DOORBELL DINNERS: Our next assigned week is September 2-6. Call Rita Tendick at 217-473-5017 to volunteer.

GREETERS WANTED: The Evangelism committee is looking for volunteers to be Greeters at the Sunday morning Worship Service. You will need to be here by 8:30 am. If you would be interested, please contact Paul Reither, (217)-248-0550 Thank you.

RADIO OPENING: Salem Lutheran is in search of volunteers that would like to learn how to broadcast our services. If you would be interested in the opportunity to do that or would just like to see if you would enjoy doing this, please see Kevin Eckhoff. He would be willing to let you sit in and check it out. Any volunteers would be greatly appreciated. An opportunity to learn something new and help Salem out. Thank you.

COMMITTEES: We are looking for individuals to be on our committees. We have several committees that need adding to the committee. If you would like to join the committee, please talk with Kevin Eckhoff. He will provide you with the available committees and what openings Salem has. Please be a part of the solution at Salem. Thank you

PORK CHOP AND SWEET CORN SUPPER: There will be a Pork Chop and Sweet Corn Supper held on Saturday, August 3rd from 4 pm to 7 pm in the Salem Cafeteria. The menu is Pork Chops, Sweet Corn, Baked Beans, Tomatoes, Applesauce, Dessert and Beverage. Free Will Donation. Please plan on attending. Thank you

LFL STATE CONFERENCE: Lutherans for Life is hosting a State Conference on August 24th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Eureka, IL. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Information and registration forms are in the narthex. Thank you!

SWADDLING CLOTHES – is looking for a volunteer who can assist between shopping days with package diapers, displaying donated or purchased items, and preparing for the shopping days. Please contact Deaconess Linda Strubbe if you are available to assist. Thank you

THANK YOU: Thank you for your gifts to the Seminary Food Bank during the ingathering in June. We have sent a check to them for \$725.00 to help replenish food items in their food bank. The Salem Ladies Guild appreciates your assistance and generous gifts this year.

THANK YOU: I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to God, Pastor Schultz and all of you for prayers & encouragement following my heart attack on July 20th. Paster Riemer & Judy

MARKETING ACCOUNT: The Marketing account is used for Facebook advertising to the Community for Salem Lutheran School. The account has a negative balance of roughly \$13,000. Would you pray about if and maybe donate an amount you feel is right towards this deficiency? Thank You

ROOF TOP AIR: We are receiving bids to replace our 30-year-old air conditioner. It is on its last leg and we need to replace it. Please consider donating to the cause. Thank you, The Property Committee.

LADIES GUILD: As a little help for our school, the Ladies' Guild is collecting school supplies for the classrooms throughout the month of August. A collection box will be in the narthex along with a list of suggested items. Thank you for considering a donation – God bless.

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: Please join us for Salem Family Fun Night: Back to School Ice Cream Social. This time of fellowship will include sorbet, root beer floats and sundaes. See the classrooms, meet the teachers and visit with the Paw Patrol Characters!!! See you there on Monday, August 12 from 5-7 pm in the cafeteria.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING & TRAINING: There will be a meeting and training for the Altar Guild on Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to come!

ST. JOHN'S FISH FRY – Monday, August 19, 4:30 - 7 pm, at St. John's Lutheran of rural Bath. The menu: Breaded Walleye, Catfish fillets, Chicken Strips and Home fries as well as Cole Slaw, Baked Beans and desserts all for a donation of your choice. Funds raised will be given to Swaddling Clothes Ministry of Salem Lutheran in Jacksonville. Thank you, Pastor Brian Lesemann St. John's, Bath, Salem, Chandlerville.

THANK YOU: We would like to thank all volunteers that helped at the Morgan County Fair. The weather was hot, but everyone pitched in and we were able to pass out popcorn and information about our school. Everyone had a good time. Thanks!

THANK YOU: The property committee would like to thank all who came to help spread out the mulch on the playground. It looks great and we want to thank you all. We can't do it without all of you. Thanks again.

WORK PROGRAM

Fiscal Year 8/31/2023 – 07/31/2024

(From 8/31/2022 Treasurer's Report)

CURRENT FINANCIAL

INDEBTEDNESS

7/31/23		5/31/2024
	Farmers State Bank Line of Credit	
\$0.00		\$0.00
	Internal Loan from Restricted	
\$63,725.00		\$0.00
	LEAP	
\$621,483.94		\$499,483.40

Financial Status Report for May, 2024

Our total operating needs monthly:	\$ 59,549.42
Our operating receipts May 2024:	\$ 40,638.83
Our total operating needs YTD:	\$646,178.20
Our total operating receipts YTD:	\$607,536.55
Our Shortfall or Excess YTD:	\$(18,874.34)