

# Christian MONTHLY

DEDICATED TO THE PROCLAMATION  
OF THE WORD OF GOD



Psalm 119:105  
Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
and a light unto my path.

November 2013

## Behold the Lamb of God

*Cal Niemela  
Chassell, Michigan*

God sent His prophets long ago  
To preach His Word, His will to show.

God's chosen people, Abram's seed,  
Rebelled and turned, they did not heed.

Worldly pleasures, sights and sounds,  
Carnal love did there abound.

He called them to repent and turn,  
But they said, "No!" His love they spurned.

Faithless hearts and sinful deeds,  
Soon brought this nation to its knees.

Sin promised freedom, joy, delight,  
But iron shackles held them tight,

In death's dark shadow they did sit,  
Instead of joy a miry pit.

Here they were, a sorry sight,  
Their day, bright day, was turned to night.

Then at last the Light did shine,  
The Savior came to save mankind.

He spoke sweet words of saving grace,  
Revealed God's love to Adam's race.

Some believed His Word, His tender voice,  
It touched their hearts, they did rejoice.

Others scorned, they jeered and mocked,  
The seeds of grace fell on the rocks.

With a proud, stiff neck and a heart of stone,  
They would not yield to His loving tones.

Proud, hateful, bitter, jealous and vain,  
The unrepentant felt no pain.

When the Word of truth they would hear no more,  
To Golgotha the cross He bore.

And on Calvary's tree He was hung to die,  
Like the "Brazen Serpent" set up high.

The Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ,  
The Son of God would pay sin's price.

From noon till three He writhed in pain,  
An awful price to rid sin's stain.

Then amid the ranting, shouts and stares,  
God came down and could not bear

To look upon His beloved Son,  
For He now was "sin," the ugly one.

He turned His face, the day was night,  
The rocks they shook with dreadful might.

Then Jesus cried—how can it be—  
"My God, Thou hast forsaken Me?"

With one last breath and weary sigh  
The Lamb of God was left to die.

But all the world that watched that day,  
Heard the blessed Savior say...

**"It is finished!"**

Now your sin debt's paid,  
Your path to Heaven's an open way.

Then someone from the temple sent  
To tell the people, "The veil's been rent!"

That Holy Place, the Mercy Seat,  
Now man with God by grace could meet.

But there's more to tell of this story dear,  
The Christ of God had more to bear.

Dead and buried in a tomb,  
Those who loved Him sat in gloom.

But while they wept to hell He went,  
To taste its pain our Lord was sent.

There death was conquered for you and me,  
He then arose triumphantly.

Mary was the first to know,  
The risen Lord His hands did show.

This woman spread the joyful news  
They all rejoiced, and their faith it grew.

Now with joyful hearts and a happy song,  
Hear the swelling chorus of the blood-bought throng.

Peace with God, a blessed state!  
And a living hope at Heaven's gate. ~

# The Truth Will Make You Free!

Pastor Elmer Yliniemi  
Wolf Lake, Minnesota

"I PROMISE TO TELL THE TRUTH, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God." These words are spoken



by witnesses in a court of law with one hand placed on the Bible. Unfortunately many still lie even after this oath. Some high-ranking individuals in politics and business who are caught and found guilty are punished by the law.

The early church already faced the same evil, soon after Pentecost. *But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? (Acts 5:1-3)* Ananias and Sapphira were found guilty of lying. They thought they were lying to Apostle Peter and the believers in Jerusalem but Peter says ...*thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:4)*

Truth is one of the attributes of God! Jesus says, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)* Jesus also says of Himself, *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)* When we lie, we offend God and someday each of us will give an account of ourselves before God (Romans 14:12).

We don't know much about this couple whose names were Ananias and Sapphira. We are told that Satan had filled their hearts to lie to the Holy Ghost. Even as believers, Satan tries to make us stumble, for there is no truth in him. Satan is the father of lies! Jesus says in *John 8:44: Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* These words were spoken to the Jews which believed on Him (John 8:31). Peter gives this warning to the Christians of his day, and to us today: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)* Paul tells us Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14).

What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Were they greedy? Were they stingy? Their sin was lying to God and God's people by trying to make themselves appear more generous than they really were. We all know that certain

actions are considered good and bring the praise of men which our flesh seeks. Why was their punishment so harsh? Who of us today would be alive if we were punished by death for every untruth uttered because

we wanted to appear better than we really are? Lying and hypocrisy can destroy the church by preventing the Holy Spirit from working. It also destroys our testimony about Christ. An example had to be set for the early church that it must be founded on the truth. This lie was not from fear of consequences or even an overwhelming temptation. There was no command that they had to sell their land and give everything. It was a deliberate act of hypocrisy in which they agreed to do something that would appear like something it was not.

The church is made up of sinners. We daily sin in thought and deed because we are sinners in need of a Savior. Jeremiah already tells us, *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9)* When we recognize our sin, we can rejoice that the Gospel about God's great mercy toward us through the blood of Christ can cleanse and renew us.

But the warning is given to us to be children of truth. John writes, *I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. (1 John 2:21)* Paul writes to the Roman Christians, *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (Romans 6:1-2)* For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (John 1:17) For Apostle John, grace and truth go hand in hand.

God's boundless grace does not wipe out the attribute of truth. We live in a highly competitive world and are tempted to not tell the whole truth so we can gain the upper hand in our situation. The gains we make from lying are not worth much, compared to the blessings received from telling the truth. When we tell the truth we are never trapped in a lie. We don't need a good memory if we tell the truth. If you have a habit of stretching the truth, being untruthful in little things or have deceived someone, confess it to that person and to God and put it away in the precious name and blood of Jesus Christ. It may be humbling, but it is the first step to restoring integrity in your life.

*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. (John 8:32) ~*

TO CERTAIN AND BELOVED HOLY MEN, as Moses and Daniel, there had been vouchsafed some appearance of God. But all this is a widely different thing from beholding GOD AS HE IS. There is not the slightest hint anywhere in Scripture that any creature has ever yet beheld God in *all His beauty, in all His glory, and in all His fullness*, so as He yet shall be seen and only can be seen in the face of Jesus Christ. Only in Christ can God the Father be seen. It is an error to suppose that God ever will or can be seen apart from Christ. *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9)*

William Lincoln



# Thank You, Lord

Pastor Charles A. Bergstedt  
Plymouth, Minnesota

**Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

**Philippians 4:6**

**T**HANK YOU! How hard is it for us to say this simple little phrase in life? We struggle because we do not want to admit that we desire help—and frankly need it—at times. These are words we need to learn, for in them we encourage and acknowledge another who has by the grace of God helped us.

We do not deserve things in life and we should not expect things from others. Unfortunately, we have become a society who thinks we are owed something in some form or another. We do not acknowledge the fact that God works through people (even us) and helps us to see another in need. Are we paying heed to the Spirit when He calls us out to help another or do we laugh and say they had it coming?

We are at times not in tune with God. When this is the case we become self-involved and miss the cries and yearnings of another. Have you ever been so clueless in a situation that you miss someone who is asking for help because your mind is selfishly focusing on your own problems? I have and I am frustrated as a pastor when I miss things! The reality I find is that I want to fix or cure a situation and God wants me to shut up and just listen.

*Lord, teach us to pray even before a situation comes up, so that we are in tune with You and therefore in tune with our neighbor who might be in need. As we see in the wisdom of Solomon, "Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?" (Proverbs 20:24)*

We say we love God but our actions do not reflect the love of Jesus Christ in our hearts! We worry and question and say, "How can it be so, Lord?" When in fact it is so because He is God and we need to allow our cares to be the cares of God. "Teach me to seek out Your face, O Lord, and the ways of righteousness!" If we desire the things of God, we will stand back and serve Him by serving His people! We will learn to listen to others and allow them to share and serve in manners that God has taught them. We will refrain from boasting about what we have done and point rather to what God has done. Are we so self-righteous that we have forgotten to thank God and others? Do we expect without asking and demand without grace? We are a foolish people when we have become so self-conscious that we neglect God and our neighbor.

We need the Word of God because we need reproof! We tell ourselves, "I do not want to hear that part of the Scripture because it hurts my feelings!" It is time that we get over ourselves and place God in His rightful position! We have taken the Word of God and thrown it out the window because we do not want to deal with our sinfulness and neglect. We would rather hear the words of someone who pats our back and tells us it will be all right than listen to the fact that it isn't all right. We need to hear that we are sinful and wrong at times.

*Thank You, Lord, that You are always right and know when to bring us back down to earth. Teach us to pray and seek You in all matters with thanksgiving because You have indeed granted us all that we need.*

We have reason for hope and joy today because we worship a risen Savior, Jesus Christ! May the Lord richly bless you and yours in this time of Thanksgiving. ~

**It is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night.**

**Psalms 92:1-2**

**T**HE BIBLE TEACHES THAT AS a body of believers we should be thankful. *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (Colossians 3:15)*

In good times and bad times we should always give thanks. *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)*

We should thank Him with words that are spoken. *By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. (Hebrews 13:15)*

Ben Franklin told this story from New England history: "In a time of great despondency among the first settlers of New England, it was proposed in one of their assemblies to proclaim a fast. An old farmer arose, reviewed their mercies, and proposed that, instead of provoking Heaven with their complaints, they appoint a day of thanksgiving."—Millard A. Jenkins, *Special Day Sermons* (Broadman Press), pp. 104, 105. This was accordingly done, and the custom has been continued ever since.

In spite of troubles and trials, let us continually thank and praise Him. ~



Pastor Mark Matson  
Pasco, Washington

# A Chosen Vessel

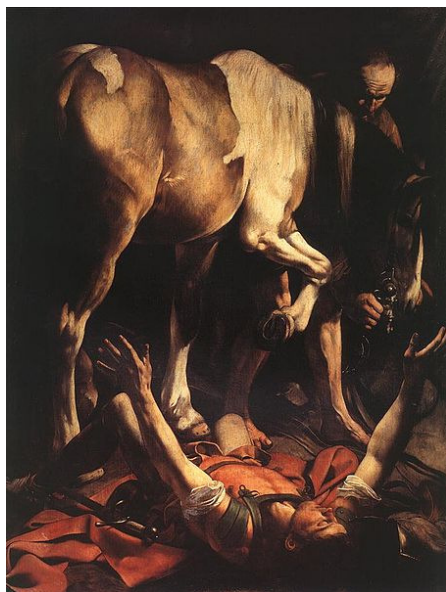
The Acts of the Apostles, chapter 9

Lois Matson  
Yacolt, Washington

**S**aul of Tarsus was a young, devout Jewish man, born of the tribe of Benjamin. He studied with the greatest teacher of his time, and he obeyed the Law perfectly. But Saul was not a Christian. In fact, he hated Christians. He watched as some of his friends stoned Stephen, the first Christian martyr, to death. Saul tried to destroy the Church, dragging men and women out of their homes and putting them in prison. He threatened to slaughter the disciples of the Lord. Finally, Saul went to the high priest and asked permission to go to Damascus and arrest anyone who believed in Jesus and bring them back in chains to Jerusalem.

**But God had a different plan for Saul.**

As Saul and his companions traveled the Damascus road, suddenly a bright light from heaven shone all around Saul. Falling to the ground, he heard a voice say, "Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting Me?" Saul said, "Who are you, Lord?" The Lord answered, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting!" Shocked and shaking, Saul asked, "What should I do?" The Lord said, "Get up and go into the city. You will be told what you must do." Saul's friends stood there speechless, because they heard the voice but they didn't see anyone. Saul rose from the ground, but he was blind! Saul's friends led him into Damascus. For three days Saul waited, and he did not eat or drink anything.



"The Conversion on the Way to Damascus" by Caravaggio

**A**nanias was a disciple in Damascus. The Lord called him in a vision, "Ananias!" He replied, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said, "Get up and go to a house on Strait Street. Ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, because he is praying. He has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay hands on him so that he will regain his sight."

Ananias was dismayed and he said, "Lord, I've heard much about this man named Saul. He has done many evil things against Your saints in Jerusalem. He has permission from the chief priests to bind anyone here who calls on Your name!" The Lord answered Ananias, "Go! He is a chosen vessel to Me, to carry My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of My name."

So Ananias went to the house where Saul waited. Laying his hands on him, Ananias said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here has sent me so that you will regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see! He got up and was baptized. And when Saul had eaten some food, he was strengthened.

Saul spent several days in Damascus with the disciples, preaching in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God. Those who heard him were amazed, saying, "Isn't this the man who destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on the name of Jesus? Didn't he come here to bring them bound to the chief priests?" But Saul increased in strength and confounded the Jewish people who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ, the Anointed One of God.

**God had chosen Saul to preach the name of Jesus in many lands. Rich and poor, strong and weak, kings and commoners, heard the wonderful Gospel of Jesus from the lips of Saul, whose name God changed to Paul. We call him "Apostle Paul." He wrote 13 books in the New Testament! ~**

## The Twelve Apostles

**Name Scramble** See Matthew 10:2-4 for help

\_\_\_\_\_ IMOSN

*The Zealot*

\_\_\_\_\_ EMJSA

*A son of Zebedee*

\_\_\_\_\_ DHTSAEUD

*Surname of Lebbaeus*

\_\_\_\_\_ LAMOHTOWEBR

*Sometimes called Nathanael*

\_\_\_\_\_ TSHAMO

*The doubting one*

\_\_\_\_\_ MASEJ

*Son of Alphaeus*

\_\_\_\_\_ HTTWAEM

*A tax collector*

\_\_\_\_\_ NWREAD

*The brother of Peter*

\_\_\_\_\_ MSNIO TPREE

*Denied Jesus*

\_\_\_\_\_ PLHIPI

*Told Nathanael about Jesus*

\_\_\_\_\_ NJOH

*The brother of James*

\_\_\_\_\_ SJAUD IATOC SIR

*Betrayed Jesus*

# The Orphan's Plea

Alvar Helmes  
Battle Ground, Washington

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Matthew 25:40

**M**ISSION & WELFARE INTERNATIONAL (previously Mission and Welfare Society—India) helps orphans in several countries by providing food, clothing, education, and housing. In India, the Mission Hospital provides assistance for 499 orphans through local Christian families and churches. These orphans have lost both parents, mostly from HIV/AIDS. Their support is provided by donations from friends in America and other countries.

It is estimated there are more than 150 million children in the world who have lost one or both parents. The following poem about the life of orphans in many countries shows the plight of these poor and destitute children.

*Rejected. Hungry. Poor. Lonely.  
An outcast in my own country.  
Despised. Without hope.  
The lowest of the lowly.*

*They came to our village  
Looking to help children like me.  
Could I possibly be chosen?  
"No, maybe next time; we'll see!"*

*I waited and waited  
To be saved from starvation.  
One by one my friends died.  
"Will I be the next one?"*

*Then they came a second time.  
Surely now they'll tell me okay!  
But yet again, they said,  
"Sorry. No room for you today."*

*There are millions just like me,  
Waiting for help – from where?  
Won't you help me find a home?  
This is my earnest prayer.*

*At last the time came for me  
To be away from this life's strife.  
Now I am happy to have a home  
Away from the dangers in life.*

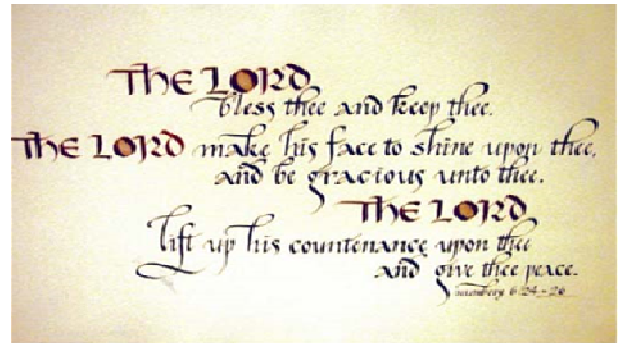


Photo courtesy of [www.missionwi.org](http://www.missionwi.org)

\$30/month will provide the basic necessities for an orphan placed in a Christian home or church in India. Please visit [www.missionwi.org](http://www.missionwi.org), or contact Mission & Welfare International, PO Box 1135, Battle Ground, WA 98604. ~

# Benediction

Walter Ketola  
Asheboro, North Carolina



**W**E FIND THIS WONDROUS BLESSING, for the word *benediction* means *blessing*, in the early pages of the Scripture. But what does "bless" mean? In its origin it means "mark so as to hallow with blood." Once again, as is true throughout the Word, we discover the "crimson thread" of blood. As it is written, *For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. (Leviticus 17:11)* Thus the benediction, this wondrous blessing that is pronounced upon the congregation, is steeped in blood.

I have found that too often I have only focused on the blessing while overlooking the keeping. A child of God needs both: the blessing he seeks for the moment, and the continuous keeping upon the way of life. The sweet Psalmist of Israel pleaded: *Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings. (Psalm 17:8)*

This same David tells us in *Psalm 34:5: They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.* Yes, when they beheld the Lord they were enlightened, and this is what we twice plead in the benediction; first that "the LORD make his face shine upon" us, and then that "the LORD lift up his countenance upon" us.

In return, we also are to look. We are to remember how the murmuring Israelites were attacked by venomous serpents sent by God for their thanklessness and rebellion. Their cry for help was heard in heaven and thus God instructed Moses to fashion a brazen serpent and place it upon a pole. To be healed all that the people had to do was look at it. In the same vein John the Baptist declared: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." We see the reflection of this looking when the face and countenance of God shines and is lifted toward us.

It has been our practice to pronounce the benediction at the end of a service or sacrament. But perhaps at times we should consider proclaiming it at the beginning of a service. Or whenever we pray, let us incorporate it as an intercessory prayer for others as well as for ourselves. *Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. (Psalm 103:1) ~*

# Simple Childlike Faith

Mark Sunnarborg  
Rhineland, Wisconsin

**W**E MUST HAVE THE CORRECT BALANCE in our understanding of the Word of God—the complete structure of God's Word—so as believers we don't fall from grace in believing the lies of Satan. Let us consider what this means as the Word itself explains. Remember living faith is never to get so complicated; even a child is able to believe with simple faith.

Justification is by faith and faith alone. We can add nothing to being justified before God. You may ask where this faith comes from. Living faith comes from God. He imparts grace to believe in the work He has done in redeeming the world of sin. Our understanding needs to be firm on the foundation of Jesus Christ and what He taught: justification, sanctification, redemption and righteousness is by faith and faith alone.

## WHAT IS FAITH?

Simply trusting God in all things and not looking to our own understanding; believing God and moving forward in life trusting Him even when we may not fully understand. This is our faith in action, the evidence that we are the children of God. These are the fruits of faith. God gives faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

So that faith would come to the believer's ear and abide in his heart, the one who is sent out is to preach what Jesus Himself said in *Luke 24:47: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* The one called to preach is sent of God because he has entered the kingdom of God through the door Jesus Christ and His Gospel of the forgiveness of sins.

When this preaching reaches the contrite and broken spirit, then living faith can enter the cleansed heart. Now we can stand before God justified, cleansed, made pure and holy in His sight. The sprinkling of the blood of the Lamb is required that death would not have power over us and our victory over sin would be complete. The work on the cross that Jesus bore was the final payment for all sins past, present and future. We will find complete restoration in body, soul and mind under the sprinkling of this blood.

We will find complete victory over sin and death. Man finds himself under the curse that the law brings to all who transgress against it, for the power of sin is the law. It holds such power that man is unable to walk according to

the will of God, and unbelief takes root in the heart. Sin's power has such a hold that man is unable to find power over sin if he looks within himself; man then is bound in sin. We as mankind are without hope if we do not have Jesus and His righteousness which is by faith. If we want to find true peace of mind we must find complete victory over sin, or we will be destroyed by sin's power over us.

What then, do we look within ourselves or do we trust in the promise of God that when He has cast our sins into the sea of grace He remembers them no more? We can find great comfort in knowing that Jesus took the judgment for our sins. We can enter into heaven knowing our sins are not accounted unto us and God remembers them no more; they are covered under the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus to every believing heart. Jesus took upon Himself the curse of the law and broke the power of sin's hold on our lives.

Please don't deny what the Word of God has recorded. All who have entered into the kingdom through the door Jesus Christ believe what He alone has done and taught. Repentance and the remission of sins through the blood of Jesus is not of works but is the gift of God, given of His grace to all who come to Him in repentance seeking forgiveness of sins and who daily seek His kingdom. I pray God will open your understanding so that you could believe all that Jesus has said, done and taught.

Consider predestination, keeping in mind that God is all-knowing. From the beginning He knows all things past, present and future. If you believe in the redemptive work of Jesus and have the testimony of the Holy Spirit within you, then it is predestined that in believing you have life eternal and will be with all the saints in heaven forever. This is the promise of God: *whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:15) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:54)*

We believe this by faith; this simple faith justifies us before our Father in heaven. This simple faith produces the righteousness of God, not the righteousness that stems from within man. When I look, I see as through a glass dimly; but with the eyes of faith I see my Lord and Savior clearer than before I believed, knowing heaven is but a heartbeat away. We are God's and not our own; He has purchased us and we should not be ashamed to proclaim this Gospel. Justification is by faith, righteousness is by faith and believing is by faith. This faith is the gift of God's grace.

We should never deny our Lord Jesus and His Word by denying that sins are forgiven in His name and in His blood. We should never be ashamed of the message of the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name and blood as the means of redemption and reconciliation with God, through repentance and simple childlike faith.

May the riches of God's blessings be yours this fall season and throughout the year. ~



# Giving Thanks

Pastor Jim Maunu  
Vancouver, Washington



November is the month we come together to give thanks as a nation and people for the harvest. In giving of thanks, people will put aside their differences and realize the goodness of God is great. However, to have a continual spirit of gratitude can be more difficult. *Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:20)*

We are called upon as believers to not be intoxicated with things that are temporary or harmful to us. This is artificial and will not bring lasting gratitude. The Lord has given lavishly to us all. *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (fit) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (Colossians 1:12)* Paul writes, *How that in a great trial of affliction (much trouble) the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality. (2 Corinthians 8:2)*

A thankful heart helps us in our lives and in our homes. It enhances a marriage and relationships on the job. Thankfulness enables people to live together more effectively, love one another and fulfill our responsibilities to one another in our families. Thankfulness is an inner recognition and acknowledgement of the grace of God in our lives. *Hebrews 13:15* gives us permission to *...offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*

**Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

**Colossians 3:12-17**

## 2014 ALCA Convention

The Hockinson congregation invites you to attend the 106th Annual Convention of the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America. Devotional Services will be held Thursday, July 10th through Sunday, July 13th, 2014 at the Skyview High School in Vancouver, Washington. Further information such as lodging, etc. is available on the ALC of America's website **alconvention.com**. We will post any further information on that website as it becomes available.

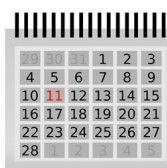
We pray for God's blessings as we organize this event and look forward to this time of fellowship.

Pastor Ron Holmgren  
and the 2014 Convention Committee

## 2014 ALCA Calendars

You may now order the Apostolic Lutheran Church calendar for the year 2014. The price for each calendar is \$5.50 to cover the cost of printing and mailing.

Do not send your payment with your order. An invoice will be included with the shipment for payment to be mailed to the Federation treasurer.



Please send your order by:  
Email: [alc\\_calendars@mac.com](mailto:alc_calendars@mac.com)  
Telephone: 925-454-1648  
Mail: Corrie Karlsen, 2994 Rodeo Lane,  
Livermore, CA 94550  
Corrie Karlsen, ALC Calendar Committee

**Christian Monthly** Vol. LXIX—No. 11

Subscription Rate: 1 Year

US: \$12 (Washington residents add your local sales tax)

Canada: \$18 (US money order only) Foreign: \$25

Send **articles for publication** to:  
Lois Matson, Editor  
Email: [cm@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:cm@apostoliclutheran.org)  
Phone: (360) 904-6951  
Postal Mail to:  
CHRISTIAN MONTHLY  
PO Box 2996  
Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA

Address **subscriptions, payments, and Book Concern** orders to:  
Anders & Clara Sundqvist, Managers  
THE BOOK CONCERN  
PO Box 2126  
Battle Ground, WA 98604 USA  
Phone: (360) 896-7344  
Email: [books@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:books@apostoliclutheran.org)

**Apostolic Lutheran Church of America**  
[www.apostoliclutheran.org](http://www.apostoliclutheran.org)

Western Mission: [western@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:western@apostoliclutheran.org)

Eastern Mission: [eastern@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:eastern@apostoliclutheran.org)

Foreign Mission: [foreign@apostoliclutheran.org](mailto:foreign@apostoliclutheran.org)

The *Christian Monthly* (ISSN 0009-5494) is published monthly for \$12 per year by the Apostolic Lutheran Book Concern, 19113 NE 144th Street, Brush Prairie, WA 98606. Periodical permit paid in Brush Prairie, Washington.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: PO Box 2126, Battle Ground, WA 98604

**General Disclaimer:** The material in the *Christian Monthly* is reviewed for scriptural soundness and to ensure that it does not conflict with the teachings of the ALCA. Publication does not imply that other material by included authors has been so approved.



**HAVE YOU MOVED?** Please notify the Book Concern of address changes. We must pay return postage on undelivered mail.

## God Is True

Pastor Jay Weidner  
Laurium, Michigan

*For all the saints, who from their labours rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,  
Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blessed. Alleluia, Alleluia!* ~William Walsham How

*Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*Hebrews 12:1-2*

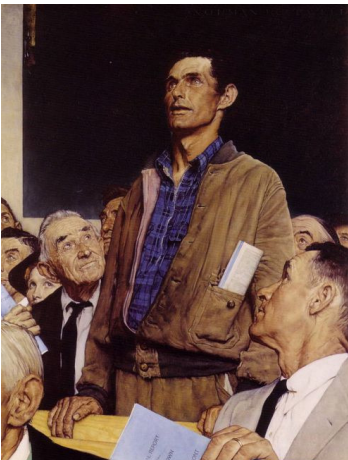
**T**HE SCRIPTURE MAKES IT CLEAR that we are a consecrated band of followers of our Lord Jesus Christ who washed in His precious blood emerge spotless and blameless in His sight, a sanctified host of the faithful. In the month of November we begin with All Hallows recounting this simple fact. We are justified by our God by His grace received in the gift of faith. Simple, that is true, yet complex beyond any measure when plumbed to its depths. It is, as a matter of fact, so incredibly difficult for humans to grasp that it seems almost to be a lie. Martin Luther expresses this idea in his commentary on Psalm 117 where he speaks of God's Word in our way of thinking appearing as if it were a lie and God Himself appearing then as a liar, even as the devil. Luther simply meant that the grace of God is so immense that by nature the human being can neither comprehend nor believe it. Therefore we begin to seek our works and other means to try to justify ourselves; it simply cannot be that God justifies us freely by His grace. So by our own reason we make God's clear proclamation to appear untrue and make God to be His opposite.

Yet the Spirit of God testifies to the truth of God's Word, the truth we cling to by faith that God's Word is true even if every person is a liar. God has justified us freely by His grace! Even if every human institution speak in contrary fashion, God's Word remains true. We are redeemed, we are washed, and the blood of Jesus Christ does indeed cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

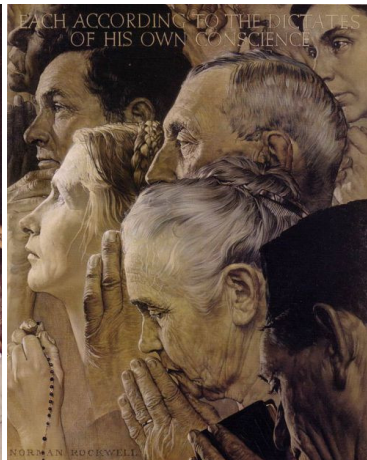
For this reason we do not look within ourselves for the truth but rather have our gaze fixed on Jesus who begins and finishes our faith. We look to no other but by the Spirit cling to Him alone, He who endured the cross and rose from the grave and sent His Spirit to testify with our spirits that we are the children of God. May we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus all our days. The blessing of our Lord be upon all of you. ~

## Thank You, Lord!

*Four Freedoms*, by Norman Rockwell, *The Saturday Evening Post*, 1943



*Freedom of Speech*



*Freedom of Worship*



*Freedom from Want*



*Freedom from Fear*