



Having a hard time falling asleep?

Bob Wallace, played by Bing Crosby sings a song called “Count Your Blessings” to Betty Haynes, played by Rosemary Clooney in the movie White Christmas.

The song goes like this:

“When I'm worried and I can't sleep, I count my blessings instead of sheep
And I fall asleep counting my blessings.
When my bankroll is getting small, I think of when I had none at all
And I fall asleep counting my blessings.
I think about a nursery and I picture curly heads, and one by one I count them as they slumber
in their beds
If you're worried and you can't sleep; just count your blessings instead of sheep
And you'll fall asleep counting your blessings.”

The Apostle Paul wrote this to the Philippians, “Don’t worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart. And God’s peace, which is far beyond human understanding, will keep your hearts and minds safe in union with Christ Jesus.”

And after we count our blessings it is important that we give thanks to the One from Whom they come.

And giving thanks doesn’t just mean having a warm, fuzzy feeling; giving thanks is an action. It’s something you do. It involves some effort.

In the Gospels there is a story of the ten lepers who were healed, but only one of them came back and gave thanks. Does that mean the other nine were ungrateful? Not necessarily. They might have been just as grateful, but they didn’t do anything about it.

So, if you have trouble sleeping, before you go to sleep tonight, or in the morning when as the sun comes up, or in the line at the grocery store, or while you are waiting in a traffic, take the time to count your blessings, and name them one by one and give thanks with a grateful heart.

Join us for the Thanksgiving Eve Service on Wednesday, November 24th at 6:30 PM
Very Grateful to be your Pastor,
Ray

Deacon's Digest

It is 1945, a 39-year-old Lutheran Pastor is a prisoner of State in a cell in a concentration camp near FlossenberG Germany. The Pastor knows his chances of getting out alive are slim because he had taken a stand for the removal of the Nazi Dictator of Germany, Adolph Hitler. The Pastor, named Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was a brilliant PhD and a strong theologian. He was arrested and imprisoned in 1943 for public remarks against Hitler; was later implicated in the assassination attempt on Hitler by Count Von Stauffenberg in July 1944; and was executed by the Reich in April, 1945. Even though he feels he is doomed, he continued with his work for our Lord: A Pastoral Ministry in the prison and he worked on his book, Life Together upon which this column is based.

Bonhoeffer's time in prison was spent with men and women of many nationalities, mainly European and British. One of these prisoners was a British Officer who wrote: "Bonhoeffer always seemed to spread an atmosphere of happiness and joy over the least incident and profound gratitude for the mere fact that he was alive. He was one of the few persons I have ever met for whom God was real and always near. On Sunday April 8, 1945, Pastor Bonhoeffer conducted a little service of worship and spoke to us in a way that went to the heart of all of us. He found just the right words to express the spirit of our imprisonment, the thoughts and resolutions it had brought us. He had hardly ended his last prayer when the door opened and two civilians entered. They said: "Prisoner Bonhoeffer, come with us. That had only one meaning for the prisoners – gallows. We said Good Bye to him. He took me aside and said: "This is the end, but for me it is the beginning of life". The next day he was hanged in FlossenberG."

It is a very sad ending to his earthly life, but his legacy lives on in his books and his sermons and his discipleship. Bonhoeffer preached the real existence of God and how we Christians should trust in God and keep the faith and accept God's salvation through God's grace. He always offered up practical advice for trying to live in a Christian way and to uplift others. I believe he lived his own life like he preached. He was certainly amazingly brave in his martyrdom. In Life Together, he continued with his observations and advice on living a Christian life and I would like to mention his chapter entitled "Ministries" which offers advice to keep a Christian community united and working together. It is something we all should consider doing here at Good Shepherd to lift up one another. We should consider the positive effects of doing this across America. There are eight different ministries mentioned in this chapter and I would like to spend the next 3-4 months explaining in this column at a high level what he is advising us to do. I think these ministries can be done even if you are a brand-new Christian or if you are bashful about talking about matters of faith. I will address them in the order they appear in the book. The first one is called: "The ministry of Holding One's Tongue". I bet you already have that one figured out. Let us consider three bible references [all are ESV].

Psalm:50:20-21 You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your own mother's son. These things you have done, and I have been silent; you thought I was one like yourself. But now I rebuke you and lay the charge before you.

James 4:11-12 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge

the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that is may give grace to those who hear.

Bonhoeffer says if we talk bad about a brother, we will start to see that if we made that person we would not make him in the way he is now [Made by God in the image of God]. So, guess what? If we keep on talking bad about the brother based on our judgement, we will adopt the view that the brother is defective and not the Child of God that he really is. Instead of thinking of him in low terms we should rejoice that he was created by God in His image. We should be ready to serve that brother and love him like we do ourselves. For purposes of this article you may substitute “sister” or “brother” without changing the meaning. Please take a moment and let that sink in. I hope you will continue to read these little “jewels” from Bonhoeffer [that originate from Biblical text – but are “humanized” by Bonhoeffer] that I plan on providing in our newsletter. I think we all [me at the front of the line] could use a little more advice on how to behave more like a Christian should.

Peace and Blessings to you and your family!

Deacon Joe



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Sometimes people don't like it when pastors talk about stewardship. For some, it hits too close to home. It is easier to talk about bad people in Washington, in history, or wherever than it is to think about what our daily life in Christ is supposed to look like and how we are supposed to love our neighbor. The fact that we don't like it certainly means we ought to face it.

God calls us to first-fruits, sacrificial giving. That means that we should give off the top. We should set a percentage of our income as a deliberate gift for the work of the Church and then give that first. We don't pay for all the stuff we need – and stuff we think we need – and then give from what is left over. That is the first-fruits idea. It is hard because we think we need all sorts of other things first. But that is the point of “sacrificial.”

By first-fruits, sacrificial, and generous giving – that's how. We shouldn't fool ourselves into thinking that we've outgiven God's goodness or that we've given plenty. We might be tempted to think that way, but consider that no one in the Church has given plenty because no one has given all. No one has died for his sins. Only the sinless Son of God did that.

St. Paul brought the Good News of Jesus into the discussion of our giving to support the Lord's work in the Church when he wrote: “I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich” (2 Cor. 8:8-9).

In Mark's account of the feeding of the 4,000, Jesus took the disciples' seven loaves and blessed them. It was nothing among so many, but, of course, it was plenty. Jesus makes something from nothing. Mark doesn't say that all the disciples gave Jesus all the bread they had. It is quite possible that some of them held something back. But even if they did, that didn't stop Jesus from blessing them. Jesus makes something out of nothing. He, who fed His people in the desert with Manna every morning, doesn't need their bread.

But they need to give it. And what they give – however little it might be and however grudgingly they do so – He blesses. He not only blesses those whom He feeds with it, but He blesses them – the givers. He blesses the givers not just in that they wind up with a basketful for each loaf, but they are blessed by learning to trust and rejoice in Him.

The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. The Lord gives abundantly, or He asks us to fast. We do not know what will happen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord. He does all things well, and He works all things together for good. The disciples don't give their bread to Jesus because it is a good investment. They give it because He is good, because they love Him, and because they trust Him. Let us go and do likewise.



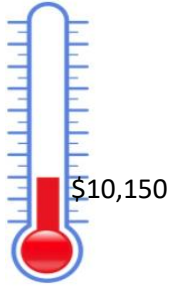
The Emerald Coast Zone, which consist of all the churches in Pensacola, Crestview, Florida, Panama City, Destin, and Shalimar, will hold their fall rally on November 13 at Grace Lutheran, at their new home, 125 Main Street, Destin. The meeting will be zoomed. More information on this coming, as well as time of event.

Local Society: Some of us plan to attend this rally, therefore we have moved our regular 2nd Saturday local society meeting from November 13 to the 3rd Saturday the 20th. We will continue with the bible study, Such Time as This. Session II on Joseph.

Gulf States District will hold a retreat in Foley, AL and Camp Dixie January 28-30. Donna (Pyle) Snow will lead us through her Bible study, *The Wellspring of Life*, Psalm 42:1-2. Scripture gushes forth through this 4-lesson study to quench our thirst and longing to know Jesus like never. Cost is \$60 for the retreat registration, that includes Sat & Sun lunch and the book, Quenched

We will be staying at the TownePlace Suites by Marriott in downtown Foley. Registration for the hotel is separate. Bible Study location will be at Camp Dixie (due to the number of participants expected).

If interested in attended contact Bea Daily at Joyfulbea@cox.net, for registration form (deadline is Nov 15, 2021) and the hotel information. \$99-\$129 per night



Church Properties Board

Fellowship Hall Floor-Covering Replacement: In the September issue, we announced the Church Council approved establishing a Dedicated Fund for donations to replace the Fellowship Hall floor covering. Now for this October issue, for those choosing to donate by check, we suggest using either the special offering envelopes marked "Church Dedicated Fund" and using the Floorcov Fund in the memo line or by going to our Church website Shalimar.church and selecting the tab for Floorcov Fund. As also

mentioned in the September newsletter, we are asking for any or all your suggestions for what might be best and sending them to the Church, marked "FHFC" or Email to churchsecretary@gslcshalimar.org. We expect and welcome your thoughts and spending some time on researching some options! Thanks!



- November 2 – Has God Left the Building*
- November 9 – Low Cost No Cost Adventures*
- November 16 – Zzzz*
- November 23 – Intimacy Anorexia*
The dark secret that's killing marriages
- November 30 – Why, God*



- 11/2 Malachi Hofman
- 11/3 Elijah Haase
- 11/6 Sarah Lienemann
- 11/6 Nancy Pruess
- 11/11 Don Chandler
- 11/12 Charles Wright
- 11/13 Audrey Anderson
- 11/14 Kevin Merrill
- 11/17 Vivian Moser
- 11/21 Sandee Baughman
- 11/21 Sarah Hoppel
- 11/23 Jimmy Olman
- 11/23 Craig Russell
- 11/24 Jeff Adams
- 11/25 Dean Brown
- 11/25 Mila Dailey
- 11/29 Bob Farmer

- 11/6 Alan & Judy Koepsell
- 11/15 Curtis & Joela Parker
- 11/17 Larry & Margaret Snider
- 11/22 Larry & Ruth Hill
- 11/25 Lance & Flo Hofman
- 11/29 Craig & Marion Russell



Jean Grieve and Kathy Shaw from the Human Care Board are shown donating toiletry kits to One Hopeful Place in Fort Walton Beach. This donation was made in memory of Valerie Phillips-Smith and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Shalimar. Valerie was the local Avon rep who partnered with us on this project. Thank you to all who donated.



The Human Care School Drive provided the supplies above that were presented to Peggy Land, Principal, at Kenwood Elementary School. Thank you to all who contributed in this effort.

In honor of Pastor Appreciation Month, the Classical Conversations homeschoolers gave a donation and the below card to Pastor Ray, Curtis and the church staff.



Reformation Picnic/Festival 2021

The Reformation Festival held here at Good Shepherd was attended by 101 people! What a wonderful event! The Reformation play was awesome! A big THANK YOU to everyone who made the Reformation Festival such a great event.

I especially want to thank our Family Life Minister Curtis and his wife Sherry for all the hard work and long hours they put in to make this such a successful event! You are the best!

Thank you goes out to (but not limited to)

Setup Saturday:

Parker Adams
Henry Batton
Lance and Malachi Hofman
Beverly Steele
Sherry Wiese

Takedown and storage:

Allen, Will, and Kelly Binkley
Curtis, Joela and Ella Parker
Brenda and Isaiah McElroy
Sherry Wiese

Setup Sunday

Lance, Flo and Malachi Hofman
Joshua and Noah Potts
Allen and Will Binkley

Food

Frank and Kathy Shaw
Inge Miller and the Fellowship Board
(Diana Fallon, Flo Hofman and Marion Wright)

Cleanup

Many hands helped with the tables and chairs. You are all such a blessing!
Pastor Ray

