



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF BIBLE TIMES

Baking Bread

Bread was the basic food. Flour from the hand mill was mixed with water, and the dough was placed on flat stones that had been heated. If the bread was to be leavened, a piece of dough from the previous day (the leaven) was put into the new dough and the whole lump left by the fire until the yeast in the old dough had permeated the whole (Matthew 13:33; Galatians 5:9). It was then baked that way.

Other methods of baking bread were with the use of primitive ovens. One form was an earthenware dish that was inverted over the fire, the bread cakes being placed on the convex surface. Another was in the form of a truncated cone, with an opening at the bottom for the fire; the bread cakes were stuck onto the side of the cone. Not until Roman times was an earthenware oven invented in which the firebox was separated from the cooking area and so made thicker loaves a possibility.

In fact, any earthenware receptacle or even an earth pit, where it was possible to get heat to the dough, could be utilized as an oven. Paper-thin loaves, biscuit-sized loaves, and heavier cakes of bread were all made in this way. (Compare the paper-thin bread used to scoop out the sauce in Matthew 26:23 with the lunch biscuits in John 6:9 and the much heavier loaf in Judges 7:13). A metal tray was sometimes put on the fire so that grains could be placed over the fire. As corn or "parched corn" (1 Samuel 17:17, 25:18).

Crafts

Another important activity was spinning and weaving to make family clothing and craft work for sale. The ideal wife in Proverbs 31 is described as one who seeks for wool and flax and works willingly with her hands (v. 13). She spins, weaves, and makes clothes (vv 19, 21), provides rugs and coverings for the home (v 22), and sells the surplus at the market (v 24). It was while she was busy at this kind of work that she would talk to other women and to the children.

Submitted by Beverly Steele



2/5 Bre Anderson
2/6 Vivian Bier
2/7 Jill Baughman
2/12 Natalie Gray
2/13 Lauren Cotton
2/15 Weldon Brinkley
2/22 Peter Zipfel



2/22 Sarah Wood
2/23 Ron Artman
2/26 Don Haggerty
2/26 Rick Morgan
2/27 Don Hagel
2/28 Garry Haase



2/14 Rick and Kelly Keller
2/25 Tim and Elizabeth Philpott



CONGREGATIONAL HAPPENINGS

Pastor Ziehr went home to the Lord January 5, 2024

James and Alex Straub have joined our congregation.

Betty Kaiser has returned her membership here-from Iowa.

2024 Lenten Devotional

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:00 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	2	3 8:00 AM Praise Band
4 Early Communion Mite Collection Both Services 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Call Committee Mtg 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	5	6 Homeschoolers	7 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study	8	9	10 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
11 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Puppet Practice 2:00 PM Confirmation 4:00 PM Youth Superbowl Party	12	13 6:30 AM Shrove Tuesday Breakfast Homeschoolers	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 AM Morning Service 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Lent Meal 6:30 PM Lent Service	15 5:00 PM American Heritage Girls 6:00 PM Council Meeting	16 6:30 PM Jesus Movie	17 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Life Team 9:00 AM Easter Puppet Practice
18 Early Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Puppet Show 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	19 Office Closed	20	21 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Lent Meal 6:30 PM Lent Service	22	23 6:30 PM Jesus Movie	24 8:00 AM Praise Band 9:00 AM Easter Puppet Practice
25 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 2:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Youth Group	26	27 Homeschoolers	28 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Bible Study 5:30 PM Lent Meal 6:30 PM Lent Service	29		

Crosses from Pastor Ray's office have been moved to a wall in the Café.



Baskets raffled off by the Life Team



Good Shepherd's kids are busy as ever





