

Prince of Peace Tidings

Volume 26

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Issue 10

The Devil's Lies and God's Truth

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

When I was a kid, each morning as I rode the school bus, I would hear from those radio speakers "Hello Americans! This is Paul Harvey! Stand by for news!" Then each evening, I would often hear: "And Now, the Rest of the Story..."

Paul Harvey's words on the radio had a profound impression upon his listeners for decades. I will say that his radio programs had a profound influence also upon me. But the Paul Harvey radio program that most influenced me aired long before my life. In 1965, Harvey broadcast a show titled, "If I Were the Devil."

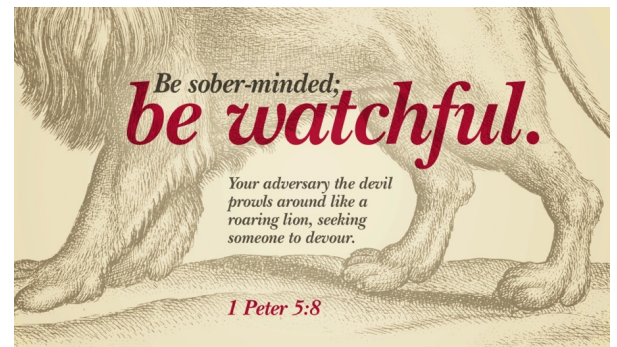
*"If I were the devil. If I were the prince of darkness, I would want to engulf the whole world in darkness and I'd have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn't be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree – thee. So, I'd set about however necessary to take over the United States. I'd subvert the churches first. I'd begin with a campaign of whispers with the wisdom of a serpent. I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve, **'Do as you please.'** To the young, I would whisper that the Bible is a myth. I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what's bad is good and what's good is square. And to the old, I would teach to pray after me, 'Our Father, which art in Washington.' And then I'd get organized. I'd educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I'd threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I'd peddle narcotics to whom I could. I'd sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I'd tranquilize the rest with pills.*

If I were the devil, I'd soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves, until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings, I'd have mesmerizing media fanning the flames.

If I were the devil, I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions, just let those run wild until before you knew it, you'd have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door. Within a decade I'd have prisons overflowing. I'd have judges promoting pornography. Soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls and church money.

If I were the devil, I'd make the symbol of Easter an egg, and the symbol of Christmas – a bottle.

If I were the devil, I would take from those who have and give to those who wanted until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious. What will you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich. I would caution against extremes, in hard work, in patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil, I'd just keep right on doing what he's doing."



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Paul Harvey spoke those words in 1965. And his words remain true today. Satan is all about “what’s bad is good and what’s good is square.” He encourages: “Do as you please.” Satan tempts us to disregard God’s Word as he whispers, “The Bible is a myth.”

In these last few years, I have seen and heard the devil more active than I have noticed previously in my life. Normally, we are inclined to think that our problems only come from people. But as I have said before, that is not the case. Yes, Satan is using people, but they are only his instruments. People are simply pawns in Satan’s spiritual war against God and mankind.

Speaking of the devil working, I have never seen so many political ads with candidates seemingly to have a single issue: expanding abortion.

Martin Luther was 100 percent pro-life, so today’s world, which promotes the murder of unborn children, would cause him great concern. He wrote: *“For no one of those who are alive today knows where he was during the first two years, when he lived either in the womb, or when, after being brought into the light of day, he sucked his mother’s milk. He knows nothing about the days, the nights, the times, the rulers. Yet he lived at that time, and he was a body joined to a soul – a body adapted to all natural functions. Therefore this is most certain proof that God wants to preserve man in a wonderful manner altogether unknown to him”* (Luther’s Works, Volume 8:316-317).

As Christians, we cannot pick and choose which of God’s Commandments to follow. If we do, we are making ourselves an idol over God. So, when God says: “You shall not murder” (the Fifth Commandment), He means “You shall not murder.” There are no buts or ifs. This includes the exceptions: rape, incest or the life of the mother. According to *What to Say When* by Shawn Carney and Steve Karlen, rape cases account for about 1 percent of abortions each year. Yes, rape is a terrible crime, and the rapist is a criminal, but an abortion will not remove the pain of the rape. Two evils do not make a right. In no other scenario do we punish a baby for the crimes of his or her father. The incest numbers are even lower than rape. Those “exceptions” account for less than 2 percent of all abortions. The vast majority – *more than 95 percent of abortions* – are just because the child is an inconvenience to the mother or father.

Satan uses bumper sticker slogans like “Abortion is healthcare.” But true healthcare is healing, not killing. A woman’s body is designed for pregnancy. So, when she conceives and bears life, her reproductive system is working as it is meant to work. But abortion’s sole purpose is to thwart or break the reproductive system – the exact opposite of health care. If abortion is healthcare, then bulimia is nutrition.

Another thing to note is that abortion is dangerous to the mother. According to University of Michigan Clinical Associate Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology Elizabeth Shadigan, one in ten women experience immediate complications (20 percent of which are life threatening) following an abortion.

Complications include infection, hemorrhage, pulmonary or amniotic fluid embolism, injury to the reproductive organs and other internal organs, and even death. Abortions also carry a connection to mental health problems and substance abuse. According to research from the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, post-abortive women face an 81 percent increased risk of mental health problems.

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The devil has convinced so many people to end the life of their child. But we have the love of Jesus. Yes, we live in a culture of death, but we have life in Jesus. We are pilgrims, not permanent residents of this fallen world, a world that tells parents it's responsible to kill their own children. Abortion is a crisis of love, and there is no better way to be a channel of love than living out our lives as an instrument of the Author of Life. We repent of our sins, receive God's forgiveness won for us on the cross, and the Holy Spirit leads us to grow closer to Him and sanctify our lives.

May we always love and be of service to our neighbor from conception to natural death.

Let us pray:

God of all grace, out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy You have given us life and commanded us not to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body. Teach us to care for all unborn children whom You have created in Your image. We also ask for You to look with mercy upon Your daughters who suffer the shame of abortion. For the sake of Christ Jesus, our Savior, forgive their sins, and remove all feelings of guilt and despair. Protect them from the accusing voices of others and the accusations from within. By Your Holy Spirit increase the faith of those who suffer from the guilt of abortion so that they may entrust themselves into Your fatherly hands; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Adelsen

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 1 Corinthians

In many ways, the Church of Corinth is much like the Western Christian Church today. Corinth was a major Greek seaport complete with traffic, travelers, sailors, and merchants. Corinth was cosmopolitan, pagan, idolatrous and immoral. At its height, Corinth was the fourth-largest city in the Roman Empire. Among its inhabitants were Roman colonists, ex-slaves, former soldiers, admirers of Greek wisdom and culture, and a scattering of Jews. It was a very prosperous and wealthy city, but it was also a very irreligious city.

Naturally, when the Christian faith collided with the paganism in Corinth, the young congregation founded by St. Paul, was plagued with many problems and questions. These problems included congregational factions, lawsuits, promiscuity, marriage and divorce, desertion, the place of women in the church, the Sacrament of the Altar, and the resurrection of the body. The Church in Corinth turned to St. Paul for guidance and counsel.

The Church in Corinth was not a perfect congregation, but through the Holy Spirit, St. Paul told this imperfect congregation about God's grace. The experiences of the Church in Corinth are increasingly those of present-day Christians, not only in traditional heathen countries, but also in so-called Christian lands slipping deeper into pagan ways. The impact of the fallen world's morality on the Church is all so evident today, with political factions growing, marriages failing,



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sexual morality sinking, and church disorders increasing. Today's Christian faces many of the moral dilemmas reflected in this epistle.

At the same time, 1 Corinthians is a letter of hope for our times. In trying to hold the Corinthians to the Word of God, St. Paul found it necessary to state both their human faults and their proper goals. In the epistle, St. Paul shows them the way of error and the way of truth. This epistle is practical as it presents everyday problems confronting Christians in the world as the Holy Spirit supplies the answers to our daily problems.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: 2 Peter

St. Peter's second Letter is one of those portions of Scripture that is easily (and too often) overlooked. Yet, it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and in its three chapters covers subjects of monumental importance – for the individual Christian, for the entire church, and for all of humanity. Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ this October as we study 2 Peter!

In October, we meet every other Wednesday: October 2, 16, 30 at 9:30 a.m.!



Men's Bible Study: The Quest for Masculinity

What does it mean to be a man? How are men featured in the culture? What is the role of a man? We discuss these issues through the lens of God's Word! Men, join your fellow brothers in Christ on Tuesday, October 15 at 5 p.m. at Prince of Peace! We will also have a Men's Bible Study outing at Features in West Salem on Tuesday, October 29 at 5 p.m.!



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“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.



But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

¹ Martin Luther, “Preface to Georg Rhau’s Symphoniae iucundae,” in Luther’s Works, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, Helmut T. Lehmann, and Christopher Boyd Brown, vol. 53 (Philadelphia and St. Louis: Fortress and Concordia Publishing House, 1955–), 321–322.

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Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—OCTOBER 2024



**LUTHERANS
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Life Newsbytes

Election Day is approaching. Thanks be to God that we get to participate in representative government, contribute to the common good, serve our neighbors, share life together, and advocate for righteousness. What a privilege, opportunity, and even responsibility! Several states are entertaining ballot initiatives concerning the sanctity of every human life. You can learn the details about each of these from our friends at Priests For Life: www.stateballotmeasures.org. Of course, the sanctity of life means that everyone's voice counts. The National Association of Secretaries of State has a convenient online portal where you can check your voting registration status: www.nass.org/can-i-vote/voter-registration-status. And you can encourage and even assist those around you to confirm their registration there as well. National Right to Life has affiliates in every state that prepare voter guides. Find your locale here and educate yourself about candidate positions: nrlc.org/about/stateaffiliates. Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America will compensate you for canvassing door-to-door and connecting with your fellow citizens as they prepare to vote: sbaprolife.org/voter-contact-program. Find out more: lutheransforlife.org/article/election-day-is-approaching.

Speaking up For Life

"The science is conclusive: Human life starts at fertilization. The Bible is conclusive: Life is from God, it begins at fertilization, and God's commandment of 'You shall not murder' (Exodus 20:13) certainly applies to the slaying of an innocent child in the womb. Because that little baby in the womb IS a human being." Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan

"These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand." Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois

"So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us." Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life

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CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

October, 2024

FALL is here! It was 44 degrees this morning as I write this commentary. My favorite time of the year. How blessed we are to experience all the seasons throughout the year.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter church plans for a Reformation dinner. We are planning for a German themed potluck dinner to be held on Reformation Eve, Saturday, October 26, 2024 from 5-7 p.m. at Prince of Peace. Our hope is to gather together for dinner and camaraderie in acknowledgment of the Reformation on Saturday evening, followed by Reformation Day worship on Sunday morning. Please try your hand at a little German cooking. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex for anyone to volunteer to prepare a menu selection (perhaps 10-15 servings). Sample recipes will also be available with the sign-up sheet. Perhaps Pastor Adelsen will provide us with a short history of the Reformation period. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Pastor Adelsen has recently initiated a Men's Bible Study. The first study was held at 5 p.m. on September 15th. Pastor led us in a discussion of masculinity and the church. Consider joining us at the next scheduled Bible Study on October 15 at 5 p.m. The group may also decide to reconvene at a local restaurant for dinner after the Bible study. Join us.

Church Council has begun work on the 2025 budget. Please pray for spiritual guidance during that process. If you have any questions, suggestions or guidance, please let me know.

A church cleanup day will be held on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Many hands make short work and will allow our trustees to accomplish jobs that are ordinarily deferred. Every hand is appreciated.

Financial uncertainty remains as a concern here at Prince of Peace. Weekly contributions to the general fund continue at a rate 30% below budget needs. I remain convinced that God will inspire our stewardship and provide for the mission here at Prince of Peace. Please keep our church financial condition in your prayers as we begin work on the 2025 budget.

Please keep our congregation and God's work in your prayers.

TOGETHER IN CHRIST. ALLELUIA!

Kurt Childs, Congregational President

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Our October birthdays

Roger Emmons	October 2
Vern Ruffi	October 8
Dena Zezulka	October 8
Maria Otto	October 17
Susan Martin	October 18
Jeffrey Schweinefus	October 20
Sidney Flack	October 23
Gary Greene	October 27

Our October anniversaries

John & Sharen Hammes	October 3
Randy & DeAnne Otto	October 9
Russ & Sharie Brunk	October 15

LWML News:

On September 7 we will meet at the church for our monthly meeting.

If you would like to bring flowers for our altar, in memory of a loved one, or for no particular reason, we have some lovely vases to fill! Talk with Debbie or Elaine so we can start a schedule.

Mark your calendars for October 5 at 9:30 a.m. We will be hosting our zone Prayer Meeting. The annual Prayer Meeting theme this year is Grace, Mercy, Peace. This year the prayer service is scripture reading, hymns and thoughts about grace, mercy, and peace. It will be a great way to get our minds focused on Jesus Christ. The entire congregation is invited to join us.

We will be celebrating LWML Sunday on October 6. Everyone is invited to a pie and ice cream social after our worship service.

National Veteran Day is Monday, November 11th, POP will celebrate with a brunch after church on Sunday, November 10th. LWML will also post pictures of our POP veterans on a bulletin board to honor them. If you are a veteran, please drop off a picture to Debbie and please include one of yourself in uniform if you have one.

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September Schedules

Ushers

October 6-Barb Hinds & Chris Leis
October 13-Willie & Leatta Danielson
October 20-Roger & Ginny Emmons
October 27-Randy & DeAnne Otto

Greeters

October 6-LWML Ladies
October 13-POP Family
October 20-POP Family
October 27-Mike & Carolyn Dosland

Money counters

October 6-Barb Alsobrooks & Lori Peters
October 13-Elaine Schmidt & Ona Childs
October 20-Barb Hinds & Debbie Dunnum
October 27-Chris Leis & Barb Alsobrooks

Song Leaders

October 6-Sarah Kolander
October 13-Brooklyn Scholze
October 20-Holly Ford
October 27-Sarah Kolander

Altar Guild

Cassie Grube
Carolyn Dosland

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October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	3	4 Pastor's day off	5 LWML hosts the Prayer Service: 9:30, refreshments; 10:00, service
LWML Sunday 6 Divine Service: 9 a.m.	7 Divine Service: 7 p.m. No communion Office closed	8	9 Choir: 7:30 p.m.	10	11 Pastor's day off	12 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
13 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30 Church Council: 11:30	14 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	15 Men's Bible Study: 5 p.m. at the church	16 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	17	18 Pastor's day off	19 Church Clean-Up Day: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Women's Bible study: 9 a.m.
20 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	21 Divine Service: 7 p.m. No communion Pastor's Conference through the 23rd	22	23 Choir: 7:30 p.m.	24	25 Pastor's day off	26 Women's Bible study: 9 a.m. German Dinner Potluck
27 Divine Service: 9 a.m. Bible study for all: 10:30	28 Divine Service: 7 p.m.	29 Men's Bible Study: 5 p.m. at Features in West Salem	30 Bible study: 9:30 a.m. Choir: 7:30 p.m.	Reformation Day 31 Trunk or Treat: West Salem Village Park, 3-5 p.m.		

EVENTS

Prayer Service October 5

Enjoy a different kind of worship service! Everyone is invited to the prayer service on October 5 at 9:30 for refreshments, service starts at 10.

Church Clean-Up

Mark your calendars for October 19 from 8 to 3. Come and help us spruce up the church property and the church. Many hands make the work light.

German Dinner

We're trying a German dinner potluck to celebrate Reformation. Watch for more details and a sign-up sheet.

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