

Context: Danevang Lutheran Church Newsletter January 2025

Points to Ponder: Where our thoughts take us ...

Jesus is quoted in the Gospels using the the Greek word “merimnaó” = “To be anxious, to worry, to care for ...”

Matthew 6 (ESV): 25 “Therefore I tell you, do not be *anxious* about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 And which of you by being *anxious* can add a single hour to his span of life? 28 And why are you *anxious about* clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not *be anxious*, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. 34 **“Therefore do not be *anxious* about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

(See also Matthew 10:19; Luke 10:41;12:11; 12:22; 12:25; 12:26)

Luke 10 (ESV):41 But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are *anxious and troubled* about many things, 42 but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.”

Paul continues the theme in 1 Corinthians 7:32-34; 12:25 & Philippians 2:20; 4:6 --

Philippians 4 (ESV): 6 *do not be anxious about anything*, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Wow! Then is being anxious something sinful? Well, what mental states follow upon anxiety? How about doom, despair and agony (*sorry old Hee-Haw TV show flashback*). That next stage is also described by a Greek word, “perilupos” = “Deeply distressed, exceedingly sorrowful, very sad ... extreme grief”. Jesus’ human nature suffered this more profound anxiety in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus knew exactly what He would suffer on the cross, and the human part of Jesus was so distressed that Jesus literally sweated blood. Now Jesus was sinless, so ...

Matthew 26 (ESV):38 Then he said to them, “My soul is *very sorrowful, even to death*; remain here, and watch with me.” (also Mark 14:34).

“Perilupos” is also used in Mark 6:26 & Luke 18:23-24

So, then, how do we reconcile what Jesus says, with what Jesus experiences. I think the understanding lies in our cultural image of “anxiety and fear”. Our mental image, in the English speaking Western world, particularly the USA, is that the opposite of “fear” is “courage”. The Biblical perspective, Jesus’ perspective, is different. I find it helpful to consider a Biblical

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definition of “anxiety or fear” may more appropriately be “the grief for a perceived impending loss”. That leads us to the Bible’s view: The opposite of fear is not courage, but rather Love.

John tells us so in his first epistle:

1 John 4 (ESV):16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. 17 By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. 18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Jesus admonished against “merimnaó” because it is focused on a perceived pending loss over which we have no direct influence; events (what if’s) that are dependent on the providence of God. Those focused on a loving God need not fear the unknown “what ifs” beyond human control. Jesus’ profound despair was focused on a future event that He could actually alter – Jesus could have taken up the power of God, and thwarted efforts to march Him to that cross; yet, Jesus laid aside His power and went to that death on a cross out of love for us and God. Note that Jesus entered into prayer to the Father, three times, about the impending death on a cross, and had His closest companions nearby. Also note that his message to Martha (see Luke 10:41, above) starts with “Martha, Martha” indicating love rather than condemnation: His words were compassionate and sympathetic to her internal turmoil caused by her focus on the things of this world.

And ... lest we forget, this kind of Love is NOT an emotion or feeling, but rather a conscience choice ... Jesus even stated that making a decision to love is the “new” commandment – something we choose to do.

John 13 (ESV):34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

So, the choice to love lets us live in the embracing love of God, a love that casts out fear and anxiety, and, like Jesus, approach the Father in prayer and supplication with thanksgiving -- and we receive a great blessing: the peace of God.

Philippians 4 (ESV):6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Chuck

Announcements

Serving This Month:

Altar Guild – Maria Barnes

Greeter – “Open”

Readers for Sunday Services

January 5—Linda Alderson

January 12—Maria Barnes

January 19—Ann Schaer

January 26—Doyle Schaer

February 2—Karen Kight

February 9—Velda Keen

February 16—Linda Alderson

February 16—Linda Alderson

March 2—Ann Schaer

March 9—Doyle Schaer

March 16—Karen Kight

March 23—Velda Keen

March 30—Maria Barnes

Learning with Fellowship

Ladies Bible Study: Mondays from 9:00 – 11:00 am. All ladies are welcome to join. Restarting Jan 6th.

Men’s Group: Men of the surrounding communities meet for some fellowship and a bite to eat at 6 PM on Wednesdays in the Community Hall. Restarting on Jan 8th.

Sunday School: Each Sunday, 9 am to 9:45 am in the Educational Building. Open to all adults and children before church service. Coffee will be served. We will discuss the scripture readings for the current Sunday.

Meetings

Jan 13th Council Meeting at 6 PM

Jan 26th Annual Meeting After Service - **Vote on Budget - New council Members join council.**

Jan 26th Monthly Pot Luck after Annual Meeting & **Take down Christmas Trees**

Services

Sunday 10 AM



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



A New Command

As Jesus gathered with his disciples for his last supper, he not only communed with them, but he also served them in a unique way. Before the meal began, he took off his outer robe, knelt down with a basin of water and a towel, and washed their feet. It was a stunning act of service by the King of kings and Lord of lords! Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: *“I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

This familiar text is a reminder of what sets Jesus' followers apart: a self-sacrificing love for one another. Jesus did not say “it would be really neat if you would be nice to one another.” He was not asking his followers to tolerate or put up with one another. He did not offer his example of humble service as a suggestion among a buffet of options. He clearly states this as a new command that is a mark of every single disciple of Jesus. Jesus makes the clear connection that this love will be noticed by the world and is key to sharing Jesus' love and bearing witness to the Gospel to the world. So, this loving one another thing is *really* important for our mission in the world!

But what does it mean to love one another? What does this look like in your local church and current ministry context? How do we relate to and connect with one another in ways that are loving, forgiving, serving, encouraging, and, in all ways, build up the body of Christ? As an association of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, I believe that it is essential to connect and relate to one another in ways that strengthen our mutual mission and ministry and lead to healthier churches in each of our communities.

For this reason, I would like you to join me and others from across our association as we take two days to dive deeper into this topic. Our Winter Retreats will gather in beautiful Concan, Texas next month around the theme of “One Another”. There are two identical retreats being offered, so choose the one that best fits in your schedule: Sunday evening, February 2 through Tuesday noon, February 4 or Wednesday evening, February 5 through Friday noon, February 7. Each retreat will feature two teaching tracks. LCMC's Coordinator for Leadership and Pastoral Development Christian Huntley will be teaching the Leadership Track while Texas District Council member Barbara Hoover will be leading the Devotional Track.

The retreat is open to all and is an affordable opportunity to grow in your walk with God and develop your relational capacity to love others as Jesus loves us. If you register by January 11, the retreat registration costs \$120 and includes the program, food, and lodging. To learn more and register online, go to www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat. Feel free to reach out with any questions as we are here to help: 512-942-7776 or info@lcmctexas.org.

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

Context: Danevang Lutheran Church Newsletter January 2025

2025 Texas District Winter Retreat Early Bird Pricing Ends 1/11/2025

WINTER RETREAT

One Another

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another."
John 13:34*

February 2-4 or 5-7, 2025

Concan, Texas

(90 miles west of San Antonio)

\$120 - early bird pricing

(includes meals and lodging)

CHOOSE A TRACK:

LEADERSHIP - *led by Christian Huntley*

OR

DEVOTIONAL - *led by Barbara Hoover*



**Scan for more info
and registration.**

www.lcmctexas.org/winter-retreat

Context: Danevang Lutheran Church Newsletter January 2025

2024-2025 SUNDAYS AND FESTIVALS OF THE CHURCH YEAR - LECTIONARY YEAR C

Liturgical Calendar provided by Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com), based on the LSB Version of the Revised Common Lectionary, with permission of Concordia Publishing House

Date	Sunday	Proper	First Lesson	Psalms	Second Lesson	Gospel	Color
1-Dec-24	First Sunday of Advent		Jeremiah 33:14-16	Psalms 25:1-10	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36	Blue or Purple
8-Dec-24	Second Sunday of Advent		Malachi 3:1-7b	Psalms 66:1-12	Philippians 1:2-11	Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)	Blue or Purple
15-Dec-24	Third Sunday of Advent		Zephaniah 3:14-20	Psalms 85	Philippians 4:4-7	Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)	Blue or Purple
22-Dec-24	Fourth Sunday of Advent		Micah 5:2-5a	Psalms 80:1-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)	Blue or Purple
24-Dec-24	<i>Nativity of Our Lord</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Psalms 96</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>White</i>
25-Dec-24	<i>Nativity of Our Lord</i>	<i>Christmas Day</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>	<i>Psalms 2</i>	<i>Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)</i>	<i>John 1:1-14 (15-18)</i>	<i>White</i>
29-Dec-24	First Sunday of Christmas		Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15	Psalms 111	Colossians 3:12-17	Luke 2:22-40	White
5-Jan-25	Second Sunday of Christmas		1 Kings 3:4-15	Psalms 119:97-104	Ephesians 1:3-14	Luke 2:40-52	White
6-Jan-25	<i>Feast of the Epiphany</i>		<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>	<i>Psalms 72:1-11 (12-15)</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>White</i>
12-Jan-25	Baptism of Our Lord		Isaiah 43:1-7	Psalms 29	Romans 6:1-11	Luke 3:15-22	White
19-Jan-25	Second Sunday after the Epiphany		Isaiah 62:1-5	Psalms 128	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2:1-11	Green
26-Jan-25	Third Sunday after the Epiphany		Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Psalms 19:(1-6) 7-14	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Luke 4:16-30	Green
2-Feb-25	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany		Jeremiah 1:4-10 (17-19)	Psalms 71:1-6 (7-11)	1 Corinthians 12:31b — 13:13	Luke 4:31-44	Green
9-Feb-25	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany		Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)	Psalms 138	1 Corinthians 14:12b-20	Luke 5:1-11	Green
16-Feb-25	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany		Jeremiah 17:5-8	Psalms 1	1 Corinthians 15:(1-11) 12-20	Luke 6:17-26	Green
23-Feb-25	Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany		Genesis 45:3-15	Psalms 103:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42	Luke 6:27-38	Green
2-Mar-25	Transfiguration		Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Psalms 99	Hebrews 3:1-6	Luke 9:28-36	White
5-Mar-25	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>		<i>Joel 2:12-19</i>	<i>Psalms 51:1-13 (14-19)</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 5:20b — 6:10</i>	<i>Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21</i>	<i>Purple</i>
9-Mar-25	First Sunday in Lent		Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Psalms 91:1-13	Romans 10:8b-13	Luke 4:1-13	Purple
16-Mar-25	Second Sunday in Lent		Jeremiah 26:8-15	Psalms 4	Philippians 3:17 — 4:1	Luke 13:31-35	Purple
23-Mar-25	Third Sunday in Lent		Ezekiel 33:7-20	Psalms 85	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Luke 13:1-9	Purple
30-Mar-25	Fourth Sunday in Lent		Isaiah 12:1-6	Psalms 32	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	Purple
6-Apr-25	Fifth Sunday in Lent		Isaiah 43:16-21	Psalms 126	Philippians 3:(4b-7) 8-14	Luke 20:9-20	Purple
13-Apr-25	Palm Sunday (Sun. of the Passion)	Proc. John 12:12-19	Deuteronomy 32:36-39	Psalms 118:19-29	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 22:1 — 23:56	Scarlet or Purple
17-Apr-25	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<i>Wash: John 13:1-35</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>	<i>Psalms 116:12-19</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:15-25</i>	<i>Luke 22:7-20</i>	<i>Scarlet or Purple</i>
18-Apr-25	<i>Good Friday</i>		<i>Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12</i>	<i>Psalms 22</i>	<i>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9</i>	<i>John 18:1 — 19:42</i>	<i>Black or None</i>
20-Apr-25	Resurrection of Our Lord	Easter Sunrise	Job 19:23-27	Psalms 118:15-29	1 Corinthians 15:51-57	John 20:1-18	White
20-Apr-25	Resurrection of Our Lord	Easter Day	Isaiah 65:17-25	Psalms 16	1 Corinthians 15:19-26	Luke 24:1-12	White
27-Apr-25	Second Sunday of Easter		Acts 5:12-20 (21-32)	Psalms 148	Revelation 1:4-18	John 20:19-31	White
4-May-25	Third Sunday of Easter		Acts 9:1-22	Psalms 30	Revelation 5:(1-7) 8-14	John 21:1-14 (15-19)	White
11-May-25	Fourth Sunday of Easter		Acts 20:17-35	Psalms 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:22-30	White

* Festivals: some congregations use an alternate set of texts when an appointed festival day falls on a Sunday; lines printed in italics denote non-Sunday holy days
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18-May-25	Fifth Sunday of Easter		Acts 11:1-18	Psalm 150	Revelation 21:1-7	John 16:12-22	White
25-May-25	Sixth Sunday of Easter		Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27	John 16:23-33	White
29-May-25	<i>Ascension of the Lord</i>		<i>Acts 1:1-11</i>	<i>Psalm 47</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<i>Luke 24:44-53</i>	<i>White</i>
1-Jun-25	Seventh Sunday of Easter	(or use Ascension)	Acts 1:12-26	Psalm 133	Revelation 22:1-6 (7-11) 12-20	John 17:20-26	White
8-Jun-25	Day of Pentecost		Genesis 11:1-9	Psalm 143	Acts 2:1-21	John 14:23-31	Red
15-Jun-25	The Holy Trinity		Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Acts 2:14a, 22-36	John 8:48-59	White
22-Jun-25	Second Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 7	Isaiah 65:1-9	Psalm 3	Galatians 3:23 — 4:7	Luke 8:26-39	Green
29-Jun-25	Third Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 8	1 Kings 19:9b-21	Psalm 16	Galatians 5:1, 13-25	Luke 9:51-62	Green
6-Jul-25	Fourth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 9	Isaiah 66:10-14	Psalm 66:1-7	Galatians 6:1-10, 14-18	Luke 10:1-20	Green
13-Jul-25	Fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 10	Leviticus (18:1-5) 19:9-18	Psalm 41	Colossians 1:1-14	Luke 10:25-37	Green
20-Jul-25	Sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 11	Genesis 18:1-10a (10b-14)	Psalm 27:(1-6) 7-14	Colossians 1:21-29	Luke 10:38-42	Green
27-Jul-25	Seventh Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 12	Genesis 18:(17-19) 20-33	Psalm 138	Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)	Luke 11:1-13	Green
3-Aug-25	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 13	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26	Psalm 100	Colossians 3:1-11	Luke 12:13-21	Green
10-Aug-25	Ninth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 14	Genesis 15:1-6	Psalm 33:12-22	Hebrews 11:1-16	Luke 12:22-34 (35-40)	Green
17-Aug-25	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 15	Jeremiah 23:16-29	Psalm 119:81-88	Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3	Luke 12:49-53 (54-56)	Green
24-Aug-25	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 16	Isaiah 66:18-23	Psalm 50:1-15	Hebrews 12:4-24 (25-29)	Luke 13:22-30	Green
31-Aug-25	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 17	Proverbs 25:2-10	Psalm 131	Hebrews 13:1-17	Luke 14:1-14	Green
7-Sep-25	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 18	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Psalm 1	Philemon 1-21	Luke 14:25-35	Green
14-Sep-25	Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 19	Ezekiel 34:11-24	Psalm 119:169-176	1 Timothy 1:(5-11) 12-17	Luke 15:1-10	Green
21-Sep-25	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 20	Amos 8:4-7	Psalm 113	1 Timothy 2:1-15	Luke 16:1-15	Green
28-Sep-25	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 21	Amos 6:1-7	Psalm 146	1 Timothy 3:1-13	Luke 16:19-31	Green
5-Oct-25	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 22	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	Psalm 62	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Luke 17:1-10	Green
12-Oct-25	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 23	Ruth 1:1-19a	Psalm 111	2 Timothy 2:1-13	Luke 17:11-19	Green
13-Oct-25	<i>Thanksgiving, Canada</i>		<i>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</i>	<i>Psalm 100</i>	<i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>	<i>John 6:25-35</i>	<i>Green (or White)</i>
19-Oct-25	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 24	Genesis 32:22-30	Psalm 121	2 Timothy 3:14 — 4:5	Luke 18:1-8	Green
26-Oct-25	Reformation Sunday	or use Proper 26	Revelation 14:6-7	Psalm 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36	Red
2-Nov-25	All Saints Day	or use Proper 27	Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1-3	Matthew 5:1-12	White
9-Nov-25	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 27	Exodus 3:1-15	Psalm 148	2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17	Luke 20:27-40	Green
16-Nov-25	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	Proper 28	Malachi 4:1-6	Psalm 98	2 Thessalonians 3:(1-5) 6-13	Luke 21:5-28 (29-36)	Green
23-Nov-25	Christ the King	Proper 29	Malachi 3:13-18	Psalm 95:1-7a or 46	Colossians 1:13-20	Luke 23:27-43	White
27-Nov-25	<i>Thanksgiving Day, USA</i>		<i>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</i>	<i>Psalm 100</i>	<i>Philippians 4:4-9</i>	<i>John 6:25-35</i>	<i>Green (or White)</i>

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January 2025

Events in January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight) - 2025	6 9:00 am: Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM	7	8 6:00 pm: Mens Group (2025)	9	10	11
12 9:00 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight) - 2025	13 9:00 am: Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM 6:00 pm: Council Meeting on 2nd Monday	14	15 6:00 pm: Mens Group (2025)	16	17	18
19 9:00 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight) - 2025	20 9:00 am: Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM	21	22 6:00 pm: Mens Group (2025)	23	24	25
26 9:00 am: Sunday School 10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight) - 2025 11:00 am: Annual Meeting Followed by Pot Luck - Take down Christmas Trees	27 9:00 am: Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM	28	29 6:00 pm: Mens Group (2025)	30	31	