

THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

THE FEAR OF THE LORD, THE SOUL OF GODLINESS

The *fear of the Lord* is a Biblical concept in short supply today. Let us think about this neglected doctrine together here as a church family. We will begin with a contrast. Solomon wrote, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding" (Prov. 9:10 CSB). We must know God in order to fear Him. Further, wisdom, or skillful living, is one of our greatest needs. On the other hand, "The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe" (29:25 ESV). These verses make the issue clear as to whom we should fear.

The wise man contrasts a prevailing way of life with the fear of God as its foundation with the daily temptation to fear mortal man. Wisdom and understanding, as we walk the narrow road, are contrasted with the traps all around us that would lure and entangle us away from the path of righteousness. Jesus crystalized the contrast above: "I say to you, my friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will show you the one to fear: Fear him who has the authority to throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the one to fear!" (Luke 12:4-5 CSB). Jesus is too kind to beat around the bush.

I believe that a healthy dose of the fear of the Lord will not only fortify us to stand firm against the call of this world, but will also give us confidence and joy in how we live with our families and our neighbors and even our enemies.

Having been told by the angel she would give birth to the Son of God, Mary composed a prayer. In it she said, "His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him" (Luke 1:50). As a faithful young lady she knew that the prevailing piety, or spiritual characteristic, of God's faithful people is a reverence for him.

The Apostle loved to rehearse the Old Testament promises. After doing so in one letter he concluded: "So then, dear friends, since we have these promises, let us cleanse ourselves from every impurity of the flesh and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God" (2 Cor. 7:1). The capstone of our sanctification—our growth in God's grace—is our fear of the Lord.

In one of his remarkable summary statements concerning the early church, Luke wrote, "So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers" (Acts 9:31). You see, fear of the Lord is here seen as one side of a coin. On one side is the constant sense that we serve a holy and righteous God who will not be trifled with. On the other side, it is the very Spirit of the living God dwelling within the believer walking alongside us as our Comforter and Keeper.

Finally, Isaiah told us about our Savior who would come from the line of David. He described the Messiah's character in detail: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him – a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, A Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. His delight will be in the fear of the LORD" (Isa. 11:2-3a). John Murray commented here—it is wordy, read it slowly—on why the fear of the Lord is so important in our relationship with Christ. "If he who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners was endued with the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, how can thought or feeling that is not conditioned by God's fear have any kinship with him who is the captain of our salvation and who has given us an example that we should follow in his steps?"

As God's people, we have been given the Spirit of Christ. And the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. So like the church in Acts, let us walk together in that glorious fear.

Pastor Josh

**THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE
BEGINNING OF WISDOM,
AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY
ONE IS UNDERSTANDING.**

PROVERBS 9:10

OCTOBER 2024



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1	2 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time:</u> 6pm	3	4	5
6 <u>Men's Appreciation Breakfast:</u> 8am <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>WM Council Meeting</u>	7 <u>Game/Fellowship Time:</u> 9:30am	8 <u>WM Bible Studies:</u> 9:30am or 6:30 pm.	9 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time:</u> 6pm <u>B-day:</u> Allison Ward	10	11	12
13 <u>Deacon Meeting</u> <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Communion</u> <u>B-day:</u> Isabelle Basinger	14 <u>Game/Fellowship Time:</u> 9:30am	15 <u>WM Bible Studies:</u> 9:30am or 6:30 pm.	16 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time:</u> 6pm <u>Session Meeting:</u> 7pm <u>B-day:</u> Tyree Tripp	17	18 <u>B-day:</u> Henry Carmichael <u>Anniv:</u> Erik & Rebecca Lessmann	19 <u>B-day:</u> Alan Lashley <u>B-day:</u> Erik Lessmann <u>B-day:</u> Eloise Coddington
20 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>Fellowship Potluck</u>	21 <u>Game/Fellowship Time:</u> 9:30am	22 <u>WM Bible Studies:</u> 9:30am or 6:30 pm.	23 <u>Fellowship, Study & Prayer Time:</u> 6pm	24 <u>B-day:</u> Peter Lessmann <u>Anniv:</u> Alan & Karen Lashley	25	26
27 <u>Sunday School:</u> 9:30am <u>Worship:</u> 11am <u>HQP:</u> 2pm	28 <u>Game/Fellowship Time:</u> 9:30am	29 <u>B-day:</u> Sadie Atkins	30 <u>B-day:</u> Tiffany Mackin	31 <u>Reformation Day</u>		

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR OCTOBER

DEACONS OF THE MONTH: David Coddington and Ray Evans

MEAL MINISTRY LEADER OF THE MONTH: Andrea Ward

RECURRING WEEKLY EVENTS:

- Sunday School at 9:30 am.
- Sunday Worship at 11:00 am.
- Monday Game Time at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- Wednesday Fellowship, Study, and Prayer Time at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

SESSION: Dr. Josh Carmichael, Teaching Elder. Ruling Elders: Dennis Davidson, Scott Kirkpatrick, Jimmy Mackin, and Billy Symon.

DEACONS: Glenn Basinger, David Coddington, Mike Cork, and Ray Evans.

<u>2024</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 7,339.68	\$ 81,749.17
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,704.29	\$ 73,805.40
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (364.61)	\$ 7,943.77
<u>2023</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Gen. Fund Contributions	\$ 9,591.10	\$ 77,987.24
Gen. Fund Expenses	\$ 7,211.50	\$ 65,694.32
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ 2,379.60	\$ 12,292.92

AUGUST AVERAGE ATTENDANCE: 42

OCTOBER EVENTS

October 6:

- Men's Appreciation Breakfast, 8:00 am.
- Women's Ministry Council Meeting.

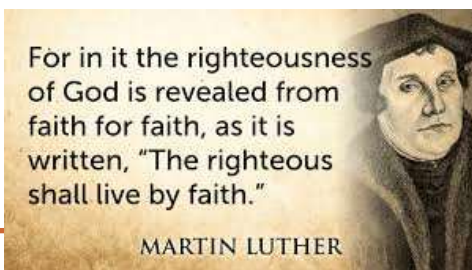
October 13:

- Deacon Meeting.
- Communion.

October 16: Session Meeting, 7:00 pm.

October 20: Monthly Fellowship Potluck Luncheon, immediately following the worship service. Setup/Cleanup Committee: Kirkpatrick, Evans, and Resto Families.

October 27: Hooked on Prayer (HOP) meeting, 2:00 pm at Eloise Harris' home. For more information on HOP please see page 4.



REMEMBER

REFORMATION DAY: OCTOBER 31, 1517

It was on this day that the light of the gospel broke forth out of darkness, which is known as the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation helped the church return to the doctrine of God's Word as the only supreme authority for faith and life. It also led the church back to the doctrines of justification by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This day reminds us of our duty and our obligation to keep the light of the gospel at the center of all we do.

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/what-is-reformation-day>

PCA/CDM WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Church of America/Committee on Discipleship Ministries (PCA/CDM) annually collects for the denomination-wide Love Gift Legacy during the month of October.



The 2024 Love Gift Legacy recipient is the CDM's Women's Ministry

International. They work to encourage and equip women's ministry leaders along with pastors in churches planted by Mission to the World and the International Reformed churches. This organization provides essential resources, leadership training and translation resources.

Our church's Women's Ministry will collect funds each Sunday during the month of October that will go directly to support this mission.

To learn more about the Love Gift Legacy, go to: <https://women.pcacdm.org/love-gift-legacy/>

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THE TROOPS

We hope you will get an early start and help support our Christmas Cards for the Troops annual event. Start planning now to prepare your cards. All cards will need to be delivered to the church by **Sunday, November 17, 2024.**



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

OCTOBER 2024

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FAITH PROMISE MISSIONARIES

Robert & Lisa Stewart	Mission to the World — Japan
Andy & Bev Warren	Mission to the World — Ethiopia
Doug McNutt	Trinity Center for World Missions — Central Africa
Jimmy & Nadia Dukes	Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship — Peru
Joy Ayabe	Wycliffe Bible Translators — Papua New Guinea
Clete Hux	Apologetics Resource Center — Birmingham, AL
Jonah	Frontiers — Undisclosed Muslim Country
General Support	The Lighthouse Women's Center — Demopolis, AL
General Support	Palmer Home for Children — Hernando, MS
Chaplain Ministry	Presbyterian and Reformed Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRCC)

HOOKED ON PRAYER (HOP):

Acton, Beth	Hocker, Jeannie
Allinder, Kate	Hux, Karen
Anderson, Kirsta	Johnson, Glenda
Aultman, Keegan	Lawrence, Bill
Beale, Amy	Lawrence, Lisa
Beeler, Peggy	Lessmann, Linus
Belcher, Samuel	Ligon, Brandon
Brooker, Chrissy	Mader, Rebecca
Brooker, Jan	Margo, Chrissy
Bryant, Kristie	McIntier, Darin
Busby, Rhae	McIntier, Jodie
Bynum, Linda	Mee, Marilyn
Davidson, Karen	Morgan, Laura
Duncan, Conner	Morris, Seth
Dyer, Doug	Phillips, Ronnie
Earl, Amelia (Tulipan)	Ramey, Carrie
Faust, Maggie	Renner, Andy
Gardner, Greg	Renner, Elizabeth
Graffeo, Anthony (A.J.)	Reynolds, Christy
Gross, Ernie	Sharpe, Adam
Hall, Heather	Stewart, Lee
Hall, Jimmy	Townsend, Laura
Harris, Julie	Tulipan, Hansen
Harris, Karen	Twist, Ty
Hart, Sarah Elizabeth	VanderMolen, Popko
Haubert, Chloe Belle	Wilder, Emily (Espy)
Headley, David	Womble, Caleb

If you have a heart to pray for the critically, chronically or terminally ill, HOP needs you.

**Can you pray?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you knit or crochet?
WE NEED YOU!**

**Can you write note cards?
WE NEED YOU!**

HOP is a prayer shawl ministry. We give shawls, throws, or blankets to the critically, chronically, or terminally ill to let them know we are praying for them. You do not need to know how to knit or crochet to be involved.

Any monetary gifts or donations of supplies, yarn, note cards and/or postage is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Eloise Harris or Joy Mackin for more information on how you can get involved.



OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer:

Luke (Jonah's son)
Scott Kirkpatrick
Rick Wilson
Jimmy Hall
Heather Hall
Adam Sharpe
Bessie Malone

Illness:

Laura Morgan
Neal Bules
David Headley
Linda Dunning

Special Needs:

The Hutton Family

Other Needs:

Christina & Danny Addison
Abigayle Kircharr
Harry Jeong
Eliza Horton

Military Personnel:

Chaplain William Broderick
Sam Brasfield
Steven Mackin
Victor Resto
Josh Tyson
Austin Griffith
Kaleb Brown
Nathan McCaskill

If you know anyone who needs to be added or taken off any of these lists, please provide Ann Resto with the information to keep the prayer lists current.