



From Pastor's Desk Stewardship and Vocation

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

“Where your treasure is there your heart will be also” (Luke 12:34). Notice that our Lord does not say: Where your heart is there your treasure will be also. He says the exact opposite. Hearts follow treasure, not treasure follow hearts. And this raises a question: where is your treasure?

In other words, what do you do with your money? A quick glance through your check register will tell you. It reveals where your heart is. So, where is your heart? What do you find? If you're honest, it will reveal two things. First, that your heart is *not* where it should be; and second, that you're heart *is* where it should be. You ask: How can this be? How can it be both? Isn't this a logical contradiction?

No. Because your heart is not to be in one place only. “Consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments” This we all know from the fifth chief part in Luther's Small Catechism on Confession. Our station is

our vocation. What is our station, our vocation, in life according to the Ten Commandments? Luther makes a list, but this list can be stated more generally under three categories: the Family, the State, and the Church. We have a vocation as a member of our family, of the state or society, and of the church. Vocation sets forth our relationship to those around us. Some are members of our family. Some are members of our community in society, the state. And some are members of the church, God's own family. This is where your heart should be. It should be with your family, your state, and your church. And since hearts follow treasures, this is where your treasure should be.

So “consider your station in life according to the Ten Commandments.” Consider your vocation. You are a member of a family. You are a member of society. You are a member of the church, God's own family. And so you give your treasure to those who are placed under care according to your vocation. You give to your family to provide for them because

God has ordered your life to be in service to the members of your family. You give to the state to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the state. You give to the church to provide for them because God has ordered your life to be in service to those who are fellow members of the Body of Christ, God's own family.

We are beneficiaries of God's generosity in the family, the state, and the church. This, we confess in the Apostles' Creed as we learned it from the meanings in the Small Catechism. We have received from God, out of his divine goodness and mercy, from his rich and daily providence, all that we need for this body and life, and all that we need for the life that is yet to come. God gives; we receive. And because we have received what He has given so richly, we can't not help but give in like measure. This is where your treasures go. And as our Lord promises, your heart shall follow.

From the President Jesus Has Mercy on Sinners

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

A recent television documentary covered the infamous “Woodstock” concert, which occurred 44 years ago this past August in New York State. I grew up with the music and did and do enjoy much of it. I was seven years old in 1969 and, aside from seeing the Vietnam casualty reports on the evening news, I was blissfully unaware of the unraveling of American culture.

The documentary, all filmed at the three-day concert, struck me profoundly. The normality of the young people interviewed, the pervasiveness of drugs, the undertone of sexual experimentation, the understandable disillusionment with war and the rejection of standard political solutions were all tremendous portents of the cultural tsunami we are now experiencing. And based on the size of the crowd, make no mistake, there were thousands of LCMS youth there too.

Much of the counter-cultural agenda articulated in 1969 has been achieved in the 44 years since. Artists who performed in that muddy field in upstate New York are passing from this world, while those living singers now in their 70s (like Joan Baez) and older, have become radical champions of our cultural implosion today. Their goal was peace and love. Seeing the likes of a young Jerry Garcia of “The Grateful Dead” joke about marijuana stunned me as I contemplated his life, marked by struggling with a drug addiction that finally killed him. Watching Jimi Hendrix, who would be dead of an overdose just 13 months later, filled me with even more melancholy. Man seeks freedom by his own devices, only to become enslaved.

We live today with a “Purple Haze” of confusion over many issues, and no issue more so than sexuality. Our job as the church is not to Christianize our society. Not at all. We do our best as pastors and teachers and congregations

to teach what the Bible says about church and state, about natural law, morality, marriage, and we encourage you to be active in your communities, politically and otherwise. It is our task to teach to those in the church what the Bible says about marriage and sex. We have done this, and much of it has been done very well. But it is past time for us to up our game in this regard. We have the herculean task of teaching our people what God in Christ expects of us in the realm of marriage, family and sexuality. The pressures of our culture toward the acceptance of the gay agenda, and the secular sexual agenda in toto, are pressures upon us. And they are ever increasing.

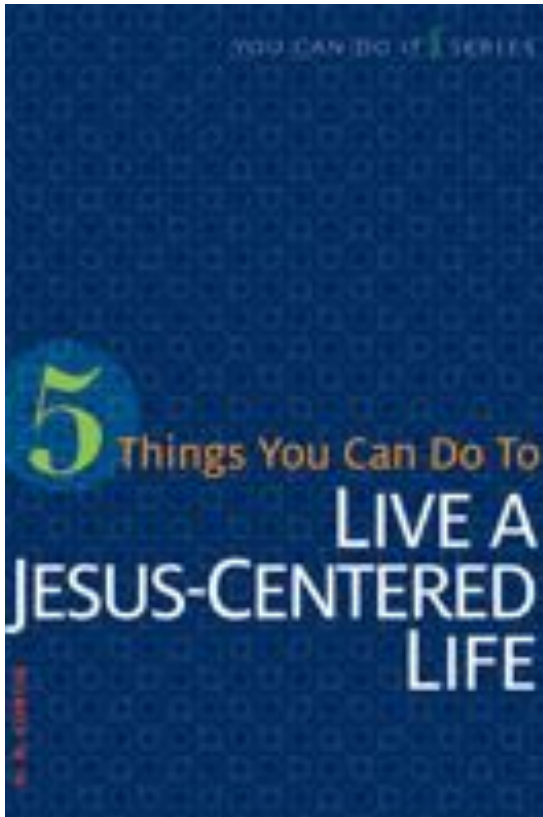
Some time ago we resolved to begin working more intentionally in the area of caring for those who struggle with same-sex attraction. We assembled a group of individuals (who, by the way, are the primary authors of this issue of The Lutheran Witness), each with significant experience in this area, and we asked them: “Where do we go?” “What do we do as the Church?” The weekly preaching that our pastors do--condemning us sinners and delivering the forgiveness of sins--pure gold. It's the sine qua non of dealing with the Sixth



Commandment sins of thought, word and deed with which we all struggle. But we also assembled the “Gift of Sexuality” task force on same-sex attraction, believing that it was time for the Synod to begin to identify existing LCMS capacity and knowledge on this issue.

Several years ago, we took this approach in the area of disaster ministry. The result was an overwhelming strengthening and networking and use of unending capacity within our own church body to care for people in times of disaster. We can do the same with same-sex attraction. It’s time to recognize, increase and share our resources to reach out to individuals and families who are struggling with these issues so we can share their burdens. Even though the Bible prevents us from affirming same-sex marriage and same-sex attraction, we must nevertheless be welcoming to those who struggle. We are all sinners. Jesus welcomes sinners. Jesus came to have mercy upon us sinners, and He does.

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The Book of the Month 5 Things You Can Do To Live a Jesus- Centered Life

Your salvation rests on Jesus Christ alone. While the foundation is sure, how will you build your life upon that foundation? Scripture is full of encouragement for living holy Christian lives full of the joys (and the crosses) that come with living a life of service toward God and neighbor.

This volume will equip you to:

- Find Jesus where He has chosen to reveal Himself—in Church and in His Word
- Learn with the disciples how to pray—the Lord’s Prayer
- Live out the Jesus-centered life through your vocation
- Live out the Jesus-centered life in your family

Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

Greeters List

3 Nov Donna Campbell (West)
Harold Wattjes (East)
10 Nov Jim Dyer (West)
Joan Vukelich (East)
17 Nov Laverl Byers (West)
Ruth Sims (East)
24 Nov Tim & Teri Pollock (West)
Donna Campbell (East)
1 Dec Harold Wattjes (West)
Jim Dyer (East)
8 Dec Joan Vukelich (West)
Laverl Byers (East)
15 Dec Ruth Sims (West)
Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
22 Dec Donna Campbell (West)
Harold Wattjes (East)
29 Dec Jim Dyer (West)
Joan Vukelich (East)

Coffee Committee

Nov Erin Pangburn
Dec Laverl Byers

Funeral Committee

Nov Joyce Alexander
Dec Scott Dallas & Sharon Allen

Altar Committee

3 Nov Joyce Alexander
10 Nov Becky Kappes
17 Nov Becky Kappes
24 Nov Becky Kappes
27 Nov Tonia Timlin

1 Dec Tonia Timlin
8 Dec Tonia Timlin
15 Dec Ann Hilgendorf
22 Dec Ann Hilgendorf
24 Dec Ann Hilgendorf
25 Dec Ann Carroll
29 Dec Ann Carroll
31 Dec Ann Carroll

Elder On Duty – Communion

3 Nov Geof Danielson
10 Nov Geof Danielson
17 Nov Geof Danielson
24 Nov Geof Danielson
27 Nov Josh Whitson
1 Dec Steve Hilgendorf
8 Dec Steve Hilgendorf
15 Dec Steve Hilgendorf
22 Dec Jack Appleby
24 Dec Jack Appleby
25 Dec Steve Hilgendorf
29 Dec Josh Whitson
31 Dec Jack Appleby

Altar Flowers

3 Nov Bryce & Deborah Reifsteck
10 Nov Ray & Norma Uthe
17 Nov Roger & Wanda Long
24 Nov Tim & Sherrie Hoel
15 Dec Josh & Jaimee Whitson
22 Dec Tim & Sherrie Hoel
24 Dec Geof & Sue Danielson
29 Dec Ray & Norma Uthe

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
10/6	21	88	0	\$3,031.00	\$20.00	\$6.00
10/13	21	78	0	\$1,664.75	\$0.00	\$0.00
10/20	21	65	0	\$1,898.00	\$0.00	\$20.00
10/27	24	80	0	\$2,236.25	\$0.00	\$200.00
Subtotal	87	311	0	\$8,830.00	\$20.00	\$226.00
Total	398			\$8,830.00	\$20.00	\$226.00

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>Dore Rowlett</p> <p>Children's Restoration Day</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Elders Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Men's Club Meeting</p> <p>Joy Stanger</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Jess Rowles</p> <p>Kenneth & Holly Wilcutt</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Harold & Irene Wadby</p> <p>Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Elizabeth Crook</p> <p>Megan Osborne</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism Class</p> <p>Susan Lusk</p> <p>Children's Sampler Day</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Missions & Evangelism Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>11:00 AM Church Planter's Conference</p> <p>Daniel Stevens</p> <p>Johanna Wanda</p> <p>Suzanne South</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>Kay Moore</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>See Rector</p> <p>William Pollock</p> <p>Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Denise Florio</p> <p>Leonard Jennings</p> <p>Mary Appleby</p> <p>Noreen L'He</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism Class</p> <p>Adeline Stevens</p> <p>Cary Rubin</p> <p>Colin Slaughter</p> <p>Lenny Rubin</p> <p>Lucille Oye</p> <p>Robert Krentz</p> <p>Children's Restoration Day</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Board of Education Meeting</p> <p>Jason Slaughter</p> <p>Maria Slaughter</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM L.W.M.L.</p> <p>David Sayler</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 PM Ladies Aid</p> <p>Roger & Wanda Long</p> <p>Chad Ely</p> <p>Krista Stone</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Leon Rubin</p> <p>Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Heather Appertus</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism Class</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>Jedson Wanda</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Melba Engler</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>7:00 PM Thanksgiving Eve Service/Holy Communion</p> <p>Carmie Dixon</p> <p>Sandra Jones</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Thanksgiving Church Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Jed Wanda</p> <p>Justin Rubin</p> <p>Leo Wanda</p> <p>Ruth Kuntzler</p> <p>Tuesday Stevens</p> <p>William & Peggy Strong</p> <p>Rector's Day Off</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Carl Krentz</p> <p>Mackenzie Rowles</p>

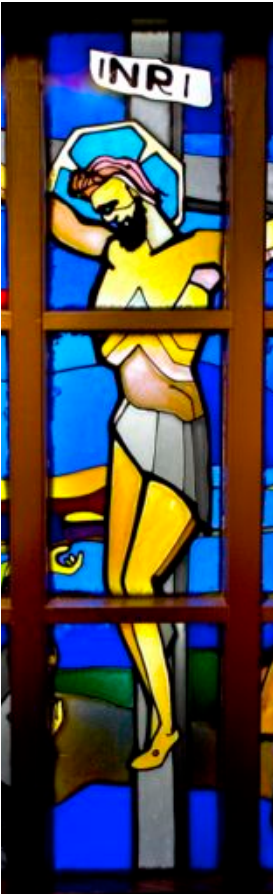
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>8: Monthly Missions -Angel Tree 9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Family School & Bible Study David Demmon Dawn Stokes Virginia Osborne -Caucasian Recreation Day</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Elders Meeting Rachel Dritz</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Cora Jenkins Janet Pollock</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 7:00 PM Advent Service Nicolas Clair</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Wilma Drahan</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8: Monthly Missions -Angel Tree 1:00 PM Ava Whitson's Birthday Party 8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Christine Davidson John Moore Tim & LaAnn Holey</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8: Monthly Missions -Angel Tree 9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Christmas Decorating Children's Seminar Day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:30 PM Missions & Evangelism Meeting George Crawford Rogan Escobar</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:30 AM Circus Pastors' Meeting Patricia Romine</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 7:00 PM Advent Service Nicolas Clair</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:30 PM Ladies Aid Christmas Party/Perfume Oliver Drahan</p>	<p>13</p> <p>David Stumvor April Norman Tucker Bowler Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Emily Czerniewska Jacob Wright</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 7:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Program Caucasian Recreation Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Board of Education Meeting 7:30 PM Writers Genad Alexandru</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting William Drough Arleigh Jones Mark & Leigh Ann Whitson</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 7:00 PM Advent Service Ava Whitson Kelli Holey Tiffany Crouch Travis Pollock</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Alyssa Brett Kyle Britt Nicholas Poe</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Jamie Arthur Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Laurel Dyer's</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting James & Carolyn Dyer</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Church Offices Closed 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service/Communion</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8:00 AM Christmas Day Service/Communion Sabrina Fox</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Church Office Closed William Koss</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Guy Stevens</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Family School & Bible Study Ray & Norma Lyle Ray Lyle</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30 AM Melina 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Holly Wiloff Lisa Ponder</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Church Offices Closed 7:00 PM New Year's Eve Service/Communion Andy & Teresa Rubin</p>				

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Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

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