

500 & 40 Years of Thankfulness

November Anno Domini 2017

THE SEASONINGS

ON THE COVER

In 1510 Albrecht Durer made this woodcut of the Passover meal Jesus celebrated on the night he was betrayed. On that night Jesus took bread and gave thanks. In this month of November when our hearts and minds turn toward thanksgiving let us remember this meal, the Lord's Supper. It has been called the *Eucharist* because that is the Greek word for what Jesus did—He gave thanks.

We give thanks for Jesus' body and blood given for us to eat and drink. We give thanks for the Words of Institution which Luther called "the gospel in a nutshell." Give thanks, dear Christian! Your Jesus gives his body and blood to you so that you might live!



COUNCIL UPDATE:

- There are only a few concerns left that Gwinnett county has about the steeple. The architect is working to rectify those. The Council appreciates everyone's patience as we move forward.
- All members of the Council are presently working on their budget numbers for 2018. The congregational meeting for approving the budget will be on the 10th of December after the 11am service. The budget will be published 2 weeks prior to the congregational meeting please look for copies on the bulletin board in the Sanctuary as well as printed copies.
 - The Board of Education and the collective members of the Council are considering changing the name of the school to **Sola Fide Academy**. The goal for the name change is to expand the number of people with whom we can share the beautiful truths of Scripture. Much thought and research has gone into this consideration, and your input would be appreciated.

If there are any questions or concerns with anything going on at Sola Fide Church or School please do not hesitate to speak to either myself or any other member of the Council. We would be happy to address any questions or speak to any concerns you may have.

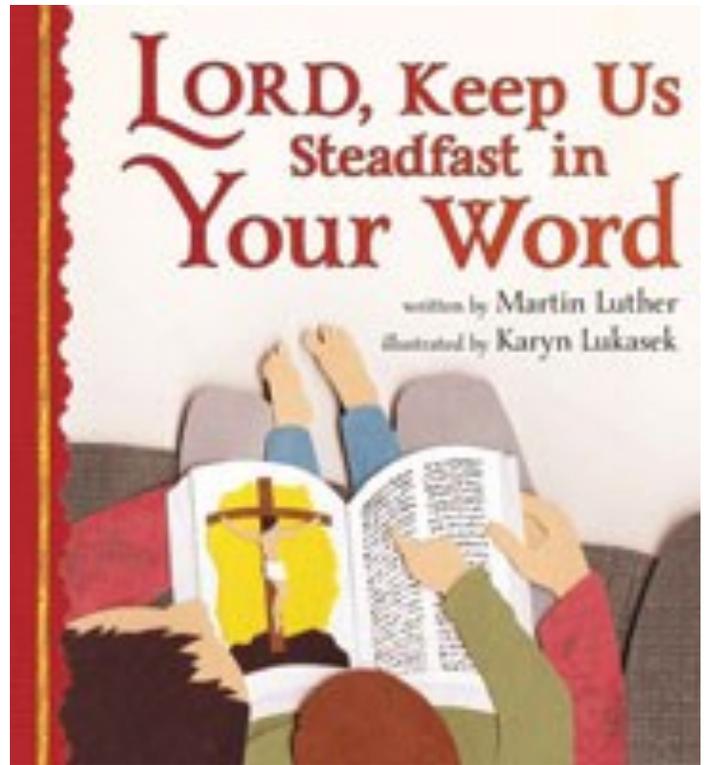
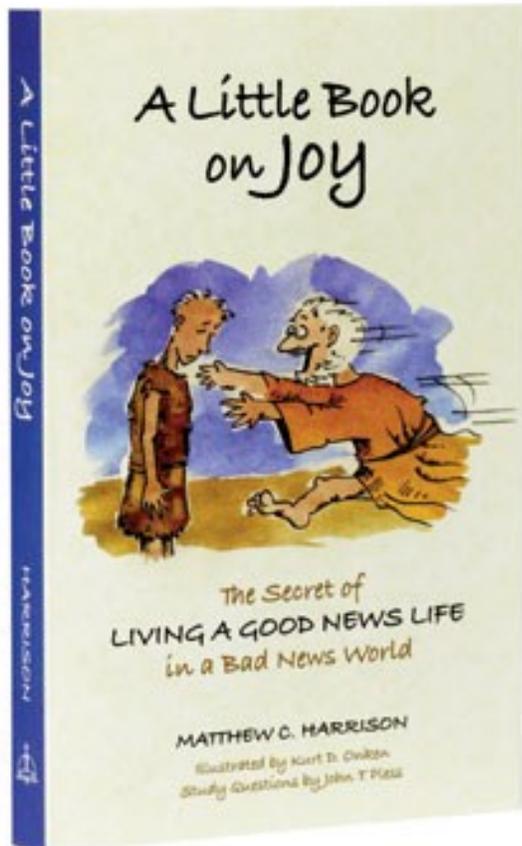
BOOK OF THE MONTH

[A Little Book on Joy](#)

Read about the joy of life together in community, marriage, and family, or the joys of humor, worship, the sanctity of life, and the wonders of creation.

Includes:

- Study questions at the end of each chapter, perfect for Bible study or small group study.
- A Prayer Guide for "The Great Ninety Days of Joy after Joy with texts and prayers from Ash Wednesday through Pentecost.
- "Something to Think About" questions are included at the end of each chapter.



BOOKS FOR KIDS

[Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word](#)

Teach little ones this little prayer, which Martin Luther called a children's hymn. On each page, the Triune God keeps this family faithful to His Word as they conduct home devotions, attend church, and share the Gospel.

This sturdy board book features bright illustrations designed to engage toddlers at home, church, or school.

(One of my brothers just bought this for our three boys and it is such a nice little board book with plenty to point out and talk about in the pictures.—Pastor Berg)

KIDS' PAGE

THE NINTH COMMANDMENT
YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WE SHOULD FEAR AND LOVE GOD
THAT WE DO NOT SCHEME TO GET
OUR NEIGHBOR'S INHERITANCE OR
HOUSE, OR OBTAIN IT BY A SHOW OF
RIGHT, BUT DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP
HIM KEEP IT.

THE TENTH COMMANDMENT
YOU SHALL NOT COVET YOUR
NEIGHBOR'S WIFE, WORKERS,
ANIMALS, OR ANYTHING THAT
BELONGS TO YOUR NEIGHBOR.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

WE SHOULD FEAR AND LOVE GOD
THAT WE DO NOT FORCE OR ENTICE
AWAY OUR NEIGHBOR'S SPOUSE,
WORKERS OR ANIMALS, BUT URGE
THEM TO STAY AND DO THEIR DUTY.

Read 1 Kings 21 to see how Ahab broke these commandments and to find the missing letters:

N _ B _ _ _ ° _ _ _ _ I _ _ _ Y _ _ _ _

NO MORE HOCUS POCUS

As we remember how God blessed the Church through the reformers of the 16th century there are many things for us to be thankful for: focus on Christ as our salvation, focus on the means of grace, pure teaching, no indulgences, and so on. There is, however, something we may not often think about which has a large impact on our lives as Christians.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it in remembrance of me.” We hear these words clearly spoken in English whenever we gather for the Sacrament of the Altar. That was not always the case. These words were spoken in Latin for many centuries in the Roman Church even up to last century. It is also becoming more of a common practice again in the Roman Church today.

We thank God that we can hear these beautiful words in a language we can understand. Words do us no good if we do not know what they mean. I do not know what the word “hocus” means nor do I know what the word “pocus” means. In the same way many in a church when Martin Luther was young did not know what “Hoc est corpus meus” means. That is a Latin phrase which means, “This is my body.” Those words became mystical to the people. Since those words were also whispered, many of the people thought the priest was saying “hocus pocus.” Imagine thinking that the Lord’s

Supper is something magical, not knowing all of its blessings or what it really is. Many people stayed away from the Lord’s Supper because they looked at it superstitiously.

As we remember all the things God has done for the Church let us not forget the great blessing in being able to hear clearly the Words of Institution. God wants us to come with confidence to the Lord’s Supper. Not confidence in ourselves but in what the Supper is and what it gives to us. “This is my body...This is my blood...given for you...poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.” As we hear these words we know that the bread is Christ’s body and the wine is his blood. We can confidently receive them in faith. Trusting those words which we can clearly hear in a language we understand.

Since we know what the Sacrament is, there is now no need for any superstitious thoughts. We can instead focus on our need for it and its wonderful blessings. Our sinfulness places us at odds with God. He sent his Son to live and die in our place. In the Sacrament we receive the benefits of what Christ has done. The Sacrament gives us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation as it strengthens our faith. In faith we trust in the blessings of this wonderful sacrament.

“How can eating and drinking do such great things? It is certainly not the eating and drinking that does such things, but the words, ‘Given and poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.’ These words are the main thing in this sacrament, along with the eating and drinking. And whoever believes these words has what they plainly say, the forgiveness of sins” (Luther’s Small Catechism). The words of Institution are an important part of the Sacrament and are wonderful words for all Christians to hear. Paul wrote, “And, how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?” (Rom 10:14) and it



is the same for the Sacrament. How can anyone believe it is Christ's body and blood if they have not heard "This is my body...This is my blood."?

The reception of Christ's body and blood in with and under the bread and the wine is an amazing blessing from God. We thank him that the proper understanding of it and the clear proclamation of the Words of Institution have been restored to the Church.

In Christ,

Pastor Berg

WHAT I DO WITH WHAT GOD GAVE ME

500 &40

Years of Thankfulness

1517 + 1977 + 2017

Last month we started our **500 &40 Years of Thankfulness** Celebration Stewardship focus on **SHINING** in the world with our brothers and sisters in Christ so we ... *are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)*

We explored our becoming the **light of the world** and letting our **light shine before men** noting we must first be **RECONCILED** with Christ *we love*

*Him [a] because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19) and our brothers and sisters in Christ **And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also. (1 John 4:20-21).** Through the blessing of our Baptismal Font, our meditating on our Daily Devotions and our Bible readings and as we refresh ourselves partaking of HIS Body and Blood through Holy Communion as often as it is offered, may we ... **never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. (Galatians 6:14)***

Our **SHINING** light is not without suffering as a chosen generation (1 Peter 2:9-10), our light **SHINES** through our Christ driven good deeds even though we may *suffer for righteousness' sake, you are blessed. ... For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. (1 Peter 3:13-17)*

Thus, our **SHINING** light should take on a life of its own through the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ so that our living is before the world, that is first living in Christ before we live in the world so all our good deeds will bring praise and glory to our Father in Heaven. *Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, 12 having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:11-12)*

By our example, the unbelievers may, *by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. (1 Peter 2:12b)* For those who know me well will most likely snicker when they envision me as good example, but that is what our Lord requires, for us all to be good examples of HIS saving grace and only through HIS grace could I ever be seen as a “good example”.

If we ... *are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)* then we must pray forthright and continually for all our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as the unbelievers. *‘Call to me and I*

will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.’ (Jeremiah 33:3)

For our Lord God asks us to come to him in prayer for all things – *“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. (Matthew 7:7)* May the doors the Lord God opens to us include our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as our children and grandchildren for *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 1:4)*

Let us **SHINE** in our prayer life for all as Timothy exults us in 1 Timothy 2:1-7 – **Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle—I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying—a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.**

So as we suffer for Christ’s righteousness so that our light may **SHINE** before men as Christ’s suffered for our sins bringing us to God, may we continually pray for all men so that we may *Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. (Romans 12:12)*

So shall it be for us, brothers and sisters in Christ, **SHINING** in obedience by faith through the grace of the Good Shepherd, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ so we ... *are the light of the world...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14a, 16)*

2017V11 - Gary Heintz - Stewardship Chair,
stewardship@solafide.com

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With
 2 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The
 3 The Christ is ev - er with them; The

milk and hon - ey blest— The sight of it re -
 home of God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed
 day - light is se - rene. The pas - tures of the

fresh - es The wea - ry and op - pressed: I
 coun - try That ea - ger hearts ex - pect, Where
 bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green. There

know not, oh, I know not What joys a - wait us
 they who with their lead - er Have con - quered in the
 is the throne of Da - vid; And there from care re -

there, What ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, What
 fight For - ev - er and for - ev - er Are
 leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The

bliss be - yond com - pare: To sing the hymn un -
 clad in robes of white. Je - sus in mer - cy
 song of them that feast. To God en - throned in

end - ing With all the mar - tyr throng, A -
 bring us To that dear land of rest Where
 glo - ry The Church's voic - es blend, The

midst the halls of Zi - on Re - sound - ing full with song.
 sings the host of heav - en Your glo - rious name to bless.
 Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, The Light that knows no end.

Home Altar Resources have been available throughout this year. A new booklet can be picked up now. The hymn that is featured in this new booklet is printed above. These comforting words help us at the end of life and are fitting as we come to the end of the church year.