



A Lesson From the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew

“But I say to you that if you are angry with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.” – Matthew 5:22

Does Jesus think that getting angry with someone is a sin? Is that even something we can control? What about when Paul says, “Be angry but do not sin” (Ephesians 4:26)? Wasn’t Jesus angry when he turned over tables in the temple? If anger were such a bad thing, why would God even give us that emotion?

Susan Moore got us thinking about this verse during our recent study on the Hebrew Gospel of Matthew, which is back in session on Wednesdays at 2pm. For those who enjoy comparing different languages, it’s a lot of fun! And no, you don’t have to speak Greek or Hebrew to be a part of the study. We take it very slow: verse by verse... sometimes word by word.

For the most part, if you’re familiar with the gospel of Matthew, the Hebrew version doesn’t seem radically different. But once in a while we come across a variation that’s worth thinking more deeply about. Like with Matthew 5:22. In most English versions (which are translated from Ancient *Greek* texts), it suggests that getting angry with a brother or sister is at least something worth being careful about. But in the *Hebrew* Gospel of Matthew, the verse reads a little differently. It says, “And I say to you that he who arouses anger or resentment in his friend must pay a judgement.” Look at them side by side and see if you notice the difference (I added italics to help):

From the Greek (NRSV): “But I say to you that if *you are angry* with a brother or sister, you will be liable to judgment.”

From the Hebrew: “And I say to you that *he who arouses anger* or resentment in his friend must pay a judgement.”

Do you see it? From the Greek, the responsibility lies on the one who gets angry. But from the Hebrew, the responsibility lies on the one who “arouses” anger in someone else. So which was Jesus concerned with? Getting angry? Or *making* someone angry?

Certainly both concerns require discipline in our lives. As Christians we are called to be peacemakers in the world and if we can't learn to control our anger, we won't make very good ones! But what if we're *also* responsible for the emotions we provoke in others? What if saying or doing things that make others mad is just as bad as letting your own anger get the better of you?

So why is the Hebrew text a little different than the Greek? And how much does it matter? If you have questions or concerns about Biblical translation, please come talk to me. It's a conversation worth having! But in this case... I hear Jesus saying that anger is one of those emotions that you gotta watch out for. *Both...* in yourself... *and* when interacting with others. Don't let your anger lead to sin. And don't say or do things that you know is likely to anger someone else.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jason



The Church Council reviews our COVID protocols every month, with the goal of balancing everyone's safety with a warm, welcoming feel. This month our practices will remain the same as they have been - practicing safe distancing indoors, using masks as needed and asking that anyone feeling ill please join us on Sunday mornings via our Zoom service.

Throughout the year, each of the church council members have been introducing themselves to the congregation and letting you know how to contact them. The council members feel that it's important that they are accessible and that you know they value your input.

Hi, I'm Tim Nelson,

I have been a Lutheran for most of my life, except when I fell off the wagon and went to the Presbyterian Church for a few years. I have been a member of Oakhurst Lutheran Church since the early 1990s. My wife, Miss Ellie, and I were married here in October, 1994. I am part of the Men's Club and have served several times on the Church Council, It has been an honor that you have entrusted me to be a part of them and help make decisions building and maintaining our church.

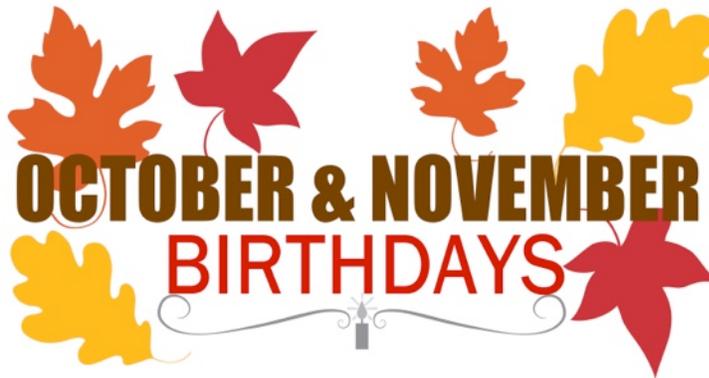
If you remember a few weeks ago, Pastor Jason spoke of tithing as not only being monetary, but that it can also be service to God. We will be losing three members of our council this year, so I ask that you consider serving on the church council and serving your Lord.



OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

anniversaries

Oct.	1	Becky and Roger Matlock (44)
	7	Willa and David Bass (54)
	11	Anita and Bill Nichols (46)
	11	Becky and Bill Stolp (41)
	14	Stella and Dennis Higgins (26)
	15	Ellie and Tim Nelson (27)
	22	Judy and David Reid (27)
Nov.	7	Dianne and Chuck Abney (49)
	8	Rogene and Howard Abney (69)
	15	Margaret and Thomas Starr (46)
	28	Mary and Bill Briggs (46)
Dec.	1	Jean and Larry Smith (59)
	5	Mary and David Chirolo (40)



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BIRTHDAYS

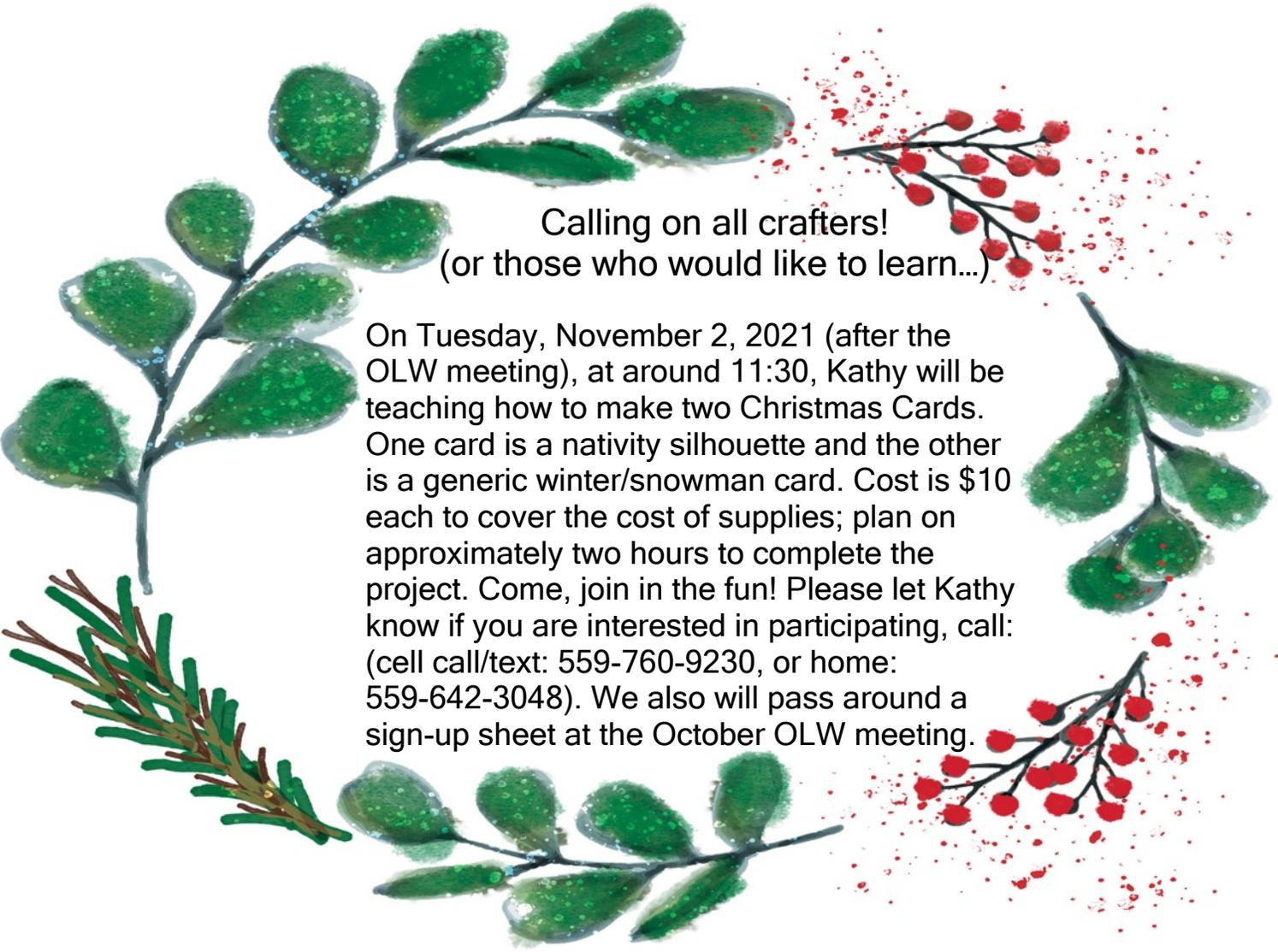
Oct.	1	Samantha Farinacci	Nov.	13	Rachel Miller
	2	Tammy Bartholomew			Cliff Poole
		Vicki Burkhalter			Kathy Swanson
	8	Linda Miller		14	Brad Thompson
	11	Willa Bass		15	Paul Johnson
		Dolores Gilbride		18	Helena Lusk
	13	Gael Irizarry		20	Mark Emerick
	21	David Chirolo		21	Renzo Conti
	23	Pat Johnson			Tianna Starner
		Ray Vetter		24	Nancy Baker
	24	Sharon Miller			Kathryn Fullerton
		Edna Norman			Anne Grandy
	25	Mary Ziebarth		26	Tori Melanson
	29	Miriam Loberg		28	Lynn Russell
	30	Jean Smith		30	Garrett Thompson
	31	Bill Burkhalter			
		Steve Norman	Dec.	2	Ruth Poole
Nov.	9	Vivian Hartman		7	Diane Wolff
	10	Rogene Abney			
	12	Bill Stolp			

Faith & Fellowship

Ongoing Groups:

- Bible Study with Pr. David Sebastian, Wednesdays at 9:30am
- Youth Group (6th-12th grade), Sundays 6:30-8:00pm
- Young Adults Group, on Zoom, times vary
- Beginner's Bible Study - Thursdays at 10:30am
- Exodus small group - Wednesdays at 11:30pm
- Hebrew Gospel of Matthew study - Wednesdays at 2pm
- OLC Women's Group, 1st Tuesdays of the month, 10am
- OLC Men's Group, 3rd Saturdays of the month at 9am
- Choir Rehearsal, Wednesdays at 5:30pm

If there is a group you'd like to start up, please call the office or Pastor Jason to discuss all aspects of gathering together.



Calling on all crafters!
(or those who would like to learn...)

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021 (after the OLW meeting), at around 11:30, Kathy will be teaching how to make two Christmas Cards. One card is a nativity silhouette and the other is a generic winter/snowman card. Cost is \$10 each to cover the cost of supplies; plan on approximately two hours to complete the project. Come, join in the fun! Please let Kathy know if you are interested in participating, call: (cell call/text: 559-760-9230, or home: 559-642-3048). We also will pass around a sign-up sheet at the October OLW meeting.



Since 1993, Samaritan's Purse has partnered with local churches around the world to deliver 157 million [Operation Christmas Child](#) shoebox gifts to children in need in 160 countries. Each one—packed full of fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items by a family or individual—is sent with prayer that the child who receives it will experience God's love through their simple gifts. These shoebox gifts are an opportunity to share the Gospel and “declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples” (Psalm 96:3).

There are three ways to fill a shoebox:

1. Pick up a shoebox and literature on how and what to pack in your shoebox(es), fill and bring back to the church by Sunday, November 14th;
2. Go online to <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/> and they will walk you through how to fill a box for \$25 (please let the office know how many boxes were filled online so the Mission committee can keep a count);
3. Drop a donation in the box on our Operation Christmas Child table, and our Mission Ministry will purchase needed items and fill boxes.

After they pack and ship shoeboxes like yours overseas, local believers share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with children as they distribute them. As a result, families are reached, new churches are started, and communities are transformed. It all begins with you! If you have any questions, please see or call Elvera Prentiss, Linda Heitkamp, or you can call the church office.



Mountain Crisis Services has been dedicated to providing services to people in the mountain area who are affected by domestic violence and sexual assault for 30 years. We are one of the churches in the area supporting this mission, and there are always needs for these folks so suddenly separated from their homes. Please check out the list attached to the colorful Crisis Services box in the Parish Hall next to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Child table. There are three shelters in three counties to house these clients; they are constantly filled to capacity and donations are always appreciated, as they are perpetually low on many of the basic necessities. If you have any questions please contact Susan Johnson at 209-966-5988 or E-mail to grandmasaj@sti.net.



IN OUR CONGREGATION:

Linda Beard
Sandi Carstensen
Lois Curran
Arlene Edwards
Mark Emerick
Arlene Fogde
Clarice Forbes
Vivian Hartman
Frank Heilman

Dennis & Stella Higgins
Patricia Johnson
Jan Kieffer
Ann Lesniewski
Miriam Loberg
Melodie Lynch
Chuck Nelsen
Ellie & Tim Nelson

Dora Riedel
Lynn Russell
Ruthann Schiller
Larry Smith
Randy Strunk
Gail Vanderslik
James and Dee Walter
Dale Winther

Please add to prayers: Frank Heilman, who has been placed on hospice.
the family & friends of Mary Lou Stagner at her passing.
Janice Quistad and family - for comfort at the loss of her cousin, Terry

FAMILY, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS:

Ann Lesniewski's daughter-in-law, Cheryll
Father Joel
Carole Johnson's brother, Mike
Mary & Bill Briggs
Lynn Vaughn's son, Matthew
Grant Eyles
Raymond Ressler
Linda Miller's cousin, Heidi
Janet Norman's daughters, Denise & Tina
Bert Dill's daughter, Stephanie Walker
Judy Reid's friend, Greg
the Burkhalter's daughter-in-law, Sarah
Cliff Neufeld's son, Josh
the Bartholomew's sister-in-law, Beverly
Ruby Smith's daughter, Jody
Lisa and Jim Conrad's son, Thomas
Jean & Larry Smith's friend, Peggy Parks
The Abneys' nephew, John Willoughby

Steve & Edna Norman's brother-in-law, Jack
Suzy Gazlay
Judy Lewis
Arlene Edward's daughter, Theresa
Carole Yandell's daughter, Ellen
Gael Irizarry's sister, Sandy Holz
Sandi Carstensen's brother-in-law, Tom
Sandi Carstensen's sister-in-law, Inge
Rogene's friend, Ann Miller
Therese Righter's son, Hayden
Elvera's friend, Bunny Walthuis
Kathy Bogle's sister-in-law, Ann
Matt Van De Wal's grandmother, Dorothy
the Abneys' niece, Roberta
Linda Champion's friend, Mary McEnery
Elvera's friend, Meta
Nelsen family friend, Shannon
The Champions' friend, Mary Comer
Judy Reid's niece, Celeste

Please add to prayers: Family & friends of Doug Higgins at his sudden passing.
Family and friends of Jolinda Thomas at her passing.
Dwan Foster and family - comfort for loss of her son, Brad.

