The Bethlehem Star

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10

September 2018



*“You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” 1 Sam. 17:45*

Psalm 119:105

The Scripture Lessons for September:

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Deut. 4:1,2, 6-9

Epistle: Eph. 6:10-20

Gospel Mark 7:14-23

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Is. 35:4-7a

Epistle: James 2:1-10, 14-18

Gospel Mark 7:31-37

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Is. 50:4-10

Epistle: James 3:1-12

Gospel Mark 9:14-29

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Jer. 11:18-20

Epistle: James 3:13-4:10

Gospel Mark 9:30-37

**19th Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Num. 11:4-29

Epistle: James 5:13-20

Gospel Mark 9:38-50

**The Battle is the Lord’s!**

Ask any Sunday school class what their favorite Bible story is and a good number of students will raise their hand and say “David and Goliath!” As Christians we love this story that comes from 1 Samuel 17. It is very easy to be drawn into the story with its vivid imagery and suspense.

Near the climax of the story we see young David advancing across the flat valley toward his opponent. On the other side stands a giant of a man who launches insults at him, but David doesn’t seem one bit afraid.

The giant, Goliath, has all of the state-of-the-art military equipment. He has full scale body armor, helmet, and greaves to protect his legs. His weaponry includes a spear and a sword, with a javelin slung across his back. He lacks nothing including a shield to block arrows, or even stones.

Young David, on the other hand, comes dressed in the garb of a shepherd. He has no full scale body armor. His weapon is only a crude sling he would have woven. His ammo includes five stones selected from the brook that he placed in his shepherd’s pouch.

As David approaches Goliath the massive warrior, the insults intensify. He yells, “Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field.” (1 Sam. 17:44). Goliath has worked himself into a fiery rage.

David is not intimidated. He says to Goliath “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Hosts….This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand…..all this assembly may know the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord’s…” (1 Sam. 17:45-47).

(Next page……………………………….)

In Christ,

Pastor Patrick Lohse

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122

**May Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

1 Randy & Denise Hauge2 James Leonard

Shirley Leopold  
3 Dorothy Pilch

4 Kirsten Siron

Brian & Cindy Johnson

6 Greg Narvick

Rose Thorson  
7 Jacob Daggett

10 Jeanette Langebartels

11 Dona Grieff  
 Samuel Jacobson

14 David Hexdall

Scott Sampson

16 Terri Cryder

17 Wilma Gehrke  
18 Randy Hauge

Kristine Jacobson

19 Rebecca Perini  
 Katie Daggett21 Roman & Jackie Smyk

Kacen Johnson   
23 Laura Holman   
26 Richard Stump, Sr.

Ken & Joanne Torkelson

28 Brad Hexdall



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**Where To Look In the Bible**

1. When “things look blue,” read Isaiah, Chapter 40.
2. When tempted to do wrong, read the 139th Psalm.
3. If you are facing a crisis, read the 46th Psalm.
4. When you are discouraged, think over Psalm 23.
5. If you are “bored,” read Psalms 103 and 104 or Job, chapters 38-40.
6. When business is poor, read Psalm 37.
7. When you are lonely or fearful, read Psalm 27.
8. When you are anxious for dear ones, read Psalm 107.
9. When you plan your budget, read St. Luke’s Gospel, chapter 19.
10. To live successfully with your fellowmen, follow Romans, chapter 12.
11. If you are sick or in pain, read Psalm 91.
12. If you have experienced severe losses, read the last paragraphs of chapter 8 of Romans.
13. If you are having to put up a stiff fight, there is a fine equipment listed at the end of Ephesians.
14. When you have sinned read John 1, St. John 3:1-21, Isaiah 53, and make Psalm 51 your prayer.
15. The way of prayer 1 Kings 8; Psalms 42; 51; St. Luke’s Gospel, chapters 11:1-13; 18:1-14; St. John’s Gospel, chapter 17; Ephesians, 3.
16. If you have a fear of death, read St. John, Chapters 11, 17, and 20; 2 Corinthians, chapters 4, 5; romans, chapter 8: Revelation, chapters 7, 21 and 22.
17. When you leave home for labor or travel, carry Psalm 121 with you.

**Obsessed with Sports?**

By Dr. Ken Matto

Many Christians have been diverted from their testimony for Christ into the never ending life of sports fanaticism. It seems we have traded out Bibles for scorecards. There are many Christians who care too much for the world of sports and too little for the things of Christ. As a believer it is my responsibility to prevent myself from being dominated by anything or anyone except Christ (Romans 6:12).

We must remember that Christ said we cannot serve two masters. If our mind is on sports, it will not be on the things of Christ. Our lives are governed by an exchange principle. If I choose worldly things, I have then exchanged God for the world, and vice versa. Sports is the easiest and most innocent appearing vice which can rule our minds. I would like to list sixteen traits a person obsessed with sports may exhibit:

1. You know more about sports than the Bible. 2. You yell at the radio or TV. 3. You take the Lord’s name in vain if you become angry at a play. 4. You eat in front of the TV set so you will not miss a play. 5. You hurry home so you will not miss any part of the game. 6. You consistently speak of sports. 7. You bet on games. 8. You neglect your family for the game. 9. You disturb employees on the job just to talk about the game. 10. You only read the sports section of the newspaper. 11. You stay up late to watch the game, even on a work or school night. 12. You become angry if someone talks while the game is on. 13. You miss the evening service for a sporting event. 14. You turn the game on during a meal. 15. You keep the game on when company visits. 16. You neglect spiritual studies for sports.



If you would like to “ask the Pastor” a question you can write it down on piece of paper and hand it to me or email me at ([lohs0016@umn.edu](mailto:lohs0016@umn.edu)). Your name will not be printed with your question.

“*Pastor, what is so significant about the number 666?*

The number “666” is mentioned in Revelation 13:16-18 says: “Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name. This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man, and his number is 666.”

There have been many interpretations given throughout the centuries regarding these verses. As you read the Book of Revelation keep in mind that this book is very symbolic and many things are to be understood figuratively. Don’t forget the book’s simple and clear message: Christ has won the victory over Satan, sin and death. Revelation also calls us to live lives of faithfulness to Christ and His Word!

In the Bible the number seven often times represents “holiness, completion and perfection.” If seven stands for holiness, then the number six is understood as the number of “incompleteness.” Notice that the number six occurs three times, which is an attempt to mirror the Trinity. However, it falls short and thus emphasizes “unholiness.” The number “666” is devoid of holiness, which alone comes through Jesus Christ.

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“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

**FFHM Orphanage Mission Project**

A big thank you to all who collected and donated items for the orphanage during the month of August.

For more information about the Foundation For His Ministry Baja Mission please check out their website at ffhm.org.

**Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue**

**sticks, balloons, stickers, & backpack sticks, balloons, stickers, backparkers (Sharpie permanent; Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue sticks, balloons, stickers, backp** Socks Underwear (boys & girls size 3-5)

**Mark your calendar for the following Sunday School/Youth Group Activities in September:**

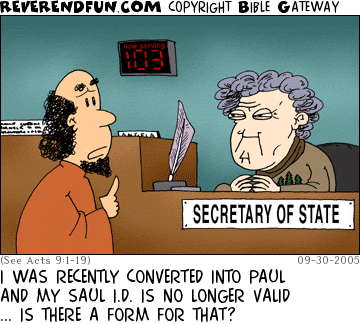
* **The 2018 Sunday School year kicks off with a pancake breakfast on September 9th. All are invited to be served pancakes by our Sunday school students. Classes begin Sunday, September 16th at 10:15 am.**





Holy Humor

“A time to laugh” Ecclesiastes 3:4



**Here is some trivia about our congregation:**

* Who was the congregation’s first pastor?
* What was the name of our congregation when it was first organized?
* What year was the congregation first established?
* Who was the pastor from 1944-55?
* How much did it cost in 1952 to build our current church building?

Answers:

In the Fireside room there are several books/booklets with valuable information on our church.

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**Financial Update for the Month of August**

General Fund Missions

Needed to meet monthly budget: $16,849.00 $942

Offerings Received: $13,136.00 $980

Net difference needed: $3,713 $

***Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7**



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**September Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

**September Birthdays & Anniversaries**

1 Ken Torkelson  
3 Kelsey Skinner

Judith Peterson

5 Sherri Gottleib

6 Alexander Hexdall

Levi Ochoa

7 Edward Markus

8 Cori Daggett

9 Jackie Smyk

10 Noah Lohse

11 Joanne Torkelson

13 Tracy Hexdall

Bryson Enger

15 Sharon Morris

16 Jonathan Granstrom

18 Audrey Hexdall

John Thompson

Randy Sampson

19 Ginny Thompson

20 Hannah Daggett

21 Emma Stump  
23 Dawn Francois

24 Georgette Shugart

25 Linda/Roy Granstrom

26 Shirley Johnson

Bob Kezerle

27 Harold Nelson  
28 Erika Cryder

29 Chris Danielson

Caleb Lohse

30 Vickie Thompson



Continued………………………

It is easy to discern that Goliath is trusting in his size, his weapons, and even his long battle experience. David, however, is relying on the Lord. In that faith, David runs quickly to the ballet line to meet the giant.

When David comes in range, he stoops, places a stone into his sling, swirls it around faster and faster until he lets it fly. The stone flies through the air until it meets its final destination, the forehead of Goliath. Goliath falls face first into the ground, dead!

It’s easy to misunderstand this well-known story. “The young boy against the warrior-giant. David’s puny sling vs. Goliath’s state-of-the-art weaponry. The weak against the strong.” But that’s not the main point. The point of this favorite story of ours is that the giant trusts in his prowess, while David’s boldness comes from his absolute faith in the Lord. David knows God will help him. David did not fear Goliath because he knew that his God was bigger than the giant.

What are you facing? Have your fears immobilized you? Do you imagine that it's you alone against your “giants?”

Let us learn from David, and walk by faith every day. David understood the key element: “The Battle is the Lord’s.” Our “giants” in life are not nine foot Philistines, but there are plenty of things that may cause us to be afraid.

As a Christian, your battles are not yours, they belong to the Lord. He will always help you no matter how lopsided the odds may seem. Your “giant” is puny compared to the Lord God Almighty! With God, it’s not even a battle. The Lord is with you, and the battle belongs to Him.

Be of good courage,

Pastor Patrick Lohse