



# GraceNet

Knoxville, TN

September 2023

## It is Good to be Wise

If there was a wisdom test, how would you score? You can be very knowledgeable about many things but massively lack wisdom. Wisdom is applying knowledge correctly. There is a well-known quote that states that *"knowledge is knowing what to say and wisdom is knowing when to say it."*

Most of us have run into foolish or silly people who continually make ill-advised decisions. Perhaps, at one time, you were in that category. How can we help people become wiser and how can we help ourselves?

The Bible offers us a book just for that purpose. The book is Proverbs. In this article I have chosen seven areas addressed in this book that if heeded and practiced will surely make one wiser.

1. Getting the right guidance in life is critical if you are going to be wise. One of the chief verses in Proverbs is found in chapter 3, verses 5-6: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."*

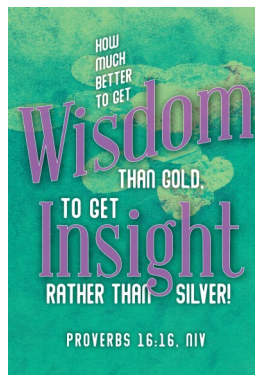
All of the Bible offers us instruction and guidance and we truly need it because, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end leads to death."* (14:12)

We often ask ourselves, which way we are to go. One direction the book of Proverbs repeatedly warns us not to take is the path that leads to adultery. *"But a man who commits adultery lacks judgment; whoever does so destroys himself."* (6:32) More bluntly is the proverb that asks, *"Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned..."* (6:27) comparing this to committing adultery.

2. Do people see you and others as "full of themselves"? They are the people who always think they are right

and want others to know it. Proverbs tells us that, *"the Lord detests all the proud of heart..."* (16:5) and that pride goes before a fall (16:18). Humility in all things is advised. And, if you did something well, let another praise you and you keep your mouth shut. But at the same time remember, *"a person will be tested by the praise they receive."* (27:21)

3. Some of the most unwise actions we can take has to do with our speech. *"When words are many, sin is not absent..."* (10:19) Also, *"He who guards his lips guards his life; but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. (13:3) "A gossip betrays a confidence; so avoid a man who talks too much."* (20:19) On the other hand, graceful speech is praised, *"A honest answer is like a kiss on the lips."* (24:26)



4. If you have ever read the book of Proverbs there is one image you probably remember. It has to do with ants. *"Go to the ant you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise."* (6:6) Laziness is a sure sign that one lacks wisdom. According to the Proverbs it is a more serious problem than most realize. *"One who is slack in his work is a brother to one who destroys."* (18:8)

5. As Jesus often noted, the foolish often make money their god. The Proverbs give the same warning. *"Whoever trusts in riches will fall..."* (11:28) declares Solomon, perhaps the richest man who ever lived. People who pursue them ought to consider this nugget of wisdom: *"Do not wear yourself out to get rich; have the wisdom to show restraint. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone for they will sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle."* (23:4-5)

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Good to be Wise (Continued)

6. The Proverbs have much to say about personal relationships. Here are a few examples.  
*"A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."* (12:16)  
*"He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."* (17:9)  
*"He who loves to quarrel loves sin..."* (7:19)  
*"If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat, if he is thirsty, give him water to drink..."* (25:21)
7. If you are to be wise, the Bible teaches us, you must have a sincere concern for the poor. There are many, many verses in the Proverbs that say just that.  
*"He who mocks the poor shows contempt for their Maker."* (17:5)  
*"He who is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward him for what he has done."* (10:17)  
*"If a man shut his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered."* (21:13)  
*"Do not exploit the poor...for the Lord will take up their cause..."* (22:22-23)

May you heed the wisdom of the Proverbs because . . . It is good to be wise!

~ Pastor Rich

## VIA DE CRISTO

### "Way of Christ"



Are you ready for an uplifting "spiritual renewal week-end" drawing closer to our Lord, feeling His presence, experiencing God's GRACE and LOVE working through fellow Christians? The next weekend is **October 19-22**. You may not hear anything you have not heard before. We have no secret knowledge or insights. We share with you an approach to Christian living that helps us hear and respond to Christ's command in Matthew 28:19-20. We want to inspire, challenge and equip our church members for Christian action in our homes, churches, and communities. All we do and say is based on Scripture in the Lutheran tradition.

If you are interested in learning more, check out the bulletin board across from the church mailboxes in the hallway.

## Coffee or Lunch with Pastor Danny?

Pastor Danny would like to share a cup of coffee or meal with you—no strings attached! You can sign up to meet with Pastor Danny at:

<https://calendly.com/pastordannygraceknoxville/breakfast-lunch-meeting>

## Grace Prayer Team Welcomes Requests

The Grace Prayer Team is constantly at work! If you have a prayer request that you would like prayed over by the Grace Prayer Team, we welcome your requests. Please contact **Kristin McGee** at [kdmcgee08@gmail.com](mailto:kdmcgee08@gmail.com) (865-384-9834) or **Ev Brown** ([evbrown3@gmail.com](mailto:evbrown3@gmail.com) (757-870-5603)). The request will then be passed on to the team. We continue to welcome Prayer Team members as well. If you are interested in praying for the needs submitted by our church family, please contact Kristin or Ev with your interest.



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If you have a special event you would like to have publicized in GraceNet, please submit the information to Debbie Booher by the 1st of each month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

# Our Pastor's RETIREMENT

*Save the Date!!!*

**Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m.**  
**ONE SERVICE ONLY**

**Pastor Rich's final sermon followed by a  
Retirement Celebration. Time: TBA**

## Lutheran Women in Mission

Ladies, you are ALL invited to a BIBLE BRUNCH with Pastor Jake and Christina on **September 9** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The LWML ladies will serve some great food as we study God's Word on "Urgently Proclaiming Christ" from the Quarterly Magazine. We will also get acquainted with our new Pastor and his wife.

Please be sure to register for the Eagle Rock Retreat on October 6-8 by September 22. Forms and info are available on the Coffee Bar.



*"Many thanks for the hard work the Lutheran Emergency Relief Team (LERT) provided us after a recent storm. We are truly blessed by our Grace family!"*

*~ Blessings, Bruce & Barb Collet*

## In the Beginning Was the Word

We read, "In the beginning was the Word..." and probably do not suspect all that is behind it. In summary, it is personified and refers to the creative intelligence that made and sustains the universe. As you continue reading John 1 you learn this creative intelligence Who always existed, always was taken on flesh and became our Redeemer. Our Creator is also our Redeemer, is Jesus. The Word was a concept familiar to both Jews and Greeks, even if slightly different in the understanding of both. Because Word was familiar to both groups, John's Gospel could better find an audience with both.

"Word" translates 'Logos.' While "Word" is an accurate literal translation, it also misses so much more that is a part of 'Logos.' "Logos" is more than a vocable, like "tree" or "love" or "day." As Greeks like Aristotle understood the 'Logos,' it referred to ordered discourse that is part of a carefully argued presentation. For the Stoics it came to be the divine reasoning that put the universe in order. "In Greek thought, the logos was the rational principle guiding the universe and making life coherent."\*

Philo was an educated Jew and a philosopher from Alexandria born about twenty years before Jesus and dying about forty years after Jesus' ministry on earth. He was acquainted with Stoicism and easily connected it with God's Wisdom in the creation of all things when He called all things into being by the power of His spoken Word. "For Jewish people, the Logos was the word of the Lord, an ex-

pression of God's wisdom and creative power. By Jesus' time, the Logos was viewed as coming from God and having His personality (see Ps 33:6, 9; Prov 8:22-31); John affirmed this understanding (John 1:14)."

In John 1:3 we read that all created things were made through the 'Logos.' That is repeated in verse 10. Verses 11 and 12 identify the One Who created as the One Who also redeems and gives authority to be children of God. (John uses the word "son" for Jesus, but "children" for us.) Yet, many do not recognize Him and do not receive Him or what He offers.

This One Who created and redeems became flesh and identified with those whom He created. In our English Bibles we read that He dwelt among us. The verb used means to pitch a tent. The Old Testament usage of that verb is important. In the Greek Septuagint (Old Testament) known to most by virtue of the conquests of Alexander the Great that spread the Greek language across the empire that word refers to the Tabernacle, or Tent of Meeting where God, Himself came to be present with His people. Jesus is the presence of God among us. He is the Word.

\*(The NLT Study Bible [Kindle edition], notes on John 1:1]) See also "Word, the" in the Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible, (Nashville: Abingdon), Vol. 4.

*~ Rev. Phil Bohlken*



9/1	Fisher Smith	9/21	Jack Buchanan
9/3	Barbara Schmitt	9/21	Jessica Turner
9/4	Kim Kleckley	9/22	Nathan Bretscher
9/4	Darryl Mackley	9/22	Isaac Hembree
9/5	Debbie Bretscher	9/22	Charles Vesser
9/5	Ruth Crouch	9/22	Shirley Wolfram
9/5	Craig Schmitt	9/23	Debbie Booher
9/6	Charlotte Cole	9/23	Denise Hart
9/6	Remi Hicks	9/23	Mary Krempasky
9/7	Mia Borchardt	9/23	Kathy Pankow
9/7	Drew Martin	9/24	Chris Augustus
9/9	Carmita Wright	9/24	Andrew Cole
9/10	Jennifer Kessler	9/25	AdriAnne Kothe
9/11	Carmie Lee	9/25	Becky Wrasman
9/11	Cooper Turner	9/26	Sarah Duncan
9/12	Ava Kothe	9/26	Charles Stine
9/13	Sheila Brill	9/27	Sherrri Buchanan
9/13	Stephen Smith	9/28	Robert Schmidt
9/14	Sophia Strobel	9/29	Laci Brill
9/15	Melissa Hardin	9/29	Jan Grebe
9/16	Suzi Schmidt	9/29	Mia Jones
9/18	Ashley Cruise	9/29	Pastor Roger Reckling
9/19	Connie Pinchak	9/29	Kellie Sexton
9/20	Maureen Campbell	9/30	Andrew Brill
9/20	Erik Jones	9/30	Carol Neubauer

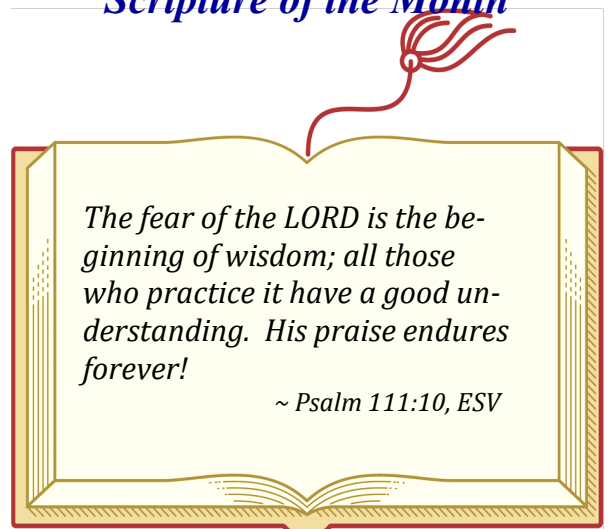
9/1	Gary & Joretta Schneider (67)
9/2	Michael & Amanda Newport
9/2	Richard & Susan Wright
9/3	Mike & Sheila Donnelly (57)
9/3	Joan & Allen Scraggs (57)
9/6	Larry & Carol Voorhees (53)
9/10	Maureen & Ken Campbell
9/11	George & Ruby Roettger (52)
9/11	Randy & Jennifer Wylie
9/15	Wayne & Laura Sikora
9/19	Steve & Kathy Crum (53)
9/21	Ivonne & Ken Robertson
9/24	Don & Nancy Thaemert
9/24	Erik & Kristen Walker
9/26	Jeanine & Antonio Smith
9/29	Allen & Mary Schultz (50)
9/29	Lisa & Allen Smith
9/30	Steve & Jean Root

*“Prayer is an acknowledgement that our need of God’s help is not partial but total.”*

*~Alistar Begg*



### September Scripture of the Month



### Bible Quiz



The book of Revelation is written to seven churches. Which list includes a city that is not among those seven?

- A. Ephesus, Thyatira, Philadelphia
- B. Smyrna, Laodicea, Galatia
- C. Pergamum, Thyatira, Smyrna
- D. Sardis, Ephesus, Laodicea

Answer: B (see Revelation 2-3)



## September Children's Curriculum Themes

In an attempt to connect the adults and children of Grace just a bit more, I will be letting people know the theme and verse of the week in our children's Sunday school classes. I would love it if the adults would join in memorizing or at least talking about it to the children as they see each other in the halls. Listed below are the themes and scripture for September.

~ Frieda Guthrie

<i><b>DATE</b></i>	<i><b>THEME</b></i>	<i><b>VERSE</b></i>
September 3	<b>God made the world.</b>	<i>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)</i>
September 10	<b>God made us.</b>	<i>I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. (Psalm 139:14)</i>
September 17	<b>God doesn't want us to sin.</b>	<i>For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)</i>
September 24	<b>God wants us to love our families.</b>	<i>Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. (Romans 12:10)</i>



## Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is a year-round opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with children around the world who would not otherwise receive gifts. Please consider filling a shoebox to bless a child. If you don't want to fill the box yourself, you can contribute funds for a box and we'll fill it for you. If you don't know what to put in a box, there's information in the Children's wing on suggestions for items. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact Frieda Guthrie at [childrensmin@visit-grace.org](mailto:childrensmin@visit-grace.org) or Paul Guthrie at [pgvint3@gmail.com](mailto:pgvint3@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting this important ministry!



## Mission for Christ Network (MCN)

**C**ambodian Lutheran Pastor Phan Narit (Jesse) and his wife Chin Sithon (Naomi) direct the ministry of Stronghold Cambodia, a partner organization of Mission of Christ Network. Stronghold provides a safe place for economically disadvantaged children in their Buddhist and Muslim community to be nurtured intellectually, physically, and spiritually through their lunch program, Bible devotions, ESL, and basic computer classes. Their mission (based on Isaiah 25:4) is to proclaim the Gospel to children and families so they can come to know God as their Stronghold, Shelter, and Shade. Four missionaries sent by Mission of Christ Network serve with Stronghold Cambodia.

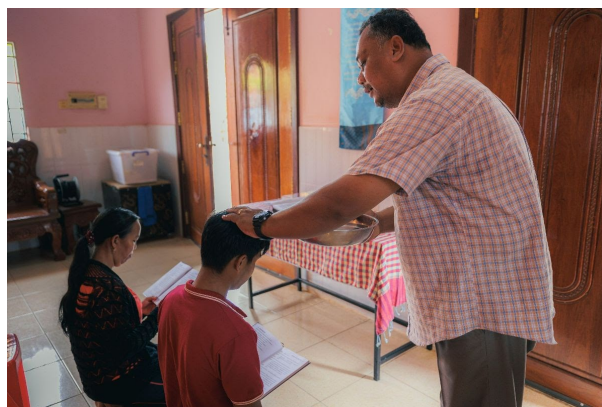
In a recent newsletter, Pastor Jesse tells this story:

*"In 2019, God sent us Sinoun to be our cook. She had a little exposure to Christianity through her cousin who introduced her to Stronghold Cambodia. However, despite occasionally attending a local church, she did not understand the teaching of the ten commandments, the necessity of the water baptism, and Holy Communion. Then in 2021, God sent Lin to be our computer teacher. Although Lin informed Jesse that he knew nothing about Jesus, Stronghold decided to hire him hoping that the Holy Spirit would work in his heart so that he would receive God as his personal Lord and Savior.*

*Both Sinoun and Lin have been exposed daily to the good news of Jesus in both word and action while working at Stronghold. They have heard Bible story devotions in their heart language of Khmer and prayers throughout the day as we call upon God to praise, thank and ask for His help. Jesse, Naomi and our MCN volunteers have worked at building relationships with them through care and kindness while looking for opportunities to intentionally proclaim the Gospel to each of them personally. As their interest and participation in singing praise songs and praying grew, Jesse offered to personally teach them more about God's love and grace.*

*We give praise and glory to God for the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. On April 7, both Sinoun and Lin were baptized in the Triune God. Jesse continues to teach the small catechism to them so they may grow stronger in faith and knowledge of Him."*

Every week more than 1,500 people hear the Gospel through Mission of Christ Network missionaries! And by the work of the Holy Spirit some of those who hear – like Sinoun and Lin – come to believe and be baptized. Join us in praying fervently for this spiritual harvest in places like Cambodia where few people know Jesus! Email [churchpartners@missionofchrist.org](mailto:churchpartners@missionofchrist.org) and ask to join our email list for stories and prayer requests from the mission field. Follow @missionofchristnetwork on Facebook or Instagram for weekly prayer requests. Or go to [missionofchrist.org/prayer-opportunities/](https://missionofchrist.org/prayer-opportunities/) to participate in this Gospel work through your prayers!



## Continuing Education

**I**n September, Christian education programs are in full swing. How wonderful to see classrooms of children learning about Jesus! But what about the grown-ups? Some parents who make sure their kids get to Sunday school don't attend Bible study themselves.

Following and learning about Christ are lifelong pursuits. If we are to love God with our *mind* (as well as with our heart, soul and strength), then we must keep learning even into old age. Plus, when we are well informed about God's Word and our faith, we can share it with non-Christians and express the reason for our hope (see 1 Peter 3:15).

To love God with "all your mind" (Mark 12:30), find an adult Bible study or small group that dives into Scripture. Then humbly wear the label of lifelong learner, knowing that God still has new things to teach even the most seasoned Christian.

## *A Devotion on Disasters*

**D**ear family and friends, once again we are confronted with a catastrophic disaster, this time in Lahaina, Hawaii with the death toll now at 96 and climbing and billions of dollars lost in the destruction of property. Let me share some Biblical thoughts on this.

1. Sometimes something like this is beyond human comprehension. In this life we are not given all the answers to all the questions that can be raised.
2. In the midst of disaster many people have a way of saying, "Well, this proves that God is not in control, and maybe He doesn't even exist." The Bible says quite the opposite that our God is in control (Psalm 103:8) and that in Him all things hold together (Colossians 1:15-17). Our finite minds just cannot comprehend what God has in mind behind these circumstances.
3. God is indeed all-present, all-powerful, all-knowing and we are called upon to confess that God is love and that He does care for His creation. His love is clearly seen in His desired plan of salvation of all people in Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17).
4. However, we must avoid trying to explain what God has not explained. We know that all suffering finds its source in sin, but we don't know if a particular sin was the cause of this disaster. The Bible reminds us that God's judgments are unsearchable and unfathomable (Romans 11:33).
5. Jesus has warned us in Matthew 24 that famines and earthquakes and other ominous phenomena would be the "birth pangs" of the coming Judgment. To be ready for that Day means to be in a right relationship with God now and to live with a desire to share the Good News with others.
6. The effects of sin are all around us in the evidences of sickness, suffering and death. Every disaster is a merciful call to repentance for all of us (Luke 13:1-5). So the real question in calamity is not "Why?" but rather "What are You saying to me in this?"
7. The Christian is called to "weep with those who weep," and in Christ's name respond with His love and mercy. We must offer prayer, sympathy and generosity to those in need. Matthew 25 teaches us to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, and clothe the naked in Christ's name.
8. Major disasters are a prelude of the cataclysm that is yet to come. Everything is to be viewed in terms of eternity. Let us witness boldly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the only way to find real life and victory out of sin and death. Jesus says to us: "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness" (II Corinthians 12:9).

*Let us weep with those who weep,  
Love, Pastor Stephen Skov*

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### *HealthLine*

**P**lease note that everything written in this column will be backed by research, various studies and facts. There will be no personal opinions.

~ Sheila Wittke



### *Eating Carrots Protects from Pollution*

**S**cientists at the University of Delaware discovered that eating more apiaceous vegetables, which include carrots, celery, parsley, and parsnips can help protect against the negative effects of air pollution. Lab tests found that this specific vegetable family protects the body from acrolein accumulation, which is present in large amounts in both cigarette smoke and automobile exhaust, and triggers oxidative stress. Researchers calculated the amount of vegetables needed for the beneficial effect. Researcher Jae Kyeom Kim, PhD., said, "We determined that the actual daily calorie amount of apiaceous vegetables for humans is roughly one and one-third cups a day. It doesn't require a high intake to see a difference, and this is an achievable amount in daily life."

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Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. (Traditional) and  
9:30 a.m. (Blended)/11:00 a.m. (Contemporary)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

TO:



*Connect ~ Grow ~ Serve*

