

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

What makes a sermon a good sermon? Do we look for some good jokes, down to earth language, personal stories, faithfulness to the Biblical text, kept under 10 minutes, or a really good illustration? There are many criteria that can be used to evaluate a sermon and some of them are helpful and others are not so helpful. Some things about a sermon can be *subjectively* good or bad and there are other things that can be *objectively* good or bad. But every Christian should know the difference between a good sermon that is faithful to Christ and his teachings and one that is not. I want to take some time to prick your ears to be ready to hear a sermon as I begin a series on **How to listen to a sermon.**

In listening to a sermon, you should always be listening for how God is speaking to you. Paul writes to the young preacher Timothy, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The way that the Word of truth is divided is by the Law and the Gospel.

The contents of the entire Holy Scripture, both of the Old and New Testaments, are made up of two doctrines differing fundamentally from each other, namely, the Law and the Gospel (CFW Walther).

The most basic difference between a good sermon and a bad sermon is whether it rightly divides Law and Gospel. A good sermon must show sinners their sin, and show sinners their savior.

The Law tells us what God requires and what God forbids. The Law shows us that we have not done what God requires and have done what God forbids. The Law's demands are perfect, and the Law requires perfect obedience in thought, word,

and deed. The Law says, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...You shall love your neighbor as yourself."(Matthew 27:37-39) The Law calls everything short of perfect obedience sin. The Law will make you squirm and feel ashamed. It is God's condemning word.

On the other hand, the Gospel tells us what God has done to save sinners. The Gospel shows us that Jesus has done everything the Law requires for us. The Gospel answers the perfect demands of the Law with the perfect, sinless obedience of Jesus.

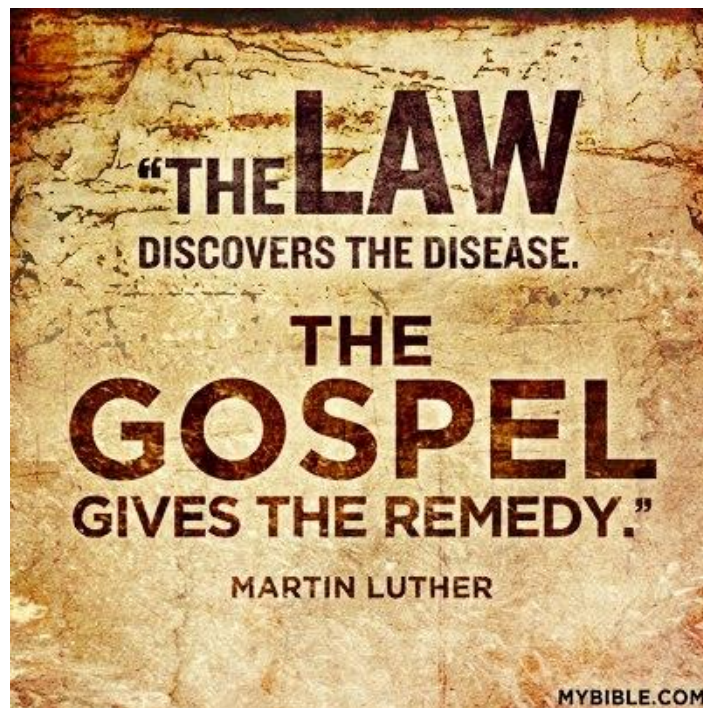
The Gospel says, "What the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son." (Romans 8:3) The Gospel answers the accusations of the Law with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for us. There are no demands in the good news of the Gospel. There is only the free gift of God's grace. The Gospel will make you want to run again and again to the cool, running water of the grace of God and receive from His bounty the living water.

These two, Law and Gospel, must always go together in every sermon. They must be carefully divided in every sermon. As you listen to sermons, listen for how you are convicted of your sin. Listen for how you are shown to be worthy of death because of your unholiness. Listen for how Jesus has paid the price for your disobedience. Listen for how Jesus gives his life in place of your life and you have life by his resurrection from the dead.

With that in mind, the first thing to remember when listening to a sermon is how the law and the gospel apply to you.

All for the glory of God!

Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

PACKER WATCH PARTY

A Congregation afternoon of Fellowship will take place on October 22nd in the afternoon. We will watch the Packers-Broncos game at 3:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall on the big screen. Bring some snacks and drinks to share if you would like and invite a friend!

ANNUAL CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

The Spiritual Outreach team will be sponsoring the Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 4th. This year for the sale we will be looking for donations of baked goods, home-canned goods, and new craft items. If you would like to contribute, we would be most appreciative of your generosity. For all craft items, we ask that you price them. We will price food items such as canned and baked goods. We're also looking for volunteers to help on the day of the sale. If you have any questions, please speak with Nancy Thelen.

ST. JAKOBI BOOK CLUB

Following is the list of books chosen for the upcoming months: *October 3rd – The Unlikely Yarn of the Dragon Lady*; *November 7th – Orphan Train*; *December 5th – Catching Christmas*.

BAPTISM

Baptized into Christ on September 9th was **Daxon Derek Drake**. He is the son of Derek and Courtney Drake. His baptismal sponsors are Pamela Drake and Blake Hoffman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

- 10/1 The Temple Testimonies
- 10/8 His Father's House
- 10/15 The Pointing Prophet
- 10/22 A Temple Cleansing
- 10/29 The Born-Again Truth

SPRITUAL OUTREACH

Our next meeting will be on October 16th at 9:00 am. All church members are welcome to attend. We are finalizing details regarding the craft and bake sale in November.

YOUTH GROUP

We are going to try something a bit different with Youth group this year. Beginning on October 11th we will meet monthly on a Wednesday night. We'll have a meal at 5:30 followed by a devotion with Pastor and then an activity at church. There will be more information as we get closer to October 11th.

CHURCH OFFICERS

We are looking for new officers to fill the following positions for our congregation in our upcoming election in October: Treasurer, Elder (2), Trustee, Boards of Education and Evangelism. If you are interested in serving the Lord, please take a form in the narthex to be filled out and place in the Elders box when completed.

WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

St. Jakobi will be hosting a Walk Thru the Bible seminar on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024. This is a fun and dynamic, half-day seminar that will chronologically walk us through the Old Testament. We are looking for volunteers to help organize the event. We need people to chair or serve on the following committees: Prayer, Attendance Building (marketing), registration, facilities, Hospitality (greeters), Food services (probably catered), Childcare and Finance. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Mark Schuster at 715-823-4393, or see the sign-up sheet in back of church. For more information or to watch a promotional video please go the www.walkthru.org, and click on "Host an Event" on the right side.

SUNDAY SNACK SIGNUP

If you would like to bring a snack to share on Sunday after church, then you can sign up on the counter by the kitchenette in the Narthex.

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN CHRIST

We collected our Commitments on September 10th and some are still coming in. To date we have received 66 commitments of just a bit over \$300,000 for the three years. This more than covers our mortgage payment of about \$7,300 per month. There are more commitment cards in the Narthex and you can turn yours in the offering plate or mail it to church.

GIVING OPTIONS



You can now give online by visiting <http://bit.ly/DonateStJakobi> This easy way to give to church can be done as a one-time gift or recurring. You can give from your checking account or credit card. If you would like you can help offset the expense of offering this service, there is information at that website.

CHURCH VOTER MEETING

The Quarterly Voter meeting will be held on October 29th after church. Preliminary agenda items include the 2024 Budget and election of officers. There will be more agenda items to come.

NEWSLETTER IN COLOR

The pictures in the newsletter look best in color. You can sign up to view them on your computer by going to this website. <http://www.bit.ly/Jakobisignup>

HIGHER THINGS YOUTH CONFERENCE

We will begin planning for a Youth Group trip to the Higher Things Conference being held at Concordia University, Mequon, WI next summer, June 25-28, 2024. The theme is *Who am I?* Registration will be completed by January 2024. This is for all youth who are beginning 8th-12th grades. Stay tuned for more information.



PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Portals of Prayer for October through December 2023 are available in the Narthex. When you have finished with September, you can bring your Portals of Prayer back and place it in the basket beneath the bulletin table, if you wish. These copies are passed on to others to help spread God's word.

WEDDING

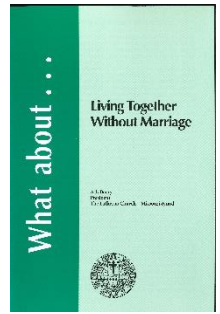
Ken Schroeder and Elizabeth Teetzen were united in holy marriage on September 16, 2023. The Lord bless them in their life together.

MEN'S CAMPFIRE

All men at St. Jakobi are invited for an evening of fun and fellowship at Jon Wesenberg's house on Thursday, October 12. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. at N6087 Crestline Drive. If the weather is bad, Jon is thinking of breakfast at church on the Saturday Oct. 14. Note we are looking for somebody to host the November Campfire, so please think about it (we can always use the church's fellowship hall as a backup for inclement weather).

WHAT ABOUT...

Each month we'll be highlighting a tract that can be picked up in the narthex by the guest book. This is a series that was written by the former President of the LCMS, Rev. A. L. Barry. They cover a multitude of topics. This month we look at **Living Together Without Marriage**. This



is obviously a big topic in today's culture. Every situation and couple is different but the Word of God is always applicable. This short pamphlet can start the discussion of what is good and pleasing in the eyes of the Lord. Please take a copy and begin learning about what God has to say and not just what the world has to say.

READINGS AT CHURCH

- October 1st:** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18
Matthew 21:23-27
- October 8th:** Isaiah 5: 1-7
Philippians 3:46-14
Matthew 21:33-46
- October 15th:** Isaiah 25:6-9
Philippian 4:4-13
Matthew 22:1-14
- October 22nd:** Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22
- October 29th:** Revelation 14:6-7
Romans:19-28
John 8:31-36

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

1 - Huntleigh Buettner
1 - Keegan Gast
2 - Brandon Clark
2 - Mike Hein
4 - Tristan Buntrock
6 - Marilyn Burlo
6 - Elizabeth McDowell
7 - Barbara Bahr
7 - Audrey Sperberg
8 - Gavin Opperman
8 - Shirley Ritch
10 - Garrett Giese
10 - Gunnar Hein
10 - Matthew Horne
10 - Mark Kroenke
11 - Taylor Genke
11 - David Schoenike
12 - Roxy Martzke
12 - Mandi Reinke
12 - Jay Schuettpelz
12 - Mollie Schuster
13 - Wade Bohl
14 - Brad Teetzen
15 - Will Teetzen
16 - Carl Gebert
18 - Liam Buntrock
19 - Donna Lopez
20 - Austin Hartmann
20 - Wyatt Rassmussen
21 - Emelia Gueths
22 - Nolan Kleinschmidt
22 - Seth Schroeder
22 - Tom Tuma
25 - Laura Prodel
26 - Rehn Schmidt
27 - Justin Cotter
29 - Josh Krueger
30 - Lisa Evenson
31 - Winstyn Carroll
31 - Jameson Sperberg

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

02, 1993 - Tabb & Sarah Magee
02, 1999 - Gregg & Emily Pleshek
02, 1999 - Shawn & Wanda Stueck
03, 1959 - Lewis & Carol Popelka
04, 2014 - Derek & Courtney Drake
05, 2019 - Tyler & Miranda Hoyer
08, 2005 - Jeremy & Nicki Meyers
10, 2003 - Danny & Lisa Otto
11, 1986 - Bruce & Michelle Teetzen
13, 2012 - Josh & Bobbi Jo Ladwig
16, 1971 - Virgil & Cindy Gueths
16, 2004 - Mike & Holly Weatherwax
16, 1999 - Scott & Lori Wendorff
17, 1987 - Robert & Lori Buettner
19, 1974 - Richard & Judi Raddant
20, 2018 - Daniel & Elizabeth Buettner
20, 1979 - Joe & Vicki Buettner
25, 1975 - Gary & Marlene Weckwerth
26, 1985 - Brad & Heidi Teetzen
28, 1989 - Brad & Lorine Raddant
28, 2017 - Jordan & Stacie Robbins

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER



O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

OCTOBER 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Kavion Franklin	2 6:15 Choir 7:00 Altar Guild	3 1:00 Book Club	4 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	5 1:00 Bible Study	6	7 8:30 Feed My Starving Children 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Brooklyn Krueger
8 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Nolan Kleinschmidt	9 6:15 Choir	10 6:30 Elders	11 4:15 Catechism 5:30 Youth Group 6:30 Bible Study	12 1:00 Bible Study 6:30 Men's Night	13	14 9:00 Spiritual Outreach 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: McKenzi Kuhn
15 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour Acolyte: Colton Peters	16 6:15 Choir	17 7:00 Council	18 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	19 1:00 Bible Study	20	21 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Connor Stuber
22 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Education Hour 3:15 Packers Watch Party Acolyte: Blake Weishoff	23 6:15 Choir	24	25 4:15 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	26 1:00 Bible Study	27 6:30 Movie Night	28 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Khloe Wendorff
29 9:00 Service (HC) 10:30 Sunday School Voter's Meeting Acolyte: Cooper Clark	30 6:15 Choir	31		Altar Guild: Donna Lopez Barb Teetzen Cathy Hoffman Joan Stoehr		Elders: Sat: Brian Sperberg Sun: Bob Behrens Jamison Yorton Special: Rich Raddant

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

W 8089 County Rd. A
Shawano, WI 54166
715-524-4347
www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

