



like a
Lion
March

Faith Matters

Becky's Billet-doux

*"A witness is someone who has encountered the truth, has been possessed by it, and then attempts to pass that truth along to someone else. But the actual witnesses—the actual people, their lives—display or show the truth of what they announce and not just their words." (Myron Penner, *The End of Apologetics, Christian Witness in a Postmodern Context*, (Grand Rapids, Baker Academic, 2013,101.)*

Kierkegaard says that a witness is one "who proclaims the teaching and existentially [in actual existence] expresses it." (Soren Kierkegaard's *Journals and Papers*, vol. 6, ed. and trans. Howard V. Hong and Edna H. Hong. Assisted by Gregor Malantschuk, [Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1978], 6251)

Myron Penner claims in his book, *The End of Apologetics, Christian Witness in a Postmodern Context*, that the "truth I proclaim...will be evident from how I live." (Penner, 102) He argues that convincing someone that God loves them is ineffective as a debate based on logic, reason, or Biblical facts. It is, on the other hand, effective in simply telling the truth of your belief and how that belief builds you up. Truth is not something we own, it owns us. (Penner 106, 117) How living in Truth affects us—our lives, our outlook, our peace, and our behavior—is something we can joyfully share with another person. The Truth that possesses us is something we can talk about, but it is also something that can be seen in how we live. Our witness, then, is two-fold. It is our speech and our lives.

What we witness (or testify) is as important as how we testify. The Apostle Paul said he became all things to all people that he might win some. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23). As Paul lived out the Gospel, he sought what was best for the other person or other people. He didn't try to make people be like himself, instead he made himself to be like them. He put them first. This could open their hearts to hear and their eyes to see the very truth that possessed Paul, the truth that overpowered him, changed his heart, and saved his life.

In his ministry to the neighbor, Paul lived Jesus' summary of the 10 Commandments, "Love God and love your neighbor as yourself" (See Matthew 22:37- 39). Paul was willing to be weak so that the strength of God could be seen. God's power was witnessed to by Paul when he became vulnerable by putting his neighbor first. This is a way of living—living out the Gospel—and being a witness to the Truth, Jesus Christ. This Gospel-living happens not only with our voices but with our lives.

Paul says in Galatians 3:26-28, "...for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. 27As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Our differences, though they remain, are much less important than our 'oneness' in Christ.

Once in Christ we are all equally joint heirs with Christ. Those outside of the body, however, deserve respect and consideration for their own sake and salvation. We share what God has already done for us, and declare that He loves our neighbor and desires their well-being and blessings too. In lifting up the other, we humble ourselves, and God's might and love become visible through the power of the Holy Spirit, even to the unbeliever. This happens when we treat the unbeliever as a beloved child of God for the sake of Christ to win our neighbor. After all, you too are a beloved child of God for the sake Christ, who humbled himself for you.

Pastor Becky

Prayer of the Month

Holy Lord, as we journey through Lent and are reminded of your suffering and our sin, keep us focused on what is truly important, our service to you. You have blessed us beyond measure, and we are only dust without you. Help us to actively show your love to others as we follow in your footsteps. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Prayer Requests

- † Adams, Calvin (Angie Gullett's dad, prayer for salvation; health)
- † Ard, Farrell & Kellie (healing)
- † Arnold, Dale (radiation treatments)
- † Burditt, Larry (Angie Gullett's brother-in-law, Parkinson's & his dad for healing)
- † Collerd, Tyler
- † Eilers, Melvin (healing)
- † Estrada, Mary
- † Pr. Fisks, Paul (healing)
- † Fowler, Ginnie (treatments)
- † Fowler, Jerry
- † Gonzales, Lisa (healing)
- † Graves, Steve (in hospital, healing)
- † Gullett, Angie (eye injections, health)
- † Pr. Kaskela, Jerry (healing)
- † Hobson, Daisy
- † McClelland, Lee (Sally's nephew)
- † McGee, Helen (issues with left hand)
- † Merritt, Gertrude (at Rehab)
- † Nance, Bodhi (Bobby & Marlene Watson's grandson health)
- † Otwell, Joyce (health)
- † Perez, Marsha (health)
- † Pitt, Pam (recovery from surgeries)
- † Shipley, Sharon (Bobby Watson's sister, health)
- † Silhan, Charlie (Linda Wright's son's father-in-law / Covid in hosp.)
- † Southard, John (congestive heart failure)
- † Strickland, Gary (salvation)
- † Watson, Marlene & family (loss of brother; Marlene— health)
- † Watts, Patricia (healing)
- † West, Kim (healing)
- † Zamora, Juan (heart & oxygen issues, doing stress test)

Sympathy: To the Roberts family in the loss of Viola Mae Roberts; To Merry Gay Mesker and family in the loss of Clint Mesker.

Special Prayers: For those affected by Covid-19 and healing from it, continued prayers for the city of Odessa and Midland and it's people; for those in our state, country, & world that are hurting, sick, suffering and dealing with different issues. Faculty, Staff, Students and Families of Reagan Elementary, and Bonham Middle School, all our schools and teachers and administrators, President Biden/Harris, U. S. government officials, our country.

Specific Prayers for Faith Fellowship: For Faith Fellowship & congregation, leaders, Board, Church Growth; Augustana District; LCMC; Evangelism; Community Outreach; Rainbow's End (Emmaus Group); Community Bible Church; Family Promise. Praises! God's continued Protection and Blessings on us.

Homebound: Larry Minor, Phyllis Dudley, Helen McGee, Charles & Shirley Garrett, Charles & Charlene Miller, Frances Moore, Barbara Ridge, Dan Womochel, Jo Hafer, Walter Lentz, Evelyn Byerly. Nursing Homes Grover Charsha Rm. 406, Jack Tarter Rm. 703, Billie Carr (Betty Lively's sister) Rm. 616 (Parks); Marsha Perez Rm. 805 (Lincoln Tower); Frieda Theesfield (Madison Medical Resort) Rm. 203; Ronda Scott (Angie's cousin) Rm. 303 Sienna ; Freddie Wheeler– Cowden Cottage Rm. 11A (Manor Park—Midland) Merry Gay Mesker (Granbury), Marilyn Batson (Dallas); Rosemary Browning (Dallas); M'Liss Schneider (Knopp in Fredericksburg)

Prayers For Our Military Service Men & Women: (Please let us know of any individuals who are currently serving in a combat area) Jake Waddell (Shearers' grandson, US Army)



Volunteers Needed

Did you know that there are many ways to serve at FF? You can sign-up to host a fellowship event, usher, greet, help in the office, Sunday morning reader... please sign up on the clipboard outside the Sanctuary if interested.

READERS NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider serving during worship as a reader. Pastor will be happy to answer any questions you have. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex.



We still have Lenten devotionals available to pick up in the Narthex.

Our church will be hosting

Family Promise

Feb 28 - Mar 6.

We will be providing dinners for one family, 1 parent and 4 children, if you would like to help please let Pearl know.



Schedule of Events

- ⌚ Ladies Bible Study - Tuesdays - 10:00 - 11:00 AM
- ⌚ Wednesdays - Will resume on April 28 at 6:00 PM
You can still see the Sundays readings on our Facebook page Wednesdays, after 5pm with Ron Harrison.
- ⌚ Sunday School for all ages - Sundays - 10:00 AM
- ⌚ Worship Service - Sundays - 11:00 AM



- ⌚ Feb 26 - Mar 6 Hosting Family Promise
- ⌚ Mar 3 - Lenten Service 6:00PM; Sunday Readings after 5:00PM on Facebook
- ⌚ Mar 10 - Lenten Wednesday Service 6:00PM; Sunday Readings after 5:00PM on Facebook
- ⌚ Mar 14 - Daylight Savings
- ⌚ Mar 16 - FF Board Mtg
- ⌚ Mar 17 - Lenten Wednesday 6:00PM; Sunday Readings after 5:00PM on Facebook
- ⌚ Mar 24 - Lenten Wednesday 6:00PM; Sunday Readings after 5:00PM on Facebook
- ⌚ Mar 27 - AD Council Mtg
- ⌚ Mar 28 - Palm Sunday; Pancake Breakfast 9:30AM

Please visit the church calendar on the website for more information at <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org/church-calendar/>



Our Mission is to Gather God's people, and to Grow in faith and Service to Christ



Betty Lively will be taking pictures for our pictorial on Sundays after the Worship Service.

Gospel Reading for mid-week Lenten Services

Feb 24	Ash Wednesday Service	Luke 23:34.	The Pardoning Word
Mar 3	Matthew 27:45-46	.....	The Faithful Word
Mar 10	Luke 23:39-43	.....	The Promising Word
	John 19:26-27	.....	The Compassionate Word
Mar 17	John 19:28-29	.....	The Suffering Word
Mar 24	Luke 23:46	.....	The Dying Word

Easter Sunday Lilies are available for purchase in memory or honor of your loved one.

There are limited quantities available. Forms are available in the bulletins or the office.

Cost \$15

Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

The purpose of LCMC-Lutheran Men is to worship God by helping congregations through the money we collect from the men of our congregations plus grants provided by congregations. The Loan Fund is designed to provide a no interest loan to small/mission congregations that can be used for building purposes. The Gift Fund is designed to support an LCMC mission congregation by an outright gift to the congregation. Gift Funds are to be used primarily, but not exclusively, for start-up office equipment in mission congregations. All the requests we receive are for gifts, not loans.

Over the past several years, fewer than 100 men from all of LCMC have supported the Buck-A-Month Club, and the fund is simply not large enough to provide a loan sufficient to help with building a church. Even less men have supported the Committee of 100. We are asking for your help. Is a buck-a-month something you can spare? Is \$100 something you can give?

We have decided to combine the two funds into a new single fund we will call the Mission Assistance Fund. Our thrust will still be to help new/mission congregations, but the things we could support would be open ended, not limited to audio equipment, office equipment, etc. Basically, if you have a need...ask.

Each Sunday as we prepare for the offering, we pray, "In response to God's perfect love and mercy, we are blessed to share our time, our treasure and our love." Following the collection, we pray, "We offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions. Those are not just words...they carry a significant meaning. Won't you give a small amount of your treasure... your possessions...just \$12.00 a year to allow us to help small, mission, growing congregations across LCMC?"

Charles R. (Chuck) Hunsaker
President – Lutheran Men

Jid Bits

What is the meaning and use of liturgical colors?

For this Lent season, we use purple representing the stark color of repentance and Solemnity.



If you would like to send Merry Gay Mesker a sympathy card or contact her here is her information: 801 Calinco Dr. Apt. 303, Granbury, TX 76408 Ph# (432) 413-0270

Classifieds

We are offering ad space for \$5 donations in our Newsletter. If you have:

- A business you want to promote;
- Something you want to sell;
- Someone you need to hire;
- Or are looking for recommendations

Please fill out a form, or email the office and we'll put it in the next Newsletter.



Church Directory

Office Email office@faithfellowshipodessa.org

Office Tel (432) 362-2549

Office Fax: (432) 362-0573

Website <https://faithfellowshipodessa.org>

Address:

1603 North Grandview Avenue
Odessa, TX 79761

Pastor's Hours

Sunday 8:00-noon

Monday 1-4:00 office, 5-9:00 Doctoral class

Tuesday 8:45-5:00

Wednesday 9:30-7:00

Thursday - Midland for Hope

Friday Flex hours for Work and Study

Best times to catch her in the office are Tuesday mornings (9 to noon) and Wednesdays (9:30 to 6:00). Home visits are made, typically, on Tuesday afternoon.