

THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

*****September 2020

There were false prophets also among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly bring I destructive heresies . . . In their greed they will exploit you with fabricated messages. . . . 2 Peter 2:1,3

Dear servants of Christ,

Plastic is everywhere. Plastic food containers, storage bins, water bottles, kayaks, If you have the right mold and can think of a need, plastic can fill it. Plastic is everywhere.



And that's a problem. It's in our garbage and landfills. Plastic particles have found their way into our water supplies and our food chain. It can be inside us, affecting our health, and we don't even know it. We can melt it, reuse it, recycle it, reshape it. The one thing we can't seem to do with plastic is completely get rid of it.

The apostle Peter warned his listeners about a similar "plastic" problem. The "fabricated messages" of false teachers could literally be translated as "plastic words." Like merchants greedily trying to make an extra buck, their message would seem shiny and attractive: "You can save yourself." "I you like it, then it can't be a sin." "God said something you don't like, but the good news is He doesn't really mean it what way." (Ask Eve in the Garden how *that* belief worked out!) Their plastic messages could be melted, molded, recycled, reshaped, and stretched to fill whatever need their customers might have. Like real plastic, "plastic words" can be hard to get rid of.

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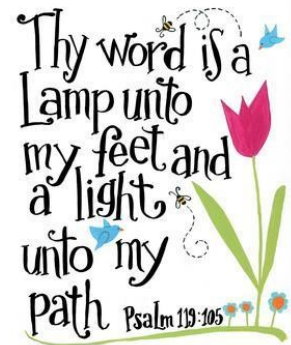
Some would say we live in a world of “plastic words.” Fabricated messages bombard us daily in the news. What is real? What is truth? Who and what is trying to mold our minds, our thinking, our lifestyles, our finances, our lives of faith? Do people, corporations, medical experts mean what they say or are they preaching “plastic words” to improve their own status in life?



The good news is, God really does mean what He says. Remember the Ten Commandments? God gave them to Moses; the commandments were written *in stone*. They couldn't be stretched or molded. Try to alter them at all and they break. (*For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all the law.* James 2:10) Want to know what to believe, what to trust, what is not plastic? Jesus lays it out: I *am THE way, THE truth, THE life*. The world changes, people change, governments come and go, medical advice changes. So believe in and trust the unchangeable: *“Heaven and earth will pass away but MY words shall not pass away.* (Matthew 24:35)

Two thousand years ago Peter warned believers about false prophets with “plastic words.” Bring Peter into 2020; shave his beard; dress him in a pair of jeans; even put him on Face book. And his message still rings true. False prophets bring false teachings.

Many in our culture have become very concerned about polluting the environment with plastic. The plastic looks good, it certainly can be convenient, and it saves us time and energy. But the accumulated effects can be deadly. The messages of false prophets sound good; the messages are “convenient” to our culture of self-indulgence, pride, and greed. The messages of false prophets can be “molded” so we hear what we want to hear. But be very, very careful. Plastic may harm the environment; “plastic words” from false prophets will destroy the soul.



He who have ears to hear, let him hear.

In Christ's grace,
Ron

**God's Word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure, we keep its teachings pure.
Throughout all generations.**

(hymn “God's Word is Our Great Heritage”
Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1817

New Bible study begins Sunday, September 27

Pastor Epistles: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus

These three letters by Paul are often called the Pastoral Epistles because they address issues concerning the Office of the Holy Ministry or the pastoral office. They are the final three letters of Paul, and in them we are given a crucial understanding of the nature, character, and work of the Gospel ministry.

Paul is aware that his ministry is concerned about the future of the Church. He is led by the Holy Spirit to give divine counsel to order that the Gospel and its ministry will continue just as he received these divinely inspired words, he prepares every generation that follows to maintain faithfulness to the Lord and keep the faith.



coming to a close and is concerned about the future of the Church. He is led by the Holy Spirit to give divine counsel to order that the Gospel and its ministry will continue just as he received these divinely inspired words, he prepares every generation that follows to maintain faithfulness to the Lord and keep the faith.

Laypeople may be tempted to think that these letters do not concern them. Nothing could be further from the truth. Understanding just what the will of our Lord is regarding the work of ministers will help them to be not only humble and grateful recipients of their pastors' service but genuinely useful assistants and friends to them.

Outreach Visitation in our service area will resume in early 2021, assuming a vaccine has reached many people by that time. Continue to invite friends, neighbors and relatives to join us for Sunday morning Worship

Easter was the first day of a new age. There is more to come! At the last day this age ends and the new age begins, death itself will "work backwards," returning all of its subjects to the Lord of Life. "In Christ shall all be made alive." (1 Cor. 15:22)

**Mission Outreach
For September 2020**

\$500 - The North
American Lutheran
Church
General Fund

******* Call or email Ron with any prayer requests.

******* Prayerfully consider including The North American Lutheran Church and/or seminary in your will or estate planning Legacy gifts matter!!!

******* Keep current on church news/events, be inspired. Speak to Ron about a subscription to *Connections* magazine. NO cost to you.