

The Lamplighter

“The lord is my light and my salvation.”

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Are You Game?

Pastor Kevin Dalton

I mentioned in my message on Sunday July 26th how Major League Baseball was the latest in the sports world to begin playing, as they opened play on Thursday July 23rd. Seems all teams agreed to kneel to show unity against racism during all the opening games. But something happened in the second game opening night between the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Francisco Giants. All players lined up down both the first and third base lines. Then they all knelt, watched a video, and then held on to a black ribbon. The only player who did not kneel during either of the pregame ceremonies was Giants reliever Sam Coonrod. His explanation for not kneeling was “I meant no ill will by it. I don't think I'm better than anyone,” he said after the game. “I'm a Christian. I just believe I can't kneel before anything besides God — Jesus Christ.”

Russian Formula 1 racing opened Sunday July 26 and seems all teams also chose to all take a knee in unity against racism. All but four drivers took a knee. One driver, Daniil Kvyat did not take the knee at the opening ceremonies, and he explained: “I am really against racism and we as a group of drivers decided that a very strong message would be us wearing T-shirts stating, ‘End Racism’. I think that kind of message was strong enough and I believe it got delivered to everyone. “Unfortunately, the gesture of going on the knee is against my belief of my country where you only go on your knees in front of God, your flag and that's about it.”

Reading about how many pro athletes lately are using their celebrity to make statements about what they believe set me to thinking. This is not something new these particular individuals have suddenly created, as athletes have been doing these type of actions for years. How many athletes have we seen hit homeruns, scored touchdowns, or scored baskets and then touch their chests and then pointed up to heaven? But what has occurred to me I do not believe in all my years competing and/or watching sports have I ever witnessed one athlete just give God the glory.

Yes, scoring and/or making a great play and pointing to heaven is one thing. Remember a few years ago a player in college and then in the pros name Tim Tebow knelt at the end of every win. My problem was, and still is, these athletes only give God the glory when they come out on top. No athlete has ever, to my knowledge, given God the glory when they struck out, fumbled, shot an air ball, or made an error.

Give God the glory only, and I mean only when we score or win! Where is this written? Actually, Scripture does address giving Him the recognition or glory if you will. It addresses how and when we are to give God the glory, it is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

The men I mentioned at the beginning gave God thanks by not kneeling and claiming it was because of their belief one should only kneel before his/her maker. It says, “in all circumstances,” which means these men knew there would be and probably will be repercussions, but they were steadfast in their belief of Him. The question for us today is, “Are we?” Is our relationship, is your relationship with your God at the point you would be willing to stand when all others kneel? Is our relationship, is your relationship with your God at the point you would be willing to kneel when all other stand tall to receive the glory?

Giving God the glory is not something we do only when we win and/or score, or do something great, it is something we should all be doing regardless of the circumstances. Remember, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Are you game?

Pastor Kevin

Music Notes



Joy Gardner

I hope that all of you are well during these very strange times we continue to experience.

I know everyone is anxious to return to a semblance of order, not only through worship, but also in our everyday activities. No singing in the sanctuary has certainly been an adjustment we have all needed to make. Just as soon as we have the conference okay, the choir will immediately begin rehearsals for those who are comfortable doing so. Until then, I do hope the piano and organ music helps in your preparation for worship.

I don't really watch a lot of television, but I have enjoyed the reruns of The Andy Griffith Show. It reminds me of the times in early childhood when I'd watch the program with my grandmother.

You will recall that Andy and his family, along with the other townspeople of Mayberry, attended the All Souls Church, also known as the "Community Church". It was a non-denominational Protestant Church and William Keene was the actor who played Rev. Howard M. Tucker.

A couple of weeks ago, I watched the episode when Clara Edwards was having difficulties with the organ and Andy and some other church members were the self-appointed committee on a search for a replacement organ following Clara's exclamations of refusing to play such a terrible instrument. They found one and the owner agreed for them to take the organ upon pledges being given to buy the organ. Everyone had issues then with meeting their pledge and the organ had to go back. Rev. Tucker said in the closing of his sermon that particular dismal Sunday that "...we must remember it is the Spirit of the music that gives us comfort".

Just a television show I know, but how prophetic I found that actors words to be in comparison to the events of today.

Joy



Joy playing organ beautifully



Quarantine Patriotic Choir Concert



Men's Group

I have not posted before and after pictures of the projects the Landrum area men's clubs have done.

Too many men from the Well, Landrum United Methodist Church and First Baptist worked very hard in the blazing heat to get this done not to show their results.

A big thank you to Barry at Henson Building Material without your help we could not have completed this job!

God Bless you Men!

Lou Nespeca

AMEN!

I'll Say!

Trudy Van Voorhis

I have not returned to the "live" version of church yet, but I am watching Kevin's video sermons. It must feel more personal to me when it is just the two of us because I realized that I have been declaring Amen to the screen. I think of occasions when I have wanted to do it while in church but didn't. Why didn't I? Saying "Amen!" in response to the Spirit stirring within you is more biblical than stifling it.

Amen means, "Let it be." "So be it." "That's the way it should be." It comes from a Hebrew verb meaning, "to support," "to be firm," "to be true and reliable," "to trust and believe in." Amen is not a period at the end of a prayer. It is an exclamation mark. When "Amen!" was spoken by the Jews of Jesus' day at the conclusion of a blessing, a prayer, an oath, or a praise to God, it was a way of saying, "Truly! Surely!"

This little word, "amen," that we use every Sunday is spoken different ways with different emphasis and different intensity by various religious traditions. We know it means something.... probably something important. So often we simply say it with everyone at the appointed time.

"Amen" is used in some churches more than others. Some rarely state it, while in other churches worship is peppered with amens. If the preacher's sermon isn't getting enough of them, he'll request them. He only needs to say the word with a question mark: "Amen???" If that doesn't work, he will get more assertive: "Can I have an amen?" It is code for, "Wake up, people!"

Worship is our loving response to the love God has lavished upon us. Every "amen" you utter, every prayer you pray, every song you sing, every dollar you give, every hand you raise, we are saying, "Yes, Lord! If there's one thing we believe, it is your love for us! Let it be!" Whenever you utter an amen, you say, "I'm part of all this!"

Amen tells us we are participants in the worship and work of God. Amen is also an AFFIRMATION, and we could all use more of this. This virus arrived at an inopportune time (as if there would ever be a good one). It is causing twice as much dissension with the election, medical opinions, etc. Every day we hear people criticizing, rioting, and condemning. We find it on TV, in the newspapers, on social media. Many believe that the sharing of their opinions or those of their "tribes" in damaging words and ways will change our minds. It seems if we can't say something bad about someone, we don't say anything at all. People who work to bring about something good are viewed with cynicism and suspicion. More condemnation than affirmation in the church is a Spirit-killer.

Amen is so much more than a tiny postscript tacked on the end of a prayer. It's a declaration of participation, affirmation, and dedication. You are telling God you can be relied upon. You're saying you'll be there. You're saying you'll lay yourself on the line, no matter what.

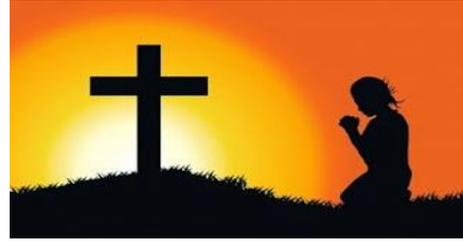
Amen says you can be counted upon to lend your heart and hands and join together in ministry.

Amen says you rejoice in the good and are willing to allow the Spirit to put the Yes of Jesus within us.

Amen says you'll stick by what you say, and live for Christ and his church, come what may.

Our little amens tell us the lost chord we have heard only in part, will lead to the grand Amen to be eternally enjoyed by all who live for Jesus Christ.

So - Can I get an Amen?



The LUMC Minister and Congregation prays for those who need special prayer or have medical concerns. We also express our heartfelt Christian sympathy to those who have had loved ones pass away. Please inform the church office of any names that need to be added or removed from the prayer list. Please remember these people in your prayers as well as our church, Pastor, Outreach, Missions, community and our nation:

Steve & Claudia Butler, (friends of Brenda Azzara) They appreciate the cards and prayers sent as they continue their treatments. Steve & Claudia Butler 111 Beaver Dam School Rd. Gaffney, SC 29340

Dr Todd Walter - Cancer treatments

Oliver – 3 yr old receiving Cancer treatments

Brad James – Recovering from surgery

Jeffrey and Lynn Spell - Joy's friends in Ga who tested positive for Covid

Al/Cheryl Barto's daughter-in-law Leslie Barto medical tests

Jody McPherson's son-in-law David Hamrick surgery for broken leg

Chris Owens - Cancer treatments

Savanna Fore - negative test but feeling ill

Two unspoken prayer requests

Phil Goodrich's brother in law

Bill Stow – heart condition

Rev Michael & Cathy Henderson – tested positive Covid tests

Matthew Starling – taking Bar exam

Methodist Church – Internal struggles

All affected by COVID 19 virus and its impact

Joe Brown	Becky English
Dan Donovan	June Rhymer
Maxie Duke (Lisa Gunter's Mother)	
Betty Zeluff (Mary Hagers's Mother)	

Shut ins

HI SILVER SPIRITS -

This homebound experience we're all going through has been, and remains, something none of us expected nor desire to repeat! Correct? We pray that each of you and your families are enjoying good health. As soon as we can move forward with a regathering luncheon for our Spirits, we will certainly do so! You each are so special to our group, and we miss our time together! Enjoy your summer and know our next luncheon together will be a catered feast - we just haven't penciled in the date yet!

In Christian Love,

Jeanne, Gladys, & Cheryl



August celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Jerry Azzara |
| 2 | Jon Castro |
| | Kaitlyn Spring |
| 5 | Fred Harris |
| 6 | Caleb Tipton |
| 8 | Rittina Robinson |
| 9 | Resa Aiken |
| 10 | Chris Owens |
| 12 | Charlotte Stow |
| | Talia Fricks |
| | Dan Donovan |
| 13 | Christopher Morgan |
| 21 | Martha Castro |
| 27 | C K Surface |
| 29 | Angela Bishop |
| 30 | Angelica Diaz |
| 31 | Patrick Clark |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 22 | Glenn & Carla Downey |
|----|----------------------|

