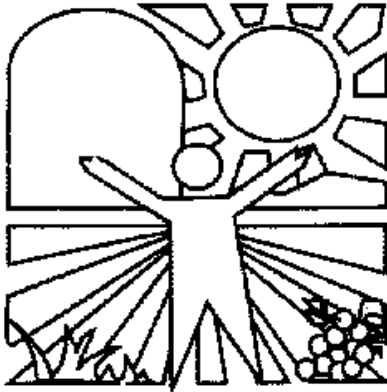


Counting God's Blessings to Us!



The triune God blesses us with numerous gifts for which we are very grateful. For example, many of you will soon attend the weddings of extended family members. Your loved ones will take their wedding vows and begin a life-time adventure together as a lawfully wedded husband and wife.

Indeed, marriage is a good gift established by God Himself. Scripture teaches, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him ... So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that

the LORD God had taken from man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.' Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:18, 21-24).

God's good gifts tumble down on us richly and daily. One of the greatest gifts is that our Lord's Easter celebration runs throughout the month of May and goes right into the month of June. The Easter hope of our Lord isn't limited to one Sunday in a year and, then, put away by us. Rather, our Lord's Easter victory is celebrated for seven glorious Sundays in Christendom and, yes, every Sunday remains a little Easter for us throughout the rest of the year.

God's good gifts are richly displayed as we witnessed eight young men and women from our church family graduate from PAS. We saw them receive their diploma on Memorial Day weekend and we humbly asked God to bless them. What great blessings will unfold before them and us when these young people begin new jobs in our community or start college. The psalmist urges, "Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!" (Psalm 98:1, ESV)

Counting all of God's blessings is difficult to do. They're too numerous for us to even number. Again, we have the privilege of serving our neighbors with acts of mercy. We are strengthened by God to visit the sick and dying and empowered by Him to encourage all people in times of trial with the gospel of our risen Lord. The Spirit, who inspired the Holy Bible, still speaks to our fears and hurts and He still comforts us through the Word by showing us the living Lord.

The common thread of our life together is always tied to Jesus Christ and Him crucified. His Story is one of a Crown of thorns, a rugged cross, three nails, a spear, and an empty tomb that could not hold Him in its icy grip of death. Our Lord rose bodily from the dead on the third day for us. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! He forever changes our destiny and enables us by His Word and Spirit to share His sacred Story with family and with a world gone mad.

Truly, God's good gifts are never ending! I am hoping to see you in church and celebrate all the good things that God brings to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In Christ,
Pastor Cliff Adair