

Thoughts from a Pastor

Do you ever read prayers? Maybe you just can't think of words to say to the Lord. Maybe you're just reading your Bible and come across one (i.e. the Psalms). Or maybe you were asked to pray in public and you didn't want to forget something. You may have even come across books like *The Valley of Vision* (by Puritans), *Be Thou My Vision* (Jonathan Gibson), or *Prone To Wander* (the Duguids) - books that help in both private and corporate prayers.

We use the prayers of others more than we know, as when we pray "together," saying Amen as a sign of agreement with their prayer, making it our own. Don't be afraid to wet your feet in the water of written prayers. If nothing else, learn from others' prayers as the disciples learned from Jesus. Maybe you want to write down your prayer to clarify what you are asking. You could send a prayer to someone who is struggling or hurting, teaching them what to pray in their hardship.

Well, let's pray. "Lord, teach us to pray - how to pray, why we should pray, what we should pray. Amen"

~ Pastor McNally



Operation Christmas Child

Did you know that National Collection Week is November 14th - 21st? That's when volunteers from our congregation, other churches across Berks County and around the world, fill and collect shoeboxes for children through Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

To have a successful ministry, many hands are needed. Grace Church is one of a handful of Collection Centers across the Greater Reading Area. You can sign up to help during one of the two-hour blocks during Collection Week in the North Foyer or see Jennifer Lengel. If you need supplies to fill your boxes, see Beckie Merrick.

Put a smile on the face of a child through Operation Christmas Child.

Wednesday Night Dinner

Meals served Wednesdays
from 5pm - 5:45pm

\$4/Adult (12 & Up) | \$2/Child (3-11)

November 2

Soup & Salad

November 9

Meatloaf & Mashed Potatoes

November 16

Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwiches

November 23

Thanksgiving Break

November 30

Chicken & Rice

Sign up online or with the flier on the back table.

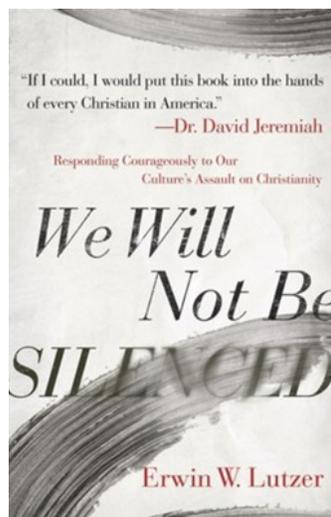
Book Review

We Will Not Be Silenced

By Erwin W. Lutzer

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV):

"...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect..."



This is an incredible read. So timely. The reader will find the book like watching the news or reading a newspaper.

The author instructs the reader – fellow believers – on how to defend biblical truths. Not in a coarse way, but in a loving manner. Tools are given to confront the sexualization of our children, the gender issues, the breakdown of the traditional family, equality of wealth, socialism, as well as Muslim goals for America.

We are witnessing the destruction of our culture. This is occurring rapidly through desensitization, intimidation and victimization. Lutzer states, "Once a cultural stream of propaganda is created, no matter how irrational, we all fear to speak against it." We are seen as "the haters" when our traditional values butt up against people who hold forth conflicting beliefs.

So current. A must read for every Christian today.

~ Reviewed by Bev. Myers

Events

November

- 6 Piercing Word Presents: The Parables of Jesus | 7 PM
- 14 - Operation Christmas Child National Collection Week | Talk to Jennifer Lengel if you are willing to help!
- 21
- 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service | 6:30 PM
- 24 Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl | 8 AM

December

- 3 Grace Ladies Cookie Exchange | 9 AM
- 11 Pastors Open House | 12-2 PM
- 18 Christmas Sunday School Brunch
- 21 Christmas Caroling | 6:30 PM
- 24 Christmas Eve Service | 6:30 PM
- 25 Christmas Day Special Service | 10 AM
- 28 Youth Group Girls @ Longwood | 3 PM

January

- 27 - ROG Youth Sno Glo
- 29

Bible Studies

Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday | 9:15am
Ecclesiastes
Nancy Grossman
Fellowship Hall
Start Date TBD

Ladies Bible Study

2nd & 4th Tuesdays
Ephesians
6:30pm
Dottie Haines' Home

Volunteer Opportunities

CEF Berks cefberks.com

Hannah's Hope

hannahshopeministriesreading.org

Hope Rescue Mission hopeforreading.org

Life's Choices lifeschoicessupport.org

Mercy Crisis Pregnancy Center

mercypregnancycenter.org

Operation Christmas Child

Samaritanspurse.org

Pinebrook Bible Conference pinebrook.org

Victory Valley victoryvalleycamp.org