



November 19, 2023

### Pastor Note:

Trees - I have admired, photographed, felled, bucked, trimmed, burned, planted, pruned, carved, climbed, and picked fruit off them. Maybe you have as well?

Trees – Have you stopped and paused for their daily, soul-refreshing dance in the low morning and evening sun as they are putting on their annual Autumn Extravaganza, spilling buckets of color over entire forests and landscapes, in backyards and orchards, along trails, city streets, and roadsides.

Trees – Food, fuel, shade, building material, tools, furniture, baskets, toys, ... They are an incredible part of God's good creation and provision. **Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them"; and it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good...**

**Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so. God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.** Genesis 1:11-12, 29-31 (NASB)

Trees – They are mentioned sixteen times trees in the first three chapters of Genesis, the Bible book of Beginnings, eight times about two specific trees, and six of those about the tree “of the knowledge of good and evil.” **The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil...**

**Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."** Genesis 1:8-9, 29-30 2:8-9, 15-17 (NASB)

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the one tree that was off limits. The tree that has terribly affected all of mankind, all of creation, and all human history. The tree by which Adam and Eve sinned, and sin infected all of us.

Why did God plant it in the first place if they couldn't eat its fruit? Why plant a tree they had to continually say no to? Why did God plant it when He knew satan could and would use it as a source of temptation? Why plant it when the stakes were so high and the consequences so dire and far-reaching?

It was a very good command, **“from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die,”** because knowing evil is overrated, and only God can handle the knowledge of evil without being corrupted by it, we surely can't. They knew good, that's all they knew, what could knowing evil possibly add to that? – nothing. I wish I knew less evil, were more like a little child whose sin nature hasn't blossomed yet. It doesn't take long for evil that is unleashed in the mind (knowledge) to work itself into our hearts, onto our lips, and take hold of our feet and hands (experiential knowledge), and from there extent itself into the lives of others.

That tree was a daily reminder that some things are better left in the hands of God. We are created in the image of God but not to be God, we are not qualified to occupy His throne, no one is, and when we try it always ends in disaster and death.

That tree asked a daily question, “Do you trust God?” even when He says, “No” or “Don't.” So, do you? Do you trust in God's wisdom and goodness, and that He both knows what He is talking about and means what He says? Heeding God's good command to bypass that tree was a declaration of trust, an act of faith, a choice for good and life. But we know it didn't take long for Adam and Eve to ignore the command not to eat of that tree (Genesis 3), to be duped into thinking that knowing evil and playing God was worth risking all the good God had blessed and surrounded them with, and to be deceived into thinking that God's declared consequences to their actions somehow did not apply to them.

You and I are familiar with the knowledge of good and evil. For one, the taste for sin has been an inherited trait ever since Adam and Eve ate off that tree. For another, we are also guilty of continuing to snack and gorge ourselves on the fruit of that tree, falling to the same deception to mistrust and underestimate God, and that there is some way for us to be God.

The command regarding the tree of the knowledge of good and evil still stands – “Don't eat from it.”

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor Hans



# Lord Hear Our Prayers

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Health:** Mabel Mayes, Cherlyann (health), Julie Ebel (Health),  
Bailee, Mark & Susan Watts (Loss of family member),  
Foster Children and those who foster,  
And that we do "SHARE".

If you notice someone has been absent from Small Group or  
Worship Services for awhile, why not call them or stop by to  
let him/her know that they have been missed. A kindness that  
cost you nothing could mean everything to someone who is  
suffering in the silence of self-exile.

## Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing,  
Noah Martin, John Michael Chavez,  
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Brian Sula,  
Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,  
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,  
Christopher Sula

## CARD & FLOWER MINISTRY

If you know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized, please let us  
know by calling: **Lynnette Barrera** – (559)400-1862 and  
Rachel Aratin - (209)206-5236  
Prayer Request e-mail to: **Judy Mahar** [ldpbepayer@gmail.com](mailto:ldpbepayer@gmail.com)

## **Church Board Members:**

Hans Frei - Pastor . Richard Mayes - Head Deacon ,  
Dan Hankemeier . Sue Kluding .  
Gabi Cox . Chuck Arndt

# Christmas

## Calendar of Events for December



- **Annual Church Business Meeting**  
December 3rd, following the service  
(*All* members are encouraged to attend)
- **Christmas Baskets**  
**by the Food Ministry -**  
Saturday, December 16th (9 AM - 12 noon)  
Per-registration required, Contact Leslie Farrow, 852-2481
- **Christmas Caroling -**  
Saturday, Dec. 16th (Meet at the Church at 4:30 P.M.)
- **Candlelight Communion Service -**  
Sunday, Dec. 24th (6:30 P.M.)
- **Christmas Sunday Worship -**  
Monday, Dec. 25th (10:30 A.M.)

# November Announcements

## Ministry Opportunity

Our children's department is seeking help for our Wednesday night class to assist the teacher. No teaching or prep is required - just show up to help as needed.

For more information, contact Susie Frei

(phone: 209-247-9234) or [skfrei@gmail.com](mailto:skfrei@gmail.com)).

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## Where are you uniquely wired to serve??

- Multimedia
  - Music
- Prayer Team
- Facility & Grounds
  - Youth
  - Kitchen
  - Food
  - Missions

Let us know. There's a place for you

## Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- Women's Morning Bible Study— Wed. @ 10:00 AM
- Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Grief Share - Wed. @ 630 P.M.  
**Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service**

Fellowship Time Snacks were provided  
By - "Dan's Class"

**Thank you**

*Next week Beverly's Class & The Youth are up!!*

Don't forget to check out the sermon on our website:  
[ldpbaptistchurch.com](http://ldpbaptistchurch.com) for you and your whole family.  
Maybe even a neighbor ; )

A Bit of  
Humor  
Corner



He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.  
— Psalm 1:3 niv

**Giving**

*November 12, 2023*

**Offering:**  
\$3,250.00

**Food Basket:**  
\$20.00

**Facilities:**  
\$55.00

**Missions:**  
\$60.33

**World Hunger:**  
\$153.98

**Attendance:**  
75

**Weekly Events**

**Sunday School/Small Groups:**  
9:00 AM

**Sunday Morning Worship Service:**  
10:30 AM

**Sunday Evening Worship Service:**  
6:00 PM

**Tuesday:** Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

**1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday**  
**Food Ministry:**

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

**Wednesday:**

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM  
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM  
Grief Share - 6:30 PM

**Thursday:** Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

**Lake Don Pedro Baptist Church**  
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www.ldpbaptistchurch.com

**S H A R E**



*1 Timothy 6:18*



**November 20th - November 26th**

DAY 1 - Philemon 1  
(Ps. 140)

DAY 2 - Matt. 1  
(Ps. 141)

DAY 3 - Matt. 2  
(Ps. 142)

DAY 4 - Matt. 3  
(Ps. 143)

DAY 5 - Matt. 4  
(Ps. 144)

DAY 6 - (Ps. 145)

DAY 7 - (Ps. 146)

**Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.**