



Saint Paul Messenger

A Member of the North American Lutheran Church

St Paul Lutheran Church
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I would like to use an example from everyday life to help me explain a way of studying the Bible. The everyday example is part of our modern technology known as the integrated circuit, which we usually don't see, but they are all around us hiding inside of cell phones, ipads, computers, televisions, remote controls, microwaves, automobiles, toys, and hundreds of other items. Today integrated circuits are smaller than an eraser on the end of a pencil, and they can do fantastic things. For the purpose of my illustration, I'd like to focus on how these tiny integrated circuits are made. They are made in layers. They are "printed" on a silicon base with various components and connections placed upon the base – layer after layer after layer – hundreds of layers upon layers until the integrated circuit is completed in the manufacturing process.

Now back to the Bible. One way to study the Bible is in layers. We read God's word one day, and that is a layer. Then the next day we can read the Bible again, and that's another layer. Day after day, we can let the image of God's word be "printed" into our mind as we read. After a certain number of days (layers in this example) we can form interconnections between the layers.

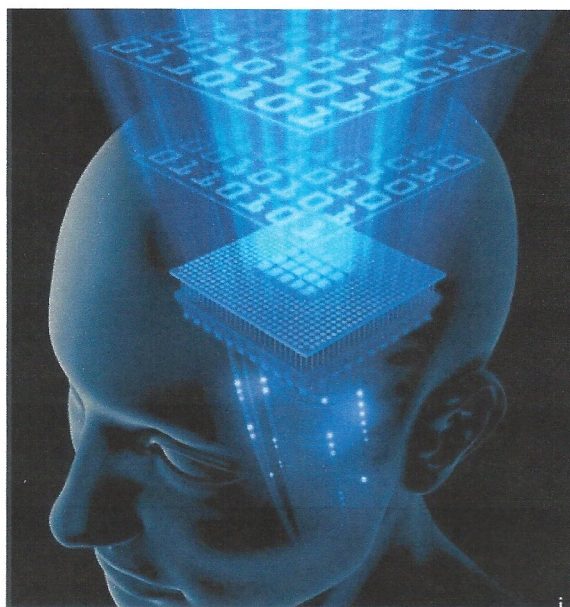
At first when we start to read the scriptures there might be some things that we don't understand at first glance. However the more often we pick up God's word and read it we add layers to our understanding as interconnections occur between what we read on one day with what we read on a previous day.

Layers of understanding can also occur as we listen to the lessons read in the church service, and then add new layers each following Sunday as we listen.

What you end up with is something greater than the sum total of the various layers of God's word within our minds. God makes interconnections in our mind between what we read or hear on one day and what we read or hear on another.

The creation of an integrated circuit is simply a manufacturing process of our modern era. But what happens in our minds and hearts as we expose ourselves to God's word day after day, layer upon layer" is truly a miracle, a work of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Turanski





The President's Pen

To St Paul Members and friends:

I recently read an article titled, "Six Special Powers of Prayer" written by Ardis Whitman that was taken from the Reader's Digest many years ago. It referenced how powerful the different prayer forms are and how they help us to grow. Each one of these forms of prayer is heart directed and is easily seen how that is understood. They are as follows;

1. The prayer of gratitude, joy, & adoration

□ Whitman used the example of a beautiful sun rise and the song from a solitary bird that is sung over and over again. We need to sing over and over again our thanks to God for this world and all of the beauty that He has given us.

2. The prayer of confession and penitence

□ We need daily to confess our sins and not let guilt weigh us down and take the joy out of life. Every Sunday we pray to "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". I had to ask myself if when I say those words do I just say them without thought to what they actually mean or do they come from my heart.

3. The prayer for others

□ We, at St. Paul, I truly believe understand the power of praying for others. Every week we pour out our petitions to God for those individuals who are in need of His help and are hurting. We have seen and experienced miracles from God's hand time and time again. I never felt right asking God for

things that I thought were small and unimportant in my eyes but I have since learned that we need to take all of our concerns to God for consideration and let Him be the one to decide what is or isn't important.

4. The prayer of discovery and contemplation

□ As stated in this article, "we often think of prayer as a one-way street because when we talk to God it doesn't seem to occur to us that he talks back to us. Hearing the voice of God may mean that we must surrender something we love, or start on new tasks that we might not have chosen for ourselves. How do we pray the prayer of contemplation? In silence, waiting and willing, asking for faith. Not seeing, to see; not hearing to hear".

5. The prayer for grace

□ Oh how blessed we are for God's grace which is given to us as a free and undeserved gift. How do we ask for this gift? It must come from deep within our hearts asking for those things that we know we can't change ourselves but by God's grace and the gift of his son, Jesus Christ, are able to do so.

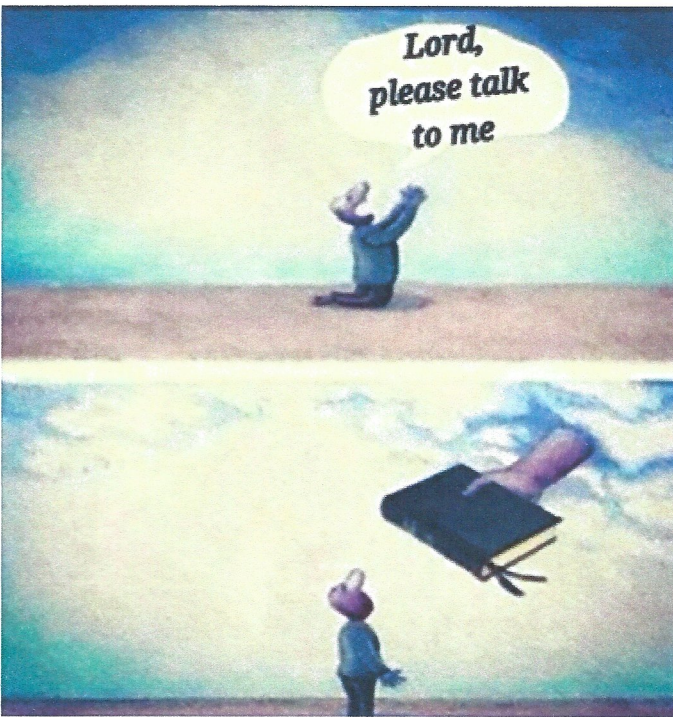
6. The prayer in action

□ Asking for blessings upon those concerns or happenings and to have God's hand upon them for protection, for completion, for a good outcome; to be pleasing to God that our actions represent what God wants us to do. The old saying "*that actions speak louder than words*" is so true. We are judged everyday but what we do and say so remember to do what is pleasing to our

Lord and ask for forgiveness when we fail miserably.

Prayer is such a powerful tool. It is our communication with God and continues to help us grow stronger with use. As Ruth said in her sermon, it doesn't have to be fancy, just do it. *Use it often!*

Deb



thankful
→ & ←
grateful

Please remember that Thank Offering Sunday is scheduled for Sunday, November 20th.

Offerings this year will go to WISE.

Council Corner



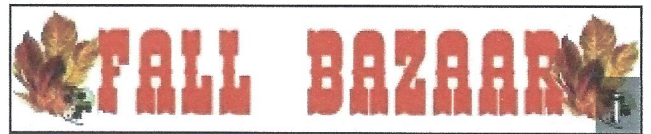
Council was unable to hold a formal meeting in the month of September. Stay tuned for updates.

Luther Quiz

In terms of human freedom, Lutherans teach that:

- Freedom was destroyed in the fall of Adam and Eve
- Freedom was restored to all in the death of Christ
- Freedom is an inalienable right from our creator
- Humans are free in some things, not free in others.

Answer D



Attention Ladies!

St. Paul's Annual Bazaar

October 29th

To make this a success, we need your help and lots of homemade cookies.

You may sign up at church or contact:

Joyce, Vera, Deb E. or Peg B.