



The Hillside Messenger

A Message from the Rector: The Ninth Commandment

In the Ninth Commandment, God's people are commanded not to willfully communicate a falsehood about anyone to misrepresent them (*Exodus 20:16*, KJV; see also *Deuteronomy 5:20* and Question 340, *To Be a Christian*). In ancient Israel, two or three witnesses were required for any charge of a transgression of the law made against another person to stand (*Numbers 35:30*; *Deuteronomy 17:6*; *St. Matthew 18:16*).

If even two witnesses bore false testimony against a person accused of a capital crime, the accused would then be wrongfully executed. So serious a crime was lying against a person that anyone found to be a false witness in a legal case was to receive the same punishment he sought to

inflict by bringing a false accusation or bearing false testimony (*Deuteronomy 19:16-19*).

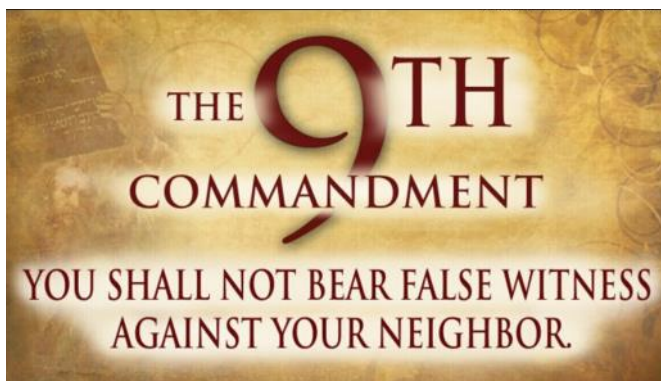
The chilling effects of lying witnesses are shown in Queen Jezebel's plot to kill Naboth so that her husband King Ahab could take possession of his vineyard. The story is told in *I Kings 21:1-16* of how Jezebel wrote letters

of this in allowing his wife to arrange for all these evil things to be done in his name. We see that lying gave rise to murder on the pretense of a capital crime having been committed. But neither Ahab nor Jezebel went unpunished, as God's word to Ahab spoken by Elijah makes clear (*I Kings 21:17-26*).

In the *Gospel according to St. Matthew*, we read that the chief priests and the Sanhedrin tried to find false testimony against Jesus Christ in order to put Him to death,

but they did not find it even though many false witnesses came forward (*St. Matthew 26:59*). After these failed attempts, two witnesses came forward alleging that Jesus had said He could destroy the temple of God and build it again in three days (*St. Matthew 26:60-*

(Continues on page 2)



in Ahab's name instructing the elders of Jezreel to proclaim a fast, set Naboth on high among the people, and have two base men bear false witness against him by saying that Naboth had cursed God and the king. Then they were to carry Naboth out and stone him to death. Of course, Ahab bore responsibility for all

Inside this Issue:

Our Chapel Family Prayer List	4
A Prayer for Our Congregation	5
A Prayer for the MDAS Search Committee	5
Communication in a Disaster	6
When We are Called to the Lord's Table	8
Parish Postings	9
Upcoming Events	10

The Ninth Commandment

(Continued from page 1) 61). To this charge Jesus remained silent (*St. Matthew 26:63a*). But when the high priest asked Him if He was the Christ, the Son of God, Jesus' truthful reply, although He emphasized that it was the high priest who made this admission by his question, led to the high priest accusing Him of blasphemy, a capital crime in Judaism. If Jesus Himself had denied He was the Christ, the Son of the living God, He would have been guilty of bear-



ing false witness. It was in fact His accusers who were bearing false witness by accusing Him of blasphemy, since they falsely assumed He was only a man and not the Christ, the Son of God.

Why does God forbid His people from bearing false witness? According to our Catechism (Question 341, page 108, *To Be a Christian*), lying “defames and wounds my neighbor, erodes my love of truth, disobeys my Lord Jesus, and aligns me

with Satan, the father of lies.” Speaking to the Jews who would not believe Him, the Lord Jesus Christ characterized them and the Devil in these words:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he

speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

St. John 8:44, KJV

The Lord declares there is no truth in the Devil, and this is why the Devil does not abide in truth.

The Devil tells lies, because he is the father of lies. By contrast, the Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (*St. John 14:6*). Therefore, bearing false witness, or lying, aligns us with the Devil whereas speaking the truth aligns us with the Lord Jesus Christ and confirms we are God's children.

Another reason for refraining from lying and instead speaking the truth is that as Christians we all belong to the Lord Jesus

Christ, and, being His Body, we are members of one another. St. Paul emphasizes this truth in his *Epistle to the Ephesians*:

Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Ephesians 4:25, KJV

Apart from the miscarriage of justice that can result from false testimony in court, there is the extensive harm that can be done through slander and gossip, by which people spread falsehoods about others and so ruin their reputations. Great harm can be done by this. To Cretans who were prone to lying (*St. Titus 1:12*), St. Paul gave the command not to speak evil of anyone (*St. Titus 3:2a*). This is the principle Christians ought to follow in obeying the Ninth Commandment.

When we ruin someone's reputation through slander and gossip, it is akin to killing that person. The circle of friends he had might no longer want to be his friends, or his chances of obtaining a good position may be lost, or his success in life somehow thwarted.

Dishonoring Christians who are poor by discriminating against them is also covered by this commandment, since we are creating the false

(Continues on page 3)

The Ninth Commandment

(Continued from page 2) impressions that God does not honor them and that rich Christians are more acceptable to God than poor ones. If we live the truth and speak it, we align ourselves with the values and standards of God's kingdom and so show no partiality to the wealthy.

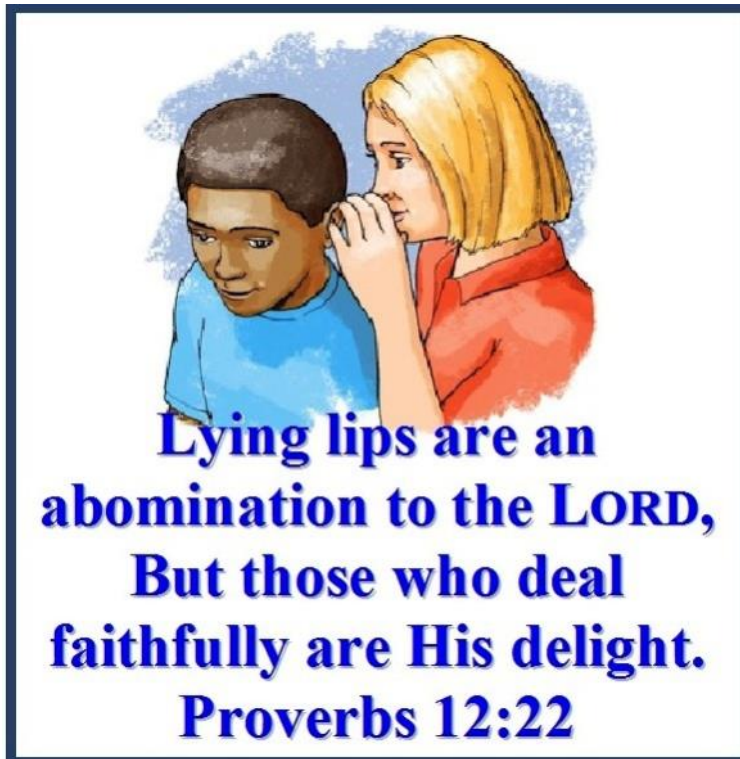
Even in the Church and in the teaching of ministers of the Gospel, false teachers can arise distorting the word of God and teaching false doctrines for the sake of making money. St. Peter warns us of this in *II St. Peter 2:1-3*. St. Paul anathematizes everyone

who preaches a different Gospel to the Galatians than he preached to them (*Galatians 1:6-9*). St. John declares that many anti-christs have gone out into the world denying that Jesus is the Christ (*St. John 2:18-29*), effectively denying the Father and the Son. The anointing of the Holy Spirit, St. John explains, teaches Christians the truth and helps them to discern false teachers and false teaching.

In keeping the Ninth Commandment, our aim in life should always be to speak the truth in love and avoid saying anything false about anyone

else, or even about ourselves. St. John reminds us that if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (*I St. John 1:9*), since we are claiming that God's judgement that all mankind has sinned and does sin is false (*I St. John 1:10; Romans 3:9-20*). To counter this, we must always believe and maintain the truth that God speaks concerning us and realize that we are sinners saved by grace and committed to determinedly following Christ the Way.

– The Reverend
Christopher Parrish



Our Chapel Family Prayer List

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech Thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that Thou wouldest be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for Thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by Thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to Thy fatherly goodness: Archbishop Foley Beach; Bishop Richard Lipka; Canon Michael Penfield; Father Chris Parrish; Deacon Peter Vogel; and Deacon Linda Bracken; also all those who serve as Thy ministers in governing our nation and state, particularly: President Joe Biden; and

Governor Gavin Newsom; as well as all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; especially those for whom our prayers are desired: the soldiers, sailors, marines, airmen, coasties, guardians, police officers, firefighters, and pilots who protect us every day; our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world; all refugees; the leaders and people of Ukraine; all who have lost family, friends, or property in Hawaiian wildfires; Jim and Edna Davis; Joya de Rossett; Debbie; Scott; Brittany; Tanya Theiler; Mark Quinn; Lisa; Ben; Marian; Flo; Max; Dan and Kendra Pack;

the Stanko family; Yoshihiko Ikegami; Mary Frances Reeves; Mrs. Kitt; Jon Carter; Frank Capone; Rose Handwerker; Ann and Frank MacVoy; Bishop Ilgenfritz; Moe Martinez; Victoria Grace; Christina; John and Heidi Donnelly; Father Mike Keppler; Carl; Judith Boreham; Gary Winiger; Marie and Wade; Heather; Susan; Bishop Lipka; and Helen Vanderberg; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

***This prayer list was current as of August 23rd,
and the people of St. Luke's will pray for each need
until we are notified that it has been met.
Please contact Father Parrish to add or remove names.
Thank you!***

A Prayer for Our Congregation

O GOD, Holy Ghost, Sanctifier of the faithful, visit, we pray Thee, the Congregation of St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills with Thy love and favour; enlighten our minds more and more with the light of the everlasting Gospel; graft in our hearts a love of the truth; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same, O blessed Spirit, whom, with the Father and the Son together, we worship and glorify as one God, world without end. Amen.

A Prayer for the MDAS Search Committee

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously upon Thy Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Bishop Coadjutor for the Missionary Diocese of All Saints that we may receive a faithful pastor who will preach the Gospel, care for Thy people, equip us for ministry, and lead us forth in fulfillment of the Great Commission; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Communication in a Disaster: How Can I Tell My Family I'm OK?

So far I have covered Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS), cellular phones, and Internet communications. None of those methods is foolproof. In fact, all are likely to fail to some degree or at some point after a disaster. So, how do you maximize your chances of getting that message out?

Have a plan in place before it is needed. For all of the modes of connecting you need to know the phone number, text

you choose should be far enough away that they are not going to be affected by the disaster in your area. They also should know your plan. It is best to have a single point of contact who will then be the clearing house for your entire family's information. That way you only have to contact one person who will then call the rest of your family, so you can deal with the emergency here. The whole family should know your contact person is the one to call to find out what is happening. Everyone

social media site that everyone can use to post information. Have several communication options, but prioritize the list for what works best for your family.

When a disaster strikes, your first priority is to ensure your own safety and that of your immediate family. Once that safety is established you can try reaching out to let the rest of your family know your status. To do that, you will need working equipment. Here are some recommendations for each of the com-

*This is Part Four
of Tim Slattery's
series on communications
following a disaster.*

number, or e-mail address of the person you wish to notify. This information needs to be somewhere you can get to it even if power is off, you can't get into your house, or you are away from home. Having the info on you cell phone is good, but what if you lose your cell phone or the battery is dead? A paper copy in your wallet doesn't take up much space and is likely to stay with you wherever you are.

The contact person

should know the emergency contact plan. It is best to pick a family member who is located fairly far away but within the continental US, is reasonably tech savvy, and is known by everyone in your contact group.

Your cell phone and paper list should include as many ways as possible to reach your contact person: POTS phone number, cell phone number, work phone number, home e-mail address, and work e-mail address. You might also have a designated

communications methods I've discussed:

POTS: Have a telephone that will work without grid power. AT&T still sells phones like the trimline corded phone for about \$15.

[https://
telephones.att.com/
telephones/corded-
telephones/no-ac-power](https://telephones.att.com/telephones/corded-telephones/no-ac-power)

Be prepared to try calling several times to get through. Even if there is no dial-

(Continues on page 7)

Communication in a Disaster: How Can I Tell My Family I'm OK?

(Continued from page 6)
tone, try periodically to see if the connection has been restored.

Cell Phone: Have alternate ways to power your cell phone. At a minimum keep a 12-volt charger and cable in your car. A battery bank is also good to keep handy. Some agencies recommend storing a cheap backup cell phone in your emergency kit so you have coverage if something happens to your primary phone.

Internet: To connect to the Internet, your equipment will require AC power. Since power is likely to go off and be off for a while following an earthquake or other disaster, you will need an alternate source of power. An Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) can provide power for a limited time. A gen-

erator can provide power for a longer time, but requires regular maintenance and knowledge of how to safely use it. Also, a typical AT&T fiber connection needs power to the Optical Network Terminal (ONT), the router, and any switches between any wired equipment you intend to use and the router. Newer systems have the ONT and router plus Wi-Fi all in one. The device you are using to connect (cell phone, tablet, laptop, and so forth) will also need power or intermittent charging.

There are more exotic (and expensive) ways to make contact after a disaster. These will be the subject of our next installment.



If you wish to learn more about disaster preparedness, consider joining

your local Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may occur where they live. CERT trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as:

- Fire safety
- Light search and rescue
- Team organization
- Disaster medical operations

The CERT program offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks. Visit

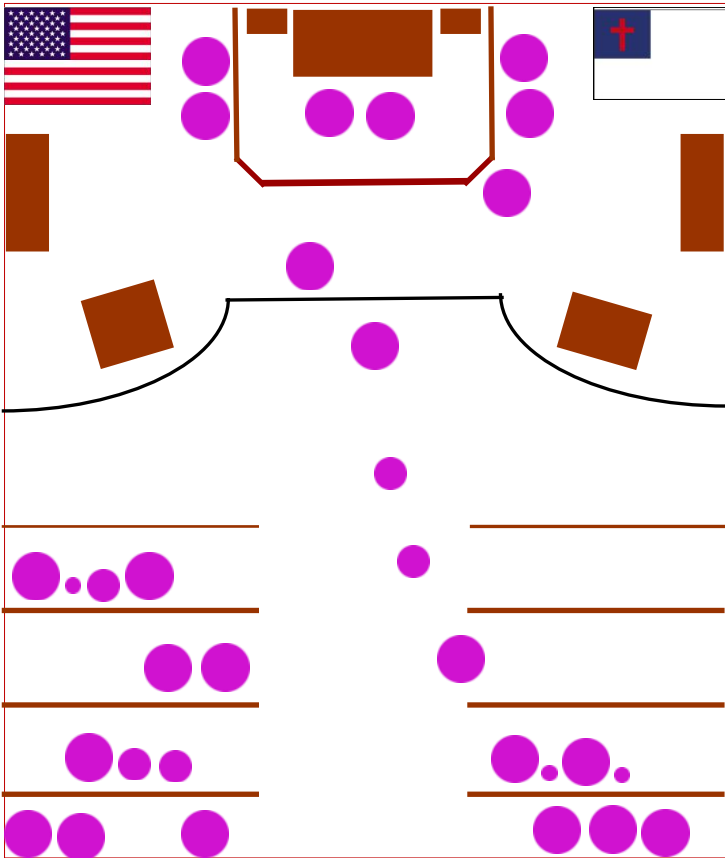
<https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/welcome-to-cert>
for more information.

– *Tim Slattery*



When We are Called to the Lord's Table

Our Lord is a God of order, so it is meet and right for us to conduct ourselves in a respectful and orderly fashion in His house. Because our Chapel is a former one-room schoolhouse and our Aisle is narrow, we have limited space to maneu-



ver. Following this process when we are called to the Lord's Table for Holy Communion keeps us from congesting the Aisle and Chancel:

1. Starting from the first pew in front, communicants

sitting on the Epistle side of the Chapel should go to the Altar Rail first. At the first step to the Altar Rail, each person will break off and go left or right toward the flags. This will allow the Altar Rail to be filled from the outside in, towards the center, so that everyone can avoid tripping and stepping over the legs and feet of those who are kneeling. It will also allow those in the pews to better gauge how many people can fit at the Altar Rail at one time.

2. Once the Altar Rail is full, the process of coming to the rail pauses. Those who have not yet communed remain in the pews until the blessing for the previous group of communicants is given and they have returned to their

seats. This will avoid crowding in the aisle and ensure a safe return for everyone into the pews.

3. After the first group has communed and the blessing is given to depart, they will leave the Altar in the same order as they came forward.
4. Once the Aisle is clear of traffic, the next group of congregants may come forward. Communicants awaiting their turn at the Lord's Table should wait in their pews, not in the Aisle.
5. Father Parish and Deacon Vogel will happily bring Holy Communion to those who cannot physically come to the Altar Rail.

Thank you for helping to keep (human) communion out of Communion!

Parish Postings

Sunday, September 10th, has been designated Bring a Friend to Church Day. Invite a friend or two to join your Chapel Family for Morning Prayer as we give thanks and praise to God and share the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!



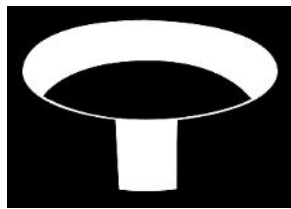
The Vestry will meet on Sunday, September 10th, following worship and fellowship. All interested parishioners are invited to attend.



The Autumnal Ember Days are Wednesday, September 20th; Friday, September 22nd and Saturday, September 23rd. These are days of fasting when we pray both for clergy currently ordained and for more vocations to the ordained ministry.

O ALMIGHTY
God, who hast

committed to the hands of men the ministry of reconciliation; We humbly beseech Thee, by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, to put it into the hearts of many to offer themselves for this ministry; that thereby mankind may be drawn to Thy blessed kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Through our second quarter Community Mission Project, St. Luke's collected funds sufficient to provide nearly 18 fully-supplied backpacks to local students in need through Family Giving Tree. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project!

The Vestry will select a new project at its next meeting.



Until Advent, parishioners are invited to offer altar flowers and to use the Altar Flower Chart to schedule their dates for floral offerings. Altar flower dedications should be e-mailed to Father Parish a week in advance of the scheduled date.



Our Chapel Family is looking for people to join the Flags ministry. The Chapel's flagpole was erected on the site of the original Old Purissima Schoolhouse water tower. The marker at the base of the flagpole was donated to St. Luke's Chapel in the Hills by the Los Altos Hills Historical Society on December 17, 2021. Members of this ministry raise and lower the flags before and after services. If you wish to join this ministry, please see Junior Warden Clark Paterson.



Upcoming Events

Friday, September 1st

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, September 3rd

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM

Friday, September 8th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, September 10th

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Bring a Friend to Church Day
Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Vestry Meeting
following the worship service and fellowship

Friday, September 15th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, September 17th

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion
10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 20th

Ember Day

Friday, September 22nd

Ember Day

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Saturday, September 23rd

Ember Day

Sunday, September 24th

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Office of Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 29th

Telephone Prayer Meeting
10:00 AM

Sunday, October 1st

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion with Holy Unction
10:00 AM





The Hillside Messenger

A PUBLICATION OF
ST. LUKE'S CHAPEL IN THE HILLS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

A PARISH OF
THE CONVOCATION OF THE WEST,
PART OF THE
MISSIONARY DIOCESE OF
ALL SAINTS IN
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

26140 Duval Way
Los Altos Hills, California
94022-4413
Office phone:
650-941-6524
Rector's cellular:
669-946-2645

E-mail:
ChristopherParrish7@gmail.com

Website:
www.StLukesChapel.org

«AddressBlock»

Worship Schedule

St.

Luke's Chapel in the Hills is a traditional Anglican parish which uses the 1928 edition *Book of Common Prayer*. We invite you to join us for worship and fellowship soon!

*“A place
where the Bible is taught.”*



*Biblical in teaching.
Liturgical in worship.
Loving in practice.*

First, third, and fifth Sundays of each month

Holy Communion
(with Healing Service on First Sundays)
10:00 AM

Second and fourth Sundays each month

Office of Daily Morning Prayer
10:00 AM

Please note that Holy Communion will be celebrated on Feast Days occurring on second and fourth Sundays.

If you cannot join us physically in the Chapel,
please contact Father Parrish
to be added to each service's Zoom invitation.