



**Series:** Proverbs - The Pursuit of Wisdom  
**Week One:** Why be Wise?

*"If you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God." Proverbs 2:1-5*

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Pastors: James Thomas and Robert Zorn



**\* Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

Leader: What do you believe about God?

**People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

Leader: What do you believe about Jesus Christ?

**People: We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

Leader: What do you believe about the Holy Spirit?

**People: We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

Leader: What do you believe about the Church?

**People: We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**\* Song of Response #579 (blue)**

Glory Be to the Father

**Children's Sermon**

**Anthem**

Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Kingsmore

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing Lau

\* Doxology #592 (blue)

\* Prayer of Dedication

## \* Song

Thy Word

*Chorus:*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,  
And a light unto my path.*

1. When I feel afraid,  
And I think I've lost my way.  
Still, you're there right beside me.  
And nothing will I fear,  
As long as you are near;  
Please be near me to the end.
2. I will not forget your love for me and yet,  
My heart forever is wandering.  
Jesus by my guide, and hold me to your side,  
And I will love you to the end.

A Grant & M W Smith, © 1997 Ariose ~ CCLI #1881909

## Scripture Reading

Proverbs 3:1-26

## Sermon

Why Be Wise

\* **Hymn #508** (blue) For the Bread Which You Have Broken

## Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation and Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\* **Song**

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind by now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed.

*Chorus:*

*My chains are gone; I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
Unending love, amazing grace.*

3. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

*Chorus:*

*My chains are gone; I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
Unending love, amazing grace.  
My chains are gone; I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
Unending love, amazing grace.*

4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine.  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine; will be forever mine.  
You are forever mine.

C Tomlin & L Giglio, © 2006 by worshiptogether ~ CCLI #18811909

\* **Benediction**

\* **Closing Chorus**                      Amazing Grace – My Chains Are Gone

*My chains are gone; I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns,  
Unending love, amazing grace.*

**Postlude**                      O For a Heart to Praise My God                      Powell

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*\*If comfortably able please stand*

### **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Accompanist:** Joan Loewen

**Introit & Anthem:** Chancel Choir; Doug Garner, Director

**Liturgist:** Nick Smith    **Next Week:** Brad Siddons

**Acolyte:** Lucas Garner

**Children's Sermon:** Susan Ferguson

**Next Week:** Elaine Siddons

**Ushers:** Sue Garner (lead usher), Danny Garner, Alex Garner,  
    Nancy Machmer, Art Belfiore

**Children's Church:** Ginny Westover

**Next week:** Elaine Siddons

**Preaching:** Pastor James Thomas

**Infants/Preschool:** Karen McCurdy and Riley Cullen

**Next week:** Donis Zagurskie and Jimmy Zagurskie

**Deacon for the Month:** Elaine Siddons

**Counters:** Lonnie Griffith and Ed Curry

**Next Week:** Dave Noss and Bill Sisson

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WELCOME!** If you are visiting with us, please sign the Visitors' Register and pick up a Welcome Bag in the narthex. Children's activity bags, Bibles, large print hymnals and hearing devices are available from the ushers. Childcare through age four is available throughout the service. Children's church is available for children age 5 – grade 4 following the children's sermon.

**CHRISTIAN UNITY SUNDAY:** Lewistown Presbyterian will be joining with a number of other local churches for a joint worship service on **January 21 at 10 AM** at the Mifflin County Middle School auditorium. Therefore, there **will not be a service here on that Sunday**. You are all strongly encouraged to attend the service of unity. United Methodist Bishop Jeremiah Park will be the speaker and plans are underway for a choir made up of members of a number of local churches to lead in worship. This is a wonderful way for us to worship with brothers and sisters from other congregations and to demonstrate our unity in Christ to each other and to our community.

**CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Youth in grades 6 and above (who have not yet become church members) and their parents should have received letters inviting the youth to confirmation classes, which will run today through May 6 from 9 AM – 10 AM each Sunday morning. Those who wish to join the church will meet with the session on May 10 and be received by the congregation on May 13. If you are or know of someone who may be interested, please call the church office.

### **YOUTH GROUP:**

- **Regular Meetings:** Our youth group for youth in grades 6-12 meets from 6–7:30 PM Sunday evenings. Their current study is "Relationships: They're Complicated." Youth and leaders from the McVeytown Presbyterian Church will be joining us for this study during the month of January. All meetings will take place here at Lewistown Presbyterian in the youth room on the third floor.
- **Overnight at Krislund, January 26-27:** We will be wrapping up our January focus on relationships with some warm conversations and cool winter activities Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. Krislund friends/staff, Luke and Julie Brady and Booker and Megan Holly will share their stories and answer questions on dating, sex, and relationships. Cost is \$30.00/student. Specific details re: times TBA.
- **WinterJam:** Ten popular Christian bands are coming to the Bryce Jordan Center on Friday, January 19. Bands include Skillet, Building 429, Kari Jobe and others. The cost is \$15 at the door. Since there is no school that day, the van will leave the church at 3:30 PM and make a stop for supper on the way. Youth will return by midnight. If you plan to participate, please make sure to pick up a release form on the bulletin board outside the front door of the sanctuary.

**YOUR PASTORS AND STAFF** wish to thank the congregation for your Christmas greetings and gifts.

**DECORATION REMOVAL:** If you can stay after church today, please do so to help us remove and store the Advent and Christmas decorations, which beautified our sanctuary during that season.

**2018 ENVELOPE BOXES** - Offering envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick up yours today.

### **SMALL GROUP MINISTRY**

- **Adult Sunday Morning Study** led by Pat Brown meets in the church parlor on Sundays at 9 AM. We are studying "Ten Women of the Bible – One by One They Changed the World" by Jenna Lucado Bishop from the writings of Max Lucado.
- **Youth Sunday Morning Study:** All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome! The group meets on the third floor at 9 AM.
- **Sunday Afternoon Study** meets on the first Sunday of each month in the parlor, following the worship service.
- **Tuesday Evening Group** meets at the home of Jim and Kris Hill at 6:00 PM. They are studying, "Being a Disciple: Counting the Real Cost" by Kay Arthur, Tom & Jane Hart. All are welcome.
- **Wednesday Morning Group:** This group meets at 6:30 AM on Wednesday at the manse and is led by Pastor Jim. The group begins a new study: "The Forgiveness of Jesus," a Deeper Connections study edited by Matt Williams and featuring professors from a number of Christian colleges and seminaries who illuminate the parables and actions of Jesus.
- **Sunday Evening Group** meets from 6:00 – 7:15 PM at the manse (108 N. Brown St.) This evening they will complete Max Lucado's "Because of Bethlehem."

**THE ANNUAL MEETING** of the congregation and corporation of the Lewistown Presbyterian Church will be held on February 4. Reports for the Annual Report are due by January 19.

### **2017 END OF YEAR GIVING REPORT**

Weekly Need: \$ 3,265.14	Yearly Need: \$ 172,297.74
Last Week: \$ 2,909.00	Received: \$ 172,849.95



## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 3:1-26

<sup>1</sup> My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, <sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you peace and prosperity. <sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. <sup>8</sup> This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; <sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, <sup>12</sup> because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.

<sup>13</sup> Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding, <sup>14</sup> for she is more profitable than silver and yields better returns than gold. <sup>15</sup> She is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. <sup>16</sup> Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. <sup>17</sup> Her ways are pleasant ways, and all her paths are peace. <sup>18</sup> She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her; those who hold her fast will be blessed. <sup>19</sup> By wisdom the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place; <sup>20</sup> by his knowledge the watery depths were divided, and the clouds let drop the dew.

<sup>21</sup> My son, do not let wisdom and understanding out of your sight, preserve sound judgment and discretion; <sup>22</sup> they will be life for you, an ornament to grace your neck. <sup>23</sup> Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble. <sup>24</sup> When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. <sup>25</sup> Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, <sup>26</sup> for the LORD will be at your side and will keep your foot from being snared.

## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES**

January 7 – January 14, 2018

### **SUNDAY, January 7**

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class @ the manse
- 9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Removal of Christmas Decorations
- 11:30 AM Adult Study – Parlor
- 6:00 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Adult Study @ the manse

### **MONDAY, January 8**

- 11:30 AM Prayer Ministry
- 6:00 PM Joy Seekers
- 7:00 PM Boy Scouts

### **TUESDAY, January 9**

- 6:00 PM Small Group @ Jim & Kris Hill's home

### **WEDNESDAY, January 10**

- 6:30 AM Small Group Study @ the manse
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, January 11**

- 7:00 PM Session Meeting

### **SUNDAY, January 14**

- 9:00 AM Adult Study Group – Parlor
- 9:00 AM Youth Study Group – Youth Room
- 9:00 AM Confirmation Class @ the manse
- 9:15 AM Children's Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Deacons' Meeting
- 6:00 PM Youth Group
- 6:00 PM Adult Study @ the manse