

**Bible Study 1**  
**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas**

**1) How do we view scripture?**

- a) ELCA View of Scripture
  - i) The Holy Spirit uses the Scriptures to present Jesus to all who listen to or read them. That is why Lutheran Christians say that the Scriptures are the “source and norm” of their teaching and practice.
- b) Luther says scripture is the manger that brings Christ to us.**
  - i) It is the vehicle that brings Christ to us
- c) It contains history... but it is not all history**
  - i) But NOT a Comprehensive History
  - ii) It is not a science book
  - iii) It contains metaphors
  - iv) It contains songs
  - v) The Bible is more like a quilt than a blanket. A patchwork of stories and teachings sewn together.
  - vi) It is a book of faith...
    - (1) But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31
    - (2) To view scripture in any other way is to disregard what the scriptures says about itself
- d) Spiritual Truth trumps historical truth**
  - i) Something doesn't have to be historically true to have spiritual truth.
  - ii) Jesus told parables-- stories... these have spiritual truth...
- e) We have a high view of scripture but we don't read every word literally**
  - i) Instead we look for the spiritual truth
- f) However, we do view scripture through the lens of Christ.**
  - i) Those who wear rose colored lenses are called eternal optimists...
  - ii) we read scripture through the lens of the love of Jesus (death and resurrection). That doesn't make us optimists as it does hopeful and not condemned!
- g) Spiritual growth is not about knowledge!**
  - i) Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. 1Corinthians 8:1b
  - ii) If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1Corinthians 13:1
- h) Spiritual growth is about drawing close to the source of love and living in that love...also known as wisdom.**
  - i) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalm 119:105
  - ii) Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. Proverbs 4:6-7
  - iii) If any of you lacks wisdom, they should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to them. James 1:5

- iv) Here is the difference between knowledge and wisdom: Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not using a tomato in a fruit salad.

## 2) Genesis Introduction

- a) The first 11 chapters are pre-history.
- b) You can't put a timeline on these stories... even though people have tried
- c) God doesn't ask us to check our brains at the door
- d) A lot the Bible (but not all) originated as "oral tradition" before it was written down
- e) Think campfire stories at the end of the day.
- f) Genesis means "origins"
- g) In the first 4 words we discover our origins
- h) In the beginning God...
  - i) I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.  
Revelation 22:13
  - ii) God is love. 1John 4:16
    - (1) God created because God loves and is love