

# LOOKING UP

May-June 2023

*"...look up, and lift  
up your heads."  
Lk. 21:24*



## Seeing Clearly

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Without corrective lenses, the world looks blurry. Now I wear glasses, and without them things don't appear in as sharp detail as when I have them on, but I'm not referring to those kinds of lenses. Every single person is born into this world with impaired vision.

When God created Adam and Eve, they saw things as they truly were. They saw the goodness of God's creation, as well as His image in each other and themselves. More

than that, they saw God as He is. But there came a dark day when their vision went out of focus. Knowing God's goodness, and having heard His command that of all the things which He had created for them, only one thing was withheld, they nevertheless listened to another voice... believed another vision of reality. The Tempter told them that, rather than dying when they partook of that which was forbidden, they would "see things as they really are" ("For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Gen. 3:5)

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## Regular Schedule

### Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School  
11:00 AM Worship service

### Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

### Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

### Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday  
of the month

### Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

### Youth Group

TBA

### Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

The Tempter had given them a half-truth, which is often the most believable form of a lie. They had already known “good.” All they gained in this ill-conceived bargain was the knowledge of “evil.” And with the knowledge of evil, their vision became blurry. They no longer saw God as He truly is, nor did they see each other, or even themselves as they really were. Now everything good would be tainted by that knowledge of evil. In his letter to the Galatian churches, Paul gives something of a primer in the fruit of this new vision of the world: “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these.” (Gal. 5:19-21a)

But all the way back in the Garden of Eden God promised to send the correction to this distorted view of Himself and us. And He sent Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God who came into the world to take sin away by taking it upon Himself. And with our sins paid for on the cross, we can see clearly. We can look to Christ and see God’s loving-kindness and goodness. And we can look at ourselves and others and once more clearly see the image of God in which we are all created. Wearing our corrective lenses (the Word of God which testifies of Jesus), we can see clearly to love God and love our neighbor, which is what He created us to do.

May God bless and keep all of you until that Day when our eyes of faith are replaced by sight.

## Looking Ahead

**May 17th**

Lego Car Races

**May 28th**

No Church Service  
(Memorial Day Campout)

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20*

Vancouver Apostolic Lutheran Church

2103 NE 68th Street  
Vancouver, WA 98665

Church (360) 693-2620  
Pastor Jason Salmi (360) 342-7317