

“Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your ground and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your herds and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out” (Deut. 28:3-6).

This is God’s promise to the Israelites as they stood beyond the Jordan outside of the Promised Land. He promises blessing to His people. He will make them prosper, whether they are in the city or the field. He will make their fruit of their work to prosper, whether from the ground or their wombs, their flocks or their herds. He will make them to prosper in all things, whether upon their coming in or their going out.

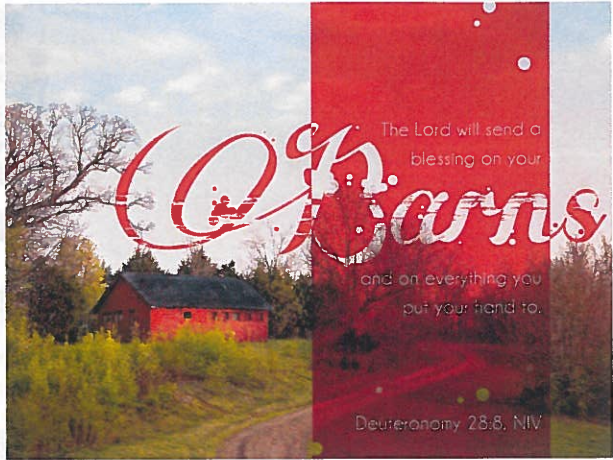
But there’s a catch. He would do this for Israel only “if you obey the voice of the Lord your God” (Deut. 28:2b). If they did that, He would cause that “all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you” (Deut. 28:2a).

If they didn’t obey the voice of the Lord, if they didn’t keep the commandments of the Lord and walk in His ways (Deut. 28:9), they would be met with curse and woe. The blessings would be replaced with curses. Everything that the Lord promised to prosper and bless would be cursed and fail.

Thanks be to God that our Lord Jesus Christ has come into our flesh, fulfilled the law for us—in our place and for our benefit; died for us—in our place and for our benefit; and is risen from the dead for us—in our place and for our benefit. By this we have justification before God. We are forgiven, clean, holy, and righteous. The blessing of God is promised to us in Christ Jesus. It depends upon His work and not ours.

All this is ours in Holy Baptism. For in Holy Baptism, God claims us as His own, makes us His children, His heirs, His holy people. And so it is that the work of our hands and its fruit is holy because we are holy in Christ. It is pressed into His service, and thereby it becomes a blessing to us and to our neighbor.

For this great gift, our reception of the blessings of God because of Christ Jesus our Lord, it is our duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is not in order to receive blessings, but because in Christ we already have. It is with this in mind that we sit down on the first day of the week and set aside as He has prospered us to give to His church for His work of blessing in our midst (1 Cor. 16:2).



1 Corinthians 16:2



On the first day of every week...set aside a sum of money in keeping with your income...

Board of Stewardship

Financial Statement as of  
**February 28, 2019**

Income: \$ 43,494.78  
Expenses: \$ 15,750.14  
**\$+ 27,744.64**

**January-February 2019**

- 110** Total Baptized Membership
- 89** Total Confirmed Membership
- 57** Average Sunday Worship
- 22** Average Sunday School Attendance
- 3** Children & Youth
- 19** Adults



Our Response to  
GOD'S GRACE