



DSL CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2018

**Divine Savior
Lutheran Church**
405 Ingram Rd.
Devine, Texas
78016

www.divinesaviorlc.org

**9:00 AM
Sunday School
&
Bible Class**

**10:00 AM
Fellowship**

**10:30 AM
Divine Service**

**Every Sunday
Holy Communion**

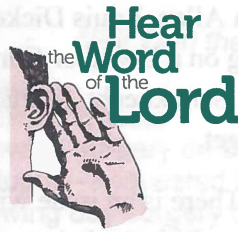
**Pastor:
Randall
Wehmeyer**

**Email:
rcwehmeyer@yahoo.com**

**Office:
830-663-3735**

**Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod**

“God laid it on my heart.” “God said to me . . .” “I saw words appear in my breakfast cereal, and I knew it was a message from God.” Does God really speak to people in these ways? Some people do experience a feeling in their heart while they pray, or they even hear words in their heart. But who is speaking?



First, even though Scripture says that we must “listen to [God’s] voice” (see Jer. 11:4; John 10:16), if you don’t hear any voices when you pray, nothing is wrong. In fact, everything is just fine. When the Scriptures say we must listen to God’s voice, this really means listening to God’s Word being preached and listening to what the prophets and apostles have written in Scripture.

Second, there is a difference between the desire of your heart and God’s command. God may give us various good desires for specific vocations. For example, He might lead a young person to desire to become an overseas missionary. But that is not God’s command. The command or vocation comes later through the Church.

Third, if you do hear a voice in your heart, is this the voice of God? It could be angels or your own heart or even demons. Sadly, there is no way to be absolutely certain that it is God. Only the prophets could be certain that they heard God speaking. Also, when we say that we hear the voice in our heart, consider what Scripture says also comes from our hearts: “Out of the heart come evil thoughts” (Matt. 15:19). Indeed, these feelings and messages in our heart vary from day to day and even hour to hour. It is a miserably uncertain thing!

Can the voice in our hearts be a good thing? Indeed it can, if it leads us into Scripture and brings us closer to the Church, where God’s message is spoken with all certainty.

But can it also be a bad thing? Sadly, yes. Some people value the voice in their heart more than God’s certain message in Scripture. Other people think the voice in their heart is equal to Scripture and must be obeyed. And still others torment themselves trying to find out what God’s will for their life is. There is no need to live with such guilt and uncertainty. If God wants to make us certain of His will, He has written it in Scripture. If it is not in Scripture and does not go against our duties (that is, our vocations), then we have freedom.

To hear God’s voice, don’t listen to your heart. Listen to the prophets and apostles in Scripture: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son” (Heb. 1:12). Christ’s Word in Scripture is certain, no matter what your breakfast cereal might say.



**INCLINE YOUR EAR,
AND COME TO ME;
HEAR, THAT YOUR
SOUL MAY LIVE.**

ISAIAH 55:3, ESV

(This article, written by Rev. Benjamin Mayes, appeared in Vol. 131, No. 5, May 2012 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*)