

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11



Church School Lesson: "God Promises Light" **Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 58:6-10 **Key text:** "If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday" Isaiah 58:10 **Happy Birthday—Tymir Banks, Bro. Gerald Samuels, Sis.**

Deb Roberts & Sis. Martha Woods

Summary of the Lesson Our church used to perform a play entitled "The Verdict." One of the characters in the play was "Miss Christian." She listed her many virtues as: church attendance every Sunday; tither; choir member; kitchen chef; etc. But, she also said, "if anyone crosses my path, I lay my religion down, tell them off, and pick it back up again" This is the kind of person Isaiah labels those who speak "not in truth or righteousness" (48:1). God's faithfulness stands in contrast to the hypocrisy of the people of Israel then and folks like Miss Christian today. Isn't there evidence enough in the lessons we've studied so far to know that God is in charge? Think of the childless couple, Abraham and Sarah. Think of Jacob, Rachel, and Leah. Think of Moses and the exodus of the people. Think of the wilderness experience of the people. Think of the rebelliousness, idol worship of the people. Despite all that and because of God's faithfulness to His promise, love and mercy for His people, His plan for His Creation will not change because of anything people say or do. The lesson today focuses on fasting – self-denial, the intent of which is to be reminded of complete dependence on God. What does it mean? Fasting could be an appropriate personal condition for a dedicated time of prayer, humbling the soul. It could mean turning down the plate for a time. Unfortunately, fasting could become an empty ritual, more about recognition than piety. God said for Isaiah to speak to the people and expose them for what they were – rebellious. They appeared pious on the surface. They made pretense that they wanted to know and follow God's will for their lives as expressed in the Law. They even fasted expecting God to do something for them. They claimed to have afflicted themselves before God, but God had not responded. Their fasting was superficial. God response defines what He understands to be legitimate and effective fasting. The emphasis is on social justice, and it must be connected to behavior that helps the exploited find freedom. It is tied to care for those it needs to help. True self-denial means helping others, and behavior that is "other-centered" rather than self-directed. When you look at the verses before this lesson's text, it appears that the people were not living right, nor were they treating their "neighbor" right. It was not enough to give up the negative actions but also add righteous actions and obedience to the law. Obedience to the Law means loving God with whole heart, soul and mind and also loving your neighbor. Anger and violence destroy our relationship with God. Can we claim to be a Christian and yet hate others? Treating others by standards other than God's standards is a failure to recognize God's care for those He created in His image. The people are to fast from the active wickedness of their sins, whether by commission or omission, and stuff themselves on opportunities to help others. We show love for God by loving those who are made in His image. Yes, we are saved by faith rather than works, but the fruit of the Spirit and the works of our hands are evidence of that faith. The responsibility of living as God intends can be challenging. There are so many who need what we can give. The attitude with which we do for others must be heartfelt; not for show or recognition. When we do this, then will others see the light that God has given to us. Fasting is meaningless without a heart of repentance and humility. Amen.

Zoom Conference Access Number: (301) 715-8592 - **Meeting ID:** 576 600 0754 – **Conf. Passcode:** 1234

Watch the 10 a.m. Morning Worship Service & Bible Study @ www.lamottame.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS - "Virtual Bible Study"—Tues. @ 7:30p – via our Zoom line. All are welcome.

TODAY – All the youth are asked to meet with Sis. Ashley Banks, after the morning service.

This Sat. Jan. 28th @ 3:00 p.m. **"Virtual Church School"** – via our Zoom line. All are welcome.

Next Sunday, Jan. 29th is **"Scholarship Sunday,** please give liberally to the **Mildred Walker Scholarship Fund,** our scholarship fund for our children.

"Feb is **"Black History Month"** We celebrate OUR History!!- Dept. of Christian Ed.

Sun., Feb. 12th – **The YPD will celebrate their Annual Day** during the morning worship service. The speaker is Isaiah Kai Huff, youth speaker from Bethel AME Church Willow Grove, Pa

Sunday, Feb. 19th @ 3:00p, "Annual Lay Day 2023" – more info to come.

The sign-up sheet is in the rear of the sanctuary to request a **tax statement (financial giving) for 2022.**



Sunday, January 22, 2023



LaMott A.M.E. Church

1505 W. Cheltenham Ave., Elkins Park, Pa 19027
—Church Office 215-782-1165
Pastor's Cell Phone Number-973-449-1104
www.lamottamec.org—E-Mail - attleslamott@gmail.com
Rt. Rev. Julius H. McAllister Sr., Presiding Bishop
Rev. Dr. Stanley Smith, Presiding Elder
Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor
Elder Richard Safford, Minister of Music
Time: 10:00 a.m.

Church Theme 2023 & Scripture of the Month: "Year of Encouragement!"

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. 1 Samuel 30:6 KJV

Call To Worship –(based on Matthew 14:13-21, Isaiah 55:1-3)

Order of Service

L: To those who are hungry, Jesus says: "Come and eat! There's more than enough for all!"

To those who are thirsty, he says: "Come and drink! It's free for the taking!"

P: Stop wasting your money on food that doesn't satisfy.

All: Come to Me, and you will find everything you need!"

Opening Hymn "If the World from You Withhold"

1) If the world from you withhold of its silver and its gold, and you have to get along with meager fare, Just remember, in His Word, how He feeds the little bird—Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there. **Refrain**

4) When your youthful days are gone and old age is stealing on, and your body bends beneath the weight of care; He will never leave you then, He'll go with you to the end—Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Refrain: Leave it there, leave it there, take your burden to the Lord and leave it there; If you trust and never doubt, He will surely bring you out—Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.

Prayer



Prayer Response

Worship through Music

Declaration Brother Robert Love, Jr.

This is my Bible. I am what it says I am. I can have what it says I can have. I can do what it says I can do. Today I will be taught the word of God. My mind is alert. My heart is receptive. I'll never be the same again. In Jesus' name. Amen

Reading of the Will Old Testament
Ezekiel 34:25-31

New Testament
Acts 26:24-32

The Gospel
Luke 16:19-31

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty
Gloria Patri – "Glory Be to The Father"

Worship through Music

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Louis P. Attles, Pastor

Invitational

Giving of our Tithes/Offering

The Pastor's Word/Announcements

Benediction "Reach out and Touch Somebody's Hand"



Sister Linda Floyd's Mother-in-law, Louis Davis, Sister Lottie Chisholm's mother, Lula King, our youth & teachers to be able to go to school in PEACE., Sis. Danita Wilbanks, Tuwana Jones, niece of Sis. Mary & Keith English, Rev., Dr. & Mrs. Melvin D. Wayns, those who have family members and friends who are sick and have lost loved ones, Sis. Deb Williams 'Mom & Dad, - **All those who have**

Birthdays or Anniversaries in the Month of January.



January - Tymir Banks 4 th Malinda Miller 4 th Natasha Patterson 5 th Paris Graves 6 th			
Jeannette Congleton 8 th	Gerald Samuels 11 th	Robert Sewell Sr. 11 th	Robyn Manley 12 th
Ebony Barrier 15 th	Josea Martinez 15 th	Robert Sewell Jr. 16 th	Diane A. Davis 23 rd
Willie Johnson 25 th	Deborah Roberts 26 th	Martha Woods 26 th	



Happy Anniversary = January - Gerald & Wanda Samuels 3rd - **22 years** Bobby & Jackie Sewell 19th - **48 years**

Let us continue in our giving. You can give by drop off, mail or online through "Tithe.ly" You can place your offering through the mailbox at LaMott AME Church downstairs on the Left side of the building. or mail to the church.

Cash app -[https://cash.app/\\$LaMottAMEChurch](https://cash.app/$LaMottAMEChurch)

1. Download App. On your phone 2. Find LaMott AME
3. Put in the Amount - 4. Check box pay fee