



# Lewiston Church of Christ August 21, 2022

 **MESSENGER** *Growing Friendships, Families & Faith.*

## *The Power of Words*

### Weekly Services

Sun. Bible Study 9:45 AM  
Sunday Worship 10:45 AM  
Sun. Day/Evening Groups  
Wed Bible Study 6:30 PM

### MINISTER

Joel Solliday: 208-743-2711

### ELDERS

Joe Bieren: 208-305-1136

Doyle Dawes: 208-836-5718

### DEACONS

Education: Rick Richardson  
Finance: Tom Hill  
Outreach: Mark Whittaker

### AREAS OF SERVICE

Building: Ken Vogtman  
Custodian: Hannah Bolm  
Fellowship: Joe/Carrie Bieren  
Grounds: Cody/Doyle Dawes  
Sing Ministry: Timauri Stearns  
Secretary: Renee Hill  
Technology: Eric Kjorness  
Technology: Cody Dawes

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**FB:**  
Class & Sermons online  
Check email notification

**Monthly Service Schedules:**  
Posted in the foyer. Please find a replacement if you will be gone.



Full disclosure: I am using words to compose this article.

As a Christian (a preacher, no less), I strongly believe in the power of words. The Bible begins with God using words to speak creation into existence ("And God said..."). Jesus Himself was called the "Word" in the gospel of John. To be clear, John wrote, "...the Word was God." (John 1:1).

One of the great distinctions between humans and animals is in the way we use words to communicate. Language is an invaluable legacy that we humans have inherited to connect with each other and pursue mutual understanding. Words can open doors of opportunity, spawn romances, foster commitments, inspire hope, and sustain life. Properly aimed, words can even sooth a shattered heart. When no other medicine for healing exists, a kind word can turn the tide.

But words can also inflict mortal wounds. They can poison lifelong friendships. A slip of a tongue can ruin a reputation that took a lifetime to build. Careless words are costly. Jesus said, "But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken." (Matthew 12:36).

Words are not cheap. They can be used cheaply but that's on the user, not the words. To say you "love mankind" is a cheap claim if you can't stand real people in practice. To label a bill "the Inflation Reduction Act" is cheap indeed if it actually adds to inflation. Some cheaply refer to the slaughter of a baby in the womb as a mere "choice." Others cheaply call adultery an "affair" to weaken the impact on the listener. Our president uses the phrase "gender affirming care" to convey support for irreversible mutilation and chemical castration procedures on confused children.

Sadly, the cheap abuse of words above actually work to deceive millions of people. Lies can shackle those who believe them to the forces of evil, but, according to Jesus, the power of truth is greater than the power of words! He said, "...the truth will make you free." (John 8:32). **So, stay free!** JMS

