

## MEASURING

# BLESSINGS BEYOND MEASURE

***Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare. (Psalm 39:5)***

*(Hold out a rake).* What do you use this for? Next time you rake the leaves or the grass I want you to do me a favor. Count them. Count the number of leaves or the blades of cut grass. What would the number be, do you think? You probably won't even do it, will you? Why not? You either don't care or you knew it would take you too long to count or that you would look silly to your neighbors. The simple fact is that after you rake the lawn you probably have a pile of leaves or grass that is just too large to count.

Today we are going to talk about counting distances, about measuring. With the proper knowledge and the right equipment you can measure all sorts of things. However, we are reminded in our reading that we can't measure the wonderful things the Lord has done for us – it would be like trying to count a huge pile of leaves. As we recall the wonders that the Lord has done, we must admit that they have been abundant through the years. The Lord has blessed us with wonders of weather: the beautiful Fall colors, the warm sunny Summer, the invigorating Winter, the renewal of Spring. There are so many other blessings. Martin Luther gave us a good list in the Small Catechism: "Clothing and shoes, food and drink, property and home, spouse (parents) and children, land, cattle, and all I own, and all I need to keep my body and life."

But there's even more! At the top of the list of the wonders of God, of course, is the fact that he loved us enough to turn us from our sinful and destructive path to hell. He loved us and the world so much that he sent his one and only Son. By God's grace we have been brought to believe in Jesus as our Savior so that we will no longer perish, but have eternal life in heaven. The Lord promises to be with us every day here on earth to watch over us and protect us and strengthen us and forgive us. When you sit down and actually remember all that the Lord has done and will do – his wonders are too many to count. It's like trying to count the leaves in your yard. We can't count all his wonders, but we sure can rejoice in them!

### **THE PRAYER:**

We thank you for your blessings, Almighty Lord, our King;  
We thank you for the harvests, Yes, Lord, for everything:  
For flowers that bloom in springtime, for ripening fruit and grain,  
For all the precious sunshine, and for the gentle rain.

This day of great thanksgiving we count them one by one:  
Our free and fruitful country, the great things you have done,  
Our family, our loved ones, the guardian angels' care,  
Our very self and heartbeat – Lord, hear our thankful prayer!

But best of all your blessings, the rainbow of your love,  
Are all the many mercies your Word brings from above.  
Our life now has full meaning – Christ Jesus is our God!  
Thanksgiving shall be living the way the Savior trod. Amen. (CW #615)

