

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #9

Monday - Acts 15:12-41 We see the early synodical workings of the "new church". Doctrinal disputes and questions were settled with the Word. The mother church sent their prayers of support and encouragement through a letter. The early church commissioned their missionaries with the Lord's Blessing.

Tuesday - James 1 Do we look upon the trials of our life with joy? Do these trials lead us to despair of ourselves and trust (rely) more and more upon Christ and His Word? How many in this world are talkers but not listeners and doers? You've heard the commercial when E.F. Hutton talks, everybody listens. He has sound financial advice. May we ever be listeners to what our Lord says--He who has sound spiritual, eternal advice! And may we be active doers from the heart!

Wednesday - James 2 What a convicting statement! "For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumbles at one point, he is guilty of all." "There is none righteous, no not one!" Yet James can also say, "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." How can this be? Solution: Faith By Works = No Faith at all. Faith WITHOUT Works = Dead Faith (vs.20, 26). Faith AND Works = Living Faith (vs. 17). Faith does not come about through works, nor does faith exist without works, but the only real living faith is one that produces fruits, good works which follow and flow from faith.

Thursday - James 3 Does fresh water (blessings) and salt water (cursings) flow forth from our mouths? My brothers, this should not be. May God's Word help us tame our tongue, which can be wilder than any animal and can start a great fire.

Friday - James 4 More practical advice in Christian living: "Friendship with the world is hatred toward God!" "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God." Worldly friendship incites pride, greed and coveting. Humbly submit yourself to the Lord. May our future plans always include God. "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."

Saturday - James 5 May our faith-life ever be one of prayer. Pray without ceasing (II Thess.5:17). In happy times: sing songs of praise. In trouble: pray for deliverance. In sickness: pray for each other. In sin: a prayer of confession. Remember the miraculous effect of Elijah's fervent prayer. Prayer works!



Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

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When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion,

We were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

And our tongue with singing.

Then they said among the nations,

"The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us,

And we are glad.

Bring back our captivity, O Lord,

As the streams in the South.

Those who sow in tears

Shall reap in joy.

He who continually goes forth weeping,

Bearing seed for sowing,

Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing,

Bringing his sheaves with him.

Psalm 126



Pre-service Ps. 126

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Liturgy, W.S. p. 12

Opening Hymn:	394
Before Sermon:	380
Offering Hymn:	789
After Prayers:	400
Closing Hymn:	377 (1, 9)
Antiphon	

Scripture Readings:

Acts 15:1-11

A regular theme that runs throughout the book of Acts is the debate about the need to obey the Law of Moses in order to be fully justified and accepted by God and thus an heir of life. This Scripture reading provides some vital insights into the understanding of the sermon text this morning. What seems to us so simple was the basis for strong controversy in the decades following the Savior's ascension. Divine grace alone preserved the Church in those formative days.

15 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question. 3 So, being sent on their way by the church, they passed through Phoenicia and Samaria, describing the conversion of the Gentiles; and they caused great joy to all the brethren. 4 And when they had come to Jerusalem, they were received by the church and the apostles and the

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

CLC NEWS:

- Trinity Lutheran, Watertown SD, has called recent graduate Leah Ude to be its teacher. Redeemer Lutheran has also called Leah Ude to be their pre-school teacher.
- Immanuel Clothing: With the July 31 deadline, this is the last week to order Immanuel clothing online. A lot of different choices are available such as shirts, shorts, jackets, hats, etc. There is an option to ship or pick up in Eau Claire. Go to: www.cv-sports.com/Promotions.aspx, find the "Immanuel Lutheran" line, and click on "Go." Contact Andy for questions (andy.buck@cv-sports.com 715.836.6840)

Student Account Help:

Occasionally families are in need of financial assistance to pay their current Immanuel student account due to factors out of their control. This impacts the ability for students to return. Some people have been willing to help students anonymously in such situations. Perhaps there are others. Those interested in learning more about how you

can help, please contact Pastor John Hein (612-408-1635/ john.p.hein@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration. ILC Board of Regents

THANKS: to all who have been mowing this summer. The grounds look great! We are still in need of mowers for the rest of the summer.

CONGREGATION OUTING: This afternoon we are planning a picnic lunch at Devil's Lake starting around 1 p.m. Bring a meat to grill and your own food--chips, potato salad, drinks, etc. If you have small grill, please bring it along.

VBS STUDENTS: Our VBS will be held next week Aug 3-7 from 9-11:45 a.m. Please sign the sheet in the entry-way if you plan on coming.

SNACKS FOR VBS: If you would like to donate snacks—cheese, crackers, chips, fruits, etc.—for our VBS, please bring them to the kitchen and mark them clearly. Thank you!

OUTDOOR WORSHIP: Saturday, Aug. 8th we plan on having an outdoor worship service at Mendota Cty. Park Pavilion 2. Service begins at 6:30 p.m. We hope many of you can make it.

works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? 22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect? 23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God. 24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We praise God that you are worshiping with us this morning. We trust you will be built up in saving faith by the hearing of the Word. If you would like more information about our congregation, Peace Thru Christ, or school, please speak with Pastor Bernthal. Come, worship your Savior with us and hear God's Word again. Please also sign our guest register.

This Week:

Today 10:20 a.m. Quarterly Voters' Meeting 1:00 p.m. Picnic Outing at Devil's Lake

Tuesday 10:30 a.m. Bible Class at Artisan

Thursday 10:45 a.m. Bible Class at Heritage

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. Family Worship/Communion
10:20 a.m. Evangelism Meeting
4:00 p.m. Installation of Mike Schierenbeck at Faith

LAST WEEK: Worship 52

OFFERINGS 7/19 for Unified Budget: \$2,229

\$100 Nepal Relief

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week: Church--- Birkholz/Heberlein
Counters today:

Randy Dreyer & Joel Gerbitz

VOTERS: Please stay for our Quarterly Voters' Meeting starting @ 10:20 after church.

elders; and they reported all things that God had done with them. 5 But some of the sect of the Pharisees who believed rose up, saying, "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses." 6 Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. 7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. 8 So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, 9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10 Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

The Sermon: read/listen to sermons at www.middletonlutheran.org

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: James 2:14-26

Theme:

THE RIGHT CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND WORKS IN THE CHRISTIAN'S LIFE.

**I: A faith that is only head-knowledge is dead,
indeed cannot have life.**

II: Faith that justifies does not exist without works.

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? 17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. 19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! 20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without