

**THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #4

**Monday - Acts 6:9-15**

The opponents of God's Word are unable to refute the wisdom of God. Therefore they resort to the deceitful practice of trying to discredit the spokesmen of God by their lies. Compare the similarities between the assault made against Stephen and Jesus <Matthew 26:59-66>).



**Tuesday - Acts 7:1-6**

Through a survey of the history of Israel (vv. 1-53) Stephen defends himself against the charge of blasphemy (6:11-14). He retells the history of Abraham - a prime example of how a child of God ought to live by faith, trusting in the promises of God and following God's commandments without question.

**Wednesday - Acts 7:9-16**

The gracious and merciful hand of God is revealed in the history of Joseph. In spite of the evil design of Joseph's brothers, God governs the affairs of Joseph's life in Egypt so that Jacob's family might be preserved during the time of famine, thus insuring the future growth of the Jewish nation and the coming of the promised Messiah. (See Romans 8:28)

**Thursday - Acts 7:17-36**

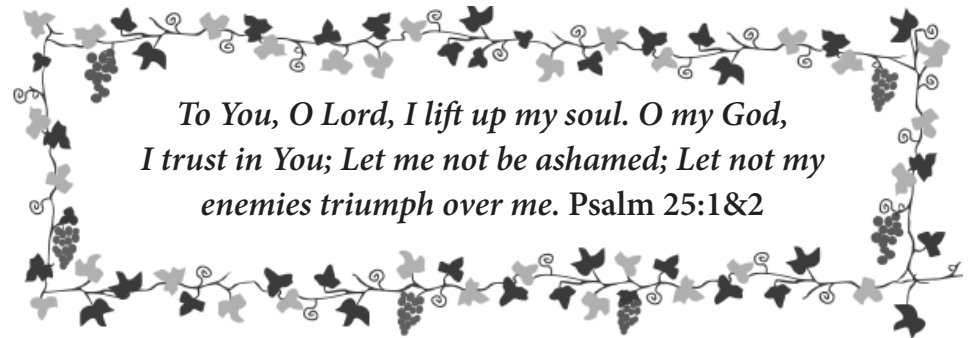
The deliverance of the children of Israel from the land of bondage in Egypt was by the authority and power of God. Over a period of eighty years the Lord prepared Moses for the calling of leading His people out of Egypt. What calling is God preparing you for in His Kingdom?

**Friday - Acts 7:37-50**

The Jews in Stephen's day were proud of the temple and the forms of external worship. Stephen would reveal that it is not a building or the religious observances that make for a true worship of God, but a true spirit of faith and love for God.

**Saturday - Acts 8:9-24**

The special gifts of the Spirit, which were given to Christians of the early New Testament Church, far surpassed the magical powers of man. Such gifts consisted of prophecy, the performance of miracles, and speaking in different languages. These could not be bought or sold, because they were gifts from God. The use of these special gifts served the purpose of confirming the preaching of the Gospel, until the New Testament Scriptures could be recorded.



*To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God,  
I trust in You; Let me not be ashamed; Let not my  
enemies triumph over me. Psalm 25:1&2*

# Peace Thru Christ

## Lutheran Church and School

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Teacher: Miss Claire Abbas  
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Pre-service Ps. 25

## THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Supplement, p. 12

Opening Hymn:	374
Before Sermon:	263
Offering Hymn:	see insert
After Prayers:	512
Closing Hymn:	54
Psalm 84	W.S. Pg. 38

### Acts 7:51-8:8

Stephen's stoning sets off a serious persecution of the Church. Saul's actions force the believers to scatter to the regions of Judea and Samaria—exactly as Christ had said in Acts 1:8. God has many loving, but sometimes painful ways to accomplish His will.

*51 "You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." 54 When they heard these things they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed at him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" 57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, stopped their ears, and ran at him with one accord; 58 and they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the feet of a young man named Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep. 8 Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him. 3 As for Saul, he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison. 4 Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.*

### Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

#### KEEP THESE ACTIVITIES IN MIND:

##### CONGREGATION OUTING:

We are planning a congregation outing to the Concerts on the Square, Wednesday, July 1st at 7 p.m. This is held on the grounds around the State Capital. Please sign the sheet on the bulletin board.

##### VBS FLYER DISTRIBUTION:

We will be distributing our advertising VBS flyers together with Luther Memorial. We will distribute in Fond du Lac on Wednesday, July 8th and then here on Thursday, July 9th. Wednesday evening we will go to Lake Winnebago for water activities and supper and Thursday evening we will be going to Devil's Lake for supper and swimming. Keep those dates in mind so you can help.

#### CONGREGATION OUTING:

Sunday, July 26th we are planning a picnic lunch at Devil's Lake starting around 1 p.m. Congregations in Markesan, Appleton, Fond du Lac, Cambridge and Hales Corners have also been invited. More information to come!

VBS: Our VBS will be held Aug 3-7 from 9-11:45 a.m. Parents, please mark your calendars. If you would like to help out with teaching, arts & crafts or singing, please contact Pastor Bernthal or Tim Schaser.

**GOLF OUTING:** The 2nd Annual CLC Golf Invitational will be held on July 19th at 2 p.m. at Lake Windsor Golf Course. It will be a shotgun start like last year. It is \$25/person for 9 holes and a cart. More information to come regarding the food and team formation.

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#### Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church is a confessional Lutheran Church.

We proclaim to a world dead in sin that salvation is a gift of God's grace; that Jesus Christ paid the full sacrificial price—His very life—so that gift of salvation could be ours. If you are interested in learning more, please call Pastor Bernthal at 608-233-2244 or e-mail him at [mbern@juno.com](mailto:mbern@juno.com) More Information and Audio Sermons at [middletonlutheran.org](http://middletonlutheran.org)

## PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. May the Good News of our crucified and risen Lord Jesus fill your hearts and lives. We at Peace Thru Christ are a group of Lutheran Christians dedicated to preserving and spreading the Truth of God's inspired and inerrant Word. Come and worship your Savior with us again and please sign our guest register.

### Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

#### **This Week:**

**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  
10:10 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

#### **LAST WEEK:**

Worship 33

#### **OFFERINGS** 6/14

for Unified Budget: \$2,067

#### **IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:**

##### **Cleaners this week:**

Church---Gerbitz  
Counters today: John Birkholz &  
Nathan Peterson

#### **CLC NEWS:**

- Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA, has resolved to wait with calling a teacher until the next school year, 2016-17.
- Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan WI, has called Pastor Michael Schierenbeck. Faith has also called two half-time teachers for one year to teach

in the upper grades: Marie Muehlenhaupt and Barry Hay. Barry Hay has accepted the call. • Trinity Lutheran, Watertown, SD has called Mrs. Collette Krause as their teacher.

**MOWING HELP NEEDED:** A new mowing schedule has been put up. We hope you will be able to volunteer to help mow during the spring, summer and fall months. Remember that we have two mowers to use. The riding one and the stand-up one. Any questions, please check with Randy Dreyer or Pastor Bernthal.

**NEPAL RELIEF HELP:** \$ 70,000 has been received in relief help from CLC members. Praise the Lord! The total needed to help rebuild 3 churches and 3 parsonages plus repair many other structures as well as provide shelter and food is estimated to be around \$ 108,000, We are close to that amount. You can give an offering at church made out to MDF (Nepal Relief).

**The Sermon:** read/listen to sermons at [www.middletonlutheran.org](http://www.middletonlutheran.org)

## THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Acts 8:26-40

**Theme: The Happy Ethiopian**

**I: Happy because he now understood God's Word.**

**II: Happy because he believed in Jesus Christ.**

**III: Happy because he received the forgiveness of sins.**

*26 Now an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, "Arise and go toward the south along the road which goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." This is desert. 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship, 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him. 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth. 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth." 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?" 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. 39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus. And passing through, he preached in all the cities till he came to Caesarea.*