

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #15



Monday - Acts 18:24 - 19:22 There are many interesting names connected with the early history of the Christian Church at Ephesus. 1) Apo11os - an active, bold and zealous missionary for Christ. 2) Aquila and Priscilla - a lay couple who knew their Bible well and even instructed Apollos in certain doctrines. 3) Paul - the Lord's chosen servant to the Gentiles. His custom was to preach first to the Jews in the Synagogue. When they rejected God's Word, he was to preach to the Gentiles. Ephesus was one of his longest stays, almost 3 years.

Tuesday - Acts 19:13-23 The 7 sons of Sceva apparently practiced some sort of superstitious magic. They used the name of Jesus as if the name had magical powers. What is the wheat to the chaff? The Word of God grew and crushed the superstitions and black magic practices.

Wednesday - Ephesians 3:14-21 Paul's Spirit-inspired prayer is a beautiful request that his hearers might have the Holy Spirit and the Son dwelling in their hearts. With such in-dwelling one is sure to be firmly planted spiritually. What is the tape measure on the love of Christ crucified for us? (Read again v. 20. Now pray a big prayer - God is ready)

Thursday - Ephesians 4:1-16 Vs. 1-6 expresses the "unity" concept of our fellowship - May the Spirit bless it and preserve it. Vs. 7-16 reminds us that the ascended Christ has not retired, but is active as our Prophet, sending forth servants. These servants are to supply the Word of Life which causes the body of the Holy Christian Church to grow. Such preaching also preserves us against false doctrine and unites us in a strong, healthy, active group.

Friday - Ephesians 5:22-33 In this section great detail is given to the relationship between husband and wife. The Spirit compares it to the relationship between Christ (Bridegroom) and the Holy Christian Church (Bride). Do we not find it a joy to submit to the Lord, except when our old man rears its head? So the Christian wife will find it a joy to submit to her husband. But won't the Christian husband take advantage of that and make his wife a slave? God forbid! Did Christ make His Church a slave? Rather He served her with a self-sacrificing love that even led Him to die for her! This section is the sure and guaranteed foundation for a happy, successful marriage. Lord, so bless our marriages!

Saturday - Ephesians 6:10-17 Look at the fierce enemies that attack our soul. "With might of ours, soon were our loss effected". The devil lies, twists Scriptures, and kicks us when we are down. And the stakes are the highest---our souls, heaven and hell. Our only hope lies in the armor of God. Note that everything is defensive, protective except for one offensive weapon, the only one that we need! God's Word!



Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Teacher: Miss Claire Abbas
Organist: Mrs. Gail Schaefer

Church/Office (608) 233-2244 Parsonage (608) 442-9986
3232 West Point Rd. Middleton, Wisconsin 53562
middletonlutheran.org

Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 36

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Lutheran Hymnal, p. 5

Opening Hymn: 374

Before Sermon: 417

(1-3, 7 sing 4-6 read)

Offering Hymn: 568

After Prayers: 389

Closing Hymn: 777

Acts 19:24-41

Idolatry was big business in Ephesus. The city had a temple dedicated to the Greek goddess: Artemis. Craftsmen who made and sold small idols, began to lose business when Paul's preaching turned the people away from Artemis to the True God. The angry craftsmen stirred up the people until a mob formed. They were more concerned about their income then about the truth Paul was preaching. We need to be on our guard lest Satan tempt us into making worldly things more important then our Savior.

24 For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen. 25 He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade. 26 Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. 27 So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." 28 Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 29 So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. 30 And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him. 31 Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. 32 Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. 33 And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander motioned with his hand, and wanted to make his defense to the people. 34 But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" 35 And when the city clerk had quieted the crowd, he said: "Men of Ephesus, what man is there who does not know that the city of the Ephesians is

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

PASTORAL CONFERENCE

MEAL HELP:

Please sign the sheet in the entry-way to help in donating food or money and in helping serve the meals for the Pastoral Conference Sept. 29-Oct. 1. The Wednesday night meal from 5-6:30 p.m. is open to our members as well.

GREAT LAKES' PASTORAL CONFERENCE:

will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 1

here at Peace Thru Christ. We will have a Communion Worship service on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Caleb Schaller preaching. We encourage all of you to come to this.

BIKE OUTING:

Our annual bike outing has been scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Exact time of departure and what bike trail we will be riding on is yet to be determined.

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church/School 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

More Information and Audio Sermons at middletonlutheran.org



Peace Thru Christ Church/School is a Member of
The Church of the Lutheran Confession.
www.clc.org

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We praise God that you are with us this morning worshipping our Triune God. It is indeed a privilege for us to serve you with the Word of our Savior and to tell you about His amazing grace . Feel free to speak with Pastor Bernthal, if you have any questions concerning our church.

This Week:

Today

9:00 a.m. S.S.: Elijah and Elisha
Bible Class: Spending Time
Luther's Catechism--2nd Article
(Christ's Office)
11:15 a.m. Church Council

Monday

7:00 p.m. B.O.C.E.

Tuesday

10:30 p.m. Bible Class at Artisan

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

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

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
11:15 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

LAST WEEK:

Worship 41

OFFERINGS 9/13

for Unified Budget: \$2,098

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week:

Church---Birkholz/Heberlein
School---Schaser

Counters today:

John Birkholz & John Gerbitz

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE

CLASS: We once again resume our study of "Important Chapters of the Bible." We have eight chapters left. This Wednesday we will be studying Romans 13—Government! Come, study with us at 7:00 p.m.

CLC NEWS:

The CLC Board of Missions has called the Rev. Peter Evensen, pastor of Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI, to be a Resident CLC Foreign Missionary to India.

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 fall.

temple guardian of the great goddess Diana, and of the image which fell down from Zeus? 36 Therefore, since these things cannot be denied, you ought to be quiet and do nothing rashly. 37 For you have brought these men here who are neither robbers of temples nor blasphemers of your goddess. 38 Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. 39 But if you have any other inquiry to make, it shall be determined in the lawful assembly. 40 For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." 41 And when he had said these things, he dismissed the assembly.

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

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Ephesians 2:4-10

Theme:

MARVEL AT GOD'S AMAZING GRACE!

I: Marvel First Of All That God's Grace Is So Deep!

II: Because His Salvation Is So Free!

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

