

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #12

Monday - Colossians 2:6-15 It has happened that a believer has given up the simple truths of God's Word for worldly wisdom. All the philosophy of unregenerate man is pompous vanity and deception. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, knowing that Jesus has nailed the charges against us to the cross. May we never walk away from Jesus and stray into the philosophical quicksand of sinful man.



Tuesday - Colossians 2:16-23 We are again to the basic definition of Christianity. We know that Christ is not a new law-giver, but rather has rescued us from the judgment upon us for transgressing God's code of conduct. Don't shift your faith from the works of Christ done for you (Gospel) to your works to be done for God(law}.

Wednesday - Colossians 3:1-11 Note the contrast (and warfare) between the old man (flesh, old Adam) and the new man. Old - immersed in the cares of this world - delighting in all manner of sin - earning the judgment of God. New - set on things above - renewed in the knowledge of God - life in Christ now. The ultimate put-off of the old man is death. Then we shall appear with Christ in glory and everlasting life.

Thursday - Colossians 3:12-17 The 8 qualities listed in v.12-l4 are a reflection of the image of God in which the new man is renewed (v. 10). We are to be "chips off the old block", children who reflect their Father in heaven. How could we, still shackled with the old man, ever do this? Impossible - were it not for the sanctifying Word of Christ which fills our lives. (v.16)

Friday - Colossians 3:18 - 4:1 Here consider our station (position) in life, whether you are . . . Why not let each read his appropriate Word from God. For the servant (v.22-25) and master (4:l) section, think of terms of employee - employer. How does the counsel of God contrast with the opinions of men?

Saturday - Colossians 4:2-6 Here the station of just being a Christian is covered. Prayer, watchfulness, special prayers for the Gospel ministry and testimony to unbelievers. See how this testimony may be by word (v.6) or by our actions (v. 5). "Actions speak louder than words." What have you been saying to the people? Pray for grace that you may speak and act Christlike.



*How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the Lord;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
Even the sparrow has found a home,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may lay her young—
Even Your altars, O Lord of hosts, My King and my God.
Blessed are those who dwell in Your house;
They will still be praising You. Selah
Blessed is the man whose strength is in You,
Whose heart is set on pilgrimage.
As they pass through the Valley of Baca,
They make it a spring;
The rain also covers it with pools.
They go from strength to strength;
Each one appears before God in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give ear, O God of Jacob! Selah
O God, behold our shield,
And look upon the face of Your anointed.
For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will give grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold
From those who walk uprightly. O Lord of hosts,
Blessed is the man who trusts in You!*

Psalm 84: The Blessedness of Dwelling in the House of God
To the Chief Musician. On an instrument of Gath. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.

Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Teacher: Miss Claire Abbas
Organist: Mr. Jarrod Lentz

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Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 84

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Lutheran Hymnal, p. 5

Opening Hymn: 540

Before Sermon: 39

Offering Hymn: 761 (1)

After Prayers: 341

Closing Hymn: 657

Scripture Readings:

Acts 17:15-34

Like the Athenian people, there are those today who are intrigued by all kinds of new religious ideas, and they soon forsake the “simple message” of the Gospel. They endlessly discuss “new teachings” and “new methods” as their doctrines change. But Paul proclaimed the simple

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost — August 30, 2015

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY/ CHURCH PICNIC:

Date is Sept. 13th. Make it a point to be here for this special day. Please bring a meat to grill and a dish to pass. Please also sign the sheet in the entry-way if you are planning on coming. Anyone interested in helping to co-ordinate activities for that day please contact Pastor Bernthal or Tim Schaser.

LORD'S SUPPER NEXT SUNDAY:

Holy Communion is being celebrated, the Lord willing, next Sunday. Remember the Apostle Paul's directives to us in I Corinthians as we prepare to come to this soul-strengthening

meal: But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. I Cor. 11:28-29

PASTORAL CONFERENCE:

We are hosting the Great Lakes' Pastoral Conference Sept. 29-Oct. 1. We will need housing for up to 18 pastors/professors. Please open your homes for two nights (Sept. 29-30). Sign the sheet in the entry-way. If you would like to house a specific pastor or pastors, put their name by your name.

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

More Information and Audio Sermons at middletonlutheran.org



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www.clc.org

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CLC NEWS:

- The CLC Board of Missions has called Pastor Peter Evensen, pastor of Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI, to be a Resident CLC Foreign Missionary to India.
- Mrs. Collette Krause has both received and accepted the call to teach at Trinity Lutheran School, Watertown SD, for one year.

IMMANUEL BEGINS:

This past Monday the academic year began at Immanuel Lutheran in Eau Claire, WI. During the opening service, President Sippert reminded the student body of our Savior's growth plan through the Word of God. High school enrollment begins with 111 total students (24 freshmen, 25 sophomores, 29 juniors, and 33 seniors). This is a drop of 13 students from last year, mostly because the incoming freshman class is a little smaller than last year's graduating class. In the college there are 23 total students, a nice increase from last year's enrollment of 15. At this time six of these students

are pursuing the teaching ministry and ten are preparing for seminary training. While seminary will begin later, six students are expected for the year. We thank the Lord for all those blood-bought souls that will be immersed in His Word during their Immanuel experience. Pastor John Hein, CLC Bd. 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.

GOOD NEIGHBOR PARADE:

We encourage any and all members to walk with us in the parade this afternoon. If you are unable to walk with us, maybe you can attend the parade and cheer us on as we pass by. Thanks to all who helped in the painting and building of the float.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

We are still in need of a few more Sunday School teachers for the coming year. Please contact Pastor Berenthal or Tim Schaser if you are interested in teaching.

Word of God---One God; Trinity; One created human race: sinful; One call: to repentance and faith; One Savior: who died and rose for all.

15 So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. 16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. 17 Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. 18 Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. 19 And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, "May we know what this new doctrine is of which you speak? 20 For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." 21 For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. 22 Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; 23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:

TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.

Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 24 "God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. 25 Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. 26 And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; 28 for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.' 29 Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising. 30 Truly, these times of ignorance

God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead." 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter." 33 So Paul departed from among them. 34 However, some men joined him and believed, among them Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

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

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:13-23

Theme:

THE SUPREMACY AND UNIQUE GREATNESS OF JESUS CHRIST

I: He is TRUE God, with the Father from ETERNITY.

II: He is the CREATOR and SUSTAINER of all things.

III: He ALONE is the Head of the Church.

IV: He has REDEEMED us with His BLOOD.

V: He has RECONCILED the world to the Father.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father

that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We thank our Glorious and Majestic Savior that you could join us this morning. What a privilege to proclaim the name of Jesus this morning. May the message of your salvation, alone through Jesus, remain in your hearts forevermore. We invite you to come and worship your Savior with us again. Please also sign our guest register.

This Week:

Today 12:00 p.m. Good Neighbor Parade

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

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

Saturday 11:00 a.m. Southern Wisconsin Called Workers Picnic

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. Family Worship/Communion

Next Monday NO SCHOOL—Labor Day

LAST WEEK:

Worship 41

OFFERINGS 8/23

for Unified Budget: \$1,442

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week: Church--Albrecht/Franson School---Abbas/Schaefer

Counters today: Ruth Bernthal & Rachel Schaser

IN YOUR MAILBOX:

September Calendar & Newsletter

IN THE HOSPITAL:

Bruce Templeton is recovering at U.W. Hospital where he will be for the next several weeks. We thank the Lord for His watchful and protective care over His child and continue to pray for his recovery as the Lord wills. He is able to and would love to have visitors.