

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #2



Monday - Acts 3:1-10 Acts makes it clear that the special powers and gifts that the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles were to serve one purpose, namely, to witness to Jesus Christ and His resurrection. Compare this instantaneous healing, which is performed without emotional build-up and without appeals to the individual's faith, to what is sometimes called "faith-healing" today. Although the Holy Spirit may not give such extraordinary gifts of healing today, let us not neglect the power of Jesus available in the prayer of faith. (Cf. James 5:14f)

Tuesday - Acts 3:11-26 Any gift or power that does not point absolutely away from Men to the refreshing presence of Jesus Christ is not serving the one purpose for which the Holy Spirit gives such signs; It is not witnessing to Jesus and His resurrection alone. Every time that you stop for a moment today to refresh your body with rest, food, drink, or oxygen, use that moment to consider all the refreshments which Jesus brings you also in soul.

Wednesday - Acts 4:32-37 How is such a beautiful, loving community possible? It clearly was not organization, habit, or tradition that welded this unity. This was not an experiment in the political theory of communism, which teaches that "what is yours is ours." This first Christian Community voluntarily practiced "what is mine is yours." This loving community was possible only by the Spirit-activated unity in Christ's resurrection.

Thursday - Acts 5:1-16 "If you find a perfect church, don't join it; you'll ruin it." That proverb expresses a lot of truth. The church at Jerusalem had its share of problems. Every problem is potentially harmful if it is allowed to fester and grow. But when problems are dealt with in a godly way, they actually stimulate faith-growth. Talk to your pastor about what you see as problems at your church in order to discuss God-pleasing solutions.

Friday - Acts 5:17-32 The Word of Life has to be spoken. With His angel Jesus demonstrates that He is with us in this work. We can fill this city with His teaching. The only question is whether we will all use the personal opportunities that the Spirit brings us.

Saturday - Acts 5:33-42 Beatings make people happy! Is there something wrong with that sentence? It does not seem to describe general conditions. It does describe, though, the Spirit-filled Apostles. We, too, have something to shout about, even when it brings persecution. If you are not so sure about that, take a walk today through your city cemetery. In Jesus you will be more than a tombstone someday.

Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

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Pre-service Ps. 67

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Supplement, p. 12

Opening Hymn:	114
Before Sermon:	746
Offering Hymn:	792
After Prayers:	243
Closing Hymn:	360 (1-3)
Psalm 45	W.S. Pg. 32

Scripture Readings:

Acts 4:13-31: Though commanded not to preach in Jesus' name or suffer the consequence, the disciples, in obedience to their risen Lord, continue to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. No one has threatened us. Do we speak to others about our Savior---the ONLY NAME which saves---JESUS CHRIST!

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that

they were uneducated and untrained Men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." 18 So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." 21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. 22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. 23 And being let go, they went to their own companions and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them. 24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, 25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? 26 The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.' 27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. 29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

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.

BOOK AVAILABLE: Steeple in the Distance is now available. Deborah Ude's Christian novel is here. Ruth Bernthal has 8 copies left. They may also be purchased either directly from Deborah Ude at deborahude.com or through the CLC Book House at clcbookhouse.org. The cost is \$20.00 per book.

LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN: We are again ordering 15 monthly copies of this useful synodical monthly magazine. They are \$ 15 per copy for the year. If you would like to help out with this purchase, please place an extra \$ 15 in your offering. Thank you.

THE BRANCHES: Subscriptions are due by next Sunday, June 7 for The Branches magazine. Please visit www.thebranchesonline.info and click on the "Subscribe" link for more information.

ARISE AND SHINE: It's that time again!!! The website is updated

and registration is open for Arise and Shine 2015. We pray you are able to join us this year for a great retreat! Please feel free to bring along a friend or two that would benefit from attending. If you haven't liked us on Facebook, please do so...many of the updates will be posted on Facebook vs. sending out tons of mass emails! Dates - June 18th - 21st (Thursday evening to Sunday morning) Place - Camp JIM in Pillager, MN Registration - Online at our website www.AriseAndShineRetreat.com

NEPAL RELIEF HELP: The online donations page for Nepal Earthquake Relief that President Eichstadt authorized is now available for use. Here's the Link: <http://www.lutheranmissions.org/earthquake/> You can also give an offering at church made out to MDF (Nepal Relief).

YOUTH CONFERENCE '15: The deadline to apply for scholarships to fund Youth Conference is tomorrow (June 1st). There is scholarship money available to significantly reduce the cost. Applying for a scholarship is not hard--details are on the website. See scholarship details and other conference info at www.youthconference.info

PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU! We praise our Triune God for your presence with us this morning. We pray that the Holy Spirit speaks to your heart this morning through His Word. May He lead you to believe that the only name given to us for our salvation is that of Jesus. Come and worship your Savior with us again and please sign our guest register.

This Week:

Mon-Tues Great Lakes' Delegate Conference

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

Saturday Nancy Phillips & Tom Haenigan Wedding

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. Family Worship/Communion
10:00 a.m. Church Council

LAST WEEK:

Worship 45

OFFERINGS 5/24

for Unified Budget: \$3,476
\$200 MDF (Nepal Relief)
\$200 Tuition

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week:

Church---Albrecht/Franson
Counters today: Ruth Bernthal & Pam Schulz

IN YOUR MAILBOX: June

Calendar & Newsletter

SERMON SERIES: We are continuing a new sermon series entitled *"The Witness of the Holy Spirit."* We will follow the

Spirit's work through the book of Acts and read His words in the Epistles. May each of us be moved by the same Holy Spirit to do our own private/family readings at home as we follow the devotions printed in our bulletins. This series will run throughout the Pentecost season till the end of November. May the Spirit bless our study of His Word.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE:

Our summer schedule with worship service at 9:00 a.m. continues through Labor Day.

DELEGATE CONFERENCE: We have one delegate, John Gerbitz, who will be going with Pastor to the Great Lakes' Delegate Conference, Monday and Tuesday at Gethsemane Lutheran, Saginaw, MI.

CLC NEWS: Teacher Quinn Sprengeler has returned the call extended to him by Gethsemane Lutheran, Spokane Valley WA.

Sermon Text:

Acts 4:1-12

Theme:

NO OTHER NAME! Jesus Christ

I: A Name that is Hated by many.

II: A Name Chosen by God.

III: The Only Name that Saves All.

4 Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, 2 being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. 4 However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand. 5 And it came to pass, on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, 6 as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, "By what power or by what name have you done this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: 9 If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, 10 let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

