

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #18



Monday - Acts 24:1-27 How did Paul demonstrate that Christianity is not a sect? Contrary to the flattering lies of the Jews, Governor Felix was known for the excesses of his lust and cruelty. His relation to Druscilla was an adulterous one. Yet his prisoner, Paul did not hesitate to lay before them the need for righteousness. What can we learn about waiting for a “convenient season”? How might we answer the practitioners of such procrastinating? Should we stop witnessing because that witness is at times brushed off?

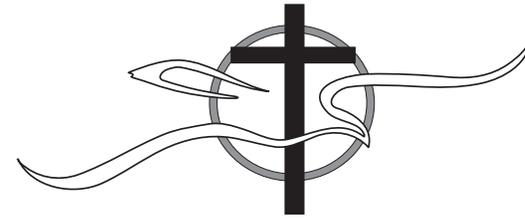
Tuesday - Acts 25:1-27 Have you ever played the “if only” game? Write five sentences that each begin with “if only” and are completed with the first things that come to your mind. Paul might have started: If only I hadn’t come to Jerusalem?; If only these governors would quit delaying? .. But rather than lamenting, Paul viewed each disappointment as a divine appointment. Find the divine appointments in your “if onlys”.

Wednesday - Romans 4:1-12 We have a thorough presentation of justification before us this week. If man is under wrath, how can he be saved? Paul shows us that it is not on the basis of merit, any initiation rite, or any prerequisite of man that Abraham, David, or anyone is saved. Can you count the cost of these words: “God justifies the ungodly”? They are the firm basis of faith, not vice versa. Justification - forgiveness is a pure gift. What a message! Yes a message to be heralded even before kings.

Thursday - Romans 4:13-25 The faith that receives Christ’s righteousness is not a work of man, it does not precede the promise of life. Faith is simply the resting on the promise of Him who gives life to the dead. So when there are doubts or a need for strengthening there is obviously only one thing to turn to for convincing: THE WORD OF PROMISE.

Friday - Romans 5:1-11 Review the benefits that a life insurance policy can offer. What do these benefits cost? Now tally up all the benefits these verses list as benefits for those covered by Christ. What is the cost? Make a card to carry in your wallet to remind yourself that you have around the clock access and coverage. Don’t you know someone who would be interested in such a tremendous “life policy”?

Saturday - Romans 5:12-21 Make a chart of the parallels between the far-reaching consequences of Adam’s sin and Jesus’ sacrifice. The image of Adam is undeniable, irrevocably yours on this earth. It can only be dumped at the grave. But God gives the image of Jesus to you. Don’t hide that gift in a closet or it could get lost!



Peace Thru Christ

Lutheran Church and School

Pastor: Mark H. Bernthal • Teacher: Miss Claire Abbas

Organist: Mrs. Karen Schaser

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middletonlutheran.org

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost — October 25, 2015

In You, O Lord, I put my trust;
Let me never be ashamed;
Deliver me in Your righteousness.

Bow down Your ear to me,
Deliver me speedily;
Be my rock of refuge,
A fortress of defense to save me.

For You are my rock and my fortress;
Therefore, for Your name’s sake,
Lead me and guide me.

Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me,
For You are my strength.

Into Your hand I commit my spirit;
You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Psalm 31:1-5

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Supplement, p. 12

Opening Hymn: 380
Before Sermon: 389
Offering Hymn: 789
After Prayers: 377 (1-6)
Closing Hymn: 377 (8-10)
Antiphon: Ps. 85 Pg. 40 W.S.

Scripture Readings:

Acts 26:1-32

The Apostle Paul is left in jail for two years by Felix. Later Governor Festus takes up the case. Paul appeals to Rome. Festus discusses the case with King Agrippa, son of King Herod, and Paul receives the opportunity to proclaim a crucified and risen Christ before royalty.

26 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." So Paul stretched out his hand and answered for himself: 2 "I think myself happy, King Agrippa, because today I shall answer for myself before you concerning all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, 3 especially because you are expert in all customs and questions which have to do with the Jews. Therefore I beg you to hear me patiently. 4 "My manner of life from my youth, which was spent from the beginning among my own nation at Jerusalem, all the Jews know. 5 They knew me from the first, if they were willing to testify, that according to the strictest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers. 7 To

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE VISITORS DAY is November 13th beginning at 10:05 am in the ILC gymnasium for chapel. It will feature presentations and classroom visits until 2:50 p.m. Come and learn more about your church's college and a continuing education with Christ. We will attempt to provide lodging, if needed, Thursday or Friday nights for those attending College Visitor's Day and these visitors will be our guests at meals. (No special activity is planned for Thursday evening.) Friday evening there is also the opportunity to see the ILC fall play: Ramona and Joel. It will be performed both Friday

and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. A band concert will precede it Friday night at 7:00 p.m. and a variety of student musical performances on Saturday night at 7:00 p.m. Speak with Pastor Bernthal about questions and attendance.

POLO SHIRTS: The Evangelism Committee is encouraging members to buy polo shirts with our Peace Thru Christ logo on the front to help advertise our congregation. If you are interested in buying one, please sign the sheet in the entry-way. They are \$ 21 each. Please sign name and size. Color is deep teal blue.

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

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LAST WEEK:

Worship 59 S.S. 6 B.C. 30
OFFERINGS 10/18 for Unified
Budget: \$2,208 • \$100 CBP
\$50 Nepal Relief

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week:
Church---Peterson
School---Schaser
Counters today: Randy Dreyer &
Joel Gerbitz

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE

CLASS: We continue our study of Important Chapters in the Bible. This Wednesday is 2 Thessalonians 2—The Antichrist. Come, study and learn with us! 7:00 p.m.

VOTERS:

We have our Quarterly Voters Meeting today at 11:25 a.m. We encourage all of our Voters to serve the Lord with their attendance.

THANK YOU:

to all who came out to help beautify our church grounds and buildings. Much work was accomplished to the praise and glory of God.

CLC NEWS: Pastor Peter Evensen, pastor of Rock of Ages Lutheran, Grand Rapids MI, has accepted the call to be a resident CLC Foreign Missionary to India.

JOINT REFORMATION/ALL SAINTS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

is planned for next Sunday at 4:00 p.m. to be held at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, Fond du Lac, WI. We encourage all of our members to attend this special worship service in praise to our Triune God for the blessings of the Reformation. A meal will be following. We will be leaving around 2:00 p.m. Please sign the sheet if you are planning on coming.

OUTREACH SEMINAR:

Messiah Lutheran Church of Hales Corners, WI will be hosting an Outreach Seminar on Sunday, November 8th from 3:00 - 5:30 p.m. with a potluck to follow. The seminar will be focusing on giving practical advice for navigating conversations on spiritual matters with non-Christians. We may know what we believe, but how do we engage in meaningful dialogue with others? We want to share the Gospel with others, but how do we communicate with wit and wisdom? Join us and find out! If you are interested in going, please contact pastor or Evangelism Chairman, John Gerbitz.

this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. 8 Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead? 9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. 12 "While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.' 19 "Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but declared first to those in Damascus and in Jerusalem, and throughout all the region of Judea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance. 21 For these reasons the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 Therefore, having obtained help from God, to this day I stand, witnessing both to small and great, saying no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come— 23 that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first

to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.” 24 Now as he thus made his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are beside yourself! Much learning is driving you mad!” 25 But he said, “I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak the words of truth and reason. 26 For the king, before whom I also speak freely, knows these things; for I am convinced that none of these things escapes his attention, since this thing was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.” 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” 29 And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.” 30 When he had said these things, the king stood up, as well as the governor and Bernice and those who sat with them; 31 and when they had gone aside, they talked among themselves, saying, “This man is doing nothing deserving of death or chains.” 32 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “This man might have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

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

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Romans 4:1-12

WHAT CAN WE SAY ABOUT OUR JUSTIFICATION?

**I: What does Abraham say? II: What does David say?
III: What does circumcision say?**

4 What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” 4 Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5 But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for

righteousness, 6 just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God imputes righteousness apart from works: 7 “Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin.” 9 Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, or upon the uncircumcised also? For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, that he might be the father of all those who believe, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also, 12 and the father of circumcision to those who not only are of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had while still uncircumcised.

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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We praise God that you are with us this morning worshipping our Savior. May the message of our justification move you to come again and worship your Savior with us. We are glad to have you in our midst. If you want to know more about your Savior, Jesus, or about our congregation, please contact Pastor Bernthal. Please also sign our guest register.

This Week:

Today 9:00 a.m. S.S.: Daniel
Bible Class: Spending Time
Luther’s Catechism--2nd Article
(Christ’s Exaltation)
11:10 a.m. Choir
11:25 a.m. Quarterly Voters’
Meeting

Tuesday

9:00 a.m. Pastoral Study Club –
Batavia, IL

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

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

Saturday Reformation Day

Next Sunday 9:00 a.m. S.S./
Bible Class 10:00 a.m. Family
Worship/Reformation
11:15 a.m. Evangelism Meeting
4:00 p.m. Joint Reformation
Service, Fond du Lac