

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

HOME DEVOTIONS - Week #16



Monday - Acts 20:1-16 A lot of territory is covered by the Apostle Paul. It might be helpful to trace these travels on a map. Note how long one of Paul's sermons lasted. The story of Eutychus reveals how human we are.

Tuesday - Titus 1:1-9 Paul instructs the young pastor, Titus, on his work as a Christian leader. The past experiences of Paul in his ministry help him to equip the new pastor for his work. The torch is passed to the next generation. Titus was Paul's "spiritual son". V.6-9 summarize the traits of a Christian leader. How many do you count? Could someone be a Christian leader if he did not have all of these qualities?

Wednesday - Titus 1:9-16 To be able to know and use the Word effectively is a major requirement for a Christian leader. There are a lot of false prophets in the world; many deceive and lie about God's Word. Only the hammer of God's Word can shut such mouths and even convert such people. Only the light of God's Word can steer us through the haze of untruth.

Thursday - Titus 3:1-11 We must guard against Pharisaic pride which would make us think that as Christians we are better than other people (see Luke 18:9-14). Remember our roots - born in sin and dead in sin (v.3). But we have been saved from sin by the work of God - preparing salvation and bringing us to faith in that salvation. Beware of poisoning the spiritual food supply - the Bible - by foolish controversy and by false teaching. Rather be ready to give the truth of God's Word to any and all.

Friday - Jude 1-16 The theme of this book is passing the torch to the next generation. Dangerous deceivers were changing God's grace and denying Christ (v.4). This wouldn't be the first time people lost their faith, (i.e. the children of Israel, Cain, Balaam, and Korah) Rebellion against God is not new. It will be judged.

Saturday - Jude 17-25 Rebellion against God is not new. It will be judged. But as children of God don't be deceived and don't fall short. Remember that such rebellion is to be expected. Stay in the love of God, building on your faith, praying, looking for mercy from Jesus unto life eternal. But shall we with our strength endure these evil days? No - but there is the power of God (see v.24-25).

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church/School is a confessional Lutheran Church. 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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Pre-service Preparation: Ps. 56

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Worship Supplement, p.12

Opening Hymn:	541
Before Sermon:	493
Offering Hymn:	572 (1 & 4)
After Prayers:	416
Closing Hymn:	283
Antiphon, Ps. 84	Pg. W.S. 38

Acts 20:17-38

Paul exhorts the elders of Ephesus to be steadfast in the Lord, remain in the Word of His grace in order to be built up. Paul reviews his ministry which was one of serving his Lord, not hesitating to preach the COMPLETE Word of God to ALL people; and not hesitating to go where the Holy Spirit would lead, even if it meant prison and hardship. Paul's words caused sorrow in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians for they knew Paul would be leaving and they probably would never see him again.

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. 25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone

Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church & School • Announcements

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.

CLC FALL C.C. REPORT: There are 10 copies of the fall CLC Coordinating Council Report that was held Sept. 16th. Please take and read and keep on our synodical workings in God's kingdom.

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!

THANKS: to all who have been mowing

this summer. The grounds look great! We are still in need of mowers for October.

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 this Tues-Thurs. The Wednesday night meal from 5-6:30 p.m. is open to our members as well.

GREAT LAKES' PASTORAL CONFERENCE:

will be held this Tues-Thurs. 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.

FALL WORK DAY:

Our fall work day has been set for Saturday, Oct. 24th.

obedient to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity, that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things. 11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority.

Let no one despise you.

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PEACE THRU CHRIST LUTHERAN WELCOMES YOU!

We praise God that you are with us this morning worshipping our Triune God. May the One whom we preach, Jesus Christ, strengthen all of us to love Him and live for Him even as He loved, lived, and gave Himself for us. Please sign our guest register and come, worship your Savior with us again. Feel free to speak with Pastor Bernthal, if you have any questions concerning our church.

This Week:

Today 9:00 a.m. S.S.: Naaman and Elisha

Bible Class: Spending Time
Luther's Catechism--2nd Article (Christ's Work)

11:15 a.m. Evangelism Meeting

Tues-Thurs. Great Lakes' Pastoral Conference

Next Sunday

9:00 a.m. S.S./Bible Class

10:00 a.m. Family Worship

11:15 a.m. Church Council

LAST WEEK:

Worship 40 S.S. 4 B.C. 12

OFFERINGS

9/20 for Unified Budget: \$ 2,635

IN SERVICE TO OUR LORD:

Cleaners this week:

Church---Greve

School---Brandle

Counters today: Randy Dreyer & Joel Albrecht

NO WEDNESDAY

NIGHT BIBLE CLASS:

Due to the Great Lakes' Pastoral Conference this week there will be no Wednesday night Bible Class. We resume next Wednesday, Oct. 7th

night and day with tears. 32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" 36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

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

THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Sermon Text: Titus 2:1-15

Theme:

WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIAN PASTOR'S PREACH ABOUT?

I: God's Grace in Christ Saves.

II: God's Grace in Christ Empowers.

TO WHOM SHOULD CHRISTIAN PASTOR'S PREACH?

To Old & Young—To Male and Female!

2 But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine: 2 that the older men be sober, reverent, temperate, sound in faith, in love, in patience; 3 the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things— 4 that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed. 6 Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded, 7 in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, 8 sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you. 9 Exhort bondservants to be