

Devotions – October 26-November 1, 2014

By the 9th & 10th Grade Sunday School Class
Bethany Lutheran Church, Escanaba, MI

Sunday, October 26

By Thor Heskin (10th)

Text: Isaiah 40:29 (NIV)

**“He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.”**

This verse tells people that there is always hope for the weak and God will give them strength. This relates to my life back when I first moved to Michigan. It was hard to make friends and I tried hard. Though I wasn't weak physically, it was very hard for me emotionally. My congregation helped me make new friends and helped me feel stronger.

Let us pray: Dear God, help us through our daily lives and strengthen us through our faith in you. Amen.



Monday, October 27

By Zach Lancour, Michael Johnson, and Billy Phillips (9th)

Text: John 14:27 (NLT)

“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.”

Peace is something that we should be thankful for. We should always accept this as a gift from God. This verse reassured me that I can always calm down and have peace in my life when I am stressed.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, Thank you for giving us peace in our minds and souls. Amen.



Tuesday, October 28

By Emma Bouche and Tegan Christensen (9th)

Text: Isaiah 40:8 (NIV)

**“The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”**

God’s word will always be there for us. We should never take our voice and the ability to share the Word of God for granted. Even though we can lose things, and things in our lives can change, God and His Word will always remain.

Let us pray: Dear God, please stay with me while things change. Amen.



Wednesday, October 29

By Paul Carne and Alexandra Zelenak (10th)

Text: 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV)

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.”

The Apostle Paul wrote this to strengthen and encourage the church in Thessalonica. We shouldn’t single people out. Paul understands we are trying, but we need to continue to make everyone feel welcome. This helps me understand that no one should be left alone or feel alone because we’re all equal. Letting that person sit with you at lunch isn’t going to kill you. You should be a friend to everyone. If you see someone struggling, build them up and encourage them. Everyone has most likely been hurt throughout life, and chances are we have hurt other people as well. We should strive to build each other up like Paul says.

Let us pray: Dear Lord, help us always to encourage one another and build each other up. Amen.



Thursday, October 30

By Jennah Gauthier and Emily Guenette (10th)

Text: Psalm 112:6 (GNT)

**“A good person will never fail;
he will always be remembered.”**

We all struggle against sin, but we are all sinners bound to fail. Even when we sin, God will still love us. We all sin, but we will not fail in God’s eyes because he forgives and loves everyone. All of our sins are forgiven through Christ.

Let us pray: Dear God, help us to not fail, even when we sin. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Friday, October 31

By Kris McDonnell, Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, MI

Text: Galatians 1:3-5

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, to set us free from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be the glory forever and ever, Amen.”

Galatians is a letter written by Paul the Apostle to a church while he was on his third missionary journey. Paul greets us with an affirmation of praise, a reminder to us that the message to the church is the same today as it was then. This church was teaching that Old Testament laws were still binding upon Christians in order to obtain salvation. The Apostle Paul insisted that salvation was by God's grace alone.

The interesting thing about Paul is that he had been a bitter enemy of God's grace at one time. Paul had rejected the Savior and opposed the gospel. When the grace of God suddenly struck Paul, he was in the height of his rebellion. Paul became a captive of God's grace. Just think, God offered his grace to an enemy! What do we ourselves, as the lowliest of all saints, do to deserve this grace? We sin, turn our backs on God, judge others, etc. But guess what? God still offers us his love, his grace and salvation. It's not what we do to earn God's approval, it is simply the grace of God! And if we fall away, God's grace will find us, often when we least expect it.

These verses should be very familiar to us. We hear Pastor Kenneth say them on Sunday at the beginning of the service. It is an affirmation that the grace and peace of our Father is for all of us. So the next time someone tells you they are not worthy of God's grace, remind them that none of us are, and that's why it is called “Amazing Grace”!

Let us pray: Dear Gracious Father, thank you for your heavenly grace. Please help me to honor you by extending your gifts of grace and faith to others.



Saturday, November 1

By Charlie Yeager, Member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, MI

Text: Colossians 1:13-14

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

When I was a young boy, my friends and I used to play baseball, kickball, and kick-the-can in a nearby alley. One day I hit a foul ball that went through the window in the neighbor's back door. I immediately felt bad and I felt scared, so scared that I didn't tell my Mom or Dad. The neighbor had already spoken to them on the phone by the time I arrived home for dinner. Then the questioning began. I finally confessed, in a puddle of tears, that yes, I was the one who hit the ball through the window.

My Dad told me that after dinner I would have to go to the neighbor's house and apologize to him. I could no longer eat my dinner. I was back to being scared and feeling bad. There was a lump in my throat that wouldn't go away. I didn't know what to expect.

My Dad came with me to the neighbor's house and my heart raced as we walked to the back door with the broken window. I knocked. The neighbor came to the door and came outside to talk to us. I could barely tell him I was responsible for breaking the glass and I was sorry. He said, "Son, you are forgiven, but I would like you to pay for the new window." I was thinking, that was all, he didn't even yell at me and he gave me my baseball back. All the while my Dad stood by me and offered me the same grace as our neighbor. What an uplifting feeling I had as we left our neighbor's house.

In Colossians 1:13-14, Paul writes about God's grace. God's grace has delivered the people of Israel from evil and death by forgiving their sins. We too can have that uplifting feeling when we know that by God's grace we are forgiven.

Let us pray: Dear God, thank you for forgiving our sins. Help us to accept your grace and help us to do the right thing the next time we are placed in a situation where you have already forgiven us. Amen

