

**Devotions – January 24-30, 2016**

By Elaine Hendrickson, LLM  
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Atlantic Mine

**Sunday, January 24, 2016**

Text: 1 Corinthians 12:22

*But instead, there is [absolute] necessity for the parts of the body that are considered the more weak.*

Are you weak, or are you strong? None of us likes to be thought of as weak. We like to think of ourselves as self-sufficient. We like to think that we can handle whatever comes our way. In actuality, we all need each other.

We may become educated or an expert in a field (occupation), but even then we somehow tend to overlook the common sense part of life, the parts that make life easier.

We work hard at what we do, but often overlook the love that we are given in abundance. Love that we are instructed to share with others. Love that eases stress, fills our stomach, and brings us closer to God.

Let us pray: *Lord, help me to accept others into my life. Help me show the love you have given in abundance. Teach me to share that love, unconditionally. Amen*



**Monday, January 25, 2016**

Text: John 1:3

*All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being.*

It was a beautiful summer morning. I was sitting on the deck behind our camp, having a cup of tea. I looked up at the blue sky and observed an eagle playing on the updrafts as the wind shook the leaves on the trees. Suddenly I noticed a movement, to the left, out of the corner of my eye.

I watched as a doe and her baby inched down the hillside. It is about a 30 foot drop, at a very steep angle. I continued to watch as they took a drink out of the stream.

I stood in awe and wonder as I realized that I was observing all this, but God was watching over all of His creation; the sun, the sky, the earth, the birds, the plants, the water, the animals, including me.

Later on, I was inside, and noticed that same doe and baby. They must have worked their way back up, and skirted around the building, to find succulent greenery in the front yard. I could not help but thank God for allowing me to a part of all this.

Let us pray: *Lord, your creation is so special! It contains such beauty and life. Thank you for letting me be part of it! Amen*



**Tuesday, January 26, 2016**

Text: Genesis 1:28b

*Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and all the living things that move on the earth.*

We have “dominion” over all that God has created. What exactly does that mean?

By definition, in Merriam Webster, dominion means “controlling power or influence over others <in the Bible, man is given dominion over all the animals>”

Okay, so we have controlling power. But how are we to use this power? Kings have power, but there are good kings and bad kings. A good king takes care of his people and regions. A bad king is cruel and abusive of all that he has dominion over.

God gave us dominion over all creatures and living things so as to take care of them, not abuse them.

Let us pray: *Lord, help us all to be kind and gentle to each other, and all of your creation. You gave us everything to make a good, peaceful world to live in. Let it be so! Amen*



**Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

Text: Genesis 1:29-30

*29 And God said, See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the land and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.*

*30 And to all the animals on the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the ground—to everything in which there is the breath of life—I have given every green plant for food. And it was so.*

I have friends that are vegetarian. I, though, lean toward the carnivore in my eating. If I follow the Old Testament I am wrong, but if I follow the New Testament I am not wrong. I question myself, however with the following ideas.

1. Animals and man were given plants that bear seeds and fruit with seed in it to eat (Genesis 1:29). They were created to be at peace with one another.

2. The very first killing in the Bible was of an animal after Adam and Eve sinned. (Genesis 3:21)
3. Animals were allowed to be used for food as described in Leviticus 11.
4. In Mark 7:19-21 we are told that nothing that goes into the body will defile it, only what goes out.

Looking at these and other thoughts, I do not see where eating meat or not eating meat is right or wrong. The key is moderation and balance.

Let us pray: *Lord, you have given us all of your creation to enjoy. Help us to treat it as you would have us treat it. Help us to realize that what we consume does not make us what we are, for only you can do that by forgiving our sins and leaving us clean. Help us to be cleansed with your Son, Jesus. Amen*



**Thursday, January 28, 2016**

Text: Psalm 36:6

*Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O LORD.*

Over the years I have had many pets that are no longer with me today. Many times I remember them and miss them. I remember my brother playing with my cat when I first moved back home. I remember my dog not having learned how to play. I remember my other dog, as we were going to bed one night, just pleading with me to help him. There was nothing I could do for him as he had pneumonia and was drawing his last breaths.

I also remember the promises made to Noah, and covenant made to him and all living creatures that were in the ark with him. He gave the rainbow as sign of His covenant.

Let us pray: *Lord, thank you for making your covenant with all living creatures. I know that when I leave this earth all of my animal friends will be there, along with my loved ones, waiting for me. Thank you. Amen*



**Friday, January 29, 2016**

Text: Isaiah 11: 6

*And the wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatted domestic animal together; and a little child shall lead them.*

The hunter will lie down with the prey, wild and domestic alike and the little child will lead them. What a beautiful peaceful picture. God has not forgotten His creation. God made a covenant with all of his creation. He gave the picture of His Kingdom to Isaiah, and it included the land, the trees, the animals and man in this picture of His Kingdom.

God has given us his creation to protect, to use, and to enjoy.

We the children of God have dominion. We are to lead them faithfully.

Christ was given to us as a little child. He is the one who leads all of creation in heaven.

*Let us pray: Lord, thank you for loving all of your creation. Thank you for giving us a peak into heaven so we can see what to expect. Thank you for not forgetting the land, plants, animals and mankind. Without you and your Son, we would be doomed; we would be totally separated from each other and forever forgotten. Thank you for letting me see what awaits, knowing the raccoons, bears, deer, wolf, moose, the cougar, and all animals will be present. Amen*



**Saturday, January 30, 2016**

Text: Revelation 22:13-14

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last (the Before all and the End of all). Blessed (happy and to be envied) are those who cleanse their garments, that they may have the authority and right to [approach] the tree of life and to enter through the gates into the city.*

The tree of life can be found in both the beginning (Genesis 2:9) and the end (Revelation 22:14 and 19). God caused the waters to rise and feed the plants of the earth. The tree of life was placed in the center of the Garden of Eden. He also placed the tree of Knowledge there. After Adam and Eve ate of the tree of Knowledge, they realized they had sinned. They also had to pay the consequences and were driven out of the Garden of Eden.

God was there in the beginning. He created everything. He will be there in the end, judging all of us by what we have done (in our hearts as well as with our bodies). He himself says He is the Alpha and the Omega; the beginning and the end.

Fortunately God forgives. He covers our sins, as the snow covers the land in winter. He gives us new life, as the melting snow enriches the earth.

Some say he forgives and forgets. I think he forgives us of our sins, and forgets the individual sins that commit, but never forgets that we as humans are capable of sinning. He knows that each and every day we need to be continually forgiven for our thoughts, words and deeds. Otherwise there would be no hope.

Let us pray: *Lord, once again, I thank you for your love, your forgiveness, and your care. I know without you I would be lost. I need that anchor, that cleansing, that forgiveness and that care, which only you can give. Amen*

