

..... **Daily Devotions**
November 11-17, 2018
Members of the Synodical Women's Organization

Sunday, November 11, 2018

Dear Lord,

In these days of trouble and strife, I thank you for the obstacles you've put in my way. They teach me how to grow closer to you and to depend on you. Although I find it difficult to wait on "your time" I know that your way is best. Forcing things, just doesn't work. You always are there to greet me when I tend to stray, and turn back to you

Help me Lord, to be a vessel for your love and hope. Help me to spread your love, and teachings.

Help me also Lord, to let my light shine no matter how dark I see things to be. Light chases the dark away.

For thine is the glory.

Amen.

By Gail Schmidt



Monday, November 12, 2018

Amazing Grace

Text: Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.

What is Grace? We say **grace** before a meal. We are **grateful** for kindness shown to us. We leave a **gratuity** when we are pleased with the service in a restaurant. We are thankful when someone is **gracious** to us in hospitality. All of these words show grace as a gift, something given out for appreciation. As Christians we know that grace is an undeserved gift. It is God's love coming to us free of charge, no strings attached. John Newton wrote the hymn "Amazing Grace!" *Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, it is truly a sweet and comforting sound, a free gift given to us and we didn't have to do anything to receive it. Through many dangers, toils and snares, we have already come. 'Twas grace that brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home.* I believe that says it all!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

Let us Pray: *Thank you Lord for the grace you have given us so freely. You are Amazing!*

By Pam Chouinard



Tuesday, November 13, 2018

Text: Job 14:7-9

⁷ ‘For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸ Though its root grows old in the earth, and its stump dies in the ground, ⁹ yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant.

We are coming to the change of the seasons. The colors of autumn are gone, and winter is approaching. As beautiful as the leaves are, I also like when the leaves are gone off the trees. The “bones of the trees” have their own stark beauty.

We know that spring follows winter and that the trees will bud again.

Christ Lutheran Parish in Ironwood, which includes my home church, Salem, held a “Dry Bones Retreat” in October. What will be the end result of this, we don’t know; but the Lord does.

Let us pray: *Lord, I thank you for the seasons; lush greens, brilliant colors, the stark beauty of bare trees, the quiet white of winter. I pray for Christ Lutheran Parish through the seasons of change; help us all to be open to discern your plan for us. I pray in Jesus name. Amen.*

By Kris Carlson, SWO Treasurer



Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Text: Proverbs 3:5 (RSV)

Trust in Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight;

Focus When I am Out-of-Sorts

Ask yourselves: are you pulled in different directions, between family, church and work? Are these problems causing pain, sadness, loss of sleep and health problems?

We all have days like this, but God knows when we are out of sorts and understands our need to refocus. If we let God handle our stress, he will put us back in focus and our life will be better a lot sooner. Look to God for the strength to help with your problems.

Let us Pray: *Lord send your Holy Spirit to point the way for me. Always be in my heart so that my life may be a witness to your will and love to whoever I meet.*

By Elaine Kuhlmann
SWO Board Member



Thursday, November 15, 2018

Text: Psalm 9:1-2

I will praise You O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

This part of Psalm 9 is one I struggle with. I try every day to read my Bible or a devotion and I fail.

If I haven't done the prep work, my voice to share all the good news of Jesus and his promises is weak. I also go back to doing what I think needs to be done and not listening to what Jesus is trying to teach me. These are not the habits that I want to share with anyone.

I also wonder how is it that Jesus still loves me, cares for me and protects me.

I need to change my ways and understand that love comes as I listen to those who tell me about the love of Jesus and how His plan for me continues to protect and save me.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, thank you for pastors, teachers, friends and the gift of Your life. Amen*

By Sue Hill



Friday, November 16, 2018

Text: John 14:26 NIV

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Jesus said that God will send the Holy Spirit in his name who will teach us all things and remind us of all that Jesus said. This is the promise of Jesus to each and every one of us. However, it is

up to each of us to call on and trust in the Holy Spirit and then be responsible to listen as we are led by that Spirit.

Coming from what church people say is an “unchurched family”, I learned bits and pieces from attending Sunday School and Vacation Bible School from various denominations about Jesus and the stories that the parables told in the Bible. But coming from an “unchurched family” did not mean that I did not learn about what Jesus wanted us to do because I was blessed, even though I did not realize it at the time, with parents that lived what Jesus taught. Our house was like Grand Central Station when it came to someone needing help. I grew up with grandparents that lived on both sides of us and it was my parents who cared for them the majority of the time. I grew up with family members to whom my parents responded, mostly “Johnnie on the spot” as one would say to whatever need was being asked. I also grew up believing from what I saw that too many times it was my parents giving and others taking without assistance to my parents when needed. However, I don’t remember my parents ever asking for help either as they must have relied on God to meet their needs. What a great thought!

It was not until later that I realized that it was the Holy Spirit that filled my parents and it was the Holy Spirit working within me to open my eyes to the realization that I was being taught the ways of Jesus. Now it is my responsibility to live as Jesus asked in the best way that I can. Of course I do not always succeed, but by the grace of God I am forgiven. I pick myself up, after I give myself a slap on the hand, and head forward again with the help of the Holy Spirit. I pray each day this special prayer that others will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be encouraged to reach out and seek those that may be lost or may just even need a boost in their day to follow Jesus in his mission field within and outside the church building, showing others that there is a way to live a more fulfilled life without needing material things to fill the void beginning with knowing Jesus needs to be the center of their world.

Let us Pray: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, by the light of the Holy Spirit, instruct the hearts of the faithful and grant that by that same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations through Christ our Lord. Amen

By Melzee Jacobson



Saturday, November 17, 2018

Text: Romans 10:14-15

“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’”

I am a Child of God. You are a Child of God. We are all the Children of God. I have to remind myself each day that I am God's Child and I have to remind myself each day that I must show others that I am a Child of God and that they are, too. It is not an easy task because it seems that what I want to do with my day is not always what Jesus wants me to do with my day. I have to remember that where I want to go is not always where Jesus wants me to go.

I grew up believing in Jesus because of how I saw my parents live and interact with others. I did not understand it fully at the time because we did not have much, materially, as others. What we had was each other and that became the focus of my faith journey. My journey has taken turns and twists that I never could have imagined. For the first 18 years of my life I lived in the same house and town and after graduation my migration began. I have had contact with many various people, I have made friends many of whom have become lifelong friends, you know, the ones that you don't talk to for long periods and when you finally do the conversation begins where it had left off. My journey has taken me from central Iowa to eastern Iowa to Western Iowa to Western Illinois; to Southern Illinois, to southeastern Iowa to the central portion of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan then a little further west and then a little further west to where I am now just a few miles from the eastern border of Wisconsin. From Western Illinois to the present has been the journey of realizing that someone like me could become a pastor's wife to actually becoming a pastor's wife. It has allowed me to love many people as a vessel that God has chosen to send forth.

I have wanted to go to other places in this journey, but God always sends me to the places where he can use me the best to reach his people and those on the outskirts of the church for which my gifts will be utilized in His Name. It is a wonderful journey and there is always a bright light in each place I have gone in His Name. He is my wise and wonderful counselor and friend. I pray each day for all of God's people that they will be lifted up to follow Jesus in their faith journey, to place him first in their life knowing that he will take care of the rest of their needs and their family's needs. Praise Jesus.

Let us Pray: Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

By Melzee Jacobson

