

Devotions – June 23-29, 2019
By the Confirmation Classes of
Faith Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Ishpeming, MI

Sunday, June 23, 2019

By: Mollie Stille

Deuteronomy 7:7-8 states, *“The Lord did not set his heart on you and chose you because you were more numerous than other nations! Rather, it was simply that the Lord loves you and he was keeping the oath he had sworn to your ancestors...”*

I picked these verses because I think the true meaning is significant. I think the true meaning is that you have purpose. God created you with purpose by creating us, specifically adding everything that makes us unique. Deuteronomy 7:7-8 states that we have purpose and are loved, and I chose these verses to remind us of that.

Dear Lord, as we lead our lives, remind us that we will always have a purpose because of you and that you chose us to love. Amen



Monday, June 24, 2019

By: Sidney Richards

Text: Micah 2:1

Alas for those who devise wickedness and evil deeds on their beds! When the morning dawns, they perform it, because it is in their power.

We can choose our actions and we can go to bed angry. Always forgive whoever you are mad at. They could not be alive the next day. God will always forgive you.

Dear God, if we do good or bad, please forgive our sins. Amen.



Tuesday, June 25, 2019

By: Addy Dunphy

Text: Luke 8:50

Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."

The context of this verse can be different depending on who's reading it. In this verse, Jesus is healing a girl who is presumed dead. He tells her parents, "Don't be afraid; just believe." The girl's parents start to believe and she is healed. God is always at work, especially when we are in a time of need. He will come through and help us, as long as we have faith and we believe.

Dear Lord, thank you for always helping and guiding us in times of need, and we pray that you continue to help us throughout our lives. Amen.



Wednesday, June 26, 2019

By: Sophia Heinzman

Text: Romans 9:33

"...as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

Why I chose this verse was because if you believe God you shall not be put to shame. If you confess your sins, then they will be forgiven and you will not feel shameful. This states that you don't always have to feel shame because God is forgiving.

Dear Holy Father, we pray that all the people that believe shall be forgiven for their sins. We pray for all people to be supported. Amen.



Thursday, June 27, 2019

By: Griffin Helsten

Text: 1 Corinthians 9:7-14

Who at any time pays the expenses for doing military serve? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat any of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not get any of its milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law also say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses,

“You shall not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Or does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was indeed written for our sake, for whoever plows should plow in hope and whoever threshes should thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim on you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ. Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in what is sacrificed on the altar. In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel.

These verses are on the rights of an apostle. The verses mention people like farmers who share and also partake of their own produce. In terms of an Apostle, however, they receive no reward and only share God's love with others. This is to say that we should not hoard God's love or word but instead partake in and share it with everyone. In a way meaning, knowing, and sharing God's love and word is a reward in itself.

Let us pray: *I pray for everyone to learn and share and spread the love and word of God to the glory of God.*



Friday, June 28, 2019

By: Ione Grigg

Text: Genesis 4:6-12

⁶ The LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

⁸ Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out to the field.”^[a] And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel, and killed him. ⁹ Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?” He said, “I do not know; am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ And the LORD said, “What have you done? Listen; your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground! ¹¹ And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you till the ground, it will no longer yield to you its strength; you will be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth.”

I chose Cain and Abel’s story as they had both made a sacrifice to the Lord. God was pleased with Abel’s but not Cain’s. Cain grew mad about this, so he told his brother lets go out to the fields where he then killed him. The Lord asked Cain, “Why have you done this terrible thing?” It had been out of revenge, so in return you shall not be allowed to grow any crops if you try, you shall fail.

This ties into the fifth commandment: you shall not murder. You should support and/or help your neighbor at all times, no matter what.

Dear Holy Father, we pray that you lead us to help our neighbors in time of need. Guide us to always support our neighbor. Amen.



Saturday, June 29, 2019

By: Pastor Stacy Pethke

Text: Psalm 46

*God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.*

² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;*

³ *though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult*

⁴ *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

⁵ *God is in the midst of the city, it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.*

⁶ *The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

⁷ *The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

⁸ *Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.*

⁹ *He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.*

¹⁰ *“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”*

¹¹ *The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

I spent a week with the youth, in our churches, having confirmation camp. It was a time of learning, laughing, wondering, struggling, and growing. As I think about the changes in our culture, I think about our youth and the choices they struggle with and especially what they are exposed to. I am often amazed, as I probably shouldn't be, at the strength in God's word through the ages. As we explored the Old Testament, New Testament and the Catechism I was, again, reminded how God's word has been a stronghold for us through the years. Looking at God's

word through the wonder of our youth reminds me how God is always transforming us and creating something new. God *is* the beginning and our forever.

We are reminded in Martin Luther's hymn, *A Mighty Fortress is our God*, that although the world tells us one thing, God is forever with us. He is our wall, keeping us strong, our helper when we struggle, God is greater than anything in this earthly kingdom. We need not fear when our foundation is built on God, evil and darkness cannot win. We are not alone in this earthly journey, the Holy Spirit is guiding us and filling us with God' love to be shared with one another. Dear friends, this gift is not to be harbored for ourselves but to be shared with the world, this is how we grow the kingdom of God.

Ever-present God, send your strength to us in the Holy Spirit that we would share with all the world your love and remind one another we are beloved children of your making. Send your light into the lives of our families and especially our children and youth so they know your presence always. Amen

