

Devotions – June 28 – July 4, 2020

By the Confirmation Class of
Faith and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Ishpeming, MI

Sunday, June 28, 2020

By: Addy Dunphy
Confirmation Class Trinity Lutheran Church

Text: Matthew 10:14

If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.

This verse could mean a lot of different things. To me, this brings my attention to our world right now. There is so much hate towards people in our community, based on their race, sexuality, religion and more. I believe that God loves everyone, and everyone should have respect for others. People will have opinions that differ from someone else's, but in God's eyes, everyone is equal. If someone doesn't support you or welcome you, just ignore them, rather than fighting back.

Text: Matthew 7:1-2

Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.

These verses bring me to think about people's views and opinions about different things. There are many changes happening in our world, and not everyone will have the same views on things. I don't think that just because someone's opinion is different from someone else's means that they can't still get along and be good friends. Judging people about things like this, will only cause you to be judged back, and just as extreme as you judged them. If people didn't judge others about their decisions or opinions, there would be much more peace in the world.

Let us pray: *Dear Lord, please lead us towards a brighter future, where everyone feels welcome, and safe in this world. Amen.*



Monday, June 29, 2020

By: Ashley Price
Youth Leader Trinity Lutheran Church, Ishpeming.

You Are Never Forsaken

Text: Hebrews 13:5

⁵Let your character [your moral essence, your inner nature] be free from the love of money [shun greed—be financially ethical], being content with what you have; for He has said, “I will never [under any circumstances] desert you [nor give you up nor leave you without support, nor will I in any degree leave you helpless], nor will I forsake or let you down or relax My hold on you [assuredly not]!”

“I will never desert you nor will I forsake or let you down or relax my hold on you.” Reread those words and meditate on them for a few moments and while doing so, think of a time you thought he had deserted you. In that time when you felt alone and lost but looking back now, do you see you weren’t alone? How did he show up during this time?

Now listen to the song “The God Who Stays” by Matthew West and reflect on those words and this verse together. Now, how did those words speak to you? With Jesus we always have someone on our side as he has forgiven our sins and loves us no matter what. We belong to him, he is our keeper, our strength, our father, and our king.

When reflecting on these words and what this verse tells us is, we have a Jesus that will always support us and rescue us. He may not always answer our prayers in the way we want our prayers answered but in the way he sees fit for our lives, as he says, “Nor will I in any degree leave you helpless”. We live our lives for him, as he gave his life for us.

Let us pray: *Lord, give me peace, confidence, and faith in myself and in you. Help me to continue to walk with you and live for you. You will never desert me, and I will never turn my back on you. Thank you, Lord, for being my pillar of strength, always. Amen.*



Tuesday, June 30, 2020

By: Jaelynn Watters

Text: John 15:12-13

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friend.

To me these verses mean that you love a person to the point where they are like a sister. Even though they are just a friend, they are loved enough by you that you would be willing to risk your life for them, or even lose your life for them. There is no greater sacrifice that you could offer to them. That you would willingly give them the greatest of your life, that is how much you love them.

Let us pray: *God, I pray that no one should ever have to give the ultimate sacrifice to save their friendship that they love so dearly.*



Wednesday, July 1, 2020

By: Sophia Heinzman
Confirmation Class Trinity Lutheran Church

Text: Matthew 19:26.

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

This quote can mean so many things and one thing is that God made nature and all things living. God made man, and man made so many discoveries like technology, chairs, buildings, etc. Some things that man can't do, God can. God gave us water, nature, air, food, rain, light, and everything we need to survive. He is always with us when we know he is and even when we don't know he is. He is always watching over us and protecting us from above.

God is a miracle. He puts people in your life and takes them out for only reasons he may know. He gave us life and it is such a beautiful thing, there is marriage, dating, best friends and friends, pets, birth, new cars, family, buying a new house and so many more. God gives us miracles and blessings in disguise sometimes, and he gives us things to be thankful for. With most of this stuff it's impossible with man but with God it is possible. So through happiness and sadness knowing God is with us and there to help us, trusting and believing in God all things are possible and will get us through all of life's journey.

Let us pray: *Loving God, we thank you for all the good things in life. May we remember that you are the source of all that is good and may we sing your praises for your greatest gift of love. Amen*



Thursday, July 2, 2020

By: Pastor Stacy Pethke
Faith and Trinity Lutheran Churches, Ishpeming

The Ten Commandments

I have a challenge for all of us this day, and maybe this will take a week to get done. When I attended seminary we were instructed, again, in Lutheran Confessions. This consists of, basically, Luther's Catechism. A couple of things we deconstruct and reconstruct are the Ten Commandments, the Apostle's Creed, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and the Sacrament of the Altar (Eucharist, the Lord's Supper).

Luther wrote the catechism that families would be able to learn the basics of being a Christian. It seems to be the perfect time, and I believe, the Holy Spirit is moving us to dive back into our Catechisms. Maybe you don't have yours from years ago or, like me, it was destroyed by no fault of my own. Your pastor likely has plenty of copies to share with you that are, now, almost pocket size, or perfect for your bedside table.

The Catechism is foundational for Lutherans. It is a place to start when we feel like the ground is shaking under our feet. It is a reminder that God has given us order for our lives. It is a reminder that we are a body of Christ and we are not in this faith journey alone. Maybe that's partly why Luther wrote the book in the first place?

It is logical that our first commandment says, "You are to have no other gods." We are to fear, love, and trust in God. The word fear seems out of place here, but it is a fear, not like we know it, as being afraid, but a reverent fear. A *fear* that honors who God is for us. God is our sanctuary in times of uncertainty and God is walking with us and never leaves us in our pain and in our being afraid. God gives us the strength to take one day at a time, one step at a time.

So, my challenge to you is to find your Catechism. If you can't find yours or don't have one, ask your pastor for one and I am sure your pastor will happily provide one to you. Now, one day at a time, start with one commandment at a time, read the "What does this mean?" that goes along with the commandment and dwell in that for a few moments. Although we know we are likely not to maintain them all, they are a great grounding and reminder of who we are and whose we are. Thanks be to God.

Let us pray: *Loving God, when the walls feel like they are falling down around us, may we be grounded in your word and in your commandments that give us the way to walk in life as we were made in your image. May we feel your love around us always and when we do not, may we see in the aftermath that you were there all along, as you were for the Israelites. May we praise you just as we turn to you for your love and guidance in our laments. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*



Friday, July 3, 2020

By: Pastor Stacy Pethke

Text: Psalm 40:1-4

**I waited patiently for the Lord;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
² He drew me up from the desolate pit,
out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock,
making my steps secure.
³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.
⁴ Happy are those who make
the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after false gods.**

“Happy are those who make the Lord their trust.” We all have that one person in our lives that no matter how good things are, there is always something to complain about. This Psalm is a reminder that we can put our trust in God and God will respond. We seem to be anxious, impatient people, especially with the change in our lives. Things are not like they used to be but maybe God is turning us to something new and different in our lives.

Certainly, things will never be the same, but God is our foundation. We are changed people. In the waters of our baptism we are made new, washed clean. Live into our Living God. Yes, God is certainly alive around us, in the rushing waters, the budding trees and flowers and especially in one another. You know, you are made in God’s image. Trust in the Lord, and although life isn’t all roses and puppy dogs all the time, we can be happy people as we have a God who walks with us in all of it. God is there in our sorrows, even when we do not feel God, and in our joys, even when we forget to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray: *God you are our rock and foundation. May we remember we are made in your image and that we can be happy people in all times of our lives. Make your presence known to those who suffer in any way and may we remember to give you thanks, every day, in our lying down and in our rising again. Amen.*



Saturday, July 4, 2020

By: Pastor Stacy Pethke

Text: Psalm 139:13-14

**¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.**

**¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.**

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. I think we have all been through the awkwardness of our teenage years, maybe some of us are going through the awkwardness of our adult years. We reminisce of the bodies we had in high school, then there's college and marriage and children. Our lives are always changing, new job, different house, old and new relationships. We are always growing, emotionally, spiritually and physically. Some of us are lucky enough to feel secure in our own skin, in our way of life, yet others do not feel safe in their own skin, in their lives.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made. God knew us before we were born. God will know us throughout our life. God will know us in our death and resurrection as well. May we live a life pleasing in his sight that cares for the beautiful creation each one of us are.

Let us pray: *Creator God, we thank you for the beauty around us, the beauty within us and the beauty of who we are made to be, your children. May we look at our neighbor as you look at us, in great love, that all would feel safe in their own skin, no matter who they are. Amen.*

