



The Good Shepherd News

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A Word from the Pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of preaching on Matthew 15:21-28. This is the account of the faith of the Canaanite woman. I'm sure you all remember the sermon and that everyone took notes, Right? Well, for those of you who missed it, or might need a refresher, let me share a few of the key points.



Matthew 15 is a chapter that contrasts a life of external vs. internal righteousness. Another way to say that is works vs. faith, or self-sufficiency vs. dependency before the throne of God. The Pharisees represent those of us who are proud and think we have it all together. They are male, Jewish, wealthy, educated, have a great reputation, easily observe all the politically correct laws, etc. Based purely on outward appearances they have nothing to fear when Christ returns. They've got everything they need, except true faith.

The Canaanite woman is the exact opposite. She's a woman, not Jewish, likely poor, not keeping the PC commandments, and on and on! Nevertheless she has true faith where as the Pharisees do not. What are some of the clues to this?

First of all, she's not intimidated by the "in crowd." She pursues Jesus regardless of what anyone thinks of her. She's also willing to make a fool of herself. She's loud. She's desperate. She exhibits no control except to ruthlessly pursue Christ.

She's also willing to let Christ talk down to her. At first, he doesn't even acknowledge her. When he finally does, he says to her the thing she feared the most, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."

Let's pause there for a minute. Are you willing to hear that sort of thing from the lips of Christ? How about "I'm not going to heal your cancer." Or, "I won't make your life any easier." Maybe, "You're still going to prison." But most likely, "You need to change your sinful ways or face the consequences."

Are you willing to hear that from a preacher. As a minister, I get the joy of proclaiming the love of God in Christ. I also have the unpleasant task of calling you on the carpet, so to speak. I'm sure I don't have to remind you of all the "Law" statements I've used in sermons. True, some people leave the church offended after having their sacred cow attacked. But some of us remain, because what we know that what is said about us and our sinful lifestyle is true.

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Some people try to rationalize their sinful behavior. "Pastor, what you're saying sounds fine religiously. But in the real world I have to..." Stop right there! Anytime you draw an imaginary line between "religion" and the "real world" you are denying Christ.

You are walking away from his word. You are not in the company of the Canaanite woman or any of the faithful. You have chosen the broad, comfortable, popular path that leads to destruction. You're headed to an eternity full of Pharisees who relied more on their "real life" skills than on the cross of Christ.

Furthermore, behold how when Jesus does get around to granting this woman's request; that both he and she agree that she was to get only crumbs. Nevertheless she humbly accepted them!

Do you have real, saving faith or are you only a blind, dead Pharisee? How can you tell the difference? Simply knowing about Jesus isn't enough. Going to the right church isn't enough?. What are the signs that you have your spiritual household in order?

Ask yourself this, are you willing to allow Christ to talk down to you? Are you willing to hear that you are not as important as you would like to be? Are you willing to hear that your life is filled with sin and that your thoughts, words and deeds disappoint God?

Secondly, while others feast, are you willing to receive crumbs from the Master's table? Are you willing to be a nobody so that Christ's true purposes can succeed? Will you endure ridicule, shame, and other horrific things rather than continue to hold to the delusion of your own personal worth?

Notice, that it is this woman who demonstrates true faith. Notice also, that her faith has born fruit in our lives as well. Humble yourself before the Lord. Weep, mourn and wail over your worldliness. Bury your pride and throw yourself completely on the mercy of Christ. Then, as James promises, he will life you up in due time. You will reap a harvest if you do not give up.



In His love,

PASTOR BRUCE

Lunch Bunch



We are starting up the Lunch Bunch again in September. Lunch bunch will meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. Please keep looking in the announcements in the bulletin for the first one. Place, date, and time will be listed then. Sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board at that time.

October Newsletter Articles will be due no later than Thursday, September 14. A big thank you to all those that contribute to the monthly newsletter. Please email articles to office@titusvillelutherans.org or leave a hard copy on the desk in the church office.



HELPFUL HEALTH HINTS BY THE CONGREGATION NURSE

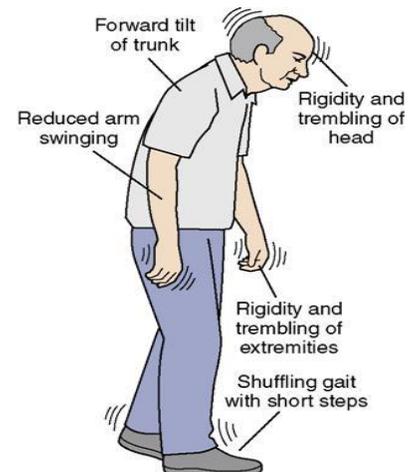
I hope all of you had a wonderful summer and now that September is here I know you are all looking forward to some cooler weather.



Everyone has heard of, or knows someone, who has Parkinson's Disease, a progressive disorder of the nervous system. Most are diagnosed after the age of 60 years but early-onset Parkinson's also occurs. Early-onset affects individuals as young as 21 years of age. There is no cure for Parkinson's disease but with treatment most individuals can live long, productive lives after diagnosis.

Early signs or symptoms can easily go unnoticed because they are so mild.

- The first symptom is usually a slight tremor, sometimes in just one hand, typically when at rest.
- Stiffness in arms and legs producing muscle aches and pain, cramped handwriting due to loss of fine motor skills.
- Slowing of movement, your steps may become shorter; you may drag your feet when walking. The slowness along with stiffness can affect facial muscles, which results in a "mask like" appearance.
- Instability may make it hard to maintain balance-causing falls.
- Parkinson's Gait – as the disease progresses you develop a distinctive shuffling walk with a stooped posture and very little arm swing.



Parkinson's disease is caused by the loss of dopamine-producing brain cells. Dopamine is responsible for sending messages to parts of the brain that control movement and when the amount of dopamine becomes too low, movement becomes impaired.

Therapies are available to increase the amount of dopamine in the brain by either replacing the dopamine, mimicking dopamine, or prolonging the effect of the dopamine by inhibiting its breakdown. Studies show that early therapy can delay the onset of motor symptoms, and affect quality of life. Treatments are not without side effects and not everyone will respond the same so as always, a decision regarding treatment has to be with the patient and the physician.

Barbara

(adapted from neurology center, Sietske N. Heyn, PhD)

FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Basic
Instruction
Before
Leaving
Earth



That describes the Bible, basic foundation of the Christian faith and used in sermons preached to Good Shepherd's congregation in worship services during the 2017 spring and summer. This does not mean that the Holy Bible wasn't used before; but this time it is in the pew racks beside the LSB (hymnals) for members to use in following Pastor Bruce's sermons.

At first we carried our Bibles from home; but suddenly many appeared, some being placed in the hymnal racks attached to the pews and others being stacked in the narthex to be picked up, while more showed up in the meeting room where the Sunday morning Bible study and other meetings occur. Apparently they traveled over from Shepherd's Hall (thanks to Betty Kogok and helpers). As of this writing it is not sure if they will remain or be returned to Shepherd's Hall now that our use of that building has been curtailed somewhat.

Noticed in the group are six brand new blue Bibles (New International Version) that have dedication book plates in the front covers, having been given by the late Otto Schultz and his wife (also deceased) Jean Gillen Schultz in memory of her daughter, Robin Gillen Teachout, obviously sometime ago. Have tried to look at all of the Bibles and don't recall seeing any King James editions although most (with the exception of one copy) have fairly small print. There are a few "Revised Standard" editions, a trifle older than "International" but not a problem. Maybe we have inherited some from personal donors, and that's o.k., too!

After looking through shoeboxes full of personal donation requests, most of which are worthy of consideration, I've decided to place a priority on Bible donations, considering the American Bible Society (which sends Bibles all over the world, China being a present priority, Campus Crusade for Christ (CRU) working with college students here and in other countries, Samaritan's Purse, and expect to continue giving to Lutheran Bible Translators, Lutheran Braille Workers, several Lutheran seminaries and some other Lutheran organizations. A real Bible Champion in our midst is Joe Laberge who distributes free copies at downtown Titusville's outdoor social evenings.

I would be most interested in hearing from readers as to how they handle their extra giving (in addition to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church). There are so many requests beyond the needs of Lutheran as well as other groups in the medical, charitable and humanitarian areas. Then there are the political group and individual requests! Your responses might even appear in print eventually (but your names shall not be used if you so wish), but your efforts will be appreciated as we enter a new historical year!

Next month: THE REFORMATION!

Blessings from Your Historian!
Elizabeth Nething
beenething@cfl.rr.com



From the Elder's Corner:

This month we resume our study of the parts of the Liturgy, and this study is on Confession and Absolution:

Confession and Absolution

We can indeed approach God with confidence. And yet, because we stand on this side of our Lord's final return, we still have with us the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. We have not yet faced the final judgment.

And so, with sin still working in us, the condemnation of God's Law must still confront us, lest we have any delusions that we might have something to boast of before our mighty Judge.

Above all else, Confession and Absolution keep us honest — honest with ourselves and honest before God. The act of confession is not some work that we lay before the Father's throne; rather, it is the simple acknowledgment that God's Word is true and right and that when we measure ourselves against its demands, we come up short.

God's Word says "you shall not give false testimony," but in truth we have lied and gossiped and slandered. And so, the Christian confesses: "Lord, Your Word is true; I have sinned."

There are three basic ways to handle sin and guilt. One is to ignore or minimize them. We've all been tempted in that direction more than a few times. Isn't that, after all, what our sinful human nature is all about?

Another way is to institutionalize them, especially the guilt part. After all, if you can keep people feeling just guilty enough, you will keep them coming back for more.

The third way is to give sin and guilt their proper due, and then to silence them. That is the way of God's absolution. With his forgiveness, our sin is removed from us as far as the east is from the west.

Christians know that, but they also need to hear it often. We need to be reminded that those familiar words, "I forgive you all your sins," are not just some impersonal announcement. They say what they mean and accomplish what they promise. Jesus himself said to his disciples that the sins they forgive are forgiven (John 20:23).

The last and greatest absolution that will ever be spoken to us will be at the last judgment. In the final pages of the *Chronicles of Narnia*, C.S. Lewis provides a marvelous description of this event.

As each individual comes before Aslan — the lion who is Lewis' figure for Christ — one of two things happens: either the person gazes directly into Aslan's face and recognizes his forgiving countenance, or, upon seeing the lion's stern demeanor, passes into his long shadow, forever to be separated from Christ.

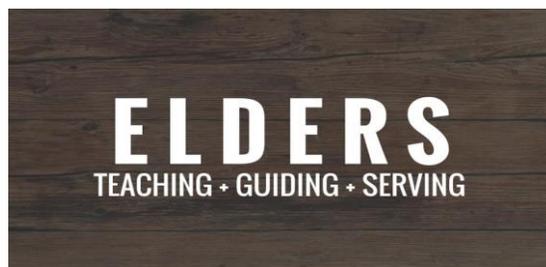
In the Confession and Absolution we are being readied for our appearance before Christ on the Last Day. And hidden behind those comforting words that our sins are forgiven is the invitation, "Come, you who are blessed by my father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

When our Lord speaks those words to us at the Last Day, Confession and Absolution as we know it will cease, for we will then bask in the eternal absolution of the Lamb.

My prayer is that this will enhance your worship experience.

God's Blessings to you!

Dick Steller



Creation/Evolution



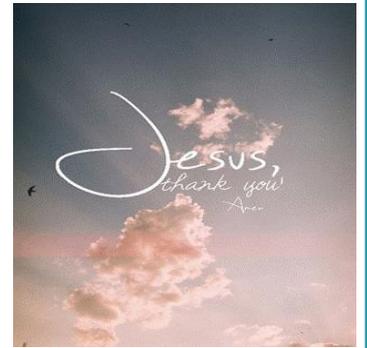
Even the Pope says we are here because of Evolution. That is what all his science friends all around him say. Does he think Jesus not powerful enough? Does the Pope believe once God got the ball rolling with life that evolution could take over? What does the Bible say? Does the Pope even reference the Bible? In

Genesis beginning in chapter 1: 21 God says "He created whales and every living creature, each after their kind." 22, 23, 24, 25 say it time and time again, "After his kind" is used emphatically. That was on the fifth day. I think the Bible makes it very clear there was no progression of evolution. Nowhere does He say anything resembling a bacteria evolved into a worm, which evolved into a fish, etc. On and on until you get to us.

The Bible does not say all evolved but scientists still proclaim it even though the EVIDENCE does not support it at all. No transitional fossils and virtually no evidence showing any DNA links. Some of the "supposed" DNA links are actually comical and fall apart under close scrutiny.

Is believing in Creation versus Evolution a salvation issue? I don't think so! One danger is you might believe Christ not powerful enough to do it. That is a slippery slope. Either God is as powerful as He says He is or he lied to us. Jesus **IS** as powerful as He says He is. Thank you Jesus for creating me!

Joseph Laberge



FAREWELL JEAN

August 27 will be Jean Dehne's last Sunday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She is moving to Wisconsin! We will have cake and coffee after the service to wish her well. We will miss you Jean and wish you God's Blessings

Wishing you much joy & happiness as you begin a new chapter in your life.

LWML News.....

We will resume LWML meetings on September 9, at 9:30 am in the 2073 Garden Street conference room. LWML continues to collect ink cartridges, cell phones and lap top computers (don't forget to remove personal information from devices).



September Birthdays

5 th	Kaitly Fredericks	26 th	Claire Held
7 th	Ray Schwartz	27 th	Vera Beck
13 th	Jeri Jones	29 th	Bill Makey
24 th	Corey Hall	29 th	Orin Melby
26 th	Betty Rowett		



September Anniversaries

3 rd	Ernest & Alice Stoltenberg
13 th	James & Dianne Kemp
25 th	Rick & Debra Hall
28 th	Jim & Sheila Houle



We join in thanking God for His blessings in the past. We ask Him to keep you in His Grace and love in the future. If your birthday or anniversary was not listed correctly, please contact the office.

Able Academics News

School has started and anyone who needs to go into Shepherd's Hall while school (Able Academics) is in session, must check in at the front desk or call ahead. Debbie Keesling is the contact person. Able Academic's numbers are 321-888-3020 and 321-888-3021. If you misplace the numbers, call the church office.



Quilter's Group:

Due to the opening of the school in Shepherd's Hall, the quilter's group has to change. First, due to state law, we had to change the meeting day from Monday to Saturday or Sunday. Folks in the group picked Saturday from 9AM -12 noon. Due to family conflicts, we have lost some members, but hopefully we can pick up others that couldn't come during the week. We moved our materials, supplies, and equipment and organized our little "factory" again.



Lutheran missionaries have asked for our help by these priorities: first quilts, then personal care kits, school kits, baby kits, then sewing kits in that order. We have been sending quilts & personal care kits the last 3 years. There is a "bar code" system that tells us where our boxes of quilts and personal care kits have been sent. Before they went to the middle East; now to Georgia (not the Georgia just north of us in Florida!)

We use sheets & odds & ends of fabric for the quilts. Flannel sheets are also used for liners. If we have bed sheet sets, we often cut fitted sheets into squares for the top & use the mating flat sheet for the back. Once assembled with a line for warmth, other quilters hand tie the quilts & then make a nice finished hem by machine for strength.

The personal care kits consist of a bath towel, nail cutter, comb, 2 bars of covered soap, and a covered toothbrush. (Lutheran World Relief adds a tube of toothpaste before the kits are flown by plane.)



Due to space we have 2 extra sewing machines for members. They are older, but have been oiled & checked for tension. They work fine for mending clothes or making new outfits. We also have a sewing cabinet without a machine.

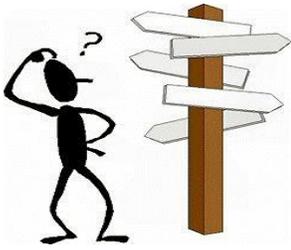
Come by Shepherd's Hall Saturday Morning or call Joan Threlkeld 321-267-9394 for more info.

Adopt a Grandparent Program

School is back in session so we are again thinking about and praying for our little children in Good Shepherd's ELC. As the parents sign up we will need volunteers from our church to mentor these children. Please call me if you need more information or talk to Anne at the ELC.

His peace be with you,
Sharon Bohlmann 321-267-0254





CROSS ROADS FOR THE USA



With the election last November the US seemed to take a sharp right with all subjects in general. We now have a President that actually conducts Bible studies in the White House. Is a staunch advocate for a strong military, respect for law enforcement, reducing the national deficit, negotiating better deals, rebuilding our infrastructure, reducing regulations, reducing the size of the government, lowering taxes and many more. And returning religious freedom is paramount.

He hit the ground running and has done more in months than any other President ever but the Democrats have been blocking him at every turn. Not just the Democrats but many in his own Party. He ran as a Republican but they have been almost as bad, so I urge all citizens to call your Representatives to let them know where you stand on all issues.

Now we have liberals running around screaming peace and tolerance while torching businesses, destroying property and assaulting people. The issue with anything Confederate has me scratching my head. The Civil War ended over 150 years ago. Where were the liberals when the statues were first put up? Why the outrage now? Are they going to be selective or inclusive of this scorched earth disaster. George Washington was a slave owner. Martin Luther King Jr. was against gay marriage. Democrats created the KKK. Where will they stop? They themselves are spouting incredible hate while DEMANDING others to not and are the judge and jury deciding at a whim what is what! Scary times. Jesus come back soon!



Joseph Laberge



HANDYMAN SERVICES

Just letting all know our handyman services are still available to all church members. Too many services completed to mention here but I hope every one has been happy so far. Every Monday from 9 AM until Noon we are at the church doing odd jobs around the church and as time permits we go out to do minor services for any church member. Currently we have been paying attention to the outside of the Sanctuary redoing the mulch and bushes. Recently we repaired the sink and a light fixture there also. On schedule is a leaky toilet in Shepherd's Hall, a balky AC unit and a leaking one. In the near future a major tree trimming will be done along with sprinkler repairs. I want to thank everyone that helps in this endeavor.

Remember, any job will be examined. If too big we will help point you in the right direction. We usually are booked a couple of weeks in advance so call if you need help with something. Call the church and leave a message with Debbie. 321-267-4323. Or call me directly at my home. 321-268-3465. It will ring 6 times if I don't pick up please leave a message. Actually having fun helping everyone and the labor cost is 0. All I ask is that you consider putting a little extra in the plate on Sunday. What you put in is between you and Jesus.



Joseph Laberge