

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"And now these things remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

When we remember this, we are more equipped to deal with the day and all it brings. We can know that if we serve with love, the rest of our life will unfold in ways that we can pray and live with a grateful heart.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith
May 11

[Love](#)



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am

Sunday 10:30 am

GROUP STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study

Tuesdays 10 am

In-Person

in Fellowship Hall

and/or Conference

Call 339.209.5700

Men's Bible Study

Thursdays 8:00 am

In-Person in

Education A/B

and/or Conference

Call 339.209.5700

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson: 1 John 5:9-13

Psalm 1

Gospel: John 17:6-19

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

May 12, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JUDITH

Greetings,

As I prepare for mandatory two weeks of continuing education, I am inspired to share what continuing education means to me. It is secondary education that can be achieved in a variety of ways. Because of all the cancellations due to COVID, I have chosen to read and research a series of videos for upcoming studies at ALC. My style for increasing knowledge is better served by reading and writing than by hours in front of a computer on Zoom.

One of these options includes reviewing the videos of Bible stories through a series called, "Chosen." There is a workbook that goes with the series, so my hope is to finish the entire coursework. I will also be reading many of the books we are finding helpful in sermon preparation and searching scripture that helps me in growing closer to my friend, Jesus.

I am sure it is not a surprise to anyone that as Pastor of Spirituality and Care at American Lutheran Church, it is often difficult to carve out time for extensive reading. These two weeks away on a retreat will allow me the time to read and reflect on information that will increase my abilities to gather more information and to enhance my ministry.

I will journal on my studies so that I can share them with Pastor Lowell upon my return. This will keep me accountable to myself and to him. Hopefully, in my sharing we will both grow in faithful ministry.

Ongoing education has always been important to me and I continue to be a life-long learner. Even as I know retirement will be in the future, God willing, I have plans to continue my educational journey. At that time, it will not only be with extensive reading but hopefully with extensive worldwide travel.

Experiential learning has always fed my soul. I dream dreams and when those are accomplished, I dream new dreams. God is not finished with me yet.

Let's continue to live, love and learn as brothers and sisters in Christ. May we share our knowledge and wisdom that comes with maturing. We can learn from each other for the rest of our lives.

Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Rainforth".

Pastor Judith

MY EYES ARE OPENED

By Terri Polk

In my last Midweek Message, I wrote about "Doubting Thomas." I mentioned that when I was a child it was so easy for me to believe in the unseen (the wind, my breath) but as I got older, I began to question things and have my doubts. I even began to ask the question "Is there a God?" I can't SEE God so how do I know He is real? Fortunately for me, it was perhaps a phase, something I had to go through, and I became better grounded in my faith. But at the heart of my questioning were two important issues: trust and control.

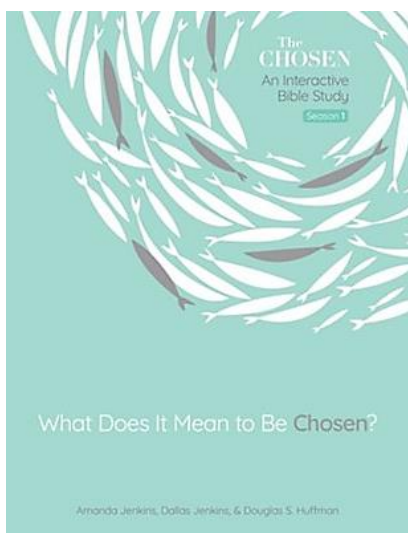
According to my "Alexa" there are at least 21 definitions of trust. Now, I won't bore you with all 21 definitions; let me just summarize that trust, when used as a noun, is the "reliance on the integrity, strength, ability, assuredness to place confidence in something or someone; a confident expectation of something; hope." Is trust a learned behavior, part of our genetic makeup, or both? Genetics may play a role, but I would tend to say it is more of a learned behavior. I believe trust has to do with our earlier life experiences, our role models, the care we have received, and what we have been taught.

Why is trust so hard? Trust tends to make us vulnerable to getting hurt and to feeling our emotions. Trust involves giving up control. For me, that is hard. I plan and organize my day. I make lists and I number them. This sense of control is an illusion, but nevertheless I go along with it. Now I am learning to accept that in trusting God, I can give up control. I need to follow the day that God has planned for me and not get so bent out of shape when things don't go my way. I need to learn new perspectives and be open to new ideas. So when I am asked "Is there a God?" I can answer undeniably, "YES" and I see God in people, actions, nature...the proof is all around...I just needed to open up my eyes!

BIBLE STUDY: THE CHOSEN

Based on the Series
by Chris Weldon

When: July 7th through July 28th
Time: 6:00 pm
Where: Education A & B
Who: Men and Woman are invited



Join us for an upcoming Bible Study, The Chosen. A one-hour video will be shown each week that will coincide with the Bible study book. You can purchase What Does It Mean to Be Chosen?: An Interactive Bible Study online from Christianbook.com or call 1-800-247-4784 to order. The book will cost \$15.99 + tax and shipping or if you prefer you can sign up at the church office and I can order for you. Sign-ups will start June 1st!