

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

August 12, 2020

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."

Matthew 18:15-16

This verse applies to anyone who sins against you. We could avoid much gossip, backbiting, anger and division if we would abide by these Biblical Words. Let us pray that we can commit to such action and find more peace within us and within the world.

GOD BE WITH YOU!

Saying "goodbye" is an emotionally challenging exercise for many people. Some hate to say "goodbye" and will use euphemisms like "so long" or "see you soon." For some families, saying "goodbye" can take another hour as hugs and well wishes are demonstrated over and over again. For others, relatives and friends simply disappear into their cars as they despise going through the practice of saying "goodbye."

Recently, I was reminded that "goodbye" is not simply a way to end time spent together but originally meant "God be with ye." It's a statement of blessing and a word of encouragement in our journey of life. Over the centuries, it's been shortened into a secular phrasing but as people of faith, it is a powerful statement of faith and hope. It's time for a new trend to reclaim the intent of the phrase by saying "Goodbye - God be with you!"

You have experienced many transitions in life, and my hope for you as pastor is your realization that God is with you in each & every transition. From baptism to confirmation to marriage to death itself, God be with you is my fervent prayer. It is not simply the termination but the realization of God's amazing gift of life for all of eternity. Other languages share this sentiment; think of "Adieu" in French or "Adios" in Spanish expressing the hope for others to live "to God".

Let our "goodbyes" be a beautiful benediction, words of good faith strengthening people for the journey of life with God:

2 Thessalonians 3:16- "Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in all ways.
The Lord be with all of you."

And every good Lutheran says... "and also with you!" 😊

Love, Pastor Lowell Nelson

CORRECTION FROM LAST WEEK'S MIDWEEK MESSAGE

Sunday morning drive-through for offerings is 9:30 - 10:30 am. The time was incorrectly stated last week. Thank you! We apologize for any confusion.

Scriptures for the Sunday Service:

Lesson: Romans 11: 1-2a, 29-32;

Psalm: Psalm 67;

Gospel: Matthew 15: [10-20] 21-28

WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES AUGUST 12!

We will continue studying God's word on Wednesday mornings at 10 am by Zoom. If you were not in the first session, we would love to have you join us! It is an informal, supportive group trying to weather this storm together. The Bible study continues from Anne Graham Lotz* (Billy Graham's daughter). They are free and will be sent to you by email, or I can deliver a paper copy.

We completed *Constant Companion*, which dealt with loneliness and used the book of John to delve into the greatness of the Holy Spirit as a person and presence. If you missed this study and would like an email or paper copy, let me know.

On August 12, we will begin *An Open Letter to the Weary* which is a study on weariness and uses the book of Haggai. This interested me because we seldom study Haggai!

Please email me at deborahnelson@cox.net to let me know you are interested in participating, and I will send you an attachment to your email with the Bible study and Zoom instructions. Join any time! Each lesson in itself is helpful whether or not you can attend all sessions. Looking forward to hearing from you!

God's Peace, Debbie Nelson (402) 651-3635

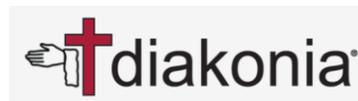
*Called "the best preacher in the family" by her father, Billy Graham, Anne Graham Lotz speaks around the globe with the wisdom and authority of years spent studying God's Word.

DIAKONIA PROGRAM

The Grand Canyon Synod Diakonia program is a means to prepare lay leaders in changing times to support the mission of the church with wisdom and understanding in accordance with our Lutheran understanding of who God is and how God works. Diakonia is also a Faith Formation program designed to help the lay person in your congregation develop and grow their individual faith. The program also helps students discern what God is calling them to do personally as members of the body of Christ. Like many educational institutions, we are planning on a lot of remote learning this school year, which also means remote information sessions.

Classes are beginning to be formed. Please check our website at www.diakoniaaz.org for more information. All classes will be via Zoom for this fall.

In peace, Mike Reed
Diakonia Steering Committee Chair



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