

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEKEND'S SERVICE

Lesson: Romans 3:19-28

Psalm: Psalms 46

Gospel: John 8:31-36

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

October 21, 2020

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR LOWELL NELSON

Verse of the Week

"For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law." - Romans 3:28

ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW



We look forward to celebrating the Reformation this weekend through worshipping together, either in ALC's online community or in the Sanctuary. We are bonded together in our common understanding of God's grace. Romans 3:28 was called by Luther the "first & chief article" of faith, an assertion we are made right with God by God's own righteousness. No longer bound to self-aggrandizing behavior to justify our own efforts as righteous "enough" for God's approval, we are freed to simply trust Christ's character and work as sufficient for salvation. In a powerful way, this Scriptural insight turned the church upside down 500+ years ago and continues to bring the truth of the Gospel to this time and place.

In the October Outreach, I listed five statements which defined the core assertions of the Reformation including:

- By Scripture alone
- By Faith alone
- By Grace alone
- Through Christ alone
- To the Glory of God alone



Utterly simple statements containing the Gospel truth for ALC members; we study the Bible for all its magnificent worth to learn to trust God and His amazing Grace through Christ's life, death & resurrection to bring salvation. We relish this beautiful word, "alone", as it clarifies no other path yields the freedom of the Gospel which brings glory to God alone.

The ELCA uses the motto, "Always being made new". to declare we continue to be part of an ongoing reformation movement. As we move toward our 50th anniversary as a congregation in 2025, let us give thanks for the power of the Gospel to shape, refine and sharpen our congregation's mission to proclaim, invite and bless in Jesus' name. May we be reformed to more clearly and gratefully express the Gospel truth now and into God's preferred future for our congregation!

Love,
Pastor Lowell

SOFTEN THE EDGES

"This whole thing is getting so old. You know what I'm talking about....this pandemic. When is it ever going to be over? When can we get back to normal?" Complain, complain.

How often have you heard this, said this, or thought this? I know I have repeated this many times in my head and sometimes out loud. It can be so easy to be a "downer" "stinking thinking".

COMPLAINT DEPARTMENT



**TAKE
A
NUMBER**

When I get in this negative place, it often affects the way I interact with people. I can often say something harsher than what I intended. When I do that, I often try and rationalize that whomever I was talking to should understand that I didn't really mean it that way. After all, I am a nice person. They should know this, and it is not typical of me. I put the responsibility on them for the message I conveyed, but the responsibility is mine.

So, how can I try to prevent this from occurring again? Well, first I find that I should "think" before I open my mouth. Then, I make a commitment to "soften the edges". I can make my remarks in an assertive and direct way without putting anyone or anything down. My mom had 3 words she would often say throughout the day, "Jesus, Help Me". So, for me, I stop, think and pray those 3 words. Then, I respond....an easy way to "soften the edges" and avoid hurt feelings. So, I am continuing to practice this, and Jesus helps me.

Thoughtfully,
Terri Polk, ALC Council President

Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Operation Christmas Child boxes will be available at the tables near the fountain in the ALC Courtyard:

Saturday, Oct. 24, 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 25, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Please pick-up a box or boxes and a list of items for inclusion to spread the love of God with children in need.

Thank you,
ALC Women's Ministry