

Weekly Meditation Archive

Thursday July 23, 2009

This week we spent one day without water at my house. The township was installing a shut off valve for the main 12 inch water line that served our neighborhood. The location they installed was in our yard. So we also got the benefit of having our lawn torn up a bit.

Sometimes we take for granted many of the gifts God has given to us. Most of us take for granted the simple basic gift of running water, and a green lawn. Until they are removed from us, changed or altered.

Do you ever think the flow of the Holy Spirit or Gods love is shut off for a day or two in your life. Unplanned events, stress, difficulties and a host of other worldly concerns may seem to temporarily disconnect us from our main spiritual source of love and grace. There is no doubt that there are time in our life where we take for granted the average, no thrill routine days where God is present and we fail or forget to reflect or take notice.

Gods love and grace is never really shut off from us at all. We may face situations in our life or surroundings that capture our focus, energy, attention and awareness of Gods presence in our life for a brief moment. But the source of that love and grace is still there, pouring out love and grace, just waiting for us to be reconnected. God is always there, trying in many ways to communicate with us his unconditional love and grace. Sometimes we feel cut off from God because of circumstances beyond our control, other times because of our choice, and yet again because it seems as if others are receiving Gods love instead of us!

The story of the prodigal son in the gospel of Luke 15:11-32 is the story of a loving father. One son runs away, spends everything, and returns home with remorse and shame (Choices). The other son struggles because his brother is welcomed home and forgiven, this causing him to overlook the daily love and support of his Father (circumstance). The father loves both of them. He welcomes his lost son home (verses 22-24) and tries to explain his love to the faithful son (verses 31-32).

Luke 15:22-24 and 31-32

22" But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. 31" 'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' "

How is it for you recently? Have you remembered that God loves you in the routine daily actions of life, or has the water been turned off. Have you chosen to shut the water off, or are you upset that you notice the water flowing places you think it should not? Are you ready to have the water flowing again?

God is ready willing and able to let love and grace flow into your life. It flows every time we re connect, it flows in the every day routine actions of life, it flows to us in our anger anjealouslyly. Gods love and grace is always flowing. The source and power of that loving Gift is God, and that can never be shut off. I pray this week you will sense the flow of Gods love and grace in your life as God reaches out to meet you just where you are at today.

In Christ

Pastor Rob

Tuesday July 14, 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from camp michi-lu-ca located in Fairview MI. Camp is a vast and beautiful grounds. The atmosphere has been excellent with the property having numerous lakes and magnificent nature settings. This is our first year coming here, having used stony lake the first three years I have been pastor. This was a good choice, and now we will alternate every other year. Each place has their own unique blessings and challenges. But it is the kids experiencing faith that matters. There are 140 children here this week, a full week. Keep us in your prayers that things continue to go well.

Our students have been split into four groups. This has been a challenge, but has also allowed our students to really form relationships with others. Those relationships are all being formed with the understanding that everyone here is joined together through the love and friendship of Christ. We are invited to invest in one another and then examine what it means to be loved by Jesus and freed to serve others. Jesus has chosen these children, us adults, as well as our church, to love the world.

John 15:13-17

13Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14You are my friends if you do what I command. 15I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. 17This is my command: Love each other.

One of the most interesting and dynamic concepts of our faith is to love the world, to love others, just where they are at. That means loving people for who they are at any given moment in their life. Sometimes this is easy, other times it is difficult. But it is possible. It becomes easier the more we reflect upon Christ's love for us, and how we have been chosen. We may not always want to love, but we are chosen to love.

Remember no matter how good or bad we are at this; God still loves us as we are....ALWAYS!

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for choosing us as your friends. Thank you for loving us, and helping us grow in understanding what it means to love others. Continue to fill us with the realization we are never outside of your love. At our best and at our worst, you love us. May your love be the strength we need to love the people around us, especially when it is difficult. Amen

Have a great week

Pastor

Tuesday, July 7, 2009, 7:13 PM

Greetings One and All

First of all Bishop John D. Schleicher will be visiting Zion Lutheran Church THIS THURSDAY at 7:00 PM. Bishop John is coming to share a video, vision and solicit support for the Center for Mission & Ministry. The synod called and requested that we host this visit.

I ask that as many of you as possible please consider attending this meeting. As a church we have elected to support this cause. Bishop John would like to share information and see if there are any among our membership that may

share from their blessings.

It will also be an informal time to discuss our church and mission here in Zion. Please attend if possible.

Meditation for the Week

How one looks at Life certainly has a dramatic impact upon the way we live. Before there was Opera, Dr. Phil, self help books, support groups, 12 step programs and many other programs designed to make life better, there was the apostle Paul. Paul who once hated and persecuted Christians experienced a powerful conversion of faith. Paul became the original missionary planting churches. Paul was redeemed by Gods grace, and a true worker for the kingdom of God.

But Paul struggled with his humanity as well. Paul wanted to be the perfect servant and Representative of Jesus, but he could not. He could not become perfect, because he was human, and he struggled with his weakness.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (New International Version)

7To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

How many of us delight in our weakness, or the weakness of others? Our tendency is to beat ourselves up, try and wrestle for control in everything and become judgmental of self and others. Paul is the original self help guru, as he explains in all things be thankful, even in our weakness, for in this we find the need for the grace of Christ. Paul spoke about gratitude before the self help circuit caught the idea.

Prayer: Lord, we turn to you and celebrate our weakness. We celebrate those battles and struggles in our life that remind us the need for your guidance and grace. Humble us into trusting you with all that we are, and all we will become. Help us to live by the wisdom of the serenity prayer helping us to "accept the things I can not change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference". AMEN

If you are struggling, perhaps a visit to church tomorrow night may help at 7:00 PM. I will be using this scripture as the preaching text, and expanding upon this meditation.

Have a great week. In Christ

Pastor Rob

February 21st, 2009

Greetings one and all,

I will make an effort to get these back to Mondays! I think that is a great way to start the week.

Today we are going to get a big snowfall. Our high school students are on retreat at lu-wixi so keep them in prayer.

NRS Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

There are times we struggle with many things in our lives, and it seems so senseless. Why do we struggle? Why is it so difficult to battle the habits, behaviors, thoughts and attitudes that we know are not healthy, Godly or faith building. I know what struggle is, and I do not like it. All of us know some struggle. I have learned my only hope is in turning to my faith, and accepting that in this life there are struggles. But those struggles do not define us, our faith does.

Prayer: Lord God, strengthen us as we experience the struggles in life. Help us realize we are not alone, and the Holy Spirit is by our side guiding, strengthening and keeping growing in hope. A hope that is firmly rooted in your power and love. May the gift of hope always be one that we always know is present for us, leading us closer to you Lord. AMEN

Keep your faith a priority and attend worship. Lent begins next week Wednesday. I hope to see you tomorrow at worship.

In Christ

pastor

February 13th, 2009

Greetings friends

Next Week Tuesday the church will be hosting a Bay Area Conference meeting of ELCA pastors and church leaders. please keep the meeting in your prayers as i am in charge of the program that day. Part of the program is worship which will be at 9:30. This is an open invitation for anyone to join us that Tuesday morning at 9:30 to worship. I would like the church to be well represented at worship.

Anyone interested helping with the new members dinner next Saturday Feb 21 at my house should call Judy Schimm at 695-5925. We are gathering at 4:00 and dinner at 5:00. Help is needed to provide the food and drinks. We are also looking for some current members to join us. This will allow for 1. Shared preparation for the meal saving time for Sue and I and money for the church 2. a chance for current members to make relationships with the new ones. Just coordinate with Judy.

Hebrews 13: 17-18

17 Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing-- for that would be harmful to you.

18 Pray for us; we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

This past week we installed our newly elected and returning church leaders. If you were there you observed our leaders renewing their call to membership and leadership. You also were a part of praying for them with some of you coming forward to lay hands upon them.

Our duty is to follow and pray for our leaders. Please pray for them regularly. The Spirit of God is working in powerful ways in our church. More and more people are coming forward to worship, volunteer, lead and support the church financially. these are the marks of growth.

I am learning and allowing for people to take on leadership and provide prayer and support while trusting them to accomplish their objectives. It is an awesome feeling to trust our volunteers and leaders and watch God work in our church through them. This is possible because they are prayed for, respected and

followed. Our task is to build them up and trust God is working.

A very special moment took place Wednesday night as a child stepped forward and placed hands upon both of his parents and prayed for them as they were installed. It moved my heart to see the parents being blessed by their child. It touched me because it was not so long ago when the parents were doing the same for their son as he was confirmed! This was a God Sighting.

Prayer: Lord God thank you for our leaders of the church. We lift them into your care and pray they will lead empowered by your Holy Spirit. Help us remember to follow them with gratitude, and continue to pray for them. Continue to bless our church with families that worship together, and pray for one another while serving you through their faithful living. AMEN

Blessings
Pastor

February 5th, 2009

Dear Zion Family,

We are half way there with our God Sightings. Those that are still waiting, please act now to write and send your reflection in soon. Your voice is the word of God. You may be thinking, what do I have to add, what can I say? You will be surprised what you have to say if you simply step out in faith and ask God to help you write a reflection. Your story may be exactly what someone reads to have their faith restored or invigorated. Let your voice be heard. Your not too busy, you do have value and worth, and you are being called to serve God by sharing your story.

Psalm 32 verse 4
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death, [\[a\]](#)
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for your constant companionship as we walk our road of life. We thank you that even in times of difficulty, fear and trial, you are with us. Lord help us spread the comfort, grace and assurance that you have not left our world and your people and creation. Help us share our testimony by the way we live and share our testimony in this world. AMEN

Have a blessed weekend, see you in church Sunday!

Pastor