

Saint John's Lutheran Church

Stuttgart, Arkansas



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD

August, 2018

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*The grass withers,
the flower fades
when the breath of
the LORD blows on
it; surely the people
are grass. The grass
withers, the flower fades, but the
word of our God will stand for-
ever.*
Isaiah 40:7-8

The Lord shared these words with us; He shared this truth with us through the prophet Isaiah to remind us that nothing of this world lasts forever—including you and me. He shares this truth with us to remind us of that which is truly and ultimately important: His life-giving Word! While this truth is nothing new to our ears, it's important for us to hear it again and again in order that (as I mentioned in a sermon a few weeks ago) it might become part of our DNA! Not just a piece of our lives, but life itself!

We need to not only remember, but live the fact that **Christ is life!** **Everything else is details!** There is nothing that is as important and necessary for us as the promise we are given in Jesus because it alone is forever! And where is this promise given? Only in the Word of God! And where is it that we gather to celebrate that Word? At worship and in Bible study. Making all of these equally important!

King David was moved to begin Psalm 122 with these words: *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"* Just as he was glad, so ought we to be! Because it is in the house of the

Lord that we come together, a family of faith to rejoice in and share that which God has given us in Jesus: forgiveness and life without end!

The word *church* first appears after Peter gives his confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God in Matthew 16. Church, literally means "*the called out ones*" and that is what we are; people who have been called out of the darkness of sin and death to be made alive in God's Word! And though we are called out, we're not called to be separated from the world, but to be actively involved in the world, allowing people to see what it means to know and trust in Jesus! Another important word along these lines is *disciple*. A disciple isn't one who merely follows or listens, but one who also invites others to join him or her in following Jesus! We, therefore, are called out and made disciples for the purpose of inviting others to join us as called out ones! Inviting others to join us as we walk in the wondrous promise of God's love!

Going back to the top of the page; with these wonderful summer temps we've been experiencing, coupled with the lack of moisture and the storminess that has shown up, it's easy for us to see how fragile and vulnerable the grass, the flowers and the crops really are. The same is true for us. That is where the Good News of Jesus comes into play. As fragile as we are, God's Word is not! His Promise is not! It is eternal which means that those covered in that Promise

are too! And to see to it that everyone has the opportunity to rejoice in this truth, God has given us His Word and sends us out to live and share His Word!

But it all begins at the beginning; knowing and trusting in this Word that was poured out on us in the waters of Baptism. And knowing it, to be refreshed on a regular basis with our sisters and brothers in Jesus. And being refreshed, to head on out into life every day, letting it be seen and experienced. And as this happens, inviting others to share in our peace and joy. This doesn't happen if God's Word, worship and Bible study are just a piece of our lives that are tucked away and then brought out only on certain occasions. **Christ is life!** **His Word is the only thing in this life that is forever** and God would have all know it!

Saint John' presents us and our children with many opportunities to be involved in His Word. At worship, through the school, in Bible studies, at Kids Connect, VBS, and through youth activities to name a few. All of these happen that we may know Jesus and the peace that only He can give; and that we would be better able and prepared to share and invite others to know Him. God's peace be yours today and always as you live in Him and share His love wherever He leads! Have a great August and I look forward to seeing you in worship!

Pastor White

Our Mission:

To Proclaim the Gospel of Redemption through Jesus Christ: & Demonstrate God's Love to One Another, the Community & the World.