

Saint John's Lutheran Church

Stuttgart, Arkansas

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSOURI SYNOD



June
2020



*Commit to the LORD
whatever you do,
and your plans will
succeed.*

Proverbs 16:3

A lot changes have come about in these opening months of 2020. Thanks to the coronavirus our lives have pretty much been turned upside down and inside out and whatever other direction you might concoct. The news is good, the news is dire. The latest reports show hope, the latest reports instill more fear and concern...where does one turn for peace? The same place we always have. The **ONLY** place that we can turn to for true and lasting peace: **God's promise given us in Jesus!**

Covid 19 or no, I often remember a song from long ago called "Sunscreen." Now, as songs go it's not much of a song, but the person speaking offers the graduating class of 1999 a bit of advice on life that ultimately boils down to: "wear sunscreen."

While I have nothing against the wearing of sunscreen (I do so myself), I would like to pay even more attention to this verse from Proverbs: **Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.** Which is pretty much the same as saying: **Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength** (Deuteronomy 6:5). It really doesn't matter how it's said, true joy, peace and success in life is found only when our lives are committed to serving the Lord (which means serving each other

too). You could say that the secret to success in life boils down to: "wear Jesus."

While it sounds simple, it's actually quite hard. That's because trusting in the Lord means living both in Him and for Him. And such living puts us in direct conflict with the values of this world in which we live.

It's no secret that our country and this world are driven by the idea of success; which is more often than not measured by dollars earned and spent. You all are well aware of the importance placed on wearing the coolest clothes and shoes; having the latest iPod, iPhone or iPad available; a cool car, a huge flat panel TV, and so on. And you all know that there's only one way to get and hang on to all that, right? Money! As much as we can make!

But what is any of this stuff really worth? How can it be a true measure of success when it comes and goes so quickly and easily? Let's pretend that all the cool stuff money can buy is an ice cream cone (assuming you like ice cream). On a hot day, nothing tastes and feels better on our throats than ice cream. We might crave it, hardly able to wait for that time when we'll have the opportunity to get our cone. Then the big moment comes. We dash into Baskin Robbins and order up our favorite! Finally! We savor it, delight in it, and then it's gone--often leaving us bummed out that it couldn't have lasted longer. It's worse yet if we take it outside and have to slam it down before it all melts!

Stuff-driven success is exactly like that. We set our sights on this

and that, only to find that it, too, leaves us with an empty feeling—because it can only last and satisfy us for a short time. What kind of success is that? The answer is easy: none at all because at best it's only temporary.

Such is not the case where the promises of God are concerned because what He offers lasts forever! While it's true that committing our lives to Him might not mean the highest paying job, nicest car or biggest house, it most certainly means satisfaction with whatever we have and do. A real bonus to that satisfaction is the peace and joy that go along with it; because wearing Jesus also means that He's with us in everything we do now, and that we'll be with Him forever (that's what He's promised us).

That promise has never nor will it ever change. That is why it is the promise upon which our eyes and hearts are to be focused. It matters not if everything is going like gangbusters, or if we live in times like now—with shut-downs and layoffs, fear, concern and uncertainties—the Lord comes to us and says, "Trust in me. Commit (or continue to commit) your life to me and all is good. Maybe not perfect or exactly how you planned, but it's good because I've got you in my hands. Therefore, worry not."

And whether you wear sunscreen or not, definitely wear Jesus; For then, God's peace and joy will be with you all the days of your life. Have a great June and an even better summer! Peace!

Pastor White

Our Mission:

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