ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLLAND, MN August 2021–NEWSLETTER 8

**Jesus Calls Us to Tell About Him!**

Our Vacation Bible School only met for four days. There was a Day 5 lesson we did not get to use. Here is the Lesson based on Acts 9:1-19.

Today’s bible story is about a person who was pretty sour. No one really liked him very much either. But God’s power turned his life around so that he could be used for something good. Only God has the power to make that sort of change—not with science or magic but with miracles!

His name was Saul in the Hebrew language, but he was called Paul in Greek. He was a Jew. He was raised to be a strong believer in the one true God, and he even went to a special religious school where he learned about the laws of God and about how to live a life that pleased God. Saul was very careful to obey the laws. He was a rule follower! He tried to do everything right according to God’s Word. Eventually, Saul became a Pharisee. Pharisees were Jewish leaders who always obeyed God’s laws and made sure everyone else knew about God’s laws and obeyed them too. They were kind of like the “faith police.”

Saul lived in Jerusalem at the time when Jesus was crucified and rose again. He heard people saying Jesus must be the Messiah—the one God would send to save the world. Saul and the other Pharisees knew God’s Word and his law very well. They knew Gpd was planning to send a Messiah, and they were convinced Jesus was **not** the Messiah. Saul believed the disciples were telling lies and convincing people to believe in a false savior. He decided to put an end to the Christians sharing their faith. Remember, he was like the “faith police.” Saul went on a hunt for Christians. He arrested them, hurt them, and threw them in jail. Saul was a persecutor of the Christians. And Saul was really awful. Even though he was doing is best to destroy the Christians and their message, God’s Word kept spreading to more and more people—even people outside the city of Jerusalem!

Remember, Saul thought he was helping God, doing God’s work, and trying to get everyone to obey God’s laws. But actually, he was fighting against God and the Good News.

Saul was threatening and trying to capture believers. He went to the officials and asked for permission to go to another city, Damascus, to look for Christians. He planned to arrest them and bring them back to prison in Jerusalem. Saul and a couple other men made the trip together. As they were walking down the road, nearing the city, a bright light flashed around Saul! Saul fell to the ground! The men traveling with him stood there, speechless. Saul heard a voice say, “Saul why are you persecuting me?” Saul asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.” Then the voice said, “Now go to the city and you will be told what to do.”

With his eyes still closed, Saul got up from the ground…but when he opened his eyes…he couldn’t see anything! He was blind! The men traveling with Saul took his hand and led him the rest of the way. They arrived at the house of a man named Judas and sat down and they just stayed there. For three days! And Saul didn’t eat or drink anything the whole time.

Now in Damascus, there was a man who followed Jesus. His name was Ananias. While he was sleeping the Lord spoke to him in a dream. The Lord said, “Go to the house of Judas and ask for a man named Saul.” Even in his sleep, Ananias looked confused. The Lord said, “I gave Saul a vision that a man named Ananias would touch him and he would see.” Ananias answered, “Lord, I’ve heard about this man! He has been hurting your people in Jerusalem and he has come to arrest Christians here too!” But the Lord said, “Go! I have chosen this man. He will tell everyone about Me.” Ananias got up, went to Judas’ house and went in. He put his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road has sent me here so that you will see again and so you will be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately something fell away from Saul’s eyes and he could see again! He got up, ate some food, and went to be baptized. Saul, who had been a persecutor of Christians, was now a Christian himself, and he would spend the rest of his days as a missionary and disciple, telling others the Good News of Jesus.

God’s power changed him and God called him to do something good: to let the light of the love of Jesus shine through him and tell everyone about Jesus. Only God has the power to make that sort of change—not with science or magic, but with miracles.

Jesus can change lives! No one is “too bad” for the power and grace of God. We can’t see Jesus, but He didn’t stop caring about us when he went to heaven. He still calls us and gives us work to do in His name. WONDER LAB SCIENTISTS! [XXX] Jesus calls me to tell about Him! Jesus does the impossible!!!

Pastor Petrich

***Sunday Lessons and Hymns*** *[Guitar]*

**Sunday July 25th**: Psalm 136:1-9; Genesis 9:8-17; Ephesians 3:14-21; **Mark 6:45-56**

 **LSB** Pg. 260 Prayer and Preaching **HYMNS:** # 717 “Eternal Father Strong to Save”; #849 [Canticle] “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”; #809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”; #715 “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”; *“God Will Deliver Me”*; #726 “Evening and Morning”; #752 ‘Be Still My Soul; the Lord Is on Your Side”

**Sunday Aug. 1st:** Psalm 145:10-21; **Exodus 16:2-15**; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:22-35

 **LSB** Pg. 151 DS#1 **HYMNS:** #816 “From All the Dwells Below the Skies”; #719 “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”; #662 “Onward Christian Soldiers”; DIST: #633 At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”; #644 “The Church’s One Foundation”; #744 Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy:

**Sunday Aug. 8th**: Psalm 34:1-8; I Kings 19:1-8; **Ephesians 4:17-5:2**; John 6:35-51

 **LSB** Pg. 235 Morning Prayer **HYMNS**: *“Step By Step”*; *“Come Let Us Worship”;* #684 “Come Unto Me, Ye Weary”; #411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”; *“Beloved”*; #685 “Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”; #803 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”; #655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

**Sunday Aug. 15th** : Psalm 34:12-22; Proverbs 9:1-10; Ephesians 5:6-21; **John 6:51-69**

 **LSB** Pg. 184 DS#3 **HYMNS:** *“Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet”*; #689 “Let Me Be Thine Forever”; #526 “You Are the Wat; Through You Alone”; DIST: #625 “Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread”; #712 “Seek Ye First”; #634 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

**Sunday Aug. 22nd**: Ps. 14;

 **LSB** Pg. 219 Matins **HYMNS**: *“Come and Go with Me”*; 602 “The Gifts Christ Freely Gives”; #865 “Lord, Help Us Ever to Retain”; #644 “The Church’s One Foundation”; #822 “Alleluia! Let Praises Ring”; #589 “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

**Song for July 25th : “God Will Deliver Me”**

REF: La la la la la; God will deliver me. La la la la la; I am saved.

La la la la la; Jesus will care for me When I am afraid.

1. God is always faithful; He will find a way.

God protects His people Ev’ry single day. REF

2. We can always trust Him; We can be secure.

When there is a problem, Jesus is the cure. REF

**Songs for August 8th : “Step By Step”**

**O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You. (Repeat)**

**I will seek you in the morning, and I will learn to walk in Your ways,**

**and step by step You’ll lead me, and I will follow You all of my days.**

**“Beloved”**

Beloved, let us love one another,

For love is of God and everyone that loveth is born of God and knoweth God.

He that loveth not, knoweth not God for God is love.

Beloved, let us love one another. First John 4:7+8.

**Song for August 15th :** **“Thy Word Is a Lamp Unto My Feet”**

**Chorus: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

1. When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still You’re there right beside me, and nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end. **Chorus**
2. Now I will not forget Your love for me and yet my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end. **Chorus**

**Song for August 22nd : “Come and Go with Me”**

1. Come and go with me to my father’s house, to my Father’s house, to My father’s house

Come and go with me to my Father’s house where there’s joy, joy, joy.

1. Ev’rything’s all right in my Father’s house, in my Father’s house, in my Father’s house. Ev’rything’s all right in my Father’s house where there’s joy, joy, joy.
2. Jesus is the Way to my Father’s house, to my Father’s house, to my Father’s house.,
Jesus is the Way to my Father’s house where there’s joy, joy, joy.
3. There is room for all in my Father’s house, in my Father’s house, in my Father’s house.
There is room for all in my Father’s house, where there’s joy, joy, joy.