

Expectations

Elisha sent a messenger to say to Naaman, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than any of the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. - 2 Kings 5:10-12

Expectations are a powerful force. When you go to a movie that you are expecting to be very good, and find out that it is mediocre, you are disappointed. When you walk into the house expecting pizza for dinner, only to find out it is liver and onions, you may discover you aren't as hungry as you thought.

Naaman had expectations. He had leprosy. And he traveled a great distance with the expectation that he would be healed by the prophet in Israel. As part of his expectation he expected a great show of power by the prophet of God. It didn't happen that way. Instead, he was told to wash himself in the muddy Jordan River. Not exactly what he was expecting.

Sometimes we do the same thing to God. We grow in our expectation of what he is going to do, only to discover our expectations were not met by him. We may expect God to make us comfortably wealthy, only to discover that we struggle to pay our bills. We may expect God to give us peaceful quiet only to be diagnosed with cancer. We may expect God to do any number of things, only to discover that it hasn't happened the way we thought it would. We might expect that we can wash away our own guilt by being nice, only to discover that the guilt still remains.

God's entire plan to save us is not what we expected. God becoming man incarnate is not what we would expect. God dying on a cross and calling it a victory is not what we would expect. Yet that is exactly what God did. And he gives that victory to us for free. What we cannot do on our own our God has already done for us by cleansing us of our sins.

Naaman was finally convinced by his servant to go and wash in the Jordan. And after he had finished bathing, his leprosy was gone and a new found faith in the true God is revealed by his actions. So also our God does the unexpected for us. Mercifully he washes away our sins and makes us clean. Graciously he then gives us faith in Jesus as our Savior.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, you work in unexpected ways. Give me the strength to hold on to the forgiveness you won for me by dying on a cross. Amen.

Midweek Lenten Worship

In Lent, we set aside 40 days to give extra attention to our sins and Jesus' saving work on our behalf. In this year's midweek Lenten worship, we consider *Searching Questions from Our Savior's Passion*. Join us Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. A weekly soup supper will also be served at 6:15 p.m.

- February 29 - Shall I Not Drink the Cup the Father Has Given Me?
- March 7 - Surely, You are Not One of this Man's Disciples?
- March 14 - What is Truth?
- March 21 - What Shall I Do, Then, with Jesus?
- March 28 - Who Is It That You Want?

Weekly News & Notes Deadline

If you have items you would like announced in the Weekly News & Notes, please send them to office@abidingpeace.org by 9:00 on Wednesday morning for the following Sunday.

Bible Study - Heroes of Faith

Hebrews 11 is like the Bible's Hall of Fame, describing people who did or witnessed amazing things--not by their own power or skill, but by God's gift of faith. Join us Sundays at 9:15 a.m., beginning February 26, as we look at the lives of these Heroes of Faith and learn to trust God in our own lives.

Attention Quilters

Anyone who has blocks at home to finish, please have them in the church office by March 5th.

Lent Devotional Available

The season of Lent is an excellent time to deepen your devotional life, as we follow Jesus to the cross and empty tomb. *Words of Life from the Cross* includes 47 short daily devotions to help you do that, and it's available now in the entryway for a suggested donation of \$1.50 each or 2 for \$2.00. Pick one up for yourself and another to share with a friend.

WELS Summer Band Camp

Are you going into grades 6-9? Do you play an instrument? Check out the 2012 WELS Summer Band Camp at Wisconsin Lutheran High School (Milwaukee), coming June 17-22. For more information, visit www.solideogloriaainstitute.org.

WELS International Youth Rally

All youth, from grades 8-12, are invited to be a part of the 2012 WELS International Youth Rally at the University of Tennessee, June 27-30. Join Christians from around the world in large-scale worship, education, fellowship, recreation, and service opportunities that will grow your faith and deepen your commitment to Christ and his church. Visit www.wels.net/events for more information.

Weekly Mission Prayer

Michigan Lutheran Seminary president – Gracious Lord, what a precious privilege it is to learn of you! Since 1885 Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) has been dedicated to the education of our youth. We humbly thank you for the countless scores of faithful pastors, teachers, and lay people who call MLS their Alma Mater. We also give you thanks that you have led Pastor Joel Petermann to accept the divine call to serve as the president of this institution of learning. Grant him a steadfast heart and faithfulness to his calling. Help him acclimate to his new surrounding and responsibilities. Make him thankful for this privilege and mindful of the heritage of faith. Bless his ministry at MLS. Amen

All Members!

Please take an extra minute to check the area that you use in and around our building. We are forgetting to clean up after ourselves.

Daylight Saving Time



It's time to "spring ahead" and change your clocks to reflect daylight saving time. Remember to set the time an hour ahead before you go to bed **Saturday, March 12th**!

This Week's Birthdays

- Feb 27, Kim Bruemmer

Serving the Lord Today

- Ushers (8:00): Jeff & Jared Bruemmer
- Ushers (10:30): Dan Woltman, Dan & Rosie Schoenbeck
- Accompanist: Elisabeth Wagner
- Refreshments: Christiansen, Schoenbeck

Serving the Lord Next Week (2/27-3/4)

- Church Cleaning: Lush, Cook
- Ushers (8:00): Mark Kreklow, Bill Miller
- Ushers (10:30): Doug Salzwedel, Deborah Weniger
- Accompanist: Dave Frick
- Refreshments: Henkel, Tobison

Give Thanks to the Lord!

- Worship Attendance: 55 (22–8:00/ 33–10:30)
- Sunday Bible Study: 12
- Sunday School: 8
- Other Bible Studies (3): 19