

Spreading Peace

In these days of dealing with the coronavirus there has been much discussion about how things like viruses and germs spread. There has also been talk about how a person can spread a virus without realizing they are doing it.

Some things have been spread more widely and quickly than the coronavirus. Fear, anxiety, tension and stress have spread and infected people everywhere. Some people spend much time anxiously contemplating all the different things that might happen. As the fear has spread, sleep has been lost, relationships have been strained and faith has been threatened.

Fear gets spread by spending much time listening to the news, but not much time listening to God's Word. Stress is spread when your thoughts focus more on what bad things might happen rather than on what God has done. Tension rises when you dwell on what you and other people should be doing, and you don't spend much time thinking about what the Lord is doing.

It is easy to become a "fear spreader." Similar to the virus, a person may spread anxiety even if they don't intend to. One person's worry and lack of faith can be caught by others around them.

Our world needs "peace spreaders." Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God" (Matthew 5:9). The first kind of peace we want to make is between people and God. Jesus is the true peacemaker. "He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those

who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit" (Ephesians 2:18). We share Jesus with people so that they can enjoy the great gift of peace with God.

We also long to see peace grow in people's souls. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you" (John 14:27). He wants to see peace spreading in people's hearts and minds. He wants to calm fearful, troubled hearts.

When some people enter a room tension and disputing seems to rise. Other people cause the peace level to rise with their presence. They spread a peace that is infectious.

Peacemakers are used by God to make peace between people. Anger and attacks abound in our world. "Too long have I lived among those who hate peace. I am a man of peace" (Psalm 120:7). We too live among people who relish conflict. We are called, by God's grace, to stand out in contrast as people of peace who desire and work for peace. "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone" (Hebrews 12:14).

One day recently, as I walked along the river the water was very peaceful and calm. As I looked at the scene I thought of how it was different from so many lives. But even in stormy days, God can cause our souls to resemble peaceful, still waters.

—Pastor Craig

Worship Services

At the present time, to comply with the government guidelines related to the COVID-19 virus, we have two worship services on Sunday mornings: at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Each service is to have no more than 25 people. As time goes on the guidelines may change and we may be able to have more people at a time and return to one service. You are welcome to contact Pastor Craig and the church for updates.

We are continuing to live stream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship services on Facebook Live. Devotional videos are also posted on our congregation's YouTube channel. Links to both of those sites can be found on our website: bethanyfree.com.

Confirmation Sunday June 7 11:00 a.m.

Confirmation involves two years of instruction in the basics of the Christian faith. After those two years the students are invited to confirm their faith in Jesus and make vows of their desire to follow Him. Being confirmed this year are Aliciyah Miguel-Cloninger and Audrey Cereghino.

The confirmation students will be sharing about what they have learned during the year on Thursday June 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 30-July 3 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Preschool & Kindergarten

Wednesday: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Graders.

Thursday: 4th & 5th Graders.

Friday: Middle School & High School

We will do as many VBS activities as possible outside as we adhere to CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Join us for Bible lessons, games and crafts as we think about how Jesus calms the storms.

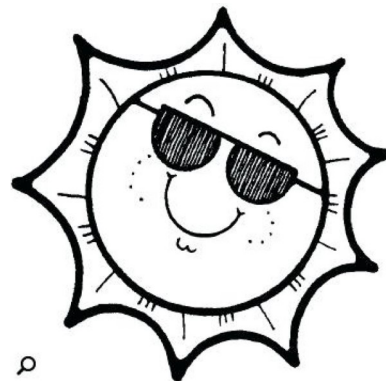
Worship Service & Picnic

Cullaby Lake July 12 11:00 a.m.

Because of the COVID-19 virus our district family Bible camp had to be canceled this year.

AFLC Annual Conference August 10-12

The AFLC Annual Conference has been moved from its planned date in June to August 10-12. It will be held at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis. It is a time for spiritual renewal and discussion of the work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.



Coming This Month...

June 4 Confirmation Sharing

June 7 Confirmation Sunday

June 30-July 3 Vacation Bible School (VBS)

