

'Till We Meet Again!

Week of September 12 and 13, 2020

REFLECTION FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020:

“You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God’s temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor. ⁵ And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What’s more, you are his holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God.

¹⁵It is God's will that your honorable lives should silence those ignorant people who make foolish accusations against you. ¹⁶For you are free, yet you are God's slaves, so don't use your freedom as an excuse to do evil. ¹⁷Respect everyone, and love the family of believers. Fear God, and respect the king.
1 Peter 2:4-5,15-17

Greetings my friends!

How fondly I recall the first time this happened. I was 40 and in my first call. The mother of one of my childhood friends from a town 20 miles from where I was now serving the Lord came to worship at my community of faith. After this encounter I eagerly shared this news with my parents who quickly asked me; “you mean, Pat Fisher?” to which I replied, “I only know her as “Mrs. Fisher, is her first name Pat?”

When and where I grew up first names for parents of friends were honestly not known to children. As a matter of course we were only permitted to call people who were considered our elders as

“Mr., Mrs., Miss., or with change of culture of the early 70’s Ms.”

As a young child I was told that this was one way in which I could show people “respect.”

“Respect is an assumption of good faith and competence in another person or in the whole of oneself.” Bing online dictionary

So, I have been pondering, how do we
“Respect everyone?”

Here are some of the lessons that I think I have learned over the course of my life in terms of showing “respect” to everyone.

Truly Listen: Every person wants to have their thoughts, opinions, feelings truly heard by others. Do not plan how you are going to respond prior to really listening to what another person has to say.

Affirm others; The Bible often talks about “affirming and encouraging” within a community of faith. It is important as a sign of respect that we affirm the feelings, thoughts, and opinions of others even if we disagree.

Phrases such as “I see why you would believe this”, or “I can understand how this might make you feel” affirms the persons right to share their thoughts.

Be kind to one another: Respect for God and respect for self, calls us to be kind to those around us. While Scripture bears witness time and time again of

people who “took matters” into their own hands, God calls us to live honorable lives to silence people who bring accusations against us.



Be polite; Just because we have differences of opinions and thoughts does not mean that we must turn to nasty, vile, or divisive words or actions. I still address people as “sir” and ma’am” it’s simply part of my being.

Truth be told; I often fall short of showing proper respect to everyone. It is an ongoing and daily process. Thanks be to God for Jesus that when we fall short of showing respect to everyone that we are offered forgiveness. So, show respect to yourself, knowing that respect is a continual process not an obtained commodity.

Why here? Why now?

I know that this reflection is a little bit different than my normal offering but in the world in which we are living there is an incredible lack of respect being shown to one another. The political tensions, the pandemic, isolation, loneliness, and fear are just some of the forces around us all that are contributing to not “respecting everyone.”

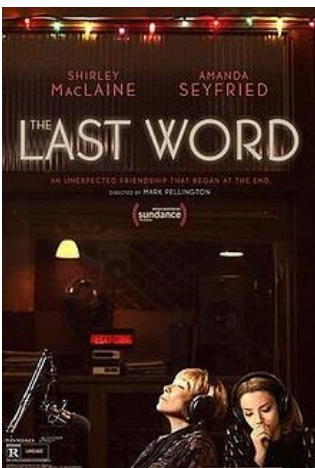
Simply stated, if one person who reads today’s “Just for You!” thinks before speaking words of anger to another, then the time spent preparing this message and the time spent reading this message would be a worthwhile endeavor.

For now.

Keep trusting God, keep washing those hands, and be at peace with God and with one another showing respect to everyone!

PJ

REFLECTION FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 MAKE IT MATTER



Last night I watched a movie, *The Last Word*, starring Shirley MacLaine and Amanda Seyfried. The premise of the meeting is that MacLaine’s character, Harriet Lauler wants Anne Sherman (Amanda Seyfried) to write her obituary. The

problem is that while she has been extraordinarily successful, Harriet is not well liked. When Anne points this out to her, Harriet decides to make some changes for her obituary. It is a charming movie, a bit slow, but has much to teach us about life. I was struck by one comment that Harriet made, “don’t have a good day, have a day that matters.”

Have a day that matters. What would that look like to you? How would you structure that day? Having served as a hospice chaplain and a pastor, I have been at many bedsides when people are dying. One theme that runs through most of these last moments of life is that we want our life to have mattered. We want the fact that we lived and breathed and walked on this earth to have mattered. We want people to remember us.

I went to sleep last night and woke up today with these thoughts. What would a day that mattered look like for me? It really is a hard question and probably changes over time. For me, at this moment in my life, a day that matters would be a day that I was able to make a change in someone’s life for the better. A day that matters would be one hundred percent linked to my faith. And really is not all that different than asking what is God calling me to do?

As I reflect on what God is calling me to do, I cannot help but think back to my confirmation day. When we affirm for ourselves the promised made on our behalf at our baptism. Here are the promises that we make (from The Evangelical Lutheran Worship):

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

- ⇒ to live among God’s faithful people,
- ⇒ to hear the word of God and share in the Lord’s supper,
- ⇒ to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- ⇒ to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

⇒ and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

If like me, you have been confirmed than you too have made these promises. I wonder how many of us think about these promises after we are confirmed. I know that I think about them when I prepare others to affirm their baptism. Perhaps if we regularly went back and reflected on these promises, we could make all our days matter. Matter to God and to our brothers and sisters.

It may have been a predictable movie with a happy ending, but it certainly helped me to think about the way in which I lead my life. My prayer for this day is that you too would reflect on your promises to God and to each other. And together we might make a life that matters.

In Peace,
Pastor Suzanne

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 19 AND OCTOBER 3



LCS will host two virtual trainings for Lay Eucharistic Visitors in fall 2020. Choose Saturday September 19, or October 3, 2020. Fee for the training is \$25. Those participating will be mailed a guidebook prior to the training. Participants will be asked to read sections of the text prior to the training day (instructors for both sessions are ELCA pastors). Instructors will be using Zoom to deliver the training, which will last about two hours. Participants will be asked to complete some follow up work and a final virtual check-in before the training certificate is issued. Training will include options for how to deliver the Eucharist in times of social distancing.

CHRISTMAS INGATHERING

For the 2020 Ingathering, the UPG has committed to “gathering” 180 tubes of toothpaste, 75



bottles of lotion and 75 women’s personal care items. Our collection will not begin until the 1st weekend of October. If you wish to purchase items in the meantime, please put them aside in your Pantry bag or other bag and bring your contributions to worship on October 4th (or any time after that). There will be more details about the Ingathering at a later time.

GOD’S WORK OUR HANDS

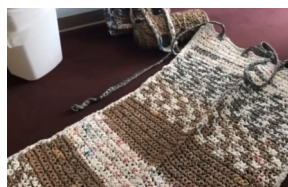


Please read these important updates on UPG Outreach from God’s Work. Our Hands and Stewards, Angels in Ministry.

“Days” of Service -

That’s correct - this fall there will be several “Days” of Service instead of one specific day. When conditions are safe, we will schedule the Youth Car Wash (Josh Gulotta) and the Ft. Hill Cemetery Clean-up (Cindy Kemp). The same will be true of the intergenerational rock painting (Lois Ritchie). Dates to be announced later.

During the summer, Louise Fielding, Jean Finn, Elizabeth Elterich and Helga Rimonneau have sewn and filled twenty-five bags with school supplies for Lutheran World Relief (funded by a Thrivent Action Team).



Mat Ministry -

This is an important ministry in progress at home right now and we need many volunteers. The

GWOH and SAM Teams are transforming plastic grocery bags into sleeping mats for the homeless. This Mat Ministry requires many hands to

produce one mat measuring 2½ by 6½ feet. Around 500-700 bags have to be prepared into “plarn” and then crocheted. We need empty bags, many more volunteers to make “plarn” (very simple after watching a video that can be found on YouTube) and, after tying the plastic strips together, roll them into a tight plarn ball, and volunteers who can crochet (a large Q or N hook is needed).

The back porch of LoC is being used as a drop off and pick up point for all supplies. You will find a blue bin for empty bags, a large black garbage bag sitting inside a box marked “plarn,” and another large black plastic bag for the scraps that are left when you make plarn once the handles and seamed edges from the plastic bags are cut off. Please save all plastic scraps including bags that have holes or are ripped) for Cindy Kemp who is helping our Moravian neighbors by collecting plastic. Our goal is to make 50 sleeping mats. Thanks for your help. Questions: Linda Maule (610-258-5006) or LoC church office (610-691-2321).

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on September 20, 2020 from 10:30-11:30 AM with our Rally Day celebration on the lawn of our Light of Christ Campus. Wearing a mask is required.

Bring a chair! We will hold the opening of Sunday School, followed by meeting in our class groups and ending with a surprise treat. Parents will register their children and may remain with us. We are very much looking forward to Sharing God's Love with all who attend.

WORD IN SEASON

The most recent issue of The Word In Season can be picked up at Outdoor Worship on Sunday or on the back porch at Light of Christ.



CLOTHING DRIVE

WHAT'S IN YOUR CLOSET?

Has Covid-19 given you the time to clean out your closets, but nowhere to donate your gently used items to? With Salvation Army & Goodwill Stores not currently accepting donations, you might be left “holding the bags”!

We Can Help!!

The youth of Jordan Lutheran Church (Vicar Jamie's home church) are holding a clothing drive. They invite you to bring your bagged items to the outdoor worship service held at the NE Penn Synod Office (2354 Grove Road, Allentown) where Vicar Jamie will collect them and take them to Jordan Lutheran Church. The items will be collected from Jordan Lutheran by a company that pays for the lump sum of items by the pound. All items are then sold inexpensively to thrift shops in third world countries, Mexico and even the United States. Items are not shredded or made into rags.

Drop Off Deadline: October 5, 2020.

The following items are accepted: Gently used clothing and shoes (men's, women's and children's), purses, belts, backpacks, hats, scarves, briefcases, gloves, ties, blankets, table cloths, bed sheets, curtains and drapes, pillows, towels, quilts, comforters, stuffed animals, bicycles. No other items accepted!

Proceeds from the collection will be donated to Camp Noah on behalf of Jordan Lutheran and the UPG/St. John's Windish.

Camp Noah is a nationally acclaimed resiliency and preparedness day camp that brings hope to children living in communities impacted by disaster.

THANK YOU LETTERS

August 30, 2020

St. Peter's Evangelical Church

Dear Friends:

On behalf of Victory House of

Lehigh Valley, I would like to

thank you for your generous gift of three cases of assorted produce. Your generosity makes a difference in the lives of homeless veterans and



local homeless men in your community. Your commitment to helping end homelessness in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Each year Victory House continues to advance its mission of helping homeless men and homeless veterans regain control of their lives by remaining drug and alcohol free, stabilizing a mental health condition, finding permanent employment and becoming productive, active members of society again. Through our homeless programs and supportive services, we have seen over 3,500 lives changed for the better since 1985 and you have been part of that mission all along the way.

We thank you again and we ask for your continued support to carry on the important mission of Victory House. Thank you for your continued support!

In gratitude,
Pasquale DiLuzio, Jr.
Executive Director

Members in Christ,

Thank you for all of your prayers and cards I received during my recovery following my motorcycle accident. I truly appreciate the kind words and the encouragement for my recovery. Please keep the prayers going because by God's grace I am improving. The progress may be slow to me but it will be done in God's time not mine.

Thank you.
Ann Marie Demyan



IN PERSON OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday, September 13 at 9:00 AM (weather permitting) at the Lutheran Center in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown PA 18109-3044

Things to Bring: Chair (or you may stay in your car); Face mask; Sunscreen or umbrella for shade; Water or refreshments; clappers. Restrooms will be available to folks attending worship.

Directions: Exit Route 22 at the exit for the Lehigh Valley Airport, Route 987 north. Drive 1.5 miles to Grove Road on the right. Turn right on Grove Road. Drive approximately ¼ mile, and the Lutheran Center will be on the right. (If you are coming from Schoenersville Road, turn left on Grove Road. The center is located between Schoenersville Road and Airport Road.)

Call one of the below church offices with any questions:

Light of Christ Lutheran Church 610-691-2321

St. John's Windish 610-868-3282

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church 610-867-0519

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG SEPTEMBER 12—SEPTEMBER 20

Saturday September 12

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday September 13

9:00 AM Worship (Lutheran Center)

Monday September 14

7:00 PM Coffee & Conversation (Zoom)

Tuesday September 15

7:00 PM Council Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday September 16

Thursday September 17

6:30 PM Bible Study (Zoom)

Friday September 18

Saturday September 19

4:45 PM Worship (Facebook)

Sunday September 20

9:00 AM Worship (Lutheran Center)