

NOTES FROM PASTOR

AUGUST 2021

This story was shared by Brenda Jank. It shows us how to share our faith with others. It shows our children how they can do the same. This is good for all of us. When Anna was seven, she asked me, “Mommy, is the most important thing we can do to tell others people about Jesus?” This was a proud mama moment for me, but it was short-lived. “Yes, Anna, it is!” “Then why don’t you ever do it?” Her question changed my life, the lives of my children and the eternal destination of Jim and Peggy, who lived in our neighborhood.

This is a perfect example of how we see ourselves and how others may see us. As Brenda, I am sure that we all see ourselves as good Christians who love God and would do anything for Him. But once again, we come to that all important question, do we? All too often Christians talk the talk but never walk the walk. How can we explain this to ourself, our children, our family, our neighbors and most of all God.

What are you willing to do for God? Is it to share how important Jesus is in this life...and the next life. Is it important enough to share with those we love, such as spouse, children, parents, aunts and uncles? If it is, what is stopping you? If you can’t share the love of Jesus with these people, what are the chances that you will share it with co-workers, neighbors, strangers or someone you really do not care about but do not want them to go to hell? How you answer these questions is important for you and all the people we are talking about.

The Bible makes it perfectly clear that we are to give a good testimony of our loving God and Savior. Even the people of the Old Testament were told this in Ezekiel 3:18 & 19;

IF I SAY TO THE WICKED, “YOU SHALL SURELY DIE,” AND YOU GIVE HIM NO WARNING NOR SPEAK TO WARN THE WICKED FROM HIS WICKED WAY, IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS LIFE, THAT WICKED MAN SHALL DIE IN HIS INIQUITY; BUT HIS BLOOD I WILL REQUIRE AT YOUR HAND. BUT IF YOU WARN THE WICKED AND HE DOES NOT TURN FROM HIS WICKEDNESS OR FROM HIS WICKED WAY, HE SHALL DIE IN HIS INIQUITY; BUT YOU WILL HAVE SAVED YOUR LIFE.

Timothy may have only been a young pastor but he understood the calling that each and every one of us have in regard to sharing the message of our Lord and Savior. We read in II Timothy 1:8 & 9;

THEREFORE, DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY ABOUT OUR LORD, NOR OF ME HIS PRISONER BUT SHARE IN SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL BY THE POWER OF GOD WHO SAVED US AND CALLED US TO A HOLY CALLING, NOT BECAUSE OF OUR WORKS BUT BECAUSE OF HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE, WHICH HE GAVE US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN...

This is the calling of **all** Christians. It is our very purpose for being on this earth. You have been very generous with your time and your money. What a joy it will be when you hear God repeat Matthew 25:21 & 23 to you on your arrival in heaven;

...WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT! YOU HAVE BEEN FAITHFUL WITH A FEW THINGS; I WILL PUT YOU IN CHARGE OF MANY THINGS. COME AND SHARE YOUR MASTER’S HAPPINESS!

Pastor Ervin A. Daugherty Jr.

READING THE BIBLE FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END!

Historical Reading for the Month of August 2021!

Aug 1: Is 64-66
Aug 2: 2King 20-21
Aug 3: 2Chron 32-33
Aug 4: Nahum
Aug 5: 2King 22-23; 2Chron 34-35
Aug 6: Zephaniah
Aug 7: Jer 1-3
Aug 8: Jer 4-6
Aug 9: Jer 7-9
Aug 10: Jer 10-13
Aug 11: Jer 14-17
Aug 12: Jer 18-22
Aug 13: Jer 23-25
Aug 14: Jer 26-29
Aug 15: Jer 30-31
Aug 16: Jer 32-34

Aug 17: Jer 35-37
Aug 18: Jer 38-40; Ps 74/79
Aug 19: 2King 24-25; 2Chron 36
Aug 20: Habakkuk
Aug 21: Jer 41-45
Aug 22: Jer 46-48
Aug 23: Jer 49-50
Aug 24: Jer 51-52
Aug 25: Lam 1:1-3:36
Aug 26: Lam 3:37-5:22
Aug 27: Ezek 1-4
Aug 28: Ezek 5-8
Aug 29: Ezek 9-12
Aug 30: Ezek 13-15
Aug 31: Ezek 16-17

REPORTS FROM THE OFFICERS

Elders: The Elders are trying to provide suitable elements for communion. If you have a special need for communion, please inform the Elders.

The Stewardship Committee: Plans to have a fundraiser this fall to build the balance in the Property Improvement Fund. We will be working on the 2022 budget in the next couple of months with Treasurer, Alan Hauser. We will need the various committees to request amounts desired for 2022. Israel Munro resigned from the committee and Sandi Eggers has agreed to fill her unexpired term.

Board Of Education Committee: The Committee is planning and ordering materials for the 2021-2022 Midweek school year and for the upcoming Sunday School year. All children ages 3 to high school is invited and encouraged to attend Sunday School every Sunday throughout the year.

All students, age preschool to 8th grade are encouraged to attend midweek Christian education classes offered by our church.

The Wednesday Midweek school year begins September 1, 2021, at 6PM, with Chapel/devotion time, followed with the classroom lessons. Dismissal time is 7:30PM. Enrollment forms will be forthcoming and or information to contact the church office to enroll your child/children.

The Committee is offering transportation to and from Sunday School and/ or Wednesday Midweek school for anyone needing a ride.

August 15, 2021, during the 9:30 AM church service, Pastor will have "The Blessing of the School Backpacks" / prayer for the school year for all school age children.

The Committee is working on the plans for a Sunday School Department/ Midweek Promotion Sunday towards the end of August 2021.

Submitted by the Christian Board of Education Committee

Altar Committee: No Report

Choir: A reminder that we will be resuming choir in October. I've been hearing some remarkably beautiful men's voices coming from the congregation. Please consider Praising The Lord with us. Dodi 620-473-0297 dodiecopley@cox.net.

LWML: Please join LWML as they collect the following items for the layette and school kits to be given to the Orphan Grain Train. We will be collecting for these items in August and to September 15th.

Items needed are listed below and as always you can make a monetary donate, make payable to St. Peter's Lutheran Church with Orphan Grain Train in the memo.

School Kits:

Backpack	Ruler	Crayons (24 pack)	2 Spiral notebooks (any size)
2 pencils	2 pens	2 glue sticks	colored pencils (12 pack)
Blunt scissor	eraser	pencil sharpener	10 sheets of construction paper

Layettes:

4 cloth diapers	sleeper	receiving blanket	2 wash cloths
2 rubber or swimmer pants	2 onesies	blanket	4 diaper pins

What's So Important About Studying the Bible?

As written by Brad Archer August 7, 2017

Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:20-21)

The Bible isn't an easy book. It was written by God in an ancient time through people of different languages and cultures than our own, whose immediate audiences were different from us in many ways. It's also a book written by God about God and the work He's doing in the world.

A work by such a divine Author, on such an immense topic, should be difficult to fully comprehend. So, we'll need to study and wrestle with God's words—but it's worth it, and here are five reasons why:

1. Bible study illuminates our daily reading.

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Bible study works together with our daily time in Scripture. Daily Bible reading maintains our connection with God through His written Word. It reminds us of His character, promises, our dependence on Him, and our future together. It familiarizes us with, and helps us grasp, the whole story of Scripture, and it keeps our souls energized. But Bible study deepens and expands our understanding of specific Bible passages; it helps us sort through hard concepts and gives insight into the context of the Bible. Ideally, our times in deeper study will result in more fulfilling times of daily reading, as what we have gleaned through in-depth study informs our regular time in the Word.

2. Bible study protects us from twisting the truth.

Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (2 Peter 3:15b-16)

The Word of God is challenging, and because sin is a power at work against man, it's inevitable that people will twist the words of God for their own purposes. This sort of manipulation will be confusing and distracting to those who do not regularly seek a fuller grasp of God's Word through study.

Study of the Bible is important for the health of a believer. Someone who reads daily but never spends times in study is like a person who eats regular, nourishing meals but never bothers to discover why the meals are nourishing: You gain some benefit, but can't appreciate the components of the meal, nor can you fully apply the concepts of nourishment to other facets of life.

For example, when reading through a verse or book of the Bible, we will get the benefit of its implications on our current experience, but we may miss the meaning of the context in which it was written. This expanded view of the insight of Scripture is only available through study.

3. Bible study amplifies our service.

[Apollos] had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (Acts 18:25-26)

Bible study expands our ability to minister God's truth. The Bible, written by a living and active God, is a living and active book; anyone who claims to have mastered all its teachings is deluded. Even those with a good grasp of Scripture, and who spread the gospel accurately and honestly, can enrich their testimony and comprehension through continued biblical study and instruction. The pursuit of Jesus is a lifelong pursuit, as should be our endeavors to grasp his Word.

4. Bible study opens our understanding.

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:27)

The Old Testament is rich with promises of Jesus and His work. The New Testament narrative stands on the testimony of the Old. A fuller study of both Testaments gives a greater knowledge of what Jesus fulfilled in His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It also gives hope and strength that Jesus will return to begin His eternal reign.

As the Holy Spirit does His work in us, we become more open to God's wisdom. The men on the road to Emmaus were familiar with Scripture and had even known Jesus before His crucifixion. But it wasn't until after Jesus' resurrection and His opening the Scriptures to them that they gained a deeper comprehension of Jesus and His work. There may be work the Spirit needs to do in us before parts of God's Word open to us. A passage we've read multiple times, studied before, and thought we understood may suddenly take on new dimensions through the enlightening of the eyes of our hearts.

5. Bible study deepens our devotion to Christ.

Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so. (Acts 17:11)

In some ways, Bible study is easier than daily reading. Since in-depth study occurs less often, it takes less self-discipline. Bible study also focuses on fewer verses or more refined topics, which may seem more palatable.

But Bible study has its challenges. The interaction with the text is more intense, making times of study seem more daunting than daily reading. Many people don't feel qualified to delve into Scripture study, which seems like it should be reserved for pastors and theologians. But Bible study is for everyone; we just need a plan.

A simple way to get started on your own is to purchase a study Bible, which have sections before each book explaining the historical context, theme, author, audience, and other details. These Bibles also have commentary alongside the verses that note relations to other books of the Bible and explanations of confusing or difficult concepts.

However, one of the best ways to study the Bible is to sit under solid preaching and get involved in a group through your local church. Jesus meant for us to encourage each other in spiritual growth, and the study of His Word is one of the greatest ways we can grow to love Him together.

