Pastor’s Sermon to LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH Garner, NC 9/10/17

Ever Learning

In the name…

Let us pray…

Many passages speak of learning, and so I limited it to the four, OT A and B. epistle lesson, and Gospel. Like all reading of Scripture, studying scripture and learning has to be based on the hermeneutic of Christ as Savior. Which is spelled out in the second lesson; therefore, we must pay greater attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. The council in its last meeting was talking about evangelism. I mentioned that there were over 120 invitations sent out for our 40th anniversary a few months ago. If we are paying attention to what we have heard perhaps we would notice that others have not, and perhaps our evangelism, spreading the good news needs to focus on those who have drifted away, using the words of Hebrews.

Deuteronomy and Proverbs mention what it is like to be learning as children and what adults responsibilities are . Lay God’s word unto your heart and soul, a sign onto your hand. Sitting in your houses, walking on the way, lying down, rising, write them on your door posts.

So we have numerous opportunities here for children to learn God’s word but if we are not showing them the way as adults, those opportunities may not be taken advantage of. We have two possible adult groups, we had spiritual cinemas over the summer, we have intergenerational Sunday Church School with minimal participation by our young people. In the gospel a 12 year old was sitting among teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. But people were amazed at His understanding and his answers. When Hushpuppy tells how her dad describes her mom, she says he said, “She was so beautiful just her walking into the kitchen could make the water boil.” Hopefully, just walking into this outdoor sanctuary or our standard sanctuary will bring excitement to us to be “ever learning”.

As Lutherans we know the importance of Christian Learning. Therefore, Lutheran Churches often have Christian schools for children. I had the good fortune of going to a Lutheran school from 1-8 grade which made for easy Confirmation classes Luther’s interest in education went beyond the teaching related to Christianity. He argued that local governments should be responsible for establishing schools in communities for both girls and boys. He was a product of public schools himself, and he understood the importance of people being able to rad and train for adult careers. For some it meant learning crafts, for others learning Latin, Greek, and Hebrew to be priests of theologians. And he backed up his words with actions, translating the bible from Latin into German so ordinary people could read it.

My only public school education was kindergarten and high school. I received a Bachelor of Arts from Upsala College a Lutheran college in New Jersey. I majored in religion with a false start in sociology; however, the rounded education as a Bachelor of Arts having required courses namely, science taking meteorology, geology, English literature and music appreciation combined which has given a lifelong interest in science and reading and a love of various music genres without being able to read music,. I am still working on that with the learning to read music Wednesday evenings. Still without that grounding, I doubt I would have been interested in going to such a wonderful performance , especially, at Duke, a showing of the Beast s of the Southern Wild with the NC symphony and the Blue Bayou Ramblers which combined great cinematography, social justice, the science of a hurricane similar to what struck Texas and now Florida. As God’s people we have to be “ever learning” especially I matters of faith.

We have two adult opportunities 9 am Sunday mornings, one on “Ever-Reforming” and “hot issue discussions”, and such is essential for all in order to set an example for the young, and As Proverbs tells us, we are wise when we hear and gain in learning again helping the young to gain knowledge and prudence.

Again, evangelism, we have 30 plus children from infancy to high school who need to have the Word of god put in their hearts, their souls, as signs on their hands, and as emblems on their foreheads. They need teaching when at home, in evening when we lie down, in the morning when we arise.

I look out in that direction and see God’s Word written on a gate, Peace in various languages as we enter the Love Garden. When we walk back into our sanctuary we see God’s word in hundreds of ways in the form of the hundreds of crosses on our walls. It’s all about paying attention to what we have heard.

At the end of the Beasts of the Southern Wild, Hushpuppy says she wants people of the future to know that she and her daddy lived in the bathtub the poorest of the poor places of the bayou.

We too we want people to know that Lord of Life Lutheran Church is I this place. One way we can do that is to be ever learning, hearing God’s Word and paying attention to it and living it.

In the name…