



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

January 2021						
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Happy New Year, Church!

I admit that I am not unhappy to see 2020 come to a close. It has been a trying year for all of us. For me, the year began with a calendar that was booked for pulpit supply every Sunday plus Holy Week. My calendar wasn't clear until the middle of May. That all changed in the middle of March. Suddenly, my calendar was completely empty.

I know my story sounds like the stories each of you can and will tell for years to come. "Remember that year of the pandemic?" My prayer is that it truly will only be one year before this virus is back in captivity. Two new vaccines are a beacon of promise. We aren't out of the tunnel yet, but at least we have a bit of light to show us the way.

"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:3b-5, NRSV)

Light. The upcoming Epiphany season is about light, the light that came into the world—Jesus. I'm sure all of you are feeling as I feel. This long stretch of isolation and darkness has left me longing for the light. It will probably take a long time for us to regain the light and life that we once knew. Perhaps our reality will be something completely new.

That said, this year has been worthwhile and valuable for the Church. We have learned new ways to be Church. We have also lived into the reality of the Church not being restricted to the walls of a building. Our mission, our calling is to be the presence of Christ in the *world*. *What happens inside our buildings is for our nourishment. That is important. However, we have learned that we can even find our nourishment as a community of faith outside the walls of our building.*

As we approach a new year, I want to thank you. Thank you for caring enough to wear masks, wash hands, and keep distance physically. Your actions have saved lives. Please don't give up in frustration.

Thank you to all who have helped with worship services, recording, technical contributions, programs, phone calls, Bible studies, education, confirmation, and meal distributions. You put meaning to "God's work, our hands!"

My prayer for you today is that you have a safe, healthy, and peaceful new year. Let your light shine for all the world to see.

God bless you all.

-Larry



Click or use the text below to watch our Sunday Worship Services on the BLC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgmj02O9aqXlcchWMIaCRqg>

In person worship services remain suspended until further notice. Please check the website for information and updates: www.blcaskov.com

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Millie Sorensen, Leroy Larsen, Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Ann Olson, Jo Jessen, Tony Ecklund, Shirley Lund, Evelyn Birkholm, Joyce Schaumburg, Chase & Elizabeth Moon (in the Philippines) and their families.

If you would like to add someone to this weekly list, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com

2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



Chuck Moon



JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



December 9, 2020 Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Jansen, Larry Anderson, Marilyn Krogh, Jo Foss, Heidi Moon, Chuck Moon, Andy May, and Cheryl Kohner.

Check-ins; devotion and opening prayer by Larry.

ACCEPT MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER MEETINGS: Motion by Bill, 2nd by Marilyn to accept November minutes, motion carried. Discussion held on how the minutes should be printed in the Newsletter with consideration for those writing the minutes.

TREASURERS REPORT: November 2020 reviewed.

PASTORS REPORT: Reviewed.

- MINISTRY TEAMS:**
- Property—Chuck reported there are 3 parsonage showings next week, and the air exchange system will be going in before Christmas.
 - Family Ministry—Jo reported they will be doing videos in place of a Christmas program this year. These will be shared during the online Christmas Eve service. Bible study is still ongoing.
 - Music and Worship—Bill reported they picked out music for January.

- Circle of Faith—JoEllyn reported they will be giving out gift certificates instead of Community meal in December. They have 200 gift certificates. Marilyn reported since COF started the welcome baskets they have given out 40 baskets. So far they have given out 13 welcome baskets in 2020. Jo stated COF will be putting an add in the newspaper to let people know about the luminaries that COF will be putting out in front of the church on Christmas Eve.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parsonage sale—discussed under Property.
- 2019 audit—Heidi reported Pine Tax completed the 2019 audit without any issues. There were some issues with previous year(s) that need to be figured out. Heidi will be meeting with Dawn from Pine Tax after the tax season to resolve.
- CARES Act grants—we received the money for the air exchange system.
- Fall quarterly meeting—Bill reported the quarterly congregational meeting has been postponed due to Covid restrictions. Larry shared material and a video on how to hold congregational meetings through Zoom, etc. We also need to update BLC's Constitution, which is now 13 years old.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Email protocol discus-

sion—discussed ways to keep in contact and keep email information private.

- Informal collaboration with Hope Lutheran in Toivola, MN—Larry updated us on how working with Toivola is helping both churches to share the online services.
- Christmas and congregational participation—BLC will be holding an online Christmas Eve service on December 24th at 4:00 pm on our YouTube channel; at 5:30 pm the luminaries in front of the church will be lit and Christmas carols will be sung by the crèche. Everyone is invited to drive by and join in.
- Christmas gifts—Discussed what we did last year for staff/others. \$250 is budgeted for gifts. Cheryl, Marilyn and Jo will meet to discuss the amounts for each gift. Marilyn offered to pick up and deliver gift cards.

Action Items:

- Bill will meet with DADS Audio on December 15th at 9:00 am to go over the sound system.
- Chuck will update us on the parsonage showings.
- Larry and Jo will work on the BLC Constitution update.

Motion to adjourn by Bill, 2nd by Jo, motion carried; adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner*



**NOVEMBER 21
UNAPPROVED
MINUTES**

The Circle of Faith held their November meeting via Zoom. The members in attendance were: Shawn Jansen, Tracy Zinter, Carolyn Steele, Bev Oderkirk, Elaine Smith and Jo Foss. Due to the absence of Mary Johnson, treasurer/secretary, Jo Foss took minutes. There was no treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Thanksgiving Gift Certificates—Gift cards for \$20 were purchased at Chris' Food Center for 100 parties. The Family Ministry provided handmade cards in which the gift certificates were delivered to recipients. A special thank you goes out to Addie, Huddie and Hayden for all their beautiful artwork. We would also like to thank our team of volunteers who made delivery of the cards possible: Bev Oderkirk, Lisa Hughes, Shawn and Bill Jansen, Cookie Nielsen, Herman Velsvaag, Cheryl Kohner and Marilyn Krogh, who distributed the flyers around

Askov. We would also like to thank the Askov American Legion, the Northern Pine Riders, and Paul and Margaret Christensen for their generous donations which funded this program.

Greeting Cards—Circle of Faith continues to send cards to those who are shut-ins or whose families have suffered a loss or a health problem. A big thank you to Mary Johnson and Tracy Zinter who handled this ministry for the past month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Christmas—Circle volunteers will meet at the Church on Saturday, November 28 at 1 pm to put up the Christmas tree in the window of the coffee area. Since the tree will only be seen from the outside lights only, no decorations will be installed. Lights will be put on a timer for viewing by the public. Mary Johnson will be sending Christmas cards to each of the members on our care list during December. A discussion was held about other Christmas related projects that Circle might undertake to brighten Christmas for our Bethlehem Lutheran members, and for members of the Askov community. Several ideas were discussed and details are being researched by members. Decisions will be made when the information is available. There will be another gift card distribution scheduled for Christmas and slated for

the third week of the month in order to allow people time to do their shopping before December 24th.

Since we are not doing the community meals in November and December, there was a discussion of acquiring banners to cover the two signs which are permanently displayed. A seasonally appropriate message will be displayed. Shawn Jansen will contact Heidi Moon about website address/ details.

Service Project—Through our Community Outreach program we have had contact with a homeless family who we have been able to assist with meals and a gift card. This family is now in need of more permanent lodging for the winter. After discussion, several ideas of ways to assist them and detailing what inquiries can be undertaken on their behalf were slated. Several of our members are following up on information. This is a continuing effort at this time.

Motion to adjourn made by Carolyn Steele, Tracy Zinter seconded, motion carried. The next meeting will be Saturday, December 19th at 10 am. A determination, depending upon weather, will be made at a later date as to whether this meeting will be by ZOOM or will take place in person.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Jo Foss*



- Erica Ludwig—1st
- Elizabeth Sand—2nd
- Jamie Fogt—3rd
- Olivia Moon—3rd
- Michael Peterson—4th
- Corey Sahlen—6th
- LeRoy Larsen—8th
- Missi Gangl—10th
- DJ Zinter—13th
- Jake Klocke—14th
- Kevin Klocke—14th
- Shawn Jansen—22nd
- Jaxon Sahlen—22nd
- JoEllyn Foss—23rd
- Dennis Jensen—29th
- Betty Peterson—29th
- Tracy Zinter—29th
- Connie Ecklund—30th
- Kirsten Ecklund—30th
- Hayden Loew—31st



Roger & Cindy
Jensen—January 23rd

**Offering
Envelopes**

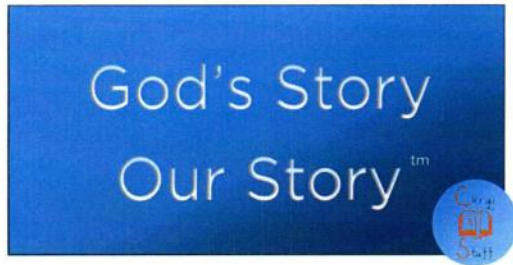


A decision was made not to order/print individual offering envelopes for the coming 2021 year.

If you would like to receive a few blank offering envelopes, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com and a handful of envelopes will be mailed to you. Once we're able to resume in-person worship services, these envelopes will also be located in the pews of the sanctuary. We also encourage you to consider giving on-line through our website: <http://www.blcaskov.com/online-giving>

During this time of COVID-19, we still need your help to make certain we continue to fulfill our mission and meet our budgetary needs!

Thank you for your continued support!



Sunday, January 3, 2021

Read: Luke 2:41-52

Main Idea: Jesus saw God as a parent, which was an unusual perspective for the time. Choosing to see God through a variety of relational lenses can shift our perspective and shape our behaviors.

From before his birth, Jesus was an unusual child. At the young age of 12, he was already well versed in the Jewish traditions and quickly learning the Jewish scriptures. He understood what he learned so well, even some of the temple scholars had trouble keeping up with him.

When his family left Jerusalem to return home, assuming Jesus was traveling with other family within the caravan, they had no idea he had remained in the temple. It seems odd to us, but it would not have been unusual for large families to tend to one another's children. When Mary and Joseph finally discovered he wasn't among them, they frantically returned to Jerusalem to find him. They did find him in the temple, learning and teaching. They were surprised to find him there, and even more bewildered by his words, "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house (2:49)?" Such familial language for God would have seemed foreign to Jewish ears. God was many things, but "daddy" was not one of them. Even at 12, Jesus had a perspective on God that most did not. He recognized the relationship that God had established with Abraham, Moses, and David. He saw the loving, parental relationship that others missed. The relationship he saw would shape his ministry and his life.

Many of us have settled on the kind of relationship we have with God. Friends, parent/child, savior/rescued, master/servant. Invite your congregants to consider the kind of relationship that is their go-to, and challenge them to open their perspective. Invite them to consider another (or a few other) type of relationship they haven't before and see how the shift in perspective changes them.

January 3, 2021

Luke 2:41-52

Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Loving God, you care for us as a parent cares for their children. May we also live your compassion and tend to those who rely upon us for care, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Mary and Joseph had no idea where Jesus went when he failed to follow the family's caravan home from Jerusalem. But Jesus was surprised that they hadn't guessed he was in his heavenly parent's house.

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What kind of relationship best describes your relationship with God? How does your perspective shape how you interact with God?

When was the last time you learned something new? When did you teach something?

For the littles: What's your favorite thing to learn in school, daycare, or at home?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless your learning and your teaching. Amen.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Volunteer to teach in your church's Christian education or assist in a classroom at a local school. Become a reading buddy or tutor.

Go Deeper: Visit clergystuff.com/daily-devotions.

Monday: Psalm 2:7-8

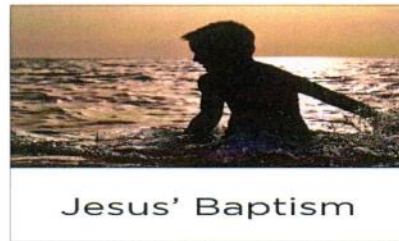
Tuesday: *God's Servant*, Isaiah 42:1-9

Wednesday: *Laws Concerning Festivals*, Exodus 23:10-17

Thursday: Psalm 113

Friday: Psalm 96

Saturday: Psalm 123



Sunday, January 10, 2021

Read: Luke 3:1-22

Main Idea: At the time of Jesus' baptism, some people opened their hearts; others closed them.

The political, social, and economic climate of Israel at the time of Jesus was volatile. Clearly, the rites, rituals, laws, and oppressive government had caused great tension between Jews and Rome, but also between Jews themselves. The rich were getting richer on the backs of the poor. Jews in power were gaining more power by aligning with Rome. Change was going to happen one way or another.

John, the son of a high priest of the temple, saw the corruption and became a prophet of God working to turn the tide. When crowds flocked to the wilderness to see and hear him, he scolded them. To John, it appeared they had come to the wilderness either to gawk at the spectacle or to implore John to fix their problems. John put the onus back on them: "Bear fruits worthy of repentance." The work was in the hands of the people to affect change. The people would either hear him and be the change or they would reject him and dig their heels in deeper. They would either become open to change or closed to it.

Herod, although intrigued by John, remained closed. At the urging of his sister-in-law, whom he had taken for a wife following his divorce, Herod had John thrown in prison (and we would later learn executed).

When Jesus arrived on the scene, the landscape was ripe for a divisive event. When Jesus was baptized, the heavens were opened, and God's Holy Spirit entered the world ready to alight on those willing to open their hearts to change, and to resist those whose hearts remained closed. The battle between those ready for change and those resisting it had begun.

January 10, 2021

Luke 3:1-22

Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

God of truth, through John you challenged your people to repent. Move us also to put aside the things that get in the way of truly serving you, for the sake of Jesus our savior. Amen.

Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

John the Baptist prepared those in the wilderness for Jesus' coming. Once baptized, people would need to decide... were they ready for change or resistant to it?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What do you open your mind to? What do you close your mind to?

How does baptism shape your life? Why do you think Jesus wanted to be baptized?

For the littles: Do you like to swim? Why or why not? What do you like most about water?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God fulfill God's baptismal promises for you. Amen.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Play with water. Freeze it. Melt it. Boil it. Clean with it. Drink it. Consider why God chose water to be a symbol of new life.

Go Deeper: Visit clergystuff.com/daily-devotions.

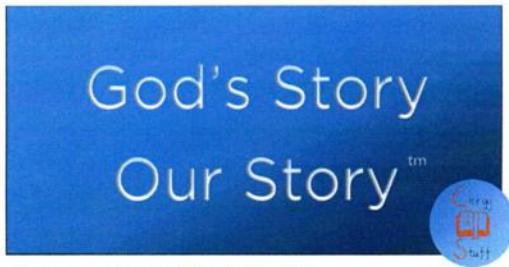
Monday: *Genealogy of Jesus*, Luke 3:23-38

Tuesday: *Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness*, Luke 4:1-13

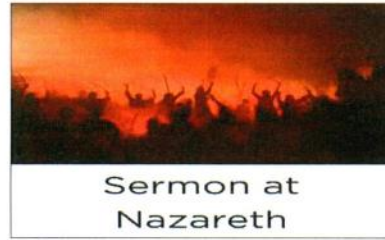
Wednesday: *Comfort, O Comfort My People*, Isaiah 40:1-11

Thursday: *God Will Restore Jerusalem*, Isaiah 52:1-12

Friday: *Elijah's Flight*, 1 Kings 19:1-9a



January 17, 2021



Read: Luke 4:14-30

Main Idea: If we limit ourselves to seeing only what we expect to see, we fail to see the unexpected.

Jesus had been healing and teaching in Capernaum and word about him had spread. Israel was ripe for a savior. Oppression by Rome had taken a toll. They knew from their history that one day God would deliver them from their oppression, as God had done many times before. They were waiting for someone who would bring God's wrath to Rome and return Jerusalem to the people of Israel.

By the time Jesus returned home, people were anticipating something wonderful. They were willing to receive the gifts they'd heard rumored he could bring—healing and miracles. But Jesus knew better. They would not be able to receive the gifts even if offered because they couldn't see past the child they knew. They were expecting a savior, but all they saw was Jesus—the Jesus they remembered as a boy. He was only a carpenter's son, certainly not trained to teach and preach about the Lord! He was definitely not the one who would deliver them from oppression.

And his words were bitter to them. They were open to a savior—an activist (or at least a prophet) who would restore Israel to her former autonomy. They were not prepared for the words he brought. He had come to be savior of all people—Gentiles, widows, lepers, all the marginalized. These words infuriated them. It was blasphemy to their hardened ears. He was a heretic in their hardened eyes.

The sad thing is that because they remained closed to his radical words of acceptance and his harsh criticism of their closedness, they were unable to receive the gifts he brought. These were not the gifts of healing and miracles they wanted. Jesus brought words with the power to topple kingdoms and soften hardened hearts. But these words would not soften theirs. Not today.

January 17, 2021

Luke 4:14-30

Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Powerful God, you stir up your people with challenging words. Open our ears to hear truly the truth which you bring, and may it shake up our lives so that we can be your faithful witnesses in the world. Amen.

Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown." (Luke 4:24)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus was busy teaching, healing, and performing miracles throughout the land. Unfortunately, the ones who failed to see God working through him were the people of his own hometown.

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Tell of a time you experienced something unexpected. Was it good or bad? How did the experience shape you?

Why do you think it was difficult for people in Jesus' hometown to accept him as a prophet?

For the littles: Do you like surprises? Why or why not?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you with the unexpected. Amen.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Do something spontaneous and unexpected this week. Pay for someone's groceries. Visit a zoo or indoor garden. Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Consider how the unexpected can shake you out of complacency.

Go Deeper: Visit clergystuff.com/daily-devotions.

Monday: *Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit*, Luke 4:31-37

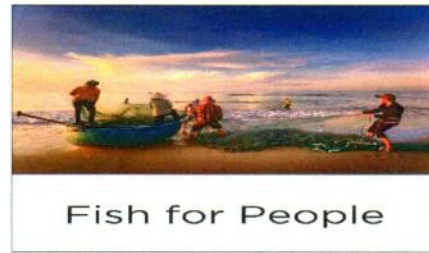
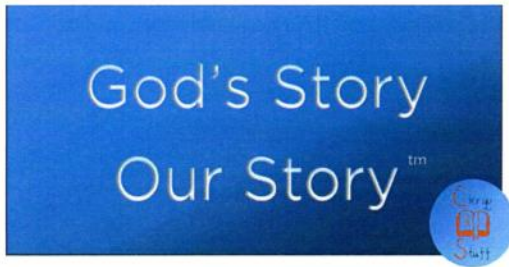
Tuesday: *Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law*, Luke 4:38-39

Wednesday: *Jesus Heals and Casts Out Demons*, Luke 4:40-44

Thursday: *The Spirit of the Lord*, Isaiah 61:1-3

Friday: *Elijah Helps a Widow*, 1 Kings 17:8-16

Saturday: *Elisba Heals Naaman*, 2 Kings 5:1-14



January 24, 2021

Read: Luke 5:1-11

Main Idea: Peter recognized almost immediately that Jesus was special. His willingness to see and believe earned him a front row seat to the world's greatest story.

So, the traveling preacher from Nazareth rolled into Gennesaret, prepared to preach the provocative message of radical acceptance. Undoubtedly, they had heard of Jesus, and were possibly even prepared to receive him.

After a long night of fishing, the fishers returned to the shore to find Jesus preparing for a long talk. Jesus had them take him out a little way from shore because sound travels well over water. His words would be easier for the crowds to hear from there. They were willing to oblige. They knew little of his trade and were willing to do as he asked.

But then, this teacher—a carpenter, not a fisher—stepped on their toes. He suggested that they go out into the deep water to catch some fish. One can only imagine how the fishers might have received his suggestion. This Jesus knew nothing of fishing! He didn't seem to respect the tiresome work they had just finished, and their long night had been extended due to his impromptu teaching.

Still, the fishers treated him with the respect he seemed to have earned. They gently let him know it would be fruitless, but they indulged his request anyway. Why not honor the traveler, even if it meant an even longer night.

Surprisingly, their nets became so full so fast, they had to call for another boat to help with the haul. The miraculous shift from a dead night of fishing to an abundant morning, the shock of discovering that this traveler could know as much about them and their work as he did—all of these stunned Simon Peter. Immediately he recognized this was no ordinary traveling preacher. Jesus was different. Special. Touched by God, even.

Despite Peter's resistance to Jesus' presence and attention, Jesus could also see that there was something special about Peter. If he could be open and believe as readily as he did, perhaps he was just the one Jesus needed to walk by his side during his upcoming years of ministry. Jesus offered him what he needed, "Do not be afraid." Not a condemnation, but an invitation. Have courage to step outside the familiarity of the boat and embark on an even grander adventure.

January 24, 2021

Luke 5:1-11

Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Wondrous God, you turned fishermen into disciples, teachers, and healers. Transform us in the ways which serve you best, and lead us fearlessly forward in faith. Amen.

Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." (Luke 5:9b)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Peter was weary after a long night of fishing with nothing to show for it. But when a traveling preacher stepped into his boat, he would never be the same.

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

How do you "follow" Jesus? Is your following active or passive? Why?

What does "evangelism" mean to you? Is it positive or negative? Why?

For the littles: Do you like fish? Why or why not?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bring new people into your life. Amen.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Go fishing. If you live in a northern climate, you'll need to go ice fishing! Consider how fishing is a metaphor for drawing in God's people toward God.

Go Deeper: Visit clergystuff.com/daily-devotions.

Monday: *Jesus Cleanses a Leper*, Luke 5:12-16

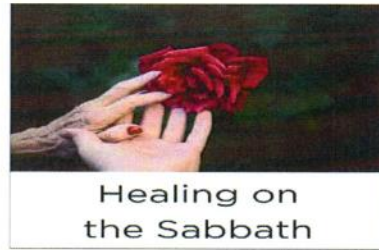
Tuesday: *Jesus Heals a Paralytic*, Luke 5:17-26

Wednesday: *Jesus Calls Levi (Matthew)*, Luke 5:27-32

Thursday: *The Question about Fasting*, Luke 5:33-39

Friday: *God Does a New Thing*, Isaiah 43:14-21

Saturday: *God Forgives Sins*, Isaiah 43:25-44:5



January 31, 2021

Read: Luke 6:1-16

Main Idea: The more Jesus challenged the laws, the more the law-keepers dug in their heels. Change does not come easily.

As with any organization that has been functioning for a long time, the rules, rites, and rituals of Israel had drifted from their original purpose. (For a fun list of ridiculous laws that have outgrown their purpose, check out this article from [Business Insider](#).) Once intended to offer rest, rejuvenation, and a time to reconnect with God, family, and self, the laws about working on the Sabbath had themselves become toilsome.

Jesus saw what others could not. He saw that the laws intended for rest had become a burden, and that the enforcement of those laws further separated people from their intent. Jesus also knew a great deal about his own history, the stories of Israel and of God. Instead of using only words to shake Israel out of her complacency, Jesus acted. He plucked grain to eat and he healed on the Sabbath. Of course, his actions infuriated the Pharisees who could already see that his words and actions were going to cause them problems. They tried to stop him, but he turned the tables on them by citing the stories of their history that contradicted their very own laws. They were faced with an impossible situation—hold fast to the laws that no longer served their purpose, or risk losing hold of everything they thought they knew.

The Pharisees were not prepared to make such a dramatic internal shift. They knew the laws, and the laws served them. The divide between the Pharisees and Jesus was widening. The more he challenged them, the more they dug in their heels. This would be a battle Jesus could not fight alone. He recruited his capable team, selected 12 to be leaders alongside him, and their contentious ministry continued.

January 31, 2021

Luke 6:1-16

Pray: Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

Mighty God, you gave the law to free your people, not sink us further into bondage. May we seek your Spirit of truth in all that we do, that our lives may glorify you always, for the sake of Jesus our Lord. Amen

Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

Then Jesus said to them, "I ask you, is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to destroy it?" (Luke 6:9)

Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus ruffled feathers by eating and healing on the Sabbath. But he knew the laws had outgrown their purpose. It was time for God's laws to serve people, and not the other way around.

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

Which laws give you peace? Which laws give you anxiety? Why?

Do you honor the Sabbath? Why or why not?

For the littles: What's the hardest rule to follow? Why?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God give you rest. Amen.

Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Take a Sabbath day. Use the day to refresh and recharge, and to reconnect with God. Avoid letting the day of rest become a burden, and allow it to fill you with God's healing.

Go Deeper: Visit clergystuff.com/daily-devotions.

Monday: *Jesus Teaches and Heals*, Luke 6:17-26

Tuesday: *Love for Enemies*, Luke 6:27-30

Wednesday: *Love for Enemies*, Luke 6:31-38

Thursday: *Love for Enemies*, Luke 6:39-42

Friday: *A Tree and Its Fruit*, Luke 6:43-49

Saturday: *Jesus Speaks in Parables*, Luke 8:1-3