

United Voice

BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER | GREENBUSH, MN | JULY/AUGUST 2020 – ISSUE 4

HAMILTON AND MADISON REMIND US HOW EVIL AND HARD IT IS

Pastor David Niemela

Imagine you were given the job of governing a tribe of people described like the following:

“Their throat is an open grave,
With their tongues they keep
deceiving,”

“The poison of asps is under
their lips”;

“Whose mouth is full of
cursing and bitterness”;

“Their feet are swift to shed
blood,

Destruction and misery are in
their paths,

And the path of peace they
have not known.”

Some may already be
thinking, *I know where that quote
comes from!* It comes from
Romans 3:13-17.

Governing people like this is
the challenge every government
faces, whether they believe it to a
degree or not. It is an advantage
to have knowledge of this.

Our founding fathers did.

Not all of our founding fathers
were Christians, and I can't say
all of them believed in what
Romans 3 teaches, also known as
the “depravity of man.”

Nonetheless, whether James
Madison or Alexander Hamilton
read that passage, they did
acknowledge it was true to a
certain extent, and knew that
the brand new America *must*
restrain mankind within its
borders through the structure of
government.

Madison and Hamilton, along
with John Jay, contributed to
what we now know as *The
Federalist Papers*, articles
regularly submitted to New
York newspapers to convince
the people they should support
the
replacement of the Articles of
Confederation with the
Constitution.

Although I have only read the
first ten of eighty-five papers,
listen to what they say about
mankind.

Alexander Hamilton had
enough wisdom himself to avoid
a group-think. He didn't simply
condemn the opponents to the
constitution. In the first paper,
he thinks there are sensible
people on the other side of the
issue.

On the other hand, for those
with similar views to him on the
subject he says, ***“we are not
always sure that those
who advocate the truth
are influenced by purer
principles than their
antagonists.”***

In other words, just because
you in fact believe the truth on a
certain issue, it doesn't mean
you have the right motives.

Hamilton seems to know
history well, and in the sixth
paper, he points out various
nations and their tendency to go
to war because of personal
interests. He gives examples of a

king trying to avoid personal
guilt and another influential
leader trying to acquire a
position of king, both of which
go to war
in their respective cases. In the
process, they cause ruin to their
and other nations for worthless
reasons.

Hamilton then warns about
America, who, though being a
republic rather than ruled by a
king, says, ***“Have
republics in practice
been less addicted to
war than monarchies?
Are not the former
administered by men as
well as the latter?”***

He knows republics are made
of the same substance as
monarchies: blood-thirsty
mankind.

In our last example, James
Madison knows that it is natural
for factions to arise. He defines
a
faction as a common interest
group that suppresses others'
rights to the harm of the whole
nation. He says, ***“As long as
the connection subsists
between his reason and
his self-love, his
opinions and his
passions will have a
reciprocal influence on
each other . . . The
latent causes of faction
are thus sown in the
nature of man.”***

Continued on next page . . .

Lutheran Ambassador Renewals Due!

The Lutheran Ambassador is a magazine-like publication designed to educate readers about the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, encourage local congregations, equip Christians for service, and evangelize our neighbors and the world.

The group subscription for United Free is due by the end of June. Paulette Nelson requests that those renewing their subscription get their payments to her as soon as possible. The cost is \$24 for a year's subscription. She would also like to know if anyone wishes to cancel their subscription.

Contact Paulette: 218- 781-2802

For more information and samples of the Ambassador, visit www.aflc.org/lutheran-ambassador

"Hamilton and Madison . . ." continued from front page

In other words, do you own a manufacturing business? Guess which type of legislation you will probably support, even if it hurts the farmer? The opinion, "manufacturing is important," is reciprocal, or in other words, will make someone passionate about legislation favoring manufacturing.

Self-love and self-interested mankind naturally hurt others to benefit themselves.

Do you see how hard it is to form a balanced government that restrains this wicked race, all the while the wicked race is the one running it?

Thank our Sovereign God that conscience has caused the balanced American government to be formed.

May this lesson on the difficulty to restrain mankind be a lesson for our need for a wholly good King:

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).



United Free WMF News

Greeting to all the Ladies of United Free,

It has been a long few months since we have gotten to work on our Bible Study "Don't Follow Your Feelings". As we move forth this summer, please try to catch up on the studies we have missed and be ready for the August 12 meeting.

I will recap the chapters we missed as we prepare to meet:

Lesson 4 "The Poison of Unresolved Anger"

In Ephesians 4:26, we are told to "be angry and sin not." This means there is a choice in the way we respond in our anger. James 1:19-21 and Ephesians 6:4 are good examples of what we should do:

"Know this, my dear brothers: everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a man does not accomplish the righteousness of God. Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls." ~ James 1:19-21

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." ~ Ephesians 6:4

Norah Niemela Baptized!

Norah Louise Niemela, daughter of Pastor David and Jenny, was baptized during a private ceremony at Lake Winnebigoshish June 13, 2020.

Her godparents are Connie Von Ohlen and Henry Von Ohlen (Jenny's siblings).



Continuation of WMF News . . .

Lesson 5: “When I Can’t Understand Why”

Why is life so hard? Why do bad things happen? Can you trust God, even when you can’t understand Him?

*“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”
~ Hebrews 11:1*

Lesson 6: “Love Is Not Just A Feeling”

In the Bible, over and over again, God commands us to love. He is not telling us to work up an emotion, but to make a commitment, a choice, a willingness to obey God.

*“When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them [a scholar of the law] tested him by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”
~ Matthew 22:34-40*

I Corinthians 13 is considered the Love Chapter of the Bible. Verses 4-7 describe real love:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Lesson 7: “The Lure of Sexual Sin.”

Our world view is the basis for every moral decision we make. Either we base our worldview on God’s Word, or we base it on man’s opinion. See this described on your own in Romans 1:18-32.

Blessings to all,

Angie
WMF President

FLY Beyond 2020



FLY Beyond is a biennial, national youth equipping conference put on by AFLC Youth Ministries.

FLY Beyond 2020 will take place
July 19-23

Open to current 7th – 12th grade students

Camp will take place at the Association
Retreat Center in Osceola, WI.

Carpooling is available.

COVID-19 regulations will be exercised.
For more information, visit
www.aflc.org/youth/fly-beyond

A digital version of the camp sessions
will also be available.

Details concerning cost will be made
available Thursday, July 2.

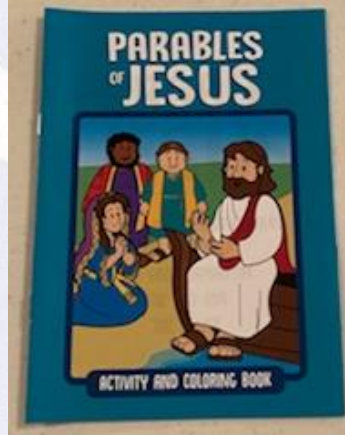
If interested, talk to Pastor David.

Vacation Bible School 2020: Goodie Bags!

Adults and kids alike look forward to Vacation Bible School each year - the games, singing and most importantly connecting with God. Even though we could not host our traditional VBS this year, we did not want our kids to feel like we had forgotten them. We put together VBS Goodie Bags that included items to help our kids remember to "Keep Growing in God".

We wish everyone a safe and happy summer!

Thank you,
Sunday School Staff



UPCOMING AFLC EVENTS

Association Retreat Center (ARC) ~ Osceola, WI

For more information, visit www.arc-aflc.org

- ❖ FLY Zone – July 19-23 (same week as FLY Beyond)
- ❖ Family Camp – Aug. 2-8

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information, visit www.aflc.org

- ❖ FLY Beyond, ARC – July 19-23
- ❖ Annual Conference, ARC – Aug. 10-12
- ❖ WMF Day, ARC – Aug. 10

NW MN District

More information to appear on church website, Facebook page, and future bulletins

No known events at this time

Free Lutheran Bible College & Seminary ~ Plymouth, MN

For more information, visit flbc.edu

- ❖ FLBC Golf Scramble, Oak Grove, MN – July 31
- ❖ Summer Institute of Theology – Aug. 3-7

July & August Daily Bible Reading Plan

Add the right column to read the entire Bible in two years (continuous cycle — can be started at any time)

Current Reading Season: Pentecost

Date	Reading	2-Year Plan	Date	Reading	2-Year Plan
Wed. July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 2:1-37		Mon. August 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 33- Deut. 34	
Thurs. July 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 3:1-29		Tues. August 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 1	
Fri. July 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 4:1-24		Wed. August 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 2-Ezekiel 3	
Sat. July 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 4:25-49		Thurs. August 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 4-Ezekiel 5	Ezekiel 6
Sun. July 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 5:1-21		Fri. August 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 103	Only Ezekiel 7
Mon. July 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 5:22-33		Sat. August 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 8-10	
Tues. July 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 6:1-25		Sun. August 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 116	Only Ezekiel 11
Wed. July 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 7		Mon. August 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 12	Ezekiel 13-Ezekiel 14
Thurs. July 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 8		Tues. August 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 15	Ezekiel 16
Fri. July 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 9		Wed. August 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 17	
Sat. July 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 10		Thurs. August 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 18	Ezekiel 19
Sun. July 12	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 11		Fri. August 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 20	
Mon. July 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 12		Sat. August 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 121-123	Only Ezekiel 21-22
Tues. July 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 13	Deut. 14	Sun. August 16	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 127, 130	Only Ezekiel 23
Wed. July 15	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 1	Deut. 15	Mon. August 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 24	Ezekiel 25
Thurs. July 16	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 2	Deut. 16	Tues. August 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 146	Ezekiel 26-27
Fri. July 17	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 3	Deut. 17	Wed. August 19	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 147	Ezekiel 28- 29
Sat. July 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 18	Deut. 19	Thurs. August 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 149	Ezekiel 30-31
Sun. July 19	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 4	Deut. 20	Fri. August 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 136	Only Ezekiel 32
Mon. July 20	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 5	Deut. 21	Sat. August 22	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 33	
Tues. July 21	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 6	Deut. 22	Sun. August 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 34	Ezekiel 35-36
Wed. July 22	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 7	Deut. 23	Mon. August 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Ezekiel 37	Ezekiel 38
Thurs. July 23	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 8	Deut. 24	Tues. August 25	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 139	Only Ezekiel 39-40
Fri. July 24	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 9	Deut. 25	Wed. August 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 140	Only Ezekiel 41-42
Sat. July 25	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 10	Deut. 26	Thurs. August 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalms 141-142	Only Ezekiel 43-44
Sun. July 26	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 11:1-14	Deut. 27	Fri. August 28	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 143	Only Ezekiel 45
Mon. July 27	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 11:15-33	Deut. 28:1-14	Sat. August 29	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 145	Only Ezekiel 46
Tues. July 28	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 12	Deut. 28:15-56	Sun. August 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 146-147	Only Ezekiel 47
Wed. July 29	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor. 13	Deut. 28:57-68	Mon. August 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 149	Only Ezekiel 48
Thurs. July 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 29				
Fri. July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 30				
Sat. August 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 31				
Sun. August 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Deut. 32				