



MAY-JUNE 2021 | BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF UNITED FREE LUTHERAN | GREENBUSH, MN

Righteousness and Wisdom are Rewards in Themselves

By Pastor David Niemela

We are used to wages, that is, getting paid for what we do. You work, then you get a reward. Among human affairs, this is important. We can't just expect stuff without work. If we forget this principle by sawing off the legs called "motivation to work," our platform called "goods and services" will fall to the ground, throwing ourselves down with it. You can't have goods and services without someone's work.

Yet, there is still a different level we must rise our eyes to concerning work and reward. It can be illustrated this way.

Basketball player #1:

6:00 AM: start in the weight room so I can muscle out my spot on the team.

7:00 AM: shoot hoops since I want to be the number one scorer.

3:15 PM: get onto the court before the others to show coach I'm committed.

5:30 PM: do more conditioning after practice and shoot more hoops so I can be prepared late in the game and carry my team to state.

7:30 PM: I'll shoot at home to show I'm really serious.

Basketball player #2

6:00 AM: start in the weight room. I enjoy my time with the guys and I love the feeling after a challenging workout.

7:00 AM: basketball is such a great game. I can't wait to get on the court and practice my skills for fun.

Church Events

- May 2nd – Confirmation and New Members' Sunday
- May 5th – Last day of Kids' Club
- May 9th – Last day of Children's Sunday School
- May 12th – WMF meeting
- May 16th – Church potluck
- June 6-10th – VBS
- June 9th – WMF meeting
- June 12-16th – Creation Museum & Ark Encounter
- June 22-27th – Teen Camp at Galilee Bible Camp
- June 27th-July 1st – Pre-Teen Camp at Galilee Bible Camp

Continued on page 3

WMF News

As we spring into May, we are thankful for God's grace and His blessings.

We continue our monthly Bible study of 1 Timothy. Timothy was a companion of the Apostle Paul. They went on many missions together. Timothy was considered to be a "new generation" of Christian leaders, as he took a genuine interest in the welfare of the people.

He was sent to Ephesus to silence false teaching, so that the emphasis was on Gospel truth.

In May we will study Lesson 5, "God's Desires for the Church Part 2", based on 1 Timothy 2:8-15. As we read God's desires for the roles of men and women in church, keep the rest of 1 Timothy 1 and 2 in mind. God wants men and women to be saved.

The second half of 1 Timothy 2 shows how the roles God has given us serve His desires for people to be saved through knowledge of the truth: that Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all people.

In June we will study "God's Desires for Pastors and Deacons," based on 1 Timothy 3.

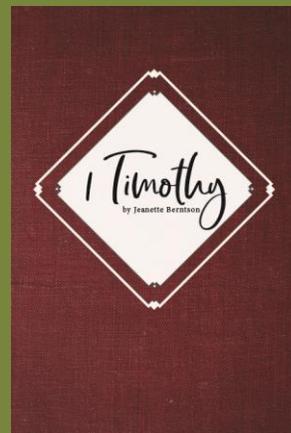
We welcome all ladies — ages following confirmation and older — to join us for these studies and fellowship.

Bible Study books are still available in the entry of the church.

In other business, Sarah group serves potluck on May 16th. This will be the last potluck until September.

Ephesians 1:2

"Grace be to you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."



Sunday School

Our Sunday Schoolers have learned about Samson, Ruth, Solomon and Elijah, Naaman, and Jonah. These stories are filled with God's awesome power, and the goal has been to help the kids connect these stories to their own lives.

We have also seen the kids' creative side during craft time. They

have made bird feeders and even pancakes with pictures (food coloring in the batter). Thankfully we had extra parents to assist on that day!

We are nearing the end of our Sunday School year, the last day being May 9th. We have two sixth graders this year, Maelee and Sarah, and we will miss them next year.

Pancake Art!

The Children's Sunday School class had fun making edible art — pancakes with food coloring.



VBS – Destination Dig

Vacation Bible School is a go for this year, June 6-10, as we have received confirmation for a VBS Team. Preparations have already begun!

If you would like to assist (classroom helpers, meal/snack preparation, decorating, etc) please contact Joni Wiskow (763-486-9150 or joni.wiskow@gmail.com).

3:15 PM: I've been waiting in school to get out on the court all day. Finally!

5:30 PM: I think I'll stay out longer even though I'm tired. It's hard to put the ball down.

What is the difference between the players' mindsets? One thinks *I will benefit*, only thinking to the future rewards of a spot on the team, stats on the page, and trophies through his work. But the other not only thinks, *I will benefit*, but *I do benefit*. It is a reward itself, or even a gift, that he gets to "work" on the court.

Do you only think of rewards God will give you for good works, or are you just glad you can do good works? Is wisdom and practicing righteousness rewards in themselves? Proverbs 9:12 says, "If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it." Your wisdom is "for yourself." God doesn't need it. He is wise as is. Wisdom is a reward in itself *for you*. Psalm 119:35, "Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it." Obedience is a reward. The Psalmist delighted in walking "the path of Your commandments."

This obedience and wisdom are gifts from God. We were formerly enemies with God (Romans 5:10), only doing what appeared right because our conscience said so and it simply kept us out of too much trouble. We are still tempted to do that. But even more, now, with the Holy Spirit, we are no longer enemies but have a favorable disposition toward God and His commands because Jesus died for us, His former enemies. We are no longer darkened in our minds to simply put on a show of doing good. Now, we want it. The Spirit enlightened us with true wisdom, which is Christ in the Word, to true joy of God's righteousness and wisdom. This mindset isn't from you, but it is a gift from God.

When you put your "hand to the plow," can you thank God that you get to serve people and Him through that work? Simply, that you get to do right, without any temporal reward? If you can thank Him, you know what I'm talking about.

Sven Anderson Baptized!



Sven Juel Anderson, son of Austin and Randi, was baptized during a private ceremony at United Free Lutheran March 27.



SUMMER YOUTH GROUP

Only a few more weeks before summer, and the youth group students are looking forward to a number of happenings – traveling to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky, attending Galilee Teen Bible Camp at Lake Bronson, along with a one-night virtual FLY session in July. We are thankful for these extra curriculars through which our students can grow in their faith as they build relationships with one another.

A schedule with the summer activities will be sent out to youth families within the next few weeks.

Before all of these fun opportunities arrive, the youth are spending their Wednesday evenings reviewing archived videos from past Free Lutheran Youth Conventions (which they would have attended this summer had it not been cancelled). While perhaps a little older, these recorded sessions certainly are not outdated, many of them addressing hot topics interwoven within our culture today. The youth have also shown an interest in personal testimonies, so we have watched a couple of those from FLY and a few youths have willingly shared theirs with the group, too.

Two seniors will be setting out on their own following graduation – Erik Besser and Denton Burkel – and we hope they are encouraged by the promise of Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

KIDS' CLUB WRAP UP

The 2020-21 Kids' Club year closed May 5, concluding with a program featuring the songs and Scripture verses the students had learned throughout the year. Supper and fellowship followed the program, and it was so exciting seeing the families of these children come to support them.

Our mission at Kids' Club is to sow God's Word into young hearts so that they may know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and be saved, with the prayer that they will never "outgrow" God and the love displayed through His Son. Some of the ways we pursued that this year was through daily Bible stories, crafts emphasizing the lessons, and (as already mentioned) scripture memorization and music.

The first half of Kids' Club focused on some of the lesser-known accounts of the Bible, such as Ezra, Nehemiah, and Zerubbabel, while for the second half, we decided to go back to the very beginning and learned about the events of Creation all the way through God parting the Red Sea for Moses and the Israelites.

The children would often amaze us with their retention, observations, and questions.

On our full days, we would have 25 students. It came up a few times throughout the year that it was only a few years ago a full-day at Kids' Club would be about five students. We are so thankful for how God has blessed this ministry over the years, and pray that every moment of it glorifies Him. We are also incredibly thankful for His stirring the hearts of parents and



congregants in supporting us – whether by sending their kiddos, leading an activity, providing snack, or giving financially.

As we head into a break for the summer, our prayer is that these kids would always be excited for Jesus, and remember that He is with them *every day!* Not just at Kids' Club, not only when they attend church, but every moment of every day, and that they would know how much God loves them. No matter what they do, Jesus loves these little children.

And so do we.

Hope to see you in the fall!

UPCOMING AFLC EVENTS

Association Retreat Center (ARC) ~ Osceola, WI

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

- ❖ Onward, Senior High Bible Camp ~ June 27 – July 1

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

For more information, visit www.aflc.org

- ❖ Annual Conference, Plymouth, MN ~ June 16- 19
(registration ends June 1)

NW MN District

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

- ❖ Galilee Teen Bible Camp ~ June 22-27
- ❖ Galilee Pre-Teen Bible Camp ~ June 27 – July 01

Free Lutheran Bible College & Seminary ~ Plymouth, MN

For more information, visit flbc.edu

- ❖ Spring Concert ~ May 7
- ❖ Graduation ~ May 8



May-June Bible Reading Schedule

		Week Day Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading	
Saturday	Season of Easter	May 1	Song of Solomon 8	
Sunday		May 2	Psalm 23	
Monday		May 3	1 Kings 16	Psalm 24
Tuesday		May 4	1 Kings 17	Psalm 25
Wednesday		May 5	1 Kings 18:1-19	
Thursday		May 6	1 Kings 18:20-46	
Friday		May 7	1 Kings 19	
Saturday		May 8		1 Kings 20:1-25
Sunday		May 9		1 Kings 20:26-43
Monday		May 10	2 Timothy 1	1 Kings 21
Tuesday		May 11	2 Timothy 2	1 Kings 22:1-40
Wednesday		May 12	2 Timothy 3	1 Kings 22:41-53
Thursday		May 13	2 Timothy 4	Ecclesiastes 1
Friday		May 14	Philippians 1	Ecclesiastes 2
Saturday		May 15		Ecclesiastes 3
Sunday		May 16		Ecclesiastes 4
Monday		May 17	Philippians 2	Ecclesiastes 5
Tuesday		May 18	Philippians 3	Ecclesiastes 6
Wednesday		May 19	Philippians 4	Ecclesiastes 7
Thursday	May 20	Psalm 26-27	Ecclesiastes 8	
Friday	May 21	Psalm 28-29	Ecclesiastes 9	
Saturday	May 22		Ecclesiastes 10	
Sunday	Season of Pentecost	May 23	Ecclesiastes 11	

	Week Day	Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading
Monday	May 24	2 Kings 1	Ecclesiastes 12
Tuesday	May 25	2 Kings 2	2 Kings 3
Wednesday	May 26	2 Kings 4:1-37	2 Kings 4:38-44
Thursday	May 27	2 Kings 5	2 Kings 6:1-23
Friday	May 28	Jeremiah 1	Jeremiah 2
Saturday	May 29		Jeremiah 3-4
Sunday	May 30		Jeremiah 5-6
Monday	May 31	2 Kings 6:24-33	Jeremiah 6
Tuesday	June 1	2 Kings 7	Jeremiah 7
Wednesday	June 2	2 Kings 8	Jeremiah 8
Thursday	June 3	2 Kings 9	Jeremiah 9
Friday	June 4	2 Kings 10	Jeremiah 10
Saturday	June 5		2 Kings 11; Jeremiah 11
Sunday	June 6		2 Kings 12
Monday	June 7	Jeremiah 13	Jeremiah 12
Tuesday	June 8	Titus 1	2 Kings 13
Wednesday	June 9	Titus 2	2 Kings 14
Thursday	June 10	Titus 3	2 Kings 15
Friday	June 11	2 Kings 16	Nahum 1
Saturday	June 12		Jeremiah 14
Sunday	June 13		Nahum 2
Monday	June 14	2 Kings 17:1-23	Nahum 3
Tuesday	June 15	2 Kings 17:24-41	Jeremiah 15
Wednesday	June 16	2 Kings 18:1-25	Jeremiah 16

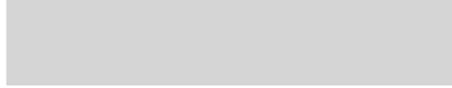
	Week Day	Reading	Additional Two-Year Reading
Thursday	June 17	2 Kings 18:26-37	Jeremiah 17
Friday	June 18	Jeremiah 18	Jeremiah 19
Saturday	June 19		2 Kings 19-20
Sunday	June 20		2 Kings 21-22
Monday	June 21	2 Kings 23:1-20	2 Kings 23:21-37
Tuesday	June 22	2 Kings 24	Jeremiah 20
Wednesday	June 23	Jeremiah 21	Jeremiah 22
Thursday	June 24	Jeremiah 23	Jeremiah 24
Friday	June 25	2 Kings 25	Jeremiah 25
Saturday	June 26		Jeremiah 26
Sunday	June 27		Lamentations 1
Monday	June 28	Jeremiah 27	Lamentations 2
Tuesday	June 29	Jeremiah 28	Lamentations 3
Wednesday	June 30	Jeremiah 29	Jeremiah 30
Thursday	July 1	Jeremiah 31:1-34	Jeremiah 31:35-40
Friday	July 2	Jeremiah 32:1-25	Jeremiah 32:26-44
Saturday	July 3		Psalms 30
Sunday	July 4		Psalms 31
Monday	July 5	Jeremiah 33	Jeremiah 34-35
Tuesday	July 6	Jeremiah 36	Lamentations 4
Wednesday	July 7	Jeremiah 37	Lamentations 5
Thursday	July 8	Jeremiah 38	
Friday	July 9	Jeremiah 39	
Saturday	July 10		Psalms 32

Sunday



July 11

**Week Day
Reading**



**Additional Two-Year
Reading
Psalm 33**