

MIDWEEK DEVOTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

DEVOTION Jesus and Apple Trees

As a part of our appreciation of God's wonders in Creation, today I would encourage us to think on apple trees for a while. Apple trees are quite simply amazing. Think about it! We plant one apple seed, and an entire tree grows, not bearing just one apple in return, but hundreds of apples for years and years. Far from being a zero-sum-game, there is a ridiculous return for our effort of planting a single seed. Moreover, the apple tree provides more than just fruit in early autumn; it provides the beauty of blossom and scent in the spring and is a welcome source of shade in the summer. It's truly a tree that gives and gives!

We are harvesting our apples this week, most of which will find their way into applesauce or apple pies. These products remain in our freezer for months, so that in January or February, we might pull out a pie or a container of applesauce and enjoy again a taste of September. Many of us have apple trees in our yards, whether crab apples or regular apples, and watching the ways the tree provides beauty and blossom and fruit throughout the seasons has become a part of our observance of God "making all things beautiful in their season", as we read in Ecclesiastes 3.

Perhaps it might add a new dimension to our experience of the apple tree if we reflect on this hymn, written 3 centuries ago, by an anonymous American or British poet. The main metaphor of the poem is that the apple tree is an appropriate metaphor for Christ in the astonishing way it gives so generously in so many ways. This poem is called "The Apple Tree Carol" and sung at Christmas by choirs in arrangements by John Rutter or Elizabeth Poston, and some may recognize it from that context.

The tree of life my soul hath seen
Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree

For happiness I long have sought
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree

I'm weary with my former toil
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be

Of Jesus Christ the apple tree

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Living within our present difficult and uncertain times, I find the image of resting beneath an apple tree, as if resting in the arms of Christ, to be a source of solace. And if our faith feels weak or fragile at times, it's encouraging to think, "This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive." Nature has so much to give us and to teach us. Enjoy your apples!

In Christ, Pastor Susan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNIFE RIVER PRAYER LIST:

In need of healing: Veronica Persons, Susan Anderson, Elsa Keeler, Becca Kuechle, Les Bolen, Fred Wright, Reid Carson, Kayla Davidson, Archie Moore, Pastor John Reppe, Gary Swanson, Faith Swanson, Seth Goodnature, Pat Hovis, Sarah Monaghan, Emily Coolidge, Melyssa Bloom, DeWayne and Maurine Rubedor, Emma Durward, Bill Crandall

Special circumstances: Jacques Basson (Anne Lu's brother, who is working with Covid-19 patients in Dubai.)

Long Term Concerns: Sue Sigel, Laurie Jackson, David Pierce, Jan Moon, Pat Hanson, Pat Levenske, Dani Mattson, Lyle Northey, Leif Zmolek, Kane Bolen, Aspen Winbigler, Deb Allert, Peggy B., Corine Sutherland

SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Today, Wednesday, Sept. 16-9 AM-Quilters in person

Midweek devotions sent out

Sunday, Sept. 20-Virtual Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, Sept. 21-10 AM- Staff meeting in Garden

Tuesday, Sept. 22- 9:00 AM-Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper online

10 AM-Worship Committee meets

Today is the newsletter deadline! Get your articles to Kay Struve!

Wednesday, Sept. 23-9 AM-Quilters in person

SPECIAL OFFERING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE DURWARD FAMILY

The Durward family of Knife River recently experienced a terrible accident, in which their four year old daughter, Emma, was run over by a vehicle in a church parking lot in Duluth. Emma was hospitalized and is now recovering at home for the most part. Our Council voted to give an immediate gift of \$500 to the family out of local outreach monies within our budget, but we also want to give individual members an opportunity to contribute to a further gift. Through November, we will receive checks to Knife River Lutheran Church with the designation “for the Durward family” as a part of this effort. Thank you for caring about our neighbors!

OFFERINGS

Please check the church newsletter for a financial update, and remember the importance of supporting the church through your mailed in offerings! P.O. Box 218, Knife River, MN 55609

WHO ARE WE MISSING?

We are attempting to cast our net wide in sending out these emails, along with postings on Facebook and our church website. Additionally, we are sending snail mail copies to those who are without online resources. If you know of someone we are missing, please let us know, so we may include them too!

MASK MESSAGE FROM JOANIE LEE We continue to make masks, and realize that masks wear out from wearing and washing. Please don't hesitate to ask for replacements. We have plenty. Contact at joanielee14@gmail.com.

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's (LSS) mission is expressing the love of Christ for all people through service that inspires hope, changes lives, and builds community. This fall, LSS is inviting congregations across our state to join them online for the **2020 Celebration for Changing Lives** on Saturday, September 19.

Gifts at this virtual gala help LSS respond to the most urgent needs of our neighbors. This fall, Lutherans representing all six of Minnesota's ELCA synods have come together to match up to 200 new gifts of any amount with an additional \$250.

Please visit **lssmn.org/forsuchatime** to take advantage of this incredible opportunity by making a gift today. **Thank you.**