

CARING CONVERSATIONS...



Vibrant Faith --

Home Is Church, Too!

Even though we are unable to bring the dead to life, as God can, and did through his Son, Jesus Christ, we can be the hands and voice of Jesus in the world.

What does this mean? Well, we can provide comfort, support, and care for others in need. We can even provide a helping hand or prayers and words of encouragement. God has blessed each of us with different gifts and talents. We start every day assured of God's love, compassion, and forgiveness, expressed in the life, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. What an awesome opportunity we have then to use our gifts to help and care for others, just as Jesus did and does!

During this week and over the summer, our times of devotions and prayer with family and by ourselves can be spent using the gifts you've described or by making cards, baking cookies, putting together bouquets of flowers or care packages. Also, we can take time during these activities to pray together, sing hymns together, especially the Pentecost Scripture in Song, or simply talk with one another, which I'm sure we all do regularly anyway.

DEVOTIONS...

PENTECOST SCRIPTURE IN SONG - PSALM 23

Memorize this hymn as a way to learn and remember Psalm 23:1-3

*Written for Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Hazelwood, MO,
as part of the Lutheran Church Composer-in-Residence Program 2014-2016*

THE LORD'S MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1-3

Theodore A. Jander
(ASCAP)

$\text{♩} = 120$



1. The Lord's my shep - herd; I'll not want. He



makes me down to _____ lie in pas - tures green; he



lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters _____ by. My



soul he does re - store a - gain, and me to walk does



make with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en



for his own name's _____ sake.

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DEVOTIONS...CONT'D.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

- ★ What is something you put off doing? Why?
- ★ In Luke 9:59-61, Jesus responds to questions about following him, by pointing out that following him is the top priority. When is it hard to make Jesus our top priority?
- ★ Where do you feel safe? Why? In what ways do you experience Jesus as your Good Shepherd?

reflective DEVOTIONS

- ★ During these summer months, take a “faith walk” ...
- ★ ...observe and talk about where you see the “green pastures” and “quiet waters” of God’s love and grace in your daily life.
- ★ During your devotions this week, share about a time you were set free to love your neighbor, as indicated in Galatians 5:13-15.
- ★ How can Psalm 23 apply to your life and faith?
- ★ How can Psalm 23 be used in answering the questions above?

intentional SERVICE

- ★ How can you provide “green pastures” or “quiet waters” for others as God has done for you?
- ★ Share some comforting or encouraging words with someone on social media.
- ★ Make a card, a bouquet of flowers, or a plate of cookies.
- ★ Visit someone who is in need of care and support.
- ★ Present them with the card, the flowers, or the cookies.

building RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

- ★ Decide as a family when the best time is to come together for prayer.
- ★ Use this hymn as a prayer or meditation during that time.
- ★ Greet visitors into your home with the words, **“Peace be with you.”**

DEVOTIONS...CONT'D.



June 26, 2016
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Following Jesus means serving others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 9:51-62	The cost of following Jesus
Monday	Galatians 5:1-25	Christian freedom
Tuesday	Luke 9:21-27	Following Jesus
Wednesday	Luke 5:27-32	Levi follows Christ
Thursday	Matthew 13:1-9	A crop is produced
Friday	Ephesians 5:1-9	The fruit of the light
Saturday	Psalms 92	The fruit of the righteous
Sunday	Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	Jesus sends out the Seventy-Two

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

All that the Law says can be summed up in the command to love others as much as you love yourself. **Galatians 5:14 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS

A Prayer for the Week:

O God, set us free to serve each other with love. Amen. (Galatians 5:13)

Mealtime Prayer:

Thank you, Lord, for the fruit of the earth. Produce in us the fruits of your Spirit, so that our lives are ripe with love. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God's Spirit be at work in you, producing fruits of love. Amen.