

SALT SHAKER

June 2011

June 1 ~ 7:00p.m. Devil's Run Breakfast Meeting

June 4 ~ 7:00a.m.-11:00a.m. Devil's Run Breakfast

June 14 ~ 7:00p.m. Church Council Meeting

June 15 ~ 7:00p.m.-8:00p.m. Visitation Ministry Meeting

June 27-30 ~ Vacation Bible School 9:00a.m. - 12:00p.m.

Sunday Morning Worship

"Summer Schedule"

9:00a.m. Fellowship

10:00a.m. Worship

Holy Communion celebrated the first and third Sunday of the month

***The Sunday Worship times of 8:30a.m. & 11:00a.m. will resume on Rally Sunday, Sept. 11th**

Wednesday Schedule

6:00p.m. Worship

ALL ARE WELCOME---FRIEND AND STRANGER!!!

The Salt Shaker
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
612 14th Ave. NE
Devils Lake, ND 58301-2808

Nonprofit Org.
PRST STD
Devils Lake,
Permit No. 40

Return Service Requested

Rev. Jamie Desai, Pastor
pastor@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Paula Schmid, Adm. Assistant
paula@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Mike Orness, Youth Director
youth@oursaviorsdevilslake.org
Phone: 701-662-5112
Website: www.oursaviorsdevilslake.org

The salt shaker

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

612 14th Avenue NE, Devils Lake, North Dakota ~ June, 2011

We are a caring family of God's children growing in faith, spreading His word, and doing His work in the community and beyond.

Summer is here! The sun is shining the flowers are blooming. Oh, wait...the rain is falling, the roads are flooding and the sun is hiding. It does not feel much like summer. *"How long O Lord?"*

A high school friend of mine, Lisa and her husband Mike live in Joplin, Missouri. Or should I say, "used" to live in Joplin. Their house, along with their neighborhood and most of Joplin was destroyed in the tornadoes last month. When I found out about her situation I immediately asked her, "What can we do to help; donate funds, assist in rebuilding or send some volunteers?" Lisa replied, "Pray for us!" I did as she asked and I have been praying ever since for her, her family and the residents of what used to be Joplin, Missouri.

What do we do in the midst of struggle and hardship? **Psalm 51:2** says, *"Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug."* When we are suffering or in chaos and feel like we have no control over our lives, we tend to lash out in anger, blame others and feel abandoned. That is because we forget to look to *the Rock from which we were hewn*. We blame politicians, FEMA and the people down river, who I do not want to totally leave off the hook. But, if we blame others or turn to earthly rulers in hopes of relieving our struggles, we will most certainly be disappointed. *"Look to the Rock,"* the psalmist says, *"from the quarry from which you were hewn."*

I admire my friend Lisa, who is in the darkest moment of her life. She does not blame nor look to earthly sources for help and consolation, but instead looks to God who, *"is the Rock from which she was hewn."* Lisa is a role model for all of us. When the water is high, when our deepest hurts surface or when we feel abandoned by others, God is the One who is always with us. God is the One who will never abandon us. God is our Rock and our Salvation.

As we wait for the sun to come out and the waters to recede, take heart and look to the Rock of your salvation. And if people should ask you, "What can I do to help?" Try my classmate Lisa's response, "Pray for us!"

God bless you this month of June,

~Pastor Jamie

WE SALUTE YOU.....

Easter breakfast workers & servers

SPECIAL MUSIC:

If there is anyone who would like to provide special music for a worship service, you are encouraged to call Lisa Crandall @665-2240 or call the church office @662-5112. Thank You.

FINANCIAL GIVING

Date	Attendance		Offering
	8:30a.m.	11:00a.m.	
05/01	63	103	\$ 2,878.00
05/08	70	143	\$ 2,789.00
05/15	46	92	\$ 1,805.00
05/22	52	157	\$ 2,394.10
		<u>10:00a.m.</u>	
05/29		75	\$ 1,219.50
Total			\$ 11,085.60

Pews	\$ 475.00
Benevolence	\$ 75.00
Youth Group	\$ 130.00

Memorials may be designated to the following funds: Memorials may be designated to the following funds: pews, youth, benevolence, or the general fund.

Attendance at Wednesday Services

05/04	45
05/11	53
05/18	49
05/25	5

Summer Worship Hours ~

Beginning **May 29th** we will have one worship service on Sundays at **10:00a.m.** and on Wednesdays at **6:00p.m.**

Memorials:

Sally Thompson

By: Jane Jobs

By: Curtis & Yvonne Erickstad

By: James Johnson

By: Don & Rubie Brintnell

By: Steve Johnson

Charlene Kamai

By: Gordy & Paula Schmid

ACOLYTES

10:00a.m.

06/05	Ty Ploium
06/12	Cassie Pike
06/19	Jordan Hanson
06/26	Mariah Fixen

Ushers for June

10:00a.m.

Jim Thompson, Paul Thompson
Dennis Lysne

Baptisms

The following baptisms were performed:

*Madelyn Josephine Otto ~ daughter of
Ryan & Jennifer Otto*

*Espenn Pieter Syvertson Johnson ~
son of Paul & Arika Johnson*

*Anders Olav Syvertson Johnson ~
son of Paul & Arika Johnson*

*Gavin Zander Kemp ~ Son of Stephanie
Nelson & Christopher Kemp*

Visitation Ministry If you are interest in making friends with those who are unable to leave their homes, come to our interest meeting on **Wednesday, June 15th** from **7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.** at the church.

Cofirmands

10 sophomores were confirmed at Our Savior's on Sunday, May 1st

Congratulations to:

Nicolas Almen	Christa Lysne
Derek Broden	Kara Schuh
Damond Brokke	Tristen Shelton
Sarah Johnson	Randii Widmer
Haley Larson	Brooke Ystaas

Congratulations to our graduates ~

Megan Anderson	Evan Moen
Mackenzie Arens	Tanner Paine
Marina Boknecht	Katie Parrish
Nicole Broden	Kevin Reed
DJ Darling	Kelsey Sayler
Sam Desai	Alyssa Schmid
Sawyer Diseth	Kim Soper
Alexis Fee	Daniel Wahl
Emberly Holtz	Lucas Wakefield
Chelsea Kurtz	Shayna Ystaas
Kara Martin	

Vacation Bible School

DATES: June 27-30, 2011

Our Savior's and St Olaf will team up again and invite all children to this summer's Vacation Bible School. More details and registration forms will be mailed out soon. Please set aside those dates for all children to participate.

ALSO, We are looking for some volunteers to Teach and lead activities here at Our Savior's Church from **8 AM till Noon June 27-30**. Please contact me ASAP if you are interested. Thanks
Mike Orness

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Our Savior's Financial Picture

2011 Budget	\$ 181,000.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 15,083.00
Given Month of April	\$ 13,512.00
Needed by April 30 th	\$ 60,332.00
Given by April 30 th	\$ 47,227.00
Under Budget	\$ 13,105.00

Summer Fun Day

Our Saviors Lutheran Church Council is trying something new this summer. We are going to have a Summer Fun Day following the 10am church service on Sunday, June 26th, 2011. The Summer Fun Day is a new fundraiser to help assist the church with its finances throughout the summer. We are all aware that attendance drops significantly during the summer months. As a result, the giving drops too. But the fixed costs of our church still remain the same.

The council is hoping this fundraiser will be a way to help the church during this budget crunch. It will be a way that all our members can contribute. We are planning to grill burgers and brats, listen to music and play some games. It will be a great way to visit with our members and maybe meet some new ones as well. Raffle tickets will be mailed to all members of Our Saviors Lutheran Church, like we did for the Family Fun Night in March. Gift cards being given away as prizes and all proceeds from the raffle tickets will go towards the General Fund. The drawings for the raffle will be on June 26th. Winners need not be present to win.

Plan on attending our Summer Fun Day! Enjoy some burgers and brats and have a good time. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Luke Wavra
Long Range Planning

**Our Savior's Visitation Ministry to
Begin this Month**

Preparations will be underway this month to begin an 'official' visitation group on behalf of the congregation for members and perhaps others in need of some Christian comfort. There are a number of you who expressed interest, through time and talent surveys, to participate in ministering to others. This will not replace pastoral visits but will enhance and expand the church's ability to reach out to those who cannot attend services on a regular basis. Christian Fellowship is a crucial part of our lives, whether we can attend in the building or not.

If you think you may be called to participate in such a ministry please attend the meeting scheduled for June 8, 2011, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Pastor Jamie will speak about visitation ministry and how this may be a bit different than regular visiting. If you cannot come to the meeting and are interested in sharing of yourself in this way eventually, please call the church and ask Paula to put you on a contact list for future meetings.

Thank you all for your willingness to share in the various volunteer ministries of Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

Sandi Christofferson

June Birthdays

Kade Fee	1	Lynn Thompson	17
Aric Moen	1	Kendell Hunt	18
Mark McEvers	1	Elizabeth Sposato	18
Karen Pollestad	1	Megan Woodrow	19
MacKenzie Ness	2	Casey Hochhalter	19
Keaton Schultz	3	Brynna Christie	19
JoAnn Heisler	3	Camilla Hawley	19
Dennis Johnson	4	Mason Ames	19
Emily Mootz	4	Jacob Martin	19
Chad Perdue	4	Neil Elverud	20
Cindy Broden	6	Mandy Bracken	20
Deloris Dinger	6	Darren Lien	21
Ed Johnson	6	Brandon Ramsey	21
Jay Hagen	7	Michael Olson	23
Glenn A Olson	8	Tylor Carlson	23
Ffalloit Togstad	8	Sarah Johnson	23
Cami Jo Knutson	8	Adam Joramo	23
Kemper Tarang	9	Emmerson Boyeff	24
Rhonda Wolsky	10	Christoper Fixen	25
David Elverud	10	Devyn Halvorson	25
Joyce Kruckenberg	10	Joy (Newland) Miller	25
Vicki Logan	10	Rachel Newland	26
Spencer Halvorson	10	Sheri Ploium	27
Rick Follman	12	Eric Lysne	27
Marilyn Johnson	13	Wendy Asperheim	27
Mike Orness	13	Anna Ginther	28
Cassi Orness	14	Leta Holsinger	29
Kim Trana	14	Kim Moe	30
Doug Boknecht	14	Hailey McEvers	30
Brooke Wayman	14		
Krista Wold	14		
Hannah McEvers	15		
Julie Hagen	15		
Zach Dahlen	16		

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9am Quilting 6pm Worship 7pm Devil's Run Breakfast Planning Meeting	2	3	4 7am—11am Devil's Run Breakfast
5 Worship @ 10am w/ communion 9:00am Fellowship	6	7	8 9am Quilting 6pm Worship 7pm elemenT	9	10	11
12 Worship @ 10am 9:00am Fellowship	13	14 7pm Church Council	15 9am Quilting 6pm Worship 7pm Visitation Ministry Meeting 7pm Higher Ground	16	17	18
19 Worship @ 10am w/ Communion 9:00am Fellowship	20	21	22 9am Quilting 6pm Worship 7pm elemenT	23	24	25
26 Worship @ 10am 9:00am Fellowship	27	28	29 9am Quilting 6pm Worship 7pm Higher Ground	30		
	VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00A.M.—NOON					

DAY CAMP 2011

June 27-30

9:00 - 5:00 at Ruger Park



For kids going into 1st through 7th grade.

Metigoshe Ministries will lead an adventure packed Bible Camp experience in the morning and in the afternoon a Christian Sports & Arts Camp will be offered from 3:00-5:00. You will have the opportunity to learn new skills and use the talents God has given you. There is no extra charge for these activities. You will be notified before June 27 what activities you are signed up for and what you need to bring with you.

You can also register online Via e-mail (dadd@gondtc.com) or Facebook at Devils Lake Day Camp

Please choose 6 activities & from those 6 you will be assigned to 3 activities (one per day). Rank them from 1 to 6. Number 1 being your first choice and 6 being your last choice.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball | <input type="checkbox"/> Making Doughnuts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football | <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Fleece Blanket Service Project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photography | <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frisbee Golf | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery Bike Ride Adventure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> Soap Carving |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Crafts | |

These choices are for (name): _____

This side of the form must be filled out for 1-7th graders and one must be done for each child. Please register by June 20th. After the 20th registrations will be accepted but you will not be able to choose your own activities.

Sponsored by St. Olaf & Our Savior's Lutheran Churches of Devils Lake.

DAY CAMP FOR PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

June 27-30

9:00 - 12:00

at Our Saviors

For kids who are currently in preschool or going into Kindergarten. They must have turned 3 by 8/31/10. This age group will meet at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

DAY CAMP 2011

FAMILY REGISTRATION SHEET FOR ALL AGES

Cost: \$20.00 per child, \$15.00 per sibling for the whole week

Name: _____ age : _____

Name: _____ age : _____

Name: _____ age : _____

Name: _____ age : _____

Name: _____ age : _____

Parent(s) Name: _____

Phone number in case of emergency: _____

Your Church: _____

THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FORM ONLY NEEDS TO BE FILLED OUT FOR 1-7TH GRADERS AND ONE MUST BE DONE FOR EACH CHILD IN THAT AGE GROUP.

PLEASE REGISTER BY JUNE 20

You can also register online via
E-mail dadd@gondtc.com or on Facebook

What to bring:

- All ages are asked to bring a snack to share on the first day. (these snacks will be used throughout the week)
- 1st - 7th grade must bring their own noon lunch & a water bottle.

The Greatest Story: Bible Introduction

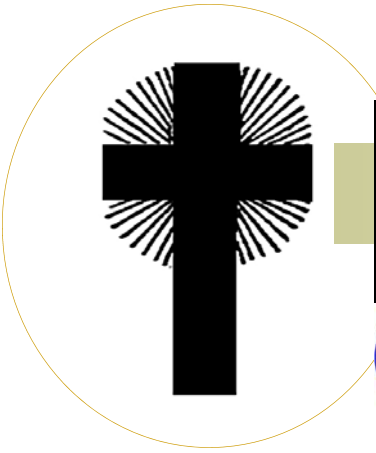


We will cover the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. This 16-session overview course moves participants through the Bible quickly, helping to provide a basic understanding of the key people, places, and events of the Bible. This is a great Bible introduction for new members, those new to the Bible, and even for seasoned Bible study participants.

OPEN TO ALL AGES!!

JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER!!!!

- * **9:00 AM during Sunday Fellowship**
- * Short Video along with a brief study lesson
- * Take home sheets available
- * Deepen your faith
- * Encouragement & Wisdom
- * Journey with your fellow brother & sisters in Christ



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

Our Saviors Lutheran Church

JUNE 2011



ELEMEN (Grades 10-12) Meet at 7 PM June 8th & June 22nd

HIGHER GROUND (Grades 7-9) Meet at 7 PM June 15th & June 29th

Contact: Office 662-5112
Mike Orness cell: 351.3281
youth@oursaviorsdevilslake.org

Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Fellowship
10:00 AM Worship

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 Worship
7:00 Meetings as Scheduled

HELP!! If you or someone you know are interested in helping with **Vacation Bible School**, please talk to Mike!!!!!!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 27 thru JUNE 30

JOIN THE CHURCH ON **FACEBOOK** to get the latest details of events, and share information!!!

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This Months Scripture

"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 (CEV)

2012 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
PLANNING MEETING at 7 PM on JUNE 1ST!!

DEVILS RUN BREAKFAST!!!

June 4th ~ 7AM till 11AM \$5 per plate - Pancakes, Sausage & Coffee/Juice
This is a New Orleans Youth Gathering Fundraiser. Please help support our youth! You can get a great look at all the cars in town for Devils Run!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES ANNOUNCED

June 27th through June 30th

Registration form is in this newsletter!! Please sign up early so we can plan accordingly. If you would like to help teach or help with activities please contact Mike!! PreK through 7th Grade

>>>>> ADULT, FAMILY, & YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES COMING UP!

Starting in the month of JUNE during the 9 AM Fellowship coffee time, we will embark on a journey. "**The Greatest Story**" introduction to the Bible. A 16 session journey for anyone who wants to get a big-picture overview of the Bible, its story and how that story connects with our personal stories. For young adults and adults. Every Sunday throughout the Summer!!!! Please Join Us!!

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES TO CELEBRATE (within the past 5 years)

- Spencer Bruce Vetsch 06-03-07
- Sean Jakob Gordon 06-24-07
- Kariauna Lee Smith 06-28-07
- Caleb Jaye LoneChild 06-11-06
- Max Brewster Langton 06-11-06

A BLESSING TO GIVE TO OTHERS

May God, who has set you free from sin, lead you to do what is right and give you eternal life. Amen.

HEY, CHECK THESE OUT

WORLD VISION - <http://www.worldvision.org>

SAMARITAN'S PURSE - <http://www.samaritanspurse.org>

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - <http://lwr.org>

NORTHLANDS RESCUE MISSION - <http://www.northlandsrescuemission.org>

PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY ~ PRAY



DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	John 17:1-11	Jesus prays for his disciples
Monday	John 3:31-36	The Son and the Father
Tuesday	John 8:21-30	Jesus speaks of going to the Father
Wednesday	Ephesians 4:1-6	Keep the unity of the Spirit
Thursday	1 Peter 3:8-12	Live in harmony
Friday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Paul prays for the Ephesians
Saturday	Psalms 17:1-9	O God, hear my prayer
Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Holy Father, I am no longer in the world. I am coming to you, but my followers are still in the world. So keep them safe by the power of the name that you have given me. Then they will be one with each other, just as you and I are one.

John 17:11 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Father in heaven, please keep us safe today with the power that belongs to your name. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Risen Lord Jesus, we praise you for the gifts of this table and our feast of Easter joy. Fill us with your love and life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God always keep you safe. May God keep your faith in Jesus strong, and give you eternal life. Amen

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss on your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious or worried? What calms you down?
- The apostle Peter encourages us not to be too proud to give our worries to God, because he cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Think of a time when you gave your worries to God.
- What worries or concerns can you give over to God now?

DEVOTIONS:

Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that his Heavenly Father would protect them, and that they would be united. In your home devotional times this week, give special focus to praying for your Christian friends. Contact them by phone or email to inquire about their prayer needs, and include these in your household prayer times.

SERVICE:

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 ("Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you"). Sign the card as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Last Thursday (2 June) was Ascension Day, a day marking the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection at Easter as well as his bodily ascension into heaven. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. The book of Acts (1:12) suggests that Jesus' ascension took place from Mt. Olivet, located northeast of the town of Bethany.

Plan a trip (by car or foot) to a "high place" in your area. While there, discuss what it might have been like to see Jesus ascend into heaven and what it might be like when he returns at the end of time. Take time to notice the clouds and see what shapes you can find (there is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God). Say these words aloud: "Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Acts 2:1-21	The Holy Spirit comes
Monday	Joel 2:18-29	God will pour out his Spirit
Tuesday	Ezekiel 39:7-8,21-29	The Spirit is promised
Wednesday	Acts 4:5-21	Peter and John give witness
Thursday	Acts 4:23-31	The believers pray for boldness
Friday	Acts 8:14-25	Samaritans receive the Spirit
Saturday	Psalms 33:12-22	The Lord is our help and shield
Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Baptism in the Triune Name

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there.

Acts 2:2-3 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Send your Spirit upon us, Lord. Give us new life, so that we may praise you forever. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Come Holy Spirit, come. Come and bless our food. Come and fill us with power to love and serve. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus give you his peace, fill you with his joy, and breathe into you his Spirit. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share an experience you have had with wind or with fire.
- When God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to the first Christians on the day of Pentecost, a strong wind came from heaven and tongues of fire came to rest on them (Acts 2:1-21). How were the believers changed?
- In what ways have you experienced the Holy Spirit's power in your life?

One of the joys of Christian community is helping each other, especially our children, discover and grow into the gifts God has given them. Some of the spiritual gifts the New Testament describes are: *Prophecy* – sharing the Word of God with others. *Helps* – a willingness to help others with their needs. *Teaching* – an ability to help others understand God's Word. *Exhortation* – the capacity to encourage and motivate others. *Giving* – a spirit of generosity. *Leading* – the ability to lead and direct others. *Mercy* – a sense of compassion for others and a willingness to act on these feelings. Which of these gifts do you see in the people around you?

DEVOTIONS:

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 tells us that the Holy Spirit gives special gifts to all believers to use in serving him. For each member of your household, draw a large dove figure on white card and cut out. In your home devotion times this week, take a few minutes to talk about the gifts you see in each other. Write these gifts onto the "doves." Display them on your bedroom doors. Say prayers of thanks to God for the gifts he has given to each member of your household.

SERVICE:

Have a discussion about how members of your household are using their God-given gifts for the sake of others. Brainstorm ways in which you could use them more effectively. Help children realize that God has a plan for them to serve others now, not just in adulthood.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Plan an evening time when you can tell the Pentecost story around a bonfire or in front of a fireplace. Toast marshmallows to add to the experience!

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20	Baptism in the Triune Name
Monday	Job 26:7-14	Job speaks of creation
Tuesday	Job 38:1-11	God speaks of creation
Wednesday	Job 38:12-38	God speaks of creation
Thursday	Nehemiah 9:5-6	God gives life to everything
Friday	Acts 14:8-20	The testimony of creation
Saturday	Psalms 148	Creation, praise the Lord!
Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples. Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God of creation, what you have done is amazing! How great is your name in all the earth! Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Triune God, thank you for all you make and all you give. May we praise your great name as long as we live! Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What part of God's amazing creation do you enjoy most? Why?
- What can we learn about God from his creation?
- God has asked us to take care of all he has created. What does this mean? How do you help to do this?

DEVOTIONS:

Take time in each day of the coming week to read a section of the creation account from Genesis 1 – 2:3. Say a short prayer each day thanking God for what he has made:

Monday – Day 1 of Creation – Genesis 1:1-5

Tuesday – Day 2 of Creation – Genesis 1:6-8

Wednesday – Day 3 of Creation – Genesis 1:9-13

Thursday – Day 4 of Creation – Genesis 1:14-19

Friday – Day 5 of Creation – Genesis 1:20-23

Saturday – Day 6 of Creation – Genesis 1:24-31

Sunday – Day 7 of Creation – Genesis 2:1-3

SERVICE:

Plan a household act of care for God's creation.

- Pick up litter in an area of your neighborhood.
- Reduce your energy consumption by making an effort to turn off lights or household appliances when not in use.
- Review your home recycling practices. Consider how you could do more.
- Make your voice known on an environmental issue of concern. Write to or email a government official about the issue.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Children today spend much time isolated from the natural world. Recreation tends to be indoors (e.g. watching TV); transportation tends to be by car rather than walking; and schooling tends to be oriented more towards indoor activities. However, we also know that children who are close to God's creation relate to it as a source of wonder, joy, and awe. Aim to be intentional about giving your children exposure to nature (e.g. give them a balance between "inside" and "outside" time) and model care and respect for the environment to them. Plan a household outing to a nature park or a zoo. Take time to reflect on what you see and experience. Talk about what amazed or surprised you most.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 10:40-42	Receiving and serving others
Monday	Luke 9:46-48	Welcoming the little ones
Tuesday	Matthew 25:31-40	Receiving Christ in others
Wednesday	Genesis 18:1-10	Abraham receives three visitors
Thursday	Romans 6:20-23	God gives eternal life
Friday	Hebrews 13:1-3,15-16	Show hospitality to strangers
Saturday	Psalms 68:4-10	God sets the lonely in families
Sunday	Matthew 11:16-19,25-30	Rest for the weary

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Sin pays off with death. But God's gift is eternal life given by Jesus Christ our Lord.
Romans 6:23 (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord, open our hearts to welcome you this day, and then to welcome others. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Upon this table food is spread, which we are blessed to share. We thank you, God, for daily bread and for your endless care. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God, who has set you free from sin, lead you to do what is right and give you eternal life. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What is the best birthday or Christmas gift you have ever received?
- What is God's great gift to us? (read Romans 6:23). How is a gift different from a reward or a wage?
- Does this gift of God change the way you see and treat others? In what ways?

DEVOTIONS:

Jesus said that anyone who gave one of his least important followers a cup of cool water - just because that person was his follower - would be rewarded (Matthew 10:42). Even small acts of kindness to our fellow Christians do not escape God's attention! For your home devotion times this week, set out a pitcher of water and a glass for each person. Take turns filling one another's glasses. Read Matthew 10:42 and say together this prayer: *"Lord Jesus, thank you for serving us. Please make us always ready to serve others, in big ways and in small ways. Amen."*

SERVICE:

Extend a welcome to an individual or household from your congregation or another congregation to join you for a meal in your home (preferably people you don't know very well). Discuss how best to make them feel welcome and divide tasks among members of your household (e.g. preparing your home, serving drinks or snacks, entertaining, cleaning up). Remember that in serving your visitors you are serving Christ himself!

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Psalm 89:1 says *"I will sing of your love forever."* Many people sing songs to ease their work or entertain guests. Make a list of your household's favorite Christian hymns and songs, and choose some new ones you would like to learn and share. Make up a household songbook for use at home and when traveling.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss on your household or small group:

- What makes you anxious or worried? What calms you down?
- The apostle Peter encourages us not to be too proud to give our worries to God, because he cares for us (1 Peter 5:7). Think of a time when you gave your worries to God.
- What worries or concerns can you give over to God now?

DEVOTIONS:

Before Jesus was arrested, he prayed especially for his disciples, his closest friends during his time on earth (John 17:6-11). He prayed that his Heavenly Father would protect them, and that they would be united. In your home devotional times this week, give special focus to praying for your Christian friends. Contact them by phone or email to inquire about their prayer needs, and include these in your household prayer times.

SERVICE:

Do you know someone who is going through a difficult period? Make up a card to send them, including the words of 1 Peter 5:7 ("Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you"). Sign the card as a household.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Last Thursday (2 June) was Ascension Day, a day marking the last appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection at Easter as well as his bodily ascension into heaven. It is the fortieth day after Easter Sunday and always falls on a Thursday. The book of Acts (1:12) suggests that Jesus' ascension took place from Mt. Olivet, located northeast of the town of Bethany.

Plan a trip (by car or foot) to a "high place" in your area. While there, discuss what it might have been like to see Jesus ascend into heaven and what it might be like when he returns at the end of time. Take time to notice the clouds and see what shapes you can find (there is an old tradition that the clouds on Ascension Day take the form of lambs, in honor of the Lamb of God). Say these words aloud: "Jesus has ascended, but he will return! Come, Lord Jesus, Come!"