

### Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Pentecost — September 5, 2021

“And she begged him...” (Mark 7:26)

Jesus, because he was exhausted, was out in Gentile territory by himself, trying to hide from the crowds of people. A Syrophenician finds him, a desperate woman, who comes to Jesus, falls at his feet, and begs him to cast out an unclean spirit from her daughter. When she first pleads with him, Jesus responds in a disrespectful manner that he came to save the lost sheep of Israel. She is clearly an outsider with no right to request anything of Jesus. He pushes her away using abrupt, rude, language. She is a “dog” who has no part of the lost sheep of Israel.

Amazingly, the woman persists and argues with Jesus. She says, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Wow! Jesus is impressed not only by her argument but by her persistence. He gives her what she so desperately seeks and miraculously heals her daughter.

Some people are troubled by the way Jesus brushes her off. That doesn’t sound like the compassionate Jesus we have come to know and love. Others are troubled that at first Jesus says “no,” and then after hearing the woman’s argument, he says, “yes.” Does Jesus change his mind? Is the divine Jesus susceptible to human logic?

Perhaps we should not speculate but rather stay with the plain facts. A desperate person came to Jesus, an outsider, a stranger, someone from the margins of society, and as far as we know, never met Jesus and knew little about him. But she dared to argue with Jesus and he responded. Jesus marvels at her faith, determination, and persistence.

What do we make of this story? We should not think of this story as a step-by-step method to get what we want from Jesus. Perhaps it may be possible to not only see the desperate woman, but to see Jesus. Perhaps we are like the woman who comes before Jesus, pleading. She shows us that Jesus is not only Lord, but is also the one who has compassion for the desperate. She may not know everything about Jesus, but somehow, she knows that he is her hope.

Remember this woman when you face times of desperation. Go ahead and request what you think you need. But don’t just request, plead, beg, implore, and even argue! Do so with faith that he hears. Jesus is Lord of the desperate. Amen.

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Cross Lutheran Church & School

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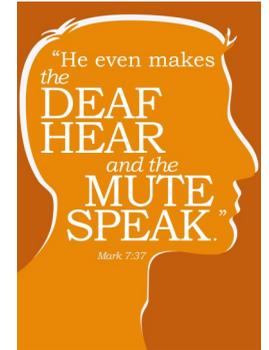
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**CROSS LUTHERAN EARLY CHILDCARE** is turning 2 years old this month! Help us celebrate our “birthday” by choosing a candle off any birthday cake next to each classroom. The candles consist of items that are needed/ wanted in that room, as well as money donations. Then bring back your birthday gift to the designated classroom on/before September 3rd. There will also be a cake in the church and a tote to put your gift in (if you are dropping off at church). Please put your candle with your gift so we know which room it goes to (Infant, Wobbler, Toddler, Preschool, Latchkey.) If you are giving a money donation, please give that and the candle to Michelle Walsh, Kent McKenzie, Mike LePage, Gretchen Roestel, or Kayle Thepsourinthone. Thank you for a great 2 years and many more to come!

*CLECC Board Members*

#### **THIS WEEK AT CROSS**

- Mon. 9/6 Labor Day - NO School
- Tues. 9/7 1st day of Preschool  
Worship & Music 3 pm  
New Song Group 5 pm
- Wed. 9/8 Chapel 8:05 am  
Quilters 1 pm  
Women’s Bible 1:30 pm
- Sun. 9/12 Worship service with Holy Communion 9:30 am

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

- 5 Kristi Krohn  
Janis Elftman
- 6 Taylor Ann Licht
- 8 Kevin Trost

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

- 6 Bill & Jan Love, 52 yrs.
- 11 Steve & Patty Schulze, 50 yrs.

**THOSE IN NEED OF EXTRA SPECIAL PRAYER**

Don Arndt, Al Collison, Connie Eden, Eunice Richmond, Bill Hurdelbrink, Delores Johnson, Dustin Tice, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Whitney Peyerker, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Allen Koehler, Mary Champion, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Kim Edler, Deann Lewis, Hope Kittel, Marilyn Blunt, and Robert Krzeszewski

**THOSE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOMES**

Dolores Elftman, Elaine Licht, and Martin Knost

**THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY**

Nathan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Ryan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Nicholas Swanson (U.S. Air Force), and Michael Cox (U.S. Navy)

Contributions for Sunday, 8/29 were:	\$5,626.00
Budgeted need:	\$6,056.00
Below Budget	\$570.00

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**Bishop Selbo to Attend Michigan Mission District Meeting**

Our Mission District has a wonderful opportunity this Fall. We have the opportunity to spend time with our denominational Bishop!

Peace Lutheran, 3590 Lincoln Avenue, St. Joseph is hosting this year's Annual Michigan Mission District meeting on Saturday, October 2nd. Gathering time starts at 9:30 a.m. and the meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. with a Service of Holy Communion. Worship is followed by a question and answer session with the Bishop. After lunch we will hear a presentation on overseas mission from an NALC Partner Ministry. Pastor Samar Ghandour heads Victory Ministry's work in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast.

We will also have the opportunity to break into small groups of men, women, and clergy to make plans for events/gatherings between annual meetings. The day ends at 3:00 p.m. to allow time for attendees to return to their home congregations. Please plan to attend.

Our Fellowship Committee is lining up housing with members if any of you desire to come early and stay overnight on Friday, October 1st.

***Please let our Church Office know (1) how many are planning to attend from your congregation and (2) whether or not overnight accommodations are needed for Friday by WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd.***

*The office can be reached at [peacelutheranstjoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peacelutheranstjoe@sbcglobal.net) or 269-556-7000  
Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. – noon. I look forward to seeing you in October!*

Pastor Steve Hartten  
Dean, Michigan Mission District  
Peace Lutheran Church  
St. Joseph MI  
269-556-7000

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**Help Is Needed for NALC Disaster Warehouse Build!**

**Dear Fellow Volunteers,**

The build of our Michigan Mission District Disaster Response warehouse has proven to be a slow process. It feels like it took forever to get enough done to pour in the floor. That finally was accomplished! Now it feels like it is taking forever to get the roof completed. While all the walls are ready to be sided, and ready for the electrician come, we wait for the roof to be finished.

The challenge..... We need more volunteers. I know for many of our volunteers, it is a long drive in and back home. All I can respond with is: *"Thank you so very much!"* And to add: The more volunteers you bring with you, the more we will get done. So, please make time to come, and bring as many volunteers with you as you can. Invite those family members and neighbors who have no church connection; and that person who has not been to church for a while.

Take a look at the updated picture. We are making progress! I had hope that we would be ready for this ministry to start up before the summer was over. It looks like that might need to be put off until the fall. Let's get this NALC Disaster Response Warehouse up and going as soon as we can. Get those needed volunteers to join in on this ministry cause. Let's be ready for when people caught up in a disaster will need our help. When you invite people, speak to them of how important this work effort is. And again, *"Thank you so very much!"*

**Next Build Time:** Every Saturday without rain until it is done (or otherwise canceled). Building from 9:00 am until 3:00/4:00 pm.

Let me know if you can come, and how many will be with you. We will plan accordingly.

Yours in Our Lord's Grace & Joy,  
Pastor George Zornow  
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Owosso  
[zornowg@yahoo.com](mailto:zornowg@yahoo.com)

