

Christ Lutheran Church

127 N. Spring St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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June 2020

Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out. But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!" (Luke 8:22-25)

The disciples had been going about life as usual. Jesus had asked them to sail across the lake, as they had done many a time before. Their Lord seemed to have an important plan for them. Then, just as they were following His will and trusting His plan, the storm struck, and everything seemed to fall apart.

Where is Jesus in the storm? Why is He sleeping? Doesn't He realize what's happening in our lives? Doesn't He care that we are about to drown? Such thoughts must have entered the disciples' minds as they fought to stay afloat amidst the fierce winds and waves that now threatened to sink their boat.

Have you ever found yourself in the same boat? You were going about life as usual, trying to follow Jesus' will, trusting His great plan for you. The future looked bright. But then the winds of trouble blew, the unexpected storm hit, and everything seemed to go wrong – the fearful news, the life-changing report, the heartbreaking loss, the uncertain future. As you tried to weather wave after wave of anxiety, sorrow, and fear, you began to feel overwhelmed as if you might sink into the depths...

And maybe you were tempted to think: Where is Jesus now? Doesn't He realize what's happening in my life? Doesn't He care that I am about to drown?

"Master, Master, we are perishing!" In the midst of the storm, Jesus was still with the disciples, as always. In the midst of sinking fears, they prayed to Him. *"Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, 'Where is your faith?'"*

In every storm of life, Jesus is still with us, as always. He who is Master of all creation still speaks, and every wind and wave obeys Him. Why should we doubt that, even now, He is in control of all things for our good?

For He is with us, not only as our almighty Creator, but as our loving Savior. He already has calmed the greatest storm that raged in our lives. When we were

perishing in a sea of sin, and in danger of sinking into eternal death, He came to our rescue. In His unfathomable love, He gave His life on the cross to take away our sins, and He rose again for our salvation.

Now as Jesus speaks His Word to our hearts, He calms our deepest fears. He forgives all our sins. He gives us peace with God. He gives us the blessed hope of eternal life.

He assures us that nothing can ever separate us from His love – no fearful news, no life-changing report, no heartbreaking loss, not even death. Our present and future are always certain in the hands of our all-powerful and loving Savior.

Day by day, Jesus is leading us by His gracious Word. He is bringing about His great plan in our lives. And at last, He will bring us safely to heaven's shore.

Jesus, Lover of my soul,
Let me to Thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide.
O receive my soul at last!

In His loving care,
Pastor Smith



Change of Plans

What plans have you had to change lately? I spend time almost every day deleting items from my calendar or rescheduling them. Restrictions and fears for our safety have caused the cancellation of meetings, conventions, vacations, and just about any plans that involve being in public. Graduation ceremonies are cancelled, weddings are postponed. Some fear the isolation will cause more mental health issues. We do not like the unknown. Some of us are better than others at adapting to change, but none of us can live indefinitely in a constant state of flux without it having a negative effect on us. We want to make plans and stick to them.

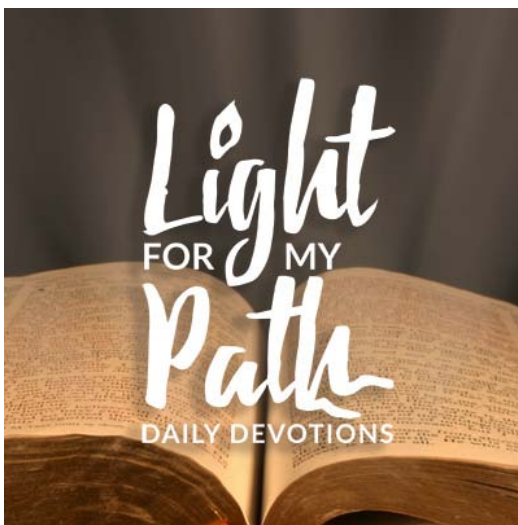
We've all experienced the disappointment of cancelled or changed plans at some point in our lives. At the time, it is often very difficult to understand why something is happening. We can be tempted to be angry with God for allowing difficult times in our lives. Navigating those times is certainly not in *our* plans. But we're reminded in God's Word that *A person's heart plans his way, but the Lord makes his steps secure* (Proverbs 16:8 EHV). Our plans are often not God's plan for us.

Looking back at our lives with the benefit of hindsight, many times we can see the path we chose was not the best way and the path God placed us on was much better for us. That's not always the case, though. Sometimes we will never know the "why" when something happens. Instead of spending our time wondering why something happens, we are invited to trust our Lord: *We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose* (Romans 8:28 EHV). Instead of thinking that God is punishing us, we remember God's words: *I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you peace, not disaster, plans to give you hope and a future* (Jeremiah 29:11 EHV).

Our peace and our future are not here on earth. Our peace comes by God's grace through faith in our Savior, Jesus. Our future on earth will be filled with uncertain times. But our certain hope and future are with our God in Heaven, guaranteed by His Son, our Savior. And no power on earth can take that from us. *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor rulers, neither things present nor things to come, nor powerful forces, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 8:38-39 EHV).

(By Rev. Paul Fries, from our Evangelical Lutheran Synod blog page: <https://els.org/about/blog/>)

Light for My Path Daily Devotion



Bible Reading

You are being strengthened with all power because of his glorious might working in you. Then you will have complete endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. The Father rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:11-14 EHV)

Hymn ELH 240:1 *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*

Jesus, Refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life's desert dreary, Savior from the world above,
O how oft thine eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner's fall!
Yet, upon the cross extended, Thou didst bear the pain of all.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to be my Savior, that I may inherit Heaven through Him. Strengthen me and give me endurance to overcome all temptations and troubles in this life. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

(From "Light for My Path Daily Devotion": <https://els.org/dailydevotions/>)

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sunday radio programs and sermons are posted on our church website at www.lutherankf.org.</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Happy Birthday Ashlyn Smith</i>
<p>7 <i>Holy Trinity</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p>	8	9 <i>Happy Birthday Kelly Ruiz</i>	10	11	12	13
<p>14 <i>Pentecost 2</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p>	15	16	17 <i>Happy Anniversary Pastor & Maria Smith</i>	18 <i>Happy Birthday Margaret Howard</i>	19	20 <i>Summer begins</i>
<p>21 <i>Pentecost 3</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship with Communion 9:30 AM</p> <p><i>Happy Birthday Barbara Walker</i></p>	22 <i>Happy Anniversary Randy & Jackie Bednar</i>	23	24	25	26	27
<p>28 <i>Pentecost 4</i></p> <p>Radio Program 8:30 AM (KAGO 1150 AM)</p> <p>Worship 9:30 AM</p>	29	30 <i>Happy Birthday Dale Hauck</i>	<p><i>“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6</i></p>			

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