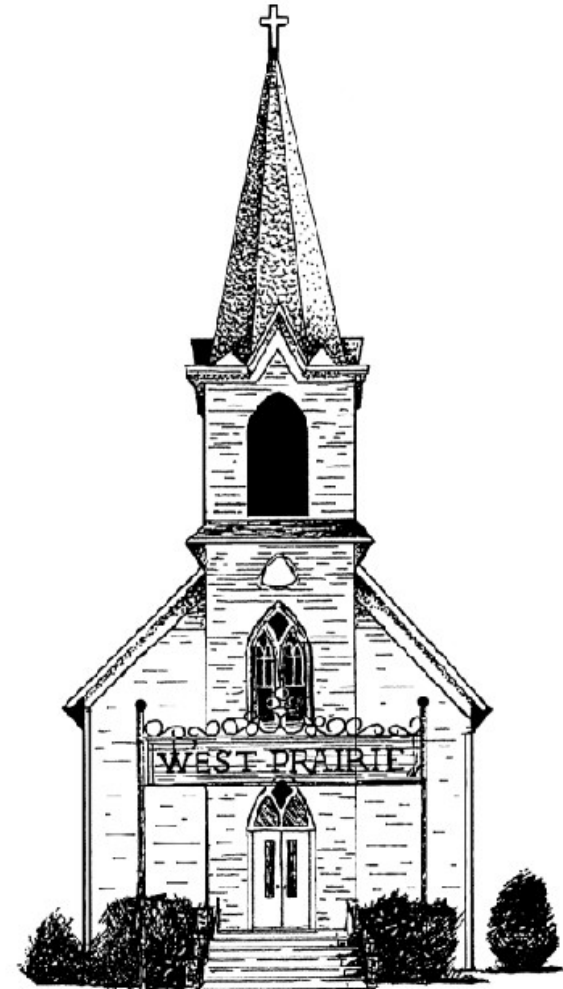


SERMON NOTES . . .

“Get the Picture?” John 3:1-17

- 1) John 3:16 has always been the picture of how much God _____ us.
- 2) We are now part of God's covenant. We now have _____ in a hopeless world.
- 3) Jesus said, “Just as Moses lifted up the _____ in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up.” (John 3:14)
- 4) God wasn't happy with Israel so He decided to get their _____.
- 5) Our sin has brought a painful _____ into our lives.
- 6) When Jesus died on the cross, he was ‘ _____ up’ so that everyone who looked to him could be healed and live!
- 7) Jesus is telling us that the _____ way anyone is going to be healed of the poison in their lives caused by their own sinfulness will be if he is lifted up for them to see.
- 8) Unless you and I are convinced that Jesus can fix our lives, we're not going to include him in the _____.
- 9) You can't make people become _____. You've got to get them to see the love of God in Jesus so that they want to be moral.
- 10) People outside of the church need to get _____. We are the salt of the earth.
- 11) People outside of the church need to see _____ Jesus can make a difference in their lives.
- 12) On the picture of John 3:16 is this message: “Whatever you have done, whatever you have become, it doesn't matter.... Please come _____.”



West Prairie Lutheran Church

Steven Bang, pastor

Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

40041 150th Ave., P.O. Box 9, Leland, IA 50453 - Steve Bang, pastor

Please sign the attendance sheet provided in each pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address, and we invite you to join us again.

Worship Service for the 2nd Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m., March 12, 2017

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, God Himself is Present.....LBW #249

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise page 79

Prayer of the Day

(All) Heavenly Father, it is Your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from Your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of Your Word and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

You may be seated.

First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan,

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today. . .

7 p.m. Youth Group

Tuesday, March 14. . .

7 p.m. Church Council

Wednesday, March 15 . . .

3 p.m. Confirmation Class

6 p.m. Naomi Circle serving walking tacos, dessert, beverage

7 p.m. Lenten service @ West Prairie

Next Sunday, March 19 . . .

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

Bible Study Club, hosted by Jan and Julie Reimann, will be held next Sunday, March 19, time and place TBA.

West Prairie cookbooks — Now available for \$10. To purchase, see Julie Reimann, call at 515-418-2735 or email to janreimann77@gmail.com.

Anyone interested in purchasing an Easter Lily in honor of or in memory of someone, please see Irene Eide today. Order is due to Bill’s Family Foods on Monday, March 13th to guarantee availability. Cost is \$6.99 per lily. A volunteer will pick up and deliver the lilies to the church for Easter Sunday. You may take your lily home after services that day. Lilies make wonderful Easter gifts or you may want to plant it in your yard, and with proper care, you will be enjoying those beautiful flowers again in July or August!

Prayer List — Health concerns for Leah Branstad, Jonie Bang, Denise Holst, Robert Olsen, Elaine Ritz, Carver Moffat, Marllys Haugen, Mike Haack, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil; Angela Haugen serving in the military. All prayer requests can be submitted to Pastor Steve @641-590-7894; or leave a message on the church answering system @641-567-3733.

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn, *O God of Jacob*.....LBW #477

Postlude

Pastor: Steve Bang

Pianist: Melissa Phillips

Lectionary: Lanette Branstad

Usher: Jan Reimann and Paris Reimann

Acolyte: Caitlin Fjeld

and they arrived there.

Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

Then Abram set out and continued toward the Negev.

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 121 (responsively)

L: I will lift up my eyes to the hills;

C: from where is my help to come?

L: My help comes from the Lord,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

L: He will not let your foot be moved

C: and He who watches over you will not fall asleep.

L: Behold, He who keeps watch over Israel

C: shall neither slumber nor sleep;

L: the Lord Himself watches over you;

C: the Lord is your shade at your right hand,

L: so that the sun shall not strike you by day,

C: nor the moon by night.

L: The Lord shall preserve you from all evil;

C: it is He who shall keep you safe.

L: The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in,

C: from this time forth forevermore.

Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-8, 13-17

Abraham Justified by Faith

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.”

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Here ends the lesson

Return to the Lord your God..... page 83

The Gospel: John 3:1-17

Response: *Glory to You, O Lord*.....page 83

Jesus Teaches Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in Him.”

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.

Response: *Praise to You, O Christ*.....page 83

Hymn, *Savior, Thy Dying Love* Grey Hymn Book #279

The Sermon: Pastor Steve Bang

“Get the Picture?” John 3:1-17

Hymn, *For God So Loved the World* Grey Hymn Book #315

Apostles’ Creed..... page 85

Prayer

Congregational Response: Hear my prayer.

Sharing of the peace.

You may be seated.

Offering

Please stand.

Offertory, *Create In Me a Clean Heart*..... page 96

Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer..... page 97

Benediction page 97