

## SERMON NOTES. . .

### “Getting Close to God” Acts 17:16-31

1. One of the most important truths that Paul spoke the day he was in Athens was that God is close, but wants to be \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Getting close to God requires more than \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Christianity is not about religion, it is about a \_\_\_\_\_ with God through Jesus Christ.
4. Getting close to God requires believing the \_\_\_\_\_ about Him. Some of the truths about God are:
  - He \_\_\_\_\_ everything.
  - He is totally self-\_\_\_\_\_.
  - He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of life.
  - He is not \_\_\_\_\_ from any of us.
  - He is much more than man’s grandest \_\_\_\_\_ of Him.
  - He’s overlooked past ignorance, but now requires \_\_\_\_\_.
  - He will \_\_\_\_\_ the world one day by the man Jesus.
5. God will hold us all \_\_\_\_\_ one day and God wants to hold us close too.
6. Getting close to God is what He \_\_\_\_\_ from us.
7. Getting close to God begins with \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Hopefully, we are past the point of caring more about what people think than caring what \_\_\_\_\_ thinks and what is best for us and others.
9. Don’t give your heart affections away to any other than the one who gave His \_\_\_\_\_ for you!

## 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 Sixth Sunday after Easter

11 a.m., May 21, 2017

#### Prelude

#### Pastoral Greeting

*Please stand if you are able.*

**Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness** ..... page 77

**Opening Hymn, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** ..... LBW #315

**Kyrie** ..... page 78

**Hymn of Praise** ..... page 79

#### Prayer of the Day

**(All) O God, from whom all good things come: Lead us by the inspiration of Your Spirit to think those things which are right, and by Your goodness help us to do them; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*You may be seated.*

**First Lesson:** Acts 17:16-31

#### Paul In Athens

While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with both Jews and God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there. A group of Epicurean and Stoic philosophers began to debate with him. Some of them asked, "What is this babbling trying to say?" Others remarked, "He seems to be advocating foreign gods." They said this because Paul was preaching the good news about Jesus and the resurrection. Then they took him and brought him to a meeting of the Areopagus, where they said to him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? You are bringing some

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Today...

7 p.m. Youth Group

### Wednesday, May 24

No Adult Bible Study

### Next Sunday, May 28...

10:15-10:45 a.m. Fellowship

11 a.m. Worship Service

7 p.m. Youth Group

**West Prairie Graduates** Caitlin Fjeld, Julia Holland, Rachel Holst and Halle Jo Johnson will be presented with specially-made quilts by WOW during worship service. Congratulations and may God lead you in your future endeavors!

**You are invited to an Open House** honoring Dorothy Bang on her 90th birthday Sunday, May 28, 3 to 5 p.m. at the Forest City Senior Center.

**FYI**—If you have wondered about the significance of the banner that is displayed (and will be through next week): The red flowers are the Rose of Sharon (trumpet shaped, type of hibiscus of various colors) the color of fire and indicates the presence of God, for the birth of Christ and subsequent Christmas season; the purple flowers are a symbol of royalty, also invokes pain and suffering foreshadowing Jesus' death as we observe the Lenten season; the white lilies symbolize purity, holiness and virtue, also a sign of spring—newness of life, Christ's resurrection and the Easter season. This banner was made many years ago by Junice Brown's sister Jeneva (sisters of Marlys Haugen) for West Prairie.

**Prayer List** — Health concerns for Jonie Bang, Denise Holst, Elaine Ritz, Marlys Haugen, Carver Moffat, Mike Haack, Dale Zingg, Dorothy Kall, Ben Charlson, Monte Branstad, Blanche Durby, Eldora Reil; Angela Haugen in the military. All prayer requests can be submitted to [www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer](http://www.westprairiechurch.com/prayer); leave a message on the church answering system @641-567-3733; or call Pastor Steve @641-590-7894.

Prayer  
The Lord's Prayer ..... page 97  
Benediction ..... page 97  
Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Congregation: Thanks be to God!  
**Closing Hymn, *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*..... LBW #481**

**Postlude**

**Pastor: Steve Bang**

**Organist: Ruth Sheldon**

**Lectionary: Janet Haugen**

**Usher: Roger Peterson, Mark Peterson**

**Acolyte: Jack Holland**

strange ideas to our ears, and we would like to know what they mean." (All the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there spent their time doing nothing but talking about and listening to the latest ideas.)

Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: "People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And He is not served by human hands, as if He needed anything. Rather, He himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from any one of us. 'For in Him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are His offspring.'

"Therefore since we are God's offspring, we should not think that the Divine Being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all people everywhere to repent. For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising Him from the dead."

Here ends the reading.

**Psalm 66:8-20** (responsively)

L: Praise our God, O peoples,

**C: let the sound of His praise be heard;**

L: He has preserved our lives

**C: and kept our feet from slipping.**

L: For You, O God, tested us;

**C: You refined us like silver.**

L: You brought us into prison

**C: and laid burdens on our backs.**

L: You let men ride over our heads;

**C: we went through fire and water, but You brought us to a place of abundance.**

L: I will come to Your temple with burnt offerings

**C: and fulfill my vows to You—**

L: vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke

**C: when I was in trouble.**

L: I will sacrifice fat animals to You and an offering of rams;

**C: I will offer bulls and goats.**

L: Come and listen, all you who fear God;

**C: let me tell you what He has done for me.**

L: I cried out to Him with my mouth;

**C: His praise was on my tongue.**

L: If I had cherished sin in my heart,

**C: the Lord would not have listened;**

L: but God has surely listened

**C: and heard my voice in prayer.**

L: Praise be to God who has not rejected my prayer

**C: or withheld His love from me!**

**Second Lesson: I Peter 3:13-22**

Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, He went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in

all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to Him.

Here ends the lesson

**Alleluia:** .....page 83

**The Gospel: John 14:15-21**

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

**Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit**

“If you love Me, keep My commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see Me anymore, but you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realize that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you. Whoever has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. The one who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I too will love them and show Myself to them.”

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

**Hymn:** *Jesus, the Very Thought of You* ..... LBW #316

**The Sermon:** Pastor Steve Bang

“Getting Close to God ” Acts 17:16-31

**Hymn,** *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me* .....LBW #333

**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