

Have you ever wondered the circumstances that inspired someone to write a poem or pen the lyrics to a song, or in this case, a hymn? For those who do not know the history of “It Is Well With My Soul” — here is a brief synopsis: Lawyer Horatio Spafford, his wife and family lost all they had in the Great Chicago Fire, then lost a young son to scarlet fever. Needing some time off, the couple decided to join some friends in Europe. Horatio was detained by business, but sent his family ahead on the steamship *Ville du Havre*. The ship collided with another ship and sank. Mrs. Spafford was one of only 27 (out of 253 passengers), who were rescued and picked up by another ship which took them to Wales.

Horatio received a telegram from her saying, “Saved alone, what shall I do?” He booked passage on the next available ship and about four days out, the captain called Spafford to his cabin and told him this was the place where his daughters went down with the ship. It was during the remainder of his voyage that Spafford wrote “It is Well With My Soul.”

Reuniting with his wife, they met with D.L. Moody who urged Spafford to go into evangelism together with Philip Bliss, a mutual friend. However, it was not to be and the Spaffords then moved to Jerusalem, raised three more children and engaged in philanthropic work with all people regardless of their religious affiliation. Mr. Spafford died in 1888 and is buried in that city.

Philip Bliss conducted music concerts, was a composer of both secular and gospel hymns, as well as a Gospel singer. He formed an association with D.L. Moody and became a full-time evangelist. His compositions include, “Almost Persuaded” and “Wonderful Words of Life” and the tune for Spafford’s “It Is Well With My Soul.”

In 1876, Bliss and his wife were traveling to Ohio on the Pacific Express train and while crossing a trestle bridge, it collapsed sending all the cars down into a ravine where they caught fire. Bliss had escaped from the wreck but returned to find his wife and both perished. Although Spafford and Bliss only knew each other briefly, both men suffered unspeakable tragedy and are linked by this beautiful hymn.

A footnote to this saga . . . survivors of another tragedy, the sinking of the Titanic, were reported to be singing, “Pull For the Shore,” a hymn Bliss had written and composed.

Welcome to West Prairie Lutheran Church!

Lutheran Congregation 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 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost 11 a.m., August 13, 2017

Prelude

Pastoral Greeting

Please stand if you are able.

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 77

Opening Hymn, Lord, Speak to Us, that We May Speak LBW #403

Kyrie page 78

Hymn of Praise page 79

Prayer of the Day

(All) O God, Your ears are open always to the prayers of Your servants. Open our hearts and minds to You, that we may live in harmony with Your will and receive the gifts of Your Spirit; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

You may be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Job 38:4-18

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy?

“Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness, when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place, when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt’?

“Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, that it might take the earth by the edges and

SERMON NOTES. . .

“In the Storms of Life” Matthew 14:22-33

1. Storms are the _____ of life which challenge our faith in God and His Word.
2. The disciples found themselves in the storm because they were in the middle of God’s _____.
3. There are two kinds of storms. One is a storm of _____, when God uses adverse circumstances to bring correction to our lives.
4. Another kind of storm is a storm of _____, when God uses circumstances for the purpose of helping us to grow spiritually.
5. Jesus will bring you through the storm. He is _____ for you.
6. There are times when we are in a stormy situation and we feel _____ by God.
7. “Christ Jesus, who died... who was raised to life... is at the right hand of God and is also _____ for us.” (Romans 8:34)
8. The difficult experiences in life we _____ the most often becomes the thing God uses to draw us nearer and strengthen our faith.
9. “When Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to _____, cried out, “Lord, save me!”
10. When Peter took his eyes off _____ and onto his circumstances, he was in trouble.
11. Don’t be ashamed when you are going through a storm to seek support from the _____.
12. Storms rise, storms blow, but storms do _____.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today...

7 p.m. Youth Group

Wednesday, August 2...

7 p.m. Church Council

Next Sunday, August 20...

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

11 a.m. Worship Service

12 p.m. Bible Study Club

7 p.m. Youth Group

Bible Study Club meets next Sunday after worship with a potluck dinner followed by a movie.

Remember to pray for our college students and all other students as they return to school.

Announcements can be sent to westprairie.lc@gmail.com.
September newsletter articles are due August 23rd.

See back page for article on Hymn #346 and #29.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Oct. 14, when Zion Lutheran of Clear Lake will host a LCMC 500th anniversary celebration with worship, fellowship and a special choir comprised of members from various local congregations. More information will forthcoming on this exciting event.

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

shake the wicked out of it? The earth takes shape like clay under a seal; its features stand out like those of a garment. The wicked are denied their light, and their upraised arm is broken.

“Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness? Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this.

Here ends the reading.

Psalm 18:1-6 (responsively)

L: I love You, O Lord my strength,

C: O Lord my stronghold, my crag, and my haven.

L: My God, my rock in whom I put my trust,

**C: my shield, the horn of my salvation, and my refuge:
You are worthy of praise.**

L: I will call upon the Lord,

C: and so shall I be saved from my enemies.

L: The breakers of death rolled over me,

C: and the torrents of oblivion made me afraid.

L: The cords of hell entangled me,

C: and the snares of death were set for me.

L: I called upon the Lord in my distress

C: and cried out to my God for help.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:5-17

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) “or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are

saved. As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame.” For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

How, then, can they call on the One they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the One of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Here ends the lesson.

Please stand.

Alleluia:page 83

The Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

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

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side, while He dismissed the crowd. After He had dismissed them, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. Later that night, He was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw Him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

“Lord, if it’s You,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to You on the water.”

“Come,” He said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was

afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” He said, “why did you doubt?”

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

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

You may be seated.

Hymn, *When Peace Like a River*LBW #346

The Sermon: Pastor Steve Bang

“In the Storms of Life” Matthew 14:22-33

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

Please stand.

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

Benedictionpage 97

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Closing Hymn, *Wonderful Words of Life* Gray Book #29

Postlude

Pastor: Steve Bang

Pianist: Sandy Damm

Lectionary: Colette Reimann

Ushers: Larry and Joan West

Acolyte: Paris Reimann