

Bytes of Bread

Zarapheth? Why Zarapheth? (1 Kings 17) If I were Elijah, I would've been asking those questions. As one of God's prophets, why would he have been sent to a place filled with Gentiles? Did God no longer remember that the Jews were his chosen people?

I don't know if those thoughts were running through Elijah's mind. But, I do know that God's purpose in this all would've become clear to everyone by the end. For, as Elijah spent time there, God worked two miracles through him. First, he was to proclaim to a woman in this town that she would not die. For the food she thought would run out would miraculously remain. She would be able to feed herself, her son, Elijah, and her household.

Then, after some time, the woman's son died. This of course was a tragic turn of events. However, God used this too as an opportunity for good. For God allowed Elijah to raise this boy from the dead. And then, this woman exclaimed that she believed that the Lord spoke truthfully.

This is not the only time in history where God's people have been tempted to doubt that God knew what he was doing. I have sadly thought that many times in my life. You have too, I'm sure. It happens to us when God stirs the quiet waters of our life when we are feeling calm and at peace. It can also happen when trouble is added upon trouble. Why does God do that? After the calm we want to say, "God, can't you let good enough alone?" And after troubles pile up, "God do you not care?"

Here, though, is a reminder that it's good to just sit back and be quiet. Pray to him, for sure, but quiet your doubts. God sees much more of the picture than you could ever hope to. He knows what the future holds for you and what must transpire so that you might remain safe in his hands. He knows how best to bless you. He knows how to bring you home. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Buchner

Announcements

Bible Instruction Class: We're starting up another round of our bible instruction class! It will begin on Thursday, February 21 at 7pm and will run for 17 weeks.

Prayer List: Please keep in your prayers... Pearl Bojanski, James Erickson, Thelma How, Bill and Marce Johnson, Lilas Rangel, and Walter Theimer.

Kitchen Shower: Ahead of the busy Lent and Easter season, let's shower our kitchen! We are planning an informal kitchen shower and deep-cleaning of our church kitchen on Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 pm in place of our normal Women's Guild meeting. Come help us spruce up and clean our kitchen and enjoy some kitchen/cooking-related trivia! Contact Donna Green with any questions (donnagreen62@yahoo.com or (402) 320-5722).

NELHS Cheer Camp: Good Shepherd is helping host dinner after Cheer Camp at NELHS on February 9 for our elementary schools. We oversee serving fruit, veggies, and coleslaw and will need a few extra hands to help serve (they are planning for 150-200 people). If you can donate food items, please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway. If you can help at NELHS, please contact Lisa Beals at lbeals@gsomaha.com or (402) 980-1972.

OWLS Tour: OWLS will be taking a tour of the Douglas County Sheriff's Office/911 Call Center at 3601 N. 156 Street (156th & Maple) on Friday, February 8 beginning at 1:30 pm. Please meet us there. Then at 3:30 pm, plan to meet at Gethsemane for a presentation by a tax expert detailing the new tax laws. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Varner at (402) 215-4778. Everyone is welcome!

Progressive Dinner: Good Shepherd's Progressive Dinner will be held on February 17 from 3-7 p.m. Sign-up to host a course (appetizer or salad) at your home or just indicate your intention to participate in this fun event! Get to know fellow members while gathering at different homes and enjoying Christian fellowship! The main course will be hosted by the Danford family in the church fellowship hall followed by dessert (bring your favorite dessert to share). Details and sign-up sheets are posted in the hallway.

Hmong Ministry: Our synod has a unique ministry opportunity to support the creation of a theological training facility in Vietnam. Having talked with our elders, let's try and meet a goal of \$500 from Good Shepherd to support this.

MLC Partner Grant Program: Martin Luther College is once again offering matching funds for donations made to tuition assistance. Any donation made by Good Shepherd, from \$100 - \$1,000 per student, will go to our church members who attend the college and then will be matched by the synod. If you have any questions on this, please talk to Pastor Buchner. If you would personally like to give to this, please make your checks out to Good Shepherd but designate them for the MLC Grant Program.

Altar Flowers are placed this weekend by Connie Colletta-Zoucha in grateful recognition of family birthdays: Pearl Bojanski (2nd), Maddie Colletta (3rd) and Nate Colletta (3rd). HAPPY Birthday!

This Week

Tuesday 5th

7PM Men of his Word

Wednesday 6th

6PM Public School Confirmation Class

7PM Choir

Thursday 7th

7PM Bible Information Class

7PM Women's Guild Kitchen Shower

Friday 8th

1:30PM OWLS at Douglas Co. Sheriff's Office Tour

3:30PM OWLS at Gethsemane for Tax Presentation

Saturday 9th

8AM Women's Bible Class

6PM Worship w/Lord's Supper

Sunday 10th

8AM Worship

9:15AM Adult Bible Class / Sunday School

10:30AM Worship