

Daily Devotions

Monday August 14

1 Kings 19:9-18

⁹At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁰He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹¹He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹²and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

¹³When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴He answered, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵Then the Lord said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

For Reflection

In the preceding chapter, Elijah had just killed the prophets of Baal, and in doing so he had angered Jezebel. She sent a messenger to say she was going to kill Elijah. Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. He felt as if he did not want to live. Exhausted, he fell asleep and was visited by an angel two times and told to “get up and eat.” Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached

Horeb, the mountain of God. There he went into a cave and spent the night. I think it is fair to say that Elijah was at a low point in his life. Then the Lord spoke to him: “What are you doing here Elijah?” There was great and powerful wind, then an earthquake, then fire; but the Lord was not in any of these. After the fire came a gentle whisper, which Elijah heard. The Lord told Elijah what he wanted him to do next.

Questions for Reflection

1. Have you ever felt as if God was trying to tell you something, and you were just not hearing? What helps you to be open to hear God? What fears do you have right now that make you want to run and hide?
2. How do you go about your decision making? What role does the voice of God play?

Read Psalm 79-81

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray for victims and communities grieving from gun violence. Pray for the safety of all people, for reasonable laws, and for resources to combat the mental health crisis in America.

Tuesday August 15

Read Psalm 82-85

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray for all those who travel over the summer, and for all who offer hospitality to travelers. Ask God to be with students and teachers on summer break, and for workers in every profession to find times of rest and refreshment during this season. Pray that young people and their families will experience joy together, that neighbors will get to know each other better as they spend time outdoors, and that people everywhere will delight in and care for God’s creation.

Wednesday August 16

Psalm 85:8-13

⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

⁹Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will

look down from the sky.

¹²The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

For Reflection

God's past blessings and forgiveness are recalled, asks for God's salvation and mercy, and expresses faith that God will save them. Peace is both a gift and a reward from God. Shows a vision of the future, and belief that God will save them. This is a prayer for revival and restoration, and faith that God will give what is good to those that believe.

Questions for Reflection

1. Are there areas of your life that could use a little restoration?
Perhaps a little revival?
2. Try to think of ways that you could touch someone with love and compassion, as God has shown to us all.

Read Psalm 86-88

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray for the ministry of Reformation Lutheran Church, that we would be devoted to serving God, bearing witness to the Gospel so that others may come to believe, and serving our community so that we may bless others.

Thursday August 17

Romans 10:5-15

⁵Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷"or 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame."

¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, "Everyone who

calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

For Reflection

We are called upon to profess our faith; that Jesus is Lord and that God raised him from the dead. What we say, we must also believe in our heart. “For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” Obedience to God seems simple, and it is, but it is not always easy. Faith can be difficult.

Paul says that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile; there is one Lord of all and all who call on him are richly blessed. “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Jesus himself understood the difficulty of obeying him.

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14)

Questions for Reflection

1. Sometimes our faith journey can be challenging. What do you do when faced with a faith challenge?
2. Over the next week, pray for God’s strength to help shape your faith and to help keep you focused on his love and faithfulness. Pray for ways that you might help others on their faith journey.

Read Psalm 89

Today’s Prayer Focus: Pray for the spiritual growth of yourself and all our members, that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit, increase in our knowledge of God’s will, and overflow in love for each other and the world around us.

Friday August 18

Matthew 14:22-33

²²Immediately [Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to

pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

For Reflection

The focus of this passage is faith. Peter showed faith when he got out of the boat; but became frightened by the wind and began to sink. Peter sank because doubt crept in and his faith waivered. He asks Jesus to save him, which he did. When Jesus and Peter got back in the boat, the winds died down. Having witnessed this miracle, all the disciples finally believed that Jesus is the Son of God.

Walking on water; what does that mean?

"Walking on water means facing your fears and choosing not to let fear have the last word."

"Walking on water means discovering and embracing the unique calling of God on your life."

"Walking on water means experiencing the power of God in your life to do something you would not be capable of doing so on your own."

Quoted from John Ortberg's book, *If You Want To Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat*.

Questions for Reflection

1. How would you characterize your faith at this time? Does what is happening in our world today, affect your faith? In what ways can you strengthen your faith?
2. Have you had a "walking on water" moment in your life? If so, how did it change you? Has your understanding of God grown?

Read Psalm 90-92

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray for peace in the world, especially in Ukraine. Ask God to sustain those who suffer under persecution for the name of Christ. Pray that all people would have freedom and good government.

Saturday August 19

Read Psalm 93-94

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray for police, fire fighters, all emergency workers, health care workers, and those who serve in the military. Pray for farmers and those who transport food. Ask God to grant well-being to all in our community, and to stir up generosity to meet the needs of those who lack food, shelter, or other needs.

Special thanks to Sandi Shea for preparing this week's devotions!

The Mission of Reformation Lutheran Church is to:

Invite our neighbors as Jesus invites us.

Engage in a community of graceful discipleship.

Equip our members to grow in faith and ministry.

Embody the love of Jesus in our world.

Dear friends in Christ,

Constant Contact is back! We have news about a short end-of-summer Bible study on prayer and other happenings at Reformation.

Campfire Night for all ages is coming is this Saturday, August 12 at 7:30 p.m. S'mores ingredients and outdoor games will be provided and the playground is available, too. Please bring a chair and come out for a relaxing and enjoyable night with your church family!

Prayer Life Tune-Up! We all know prayer is important, in fact essential, for Christians. But how many of us feel truly confident about our prayer life? As the summer draws to a close, you are invited to come on **Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 8:15 on August 17, 24, and September 7** (skipping August 31) to “tune up” your prayer practice. We will learn about some of the rich treasures the Bible offers to guide our prayers and next steps you can take. *Each week will stand by itself, so whether you can come to all three or even just one, you're welcome to join!*

Our **Annual Church Picnic** will be held on Sunday, August 20, following the 10 a.m. worship service. Church members are asked to bring a dessert to share. Hamburgers, hotdogs, fried chicken and sides will be provided by Fellowship Committee. We'll have the Blessing of the Backpacks for students going back to school at the picnic, and a bouncy house, too! We will bless teachers and educators as they prepare to go back to school as well! Plan to come for delicious food and a fun time for all ages!

The Summer 'Pick-up' Choir continues to gather in the choir room at 9 AM to practice, then sing at the 10 AM service. All you need is a willing heart to make a joyful noise!! Give it a try this summer!

Could You “Foster” Two Small Dogs? A family in our congregation is in need of short-term foster care for two chihuahuas. If you might be able to help, please contact Pastor Eric.

Remember your name tag! Summer is a great time to get back into the habit of wearing name tags at church, since “early service people” and “late service people” are together for one service. Please take your name tag from outside the narthex and wear it while at church. **If you don’t have one, speak to one of the pastors and we’ll have one made for you.**

Give By Text: Did you know that you can make a financial gift to Reformation by text message? You just send a text with a dollar amount to (302) 204-1410 and follow the instructions you receive back. However you give, your support matters! Thank you!

“Share” Our Worship! Did you know that evangelism is easier than ever now? If you are on Facebook, you can easily “share” the YouTube link to our Sunday worship videos on your timeline. This not only shows it to your friends, it also tells Facebook that this is “share-worthy” content, so Facebook will show it to more people! Take a minute this Sunday afternoon and help other people experience what God is doing at Reformation!

Online worship for the Summer: You can access our YouTube channel by clicking here: [Reformation YouTube](#). You can go to www.rlcmilford.com/connect to find the Sunday bulletin (usually by Friday afternoon) as well as the coming week’s daily devotional guide. During the summer, at least until an Online Ministry Coordinator can be hired, we will not be editing and re-posting the service on Facebook. The un-edited recording of the live stream will remain accessible on YouTube, and we will put a link to this on our Facebook page and church web site.

In Christ,

Pastor Eric & Pastor Paige