

**NOTHING
CAN
SEPARATE
US
FROM
GOD'S
LOVE.**

Society

I have been preaching for the past two weeks on the topic of sowing seeds and about harvesting. It has never been easy trying to bring out something new when so much had been said of such an "old" topic. But Jesus reminded us that is how the Kingdom of Heaven operates:

the good and the bad, the old and the new have always coexisted and will continue to do so.

I was visiting a friend who suffered from pancreatic cancer. She was surrounded by her loving husband and all her children and grandchildren. She smilingly complained that her only regret is that she was not yet done enjoying the things that she loves to do, namely singing and dancing. She has been a hard working wife and a dedicated mom. She is happy with her accomplishment with her family and at work. But she knew there is more to life than raising a family or building a business.

Well it has been said that time and tide wait for no man. My friend's words kept reeling in my mind. They caused me to pause and give thanks for the moment. They prompt me to pay closer attention to the people around me and never take leave without offering a smile or a word of blessing.

Yes, sometimes it is humanly impossible for me to determine the value or meaning of things until I decide to be more engaged. The outcome of things is even less predictable. I may be making a mistake. I may have had bad judgment. But I must press on and look beyond the horizon.

History is meant to be read only by the people who have had no part in it. As the saying goes : hindsight is always 20-20. So why bother with the argument about who goes where and which comes first.

I am thankful that I visited the family because I know now that there is nothing which will separate us from the love of God, and that God will see to it that not one of His child should be barred from His Kingdom. Before I left the hospital, I gave the husband a hug and said to him, you heard your wife: let's not let her down. I know God will not.

- Pastor Andrew Yong



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Living Lutheran: 'After the media leaves, Lutherans stay'

Last year Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) worked on 47 relief and recovery projects in 29 countries and distributed nearly \$6.6 million. The ministry has a reputation for staying in and serving communities long after other agencies and media have left.

"Because Lutherans are at work in communities and in the congregations, we walk with people every day through their lives," said Michael Stadie, LDR-U.S. program director. "LDR is just another way for us to walk with people. Our disaster response is a natural outreach of being the church. We were there before the disaster, and we'll be there after."

*Hurricane Matthew Hurricane Sandy Louisiana flooding
South Dakota tornadoes and flooding Nepal earthquake
Global migration crisis*

[Read the full article.](#)



Salvation, Scripture and Society

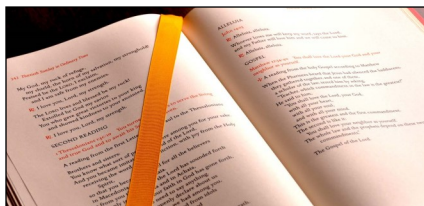
Mark your calendar for our next gathering. It is Wednesday August 23rd, 6pm-7:30 at Shut Up and Eat (3848 SE Gladstone). **The topic is Society.**

Eclipse Party at St. Mark's



There will be a very informal gathering in the parking lot of St. Mark's on August 21st featuring an **unobstructed** view of the 99.5% eclipse at 10:19am.

Bring your own... well, everything and watch the eclipse with friends and family.



Scripture

One of the things I relish about being a parish pastor is my weekly deep

dive into the readings from the Bible that I'll be preaching on. The readings are laid out for us in a three-year cycle, the [Revised Common Lectionary](#), which we share, with minor variations, with everyone from Roman Catholics to United Methodists. Old Testament reading (except during Easter, when we read from Acts), Psalm, Epistle reading, Gospel.

After more than 15 years of regular preaching, you'd think these readings would become old friends, even a little over-familiar.

Each Monday, I'm looking at the readings, and the notes I made about them when I created my overview of the liturgical season. And every week, I discover that while they're often old friends, they are also surprising and challenging and unsettling. I read the lectionary texts, and then I walk with them through the week as I visit people, attend meetings, make phone calls, chase children and cook dinner.

The cries and laments of the prophets, the honest prayers of the psalms, the urgent cajoling of the epistles go with me into hospital rooms and care centers, the food pantry and the clothes closet. And always, always, the words and stories and actions of Jesus. "Sufficient unto the day is the worry thereof" "A sower went out to sow . . ." "There once was a man who had two sons . . ." and again and again "The kingdom of heaven is like . . ." How can I not be looking out for the kingdom of heaven? How can I not hear the cries of the poor and abandoned the prophets preach about? How can I not call out to God with the psalmist?

So by Saturday, the events of the week and the words of the Scriptures have bumped up against each other, jostled one another, struck sparks . . . and something goes down on paper, and I call that the sermon.

- Pastor Elizabeth Larsen



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Time to Purchase School Kit Supplies

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Project Promise School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.

We won't be sending out backpacks until October but since everything is on sale now:

Here is what we need...

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- pencil sharpener
- blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 2 1/2" eraser

Please donate by October 1st.

[More info...](#)

