Mark 4:1-20

The Parable of the Sower

4Again he began to teach beside the lake. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the lake and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the lake on the land. 5He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 6‘Listen! A sower went out to sow. 7And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 8Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 9And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. 10Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. 11Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’ 12And he said, ‘Let anyone with ears to hear listen!’

The Purpose of the Parables

10When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11And he said to them, ‘To you it has been given to know the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; 12so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.

13And he said to them, ‘Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? 14The sower sows the word. 15These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. 16And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear, they immediately receive it with joy. 17But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. 18And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, 19but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. 20And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.’
Sending

_worship songs_

Benediction

_Communion/Lord's Prayer_

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Response Song/Offering

Message Pastor Karsten Nelson

_Communion/Lord's Prayer_

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending Song

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord by loving God. C: Thanks be to God

Mission Statement

The language of our sending is being changed to help lift up our mission statement and to live this out in our daily life. Each week the sending line will incorporate part of our Mission Statement which is 'Our Redeemer - transforming lives and building community by loving God and serving others.'

Budget Forum

As is our custom there will be a budget forum between services on Sunday, January 24th to understand the 2016 proposed budget and address concerns or questions people may have. Please join us in the fireside room for the information and good conversation.

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 31st following our combined 5th Sunday worship at 10:00am. We will have a time of reviewing 2015, looking ahead into 2016 plans, approve a budget and formally elect a few new Board members. The nominating team is in the midst of visiting with potential new Board members – if you might be interested, or if you think of someone to nominate please contact Pastor Karsten, Holly Forsberg, Jessica Morgan or Dean Ersfeld.

Missions Update

A recent deposit of the Hunger boxes and jars was made in the amount of $148.00. Thank you to all who continue to support this wonderful way to help stop world hunger. Look for empty boxes or jars to fill with change in the large basket in the Narthex. When full, return to church and it will be added to our next hunger deposit.

We have received a wonderful letter from Frayluis, the student ORLC supports at Doulos Discovery School in the Dominican Republic. He is currently in the 6th grade and our congregation has been supporting his schooling since he was in preschool. Please stop by the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the Sunday School rooms to read his letter.

January Study of Islam Offered

We will meet in Fellowship Hall on four consecutive Mondays that began on January 11th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. The last session will be on February 1, 2016. Please contact Joan Paulson at 651-777-0490 or Kathi Kirchoff at 651-770-3514 for further information or to sign up for the study.

Past Intern News

Congratulations to Pastor Ben Mandrick who was ordained this last weekend in Florida. Ben was called to Faith Lutheran Church in Somerset PA. The church of about 600 is located 75 minutes east of Pittsburg. If you care to send a card the address of the church is at 6567 Glades Pike Somerset PA 15501. Ben and Andi and their two kids are looking forward to serving at this church. Ben will be moving shortly and Andi and kids joining him in March.

Contribution Statements

Your 2015 statements are available in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations to Our Redeemer.

Knitting & Crocheting

God's Hands Knitting & Crocheting meets on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30 P.M. until 8:00. This month, we will be meeting at Caribou Coffee on White Bear Avenue and County Road D, (by Maplewood Mall). We bring our works "in progress", be they a scarf, prayer shawl, or a pattern that we might need some help in following. Most of the handwork is done elsewhere but it is great fun to see current projects. Besides donated items, we work on various personal projects. We share patterns, ideas and sometimes we also share yarn. The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues at ORLC as needs are made known. A number of baby blankets and hats were given to Solid Ground. A number of hats and scarves were donated to ORLC's Giving Tree this fall. Some of us have a non-profit organization that has touched our hearts. Bundles of Love, Alley Shoppe 109, St. John's Hospital Infant Unit, and Global Health Ministries are a few of these. Jack's Basket, (based in Shoreview), has received 14 knit hats and 5 pairs of knit booties for newborns. Please consider joining us for fun and good conversation. Hope to see you on January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21 and May 19.