

Personal DailyWalk



Can you imagine...a space for Grace

May 7-13, 2018

Monday: Matthew 5:42 Give to him who asks of you and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you.

"Why do I give? Simply put, because I can. I have been blessed to have some God given talents that, over my lifetime, my employer found useful and compensated me generously for my efforts. This has allowed me to support my family and organizations that support and provide for those who are less fortunate. More than 25 years ago at the kick-off dinner for the financial campaign to build the current sanctuary of Faith Lutheran Church, one of the leaders made the statement that we should all not "give until it hurts," but rather, "give until it feels good." Seeing the fruits of my giving and the good it has provided for others, has made me feel good."

Can you imagine...space for grace where we can all gather together in Christian fellowship and love?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us. and ask that you inspire us to give until it feels good. Amen.

Tuesday: Luke 5:38: Give, and it will be given to you...

"After going on several relief mission trips, I really got to know fellow Faith members, and developed strong respect for the talents of our congregation. The chance to form a Habitat for Humanity Chapter arose in 2010, and with a large dose of help from our congregation in terms of volunteers and monetary contributions, we established a chapter that builds in the O'Fallon-Shiloh area. I think that the step-by-step process of becoming committed to a Christian mission is a way God was able to relate to me. The best thing about this calling is that it is not a burden, but a joy, and we receive far more than we give. But first, you need to have a place to start where you are secure and gather strength from friends and family. Faith Lutheran has provided me with that place." (Ken Beeman)

Can you imagine...space for grace where grace enables us to have better facilities to do more mission outreach?

PRAYER: Lord, help us hear and answer the call to help those in need. Amen.

Wednesday: Matthew 5:42 Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone...

"So many needs and requests for help. It is easy to become cynical, until one afternoon, when I returned home and my wife told me about a call that she had received earlier asking for help. She said all I could think about was, 'what if it's Jesus?' That's the rub isn't it. Our cynicism wants us to ignore the request, but now, I always have the question, 'what if it's Jesus?' We say that 'The Church Has Left the Building' as we take grace into the world." (Wayland Middendorf)

Christ Centered + Mission Driven + Life Transforming

Can you imagine...space for grace where young and old come together to plan mission opportunities to bring grace and love to hurting and lost people in the world?

PRAYER: O God, as we see needs in the world and reach out to serve others, may we see Jesus. Amen.

Thursday: Psalm 122:1 I rejoiced with those who said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

“I had the pleasure of witnessing a moment of grace, presented to me by children. One of those children was not even in school yet, while the other was preparing to graduate from high school. One was black, the other white. This doesn’t normally make a difference to a story, but this happened while there was racial unrest in St. Louis, and it made a great impact on me. These two children were doing a project together while attending our church’s Vacation Bible School. The older child who happened to be black was hesitant to get into the activity. Well, the younger child just came over to the older child, grabbed their hand, and said “let’s go!” I will never forget the look on the older child’s face of sheer joy at being accepted and needed as they went off and began their project.”

Can you imagine...space for grace where all who enter can feel accepted and needed at Faith?

PRAYER: Lord, grant us all the grace to grab a hand and say “let’s go!” Amen.

Friday: Hebrews 12:11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace ...

“So many great stories from FPU (Financial Peace University) graduates...but this one spoke to me. A couple who had been married seventeen and a half years ago at Faith came to FPU. The husband wanted to talk about money, but the wife was bored to tears and stuck her head in the sand until she finally agreed to go to FPU. Not only did she not die of boredom, she had fun and made new friends. The couple started to understand their financial tendencies and how to complement, rather than fight, each other.” (Amy Pekala)

Can you imagine...space for grace to teach how God wants us to handle His money?

PRAYER: Lord, help us to be good stewards of all you have graciously given to us. Amen.

Saturday: John 16:22 For the moment you are filled with grief; but I shall see you again, and then you will be joyful, and no one shall rob you of your joy.

“The death of a loved one can be very difficult. Faith’s GriefShare program has helped many embrace their feelings and recognize the Lord’s healing Grace. The Youth House has provided a quiet, secluded space which enables GriefShare to be more effective. Updated facilities will provide an even more welcoming environment; better able to support focus, free of infrastructure distractions. Those with a burden of grief have depended on Faith’s commitment to care and understanding the needs to sustain them.”

Can you imagine...space for grace to comfort and support all who experience grief?

PRAYER: Dear Lord, the concerns of this world often cause us grief. We pray the example of Your resurrection will comfort us until You welcome us to our eternal home.

Sunday: John 1:14: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us....full of grace and truth.

“In a community garden with a group of children, a little boy next to me leaned over and whispered, ‘Do you know I’m a double Christian? My name is Christian, and I’m a Christian. I just got baptized, and I want to tell everyone about Jesus!’ What a gift it was to be welcomed into this little boy’s excitement! He knew that the space we had created around us, at that time, and in that place, was a safe place to share the Good News. At Faith, we have been given the gift of creating a Sacred Space, filled with the news of God’s grace through Jesus. During the Sunday School hour, all available classroom spaces are filled. There is a growing need for more space for other groups that want to meet and must rotate.” (Diane Runyan)

Can you imagine...space for grace so we may tell everyone about Jesus?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, may we all be excited to tell everyone about your son, Jesus.
Amen.

Christ Centered + Mission Driven + Life Transforming