

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

August, 2024

Dear Christian Friends,

On our recent trip to Minnesota / North Dakota, I was privileged to preach at my home church in Barney, North Dakota, on the occasion of their 125th anniversary. My roots run deep there, and like many of you who grew up in a Christian home, the names and faces of my childhood pastor and Sunday School teachers are etched in my heart.



The text for the sermon was a favorite of mine, 2 Timothy 3:16 - 18

II Timothy 3 - ¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Here is the introduction to that sermon, and I share it with you, dear friends, with the hope that it brings back your own memories from your own past, as well.

"Thank you so much for the privilege and honor of bringing a message of God's Word on this special occasion.

I know I speak for so many of us who are so grateful to the Triune God and to the saints who have gone on before us for the teaching, the reproof, the correction, and the training in righteousness we received here.

In this very place, we were taught that Holy Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant, and life changing Words of Almighty God. That God is the Father Almighty and Maker of all of heaven and earth, that the Name of Jesus Christ is the one Name



that saves, and that the Holy Spirit is all about calling, gathering, enlightening, sanctifying, and keeping people of God in the one true faith all the way into eternity.

Here is where we learned that the Ten Commandments are non-negotiable and that God hears every one of our prayers and answers in the way that is best for us. That as the waters of Baptism splashed over us and the sign of the cross was placed both upon our forehead and upon our heart, our names were written in the Book of Life. That our flaws, our failures, and our bad habits are not to be defended nor explained, but rather confessed with sincere hearts. That as often as we cry out for the forgiveness of our sins, that often the grace of God sweeps over and cleanses our hearts and sanctuaries, just as surely as a spring rain sweeps over the prairies and gives life. Here is where we learned that in our Lord's Supper, Jesus is the host, and we are the guests. He is the forgiver and we are the forgiven. He is the Lover and we the Beloved.

The singular encouragement of this sermon is to hold fast to the teachings of God's Word that many of us learned from our parents' knees ..."

Together in Christ,
Pastor Larry Griffin

Sermon Themes for August

- ***August 4 - Short Sighted, Yet Loved and Sent (Final sermon in a Series of Four under the theme, "Loved and Sent.")***
- ***August 11 - Fighting the Good Fight: Getting Better vs. Getting Bitter***
- ***August 18 - Fighting the Good Fight: Wisdom vs. Folly***
- ***August 25 - Fighting the Good Fight: God and Neighbors First vs. Me First***

Wednesday Morning Bible Class

Finally! We will be starting our study of Revelation on Wednesday, July 31, at 11:00. All are invited! In our first five sessions, we will be studying:



- *Introductory Matters: The Significance, Character, Author, Writing, Transmission, and Interpretation of Revelation*
- *1:1-8 - Prologue*
- *1:9-20 Commissioning of John: Vision of the Son of Man*
- *2:1-3:22 Letters of Preparation to the Seven Churches*