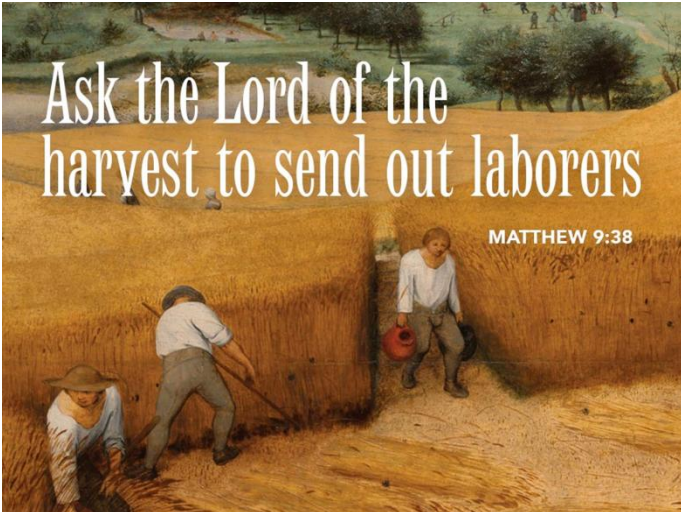


SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020
TIME AFTER PENTECOST
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SOMERS POINT, NJ 08244
INTERIM PASTOR: REV. KEVIN HILGENDORF



Let us pray, God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself, pour your love into us, that we may freely share the blessings of your realm and proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

We received a note card, Love matters, from the Office of the Bishop, New Jersey Synod:

"Dear Kevin and Congregation Council Members, we are sending this card to let you know that you and the congregation of Grace, Somers Point, were remembered in our morning prayers as we gathered by zoom for our weekly staff meeting. This day we particularly give thanks for the ways you all are keeping in touch with the congregation members in creative ways to reduce feelings of isolation. Blessings, New Jersey Synod Staff.

Side note added:

Even though we are still not able to gather, the prayers of the whole staff are tucked inside this card. Luann (printed verse: *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.* (1 Thess. 5:16-18.)

I almost discarded this card and I am glad I didn't. "Sometimes a card will make your whole day, if not your whole year." Opening the card "...This is not that card." I still laugh when I read this and I remember who sent it.

God's work our hands. I came across this comment on the Gospel of Matthew, "We are expected to resemble Him (Jesus) in word and deed. To be sent by Jesus is in some sense, to be sent as Jesus," says Colin Yuckman Assistant Director MA in Christian Practice. He continues... "A Good Teacher should be recognized in her student as much as a master craftsman craft is evident in the work of an apprentice. As Jesus makes clear a bit later; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master." (Matthew 10:25.)

"...part of Jesus own mission is to train followers to join the purpose for which his Father sent him. And the apostles' very identity is born in the midst of this movement from the Father to Son to world."

Teresa of Avila exclaims, "Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works as for the love with which they are done." As Galatians 5:6 states, "Our faith working by love."

Today's *The Word in Season* shares, "When God calls us to serve, the Holy Spirit equips us for the job." There's a saying that sums this up: "God doesn't call the qualified; God qualifies the call. If God calls us to teach, we may feel inadequate, God makes a way. And after study and preparation, we may find that we love teaching." The writer of this devotional, Shirley Brosius, Millersburg, PA, has written one devotional book and coauthored another. She speaks at women's retreats as a member of Friends of the Heart, three women who share God's love through word and song.

I retired from St. David Lutheran Church, but I remember one outreach program a member brought to my attention, "Drive by Prayer." We made signs to encourage drivers to pull over and have a prayer moment one to three minutes top. They stayed in their vehicles we prayed outside and then blessed them to continue their journey. I wanted to have a campfire sing-along outside since the one inside was faithfully attended. After we sang and prayed we would sing the Lord's Prayer in a circle; we were not the best singers yet we all were inspired.

Note cards, telephone, texts, send a care package, some received iPads to listen to this service, one friend received two home cooked meals, one was a pork chops dinner and the other? ...don't recall, but it was given anonymously, thanks be to God! "Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works as for the love with which they are done"

Saw this on a school sign, "Do not simply be good be good for something!"

Now the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!