

A Message from the Pastor

1 Samuel 17:41-51

45 David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. 46 This day the LORD will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. 47 All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands."

48 As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. 49 Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. 50 So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. 51 David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine's sword and drew it from the scabbard. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

Christians may not often be called to slay giants, but all of the battles and conflicts in our lives certainly can seem giant-sized. The bills are piling up. Repairs need to be done. I'm not getting good grades in school. My health is failing. My job is stressful. We surround ourselves with hosts of enemies and problems that threaten to bring us low.

But so often, our battles are only as big as we make them out to be, and that's especially true since our leader is the Lord Almighty, the Lord of Hosts! We forget that all of our battles belong to the Lord. He has never promised that things will work out the way we want them to, or the way that we think is best, but he will give us the victory in

our battles in ways that we never expect!

Many of us can probably remember times in our lives when we faced an obstacle that seemed insurmountable or impossible to get around...but it passed in time. The Lord of all our battles gives us patience and endurance and courage to face our challenges. He gives us peace and comfort in all of our tribulations. And even when we face what seems to be certain defeat in death, the Lord gives us the victory through his Son Jesus.

The truth is, we could talk all day long about all the times the Lord has helped us in our daily lives, but all of that would be meaningless if we were still beaten down by our sin. We do tend to make our problems seem bigger than they really are, but our sin truly was a monstrous giant that had us caught in its power, and we were helpless against it. Our sin would surely have handed us over to his terrible lord and master, the devil, and to eternity in hell.

Thanks to Jesus our leader, even our battle with sin belongs to the Lord, and every day, his Word reminds us of that. Jesus has won every battle with Satan. When he was tempted to turn stones into bread and use his power to satisfy his own desires, he used his power to help those who needed it. When he was tempted to throw himself from the temple and put God's protection to the test, he simply trusted God. When he was tempted to give up his role of Savior and instead become an earthly ruler, he stayed true to his calling and served God.

By Jesus' perfect life and innocent death, he has crushed the devil's head! He has brought the giant low, he has scattered our host of sin, and as the sign of our victory he has risen from death! As he sits at the right hand of God, he sends his Holy Spirit to lift us up and make us strong to face our battles with new courage. We trust that Christ our leader has won our victory, and we know that our Lord saves.

~ Pastor Ben Kempfert

Announcements

Gold Rush—

Thank you to the many workers and volunteers who helped keep our involvement with Gold Rush running smoothly. Thanks especially to the Rudes and the Krauses for their dedication and hard work.

Fall Schedule—

We will return to our fall schedule on **Sunday, Sept. 6.** Worship will begin at 10:00 AM. Starting Sept. 13, Catechism class this year will be held on Sunday mornings at 8:45 AM; as a result, adult Bible Class will be held after worship and will run until 12:00 PM.

The Sunday School year will begin on Sunday, September 13 at 8:45am. We are so excited to see everyone this Fall and begin studying God's Word. Remember to invite your friends and family to join us Sunday mornings. We would love to have them!

We are **in NEED of a couple people to serve as Sunday School teachers** to help teach God's Word to our Students. We are also looking for someone or a couple people that would be interested in helping with the children's music, whether it be playing the piano or helping teach the children how to read music and play hand chimes. Once or twice a month we have craft time for the students, if you are interested in helping with a craft or would like to lead a craft please let me know. We are always looking for fun activities or outings the Sunday School students, if you know of anything going on in the community or if you have any suggestions please let me know. We are always looking for new ideas!

If you have any questions or are interested in helping in our Sunday School department, please contact Jessica Rude at [507-208-1135](tel:507-208-1135) or ajrude@hcinet.net.

Christian Service Sunday – Sept. 20—

What am I doing with my life? Am I doing enough to serve God and his people? How can I use my abilities to make a difference? Join us for worship on **Sunday, September 20 at 10:00 AM** for a special focus on the topic of Christian service.

Watch your newsletter and bulletins for updates and a volunteer sheet.

“...To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”
Ephesians 4:12

Fall Bazaar and Hog Roast—

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 4** for Grace Lutheran's annual Fall Bazaar and Hog Roast! Take home some of our ladies' tasty treats and handmade crafts, then stay for the hog roast afterward! [See you there!](#)

Baptisms—

Nicole Marie McNamara, the daughter of Braxton and Rachel McNamara, was baptized in worship on Sunday, August 9. Joanna Charlotte and Elizabeth Maelynn Lehman, the twin daughters of Nathan and Erica Lehman, were baptized in worship on Sunday, August 23. God's richest blessings on these new children of his!

LWMS Fall Rally—

The LWMS Fall Rally will be held on Thursday, October 22nd at Immanuel Lutheran Church in West Florence, MN. Dessert will be served at 12:30 PM and the meeting will start at 1:00. The guest speaker will be Pastor Mark Cordes discussing the topic of China Partners.

Pastor Kempfert's Office Hours—

Pastor Kempfert can be found in the church office Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-11:00 AM. Stop in for pastoral care, concerns, or a friendly visit.

In Our Prayers

Our homebound/shut ins include Barbara Smallbrock at Pine Haven Care Center, Lois Haglund in Pine Island, Jean Koenig and Gerald Tiedeman in Oronoco, and Shirley Casey at River Bend Assisted Living in Rochester.

Daylight Saving Time—

Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 1! Remember to mark your calendars and turn your clocks one hour back!

GRACE NOTES

Grace Evangelical Lutheran
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45 1st Ave. NE
Oronoco, MN 55960

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On the Calendar

Calendar Dates—

Sept. 3 Ladies' Aid Meeting 7:00 PM

Sept. 6 Fall Schedule Begins
Communion Sunday

Sept. 7 Labor Day

Sept. 8 Sunny & Share Meeting 7:00 PM

Sept. 13 Sunday School/Catechism/Bible
Class begins

Sept. 20 Christian Service Sunday
Council Meeting 7:00 PM

Sept. 27 Communion Sunday

Oct. 1 Ladies' Aid Meeting 7:00 PM

Oct. 4 Fall Bazaar & Hog Roast
Communion Sunday

Oct. 12 Columbus Day

Oct. 12-13 Red Wing Pastors' Conference

Oct. 18 Council Meeting 7:00 PM

Oct. 25 Communion Sunday

Oct. 31 Halloween

Nov. 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends

Please Note* Beginning September 13,
Catechism & Sunday School begin at 8:30AM.
Worship services start at 10:00 AM. Adult
Bible class will follow worship

*1st and 4th Sundays of each month are Communion
Sundays.*

Mondays are listed as "Pastor's Family Day."

