

Pastor's Page

August 2017

One of the most familiar parables Jesus tells in the Parable of the Sower. It can be found in three of the Gospel accounts of Jesus' life – Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8. Just to summarize a little bit, this is the parable about a farmer going out to sow seed and the seed ends up in four different places – along the path, the rocky places, among the thorns, and on good soil. This parable is also familiar to us because Jesus actually gives an explanation to the disciples about what this parable meant.

The seed is the Word of God being sown in the world and God's people are the various places where the seed falls. The path is where the seed does not take root and the evil one comes and snatches it away. The rocky places is where people receive God's Word with joy but it cannot take root and the troubles of this world quickly makes that joy go away. The thorns are places where the Word is received but the worries of this life and other concerns become more important than the Word and it is choked off. Finally, the good soil represents the people who hear the Word and understand it and therefore produce a crop.

As with any of Jesus' parables, we always look for where we find ourselves in the story. In the parable of the sower, that means figuring out what kind of soil we are and how we are hearing and receiving God's Word. Often, I have looked at this parable as an all or nothing parable. We are either good soil or we are one of the others. And if we are one of the others, we are failing at living as God wants us to live.

Recently, I have come to a new understanding of this parable. We, as God's people, are at one time or another, all of these types of soil. Sometimes, we are good soil and are truly receiving and hearing God's Word and bearing good fruit with our lives. But at other times, life gets in the way and we face struggles and difficulties that get in the way of our relationship with God. But when those moments in our life happen that is not the end of our relationship with God.

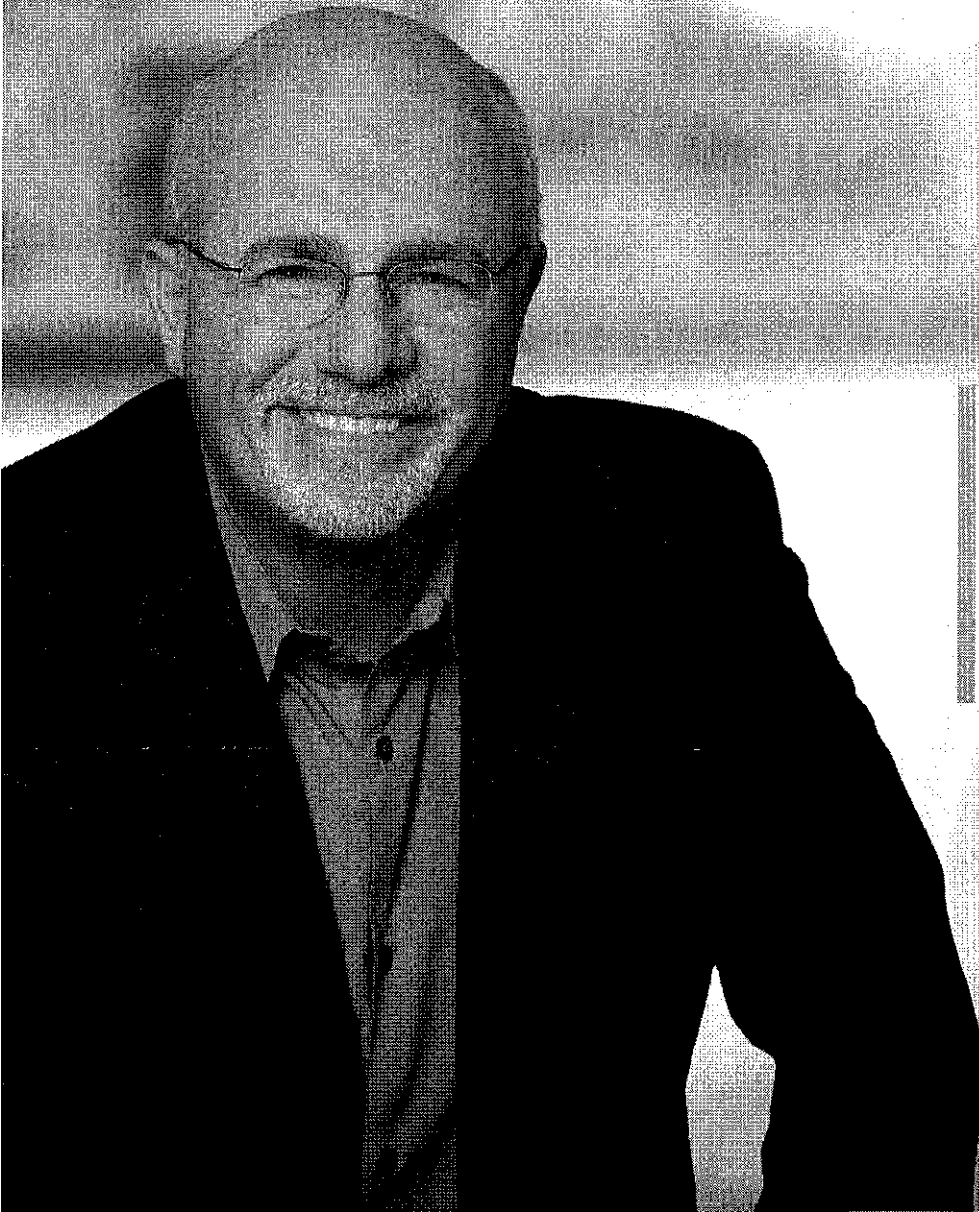
Think about farmers these days. Each year, they sow the seeds in their field and hope and pray that those seeds will land in good soil and produce a good crop come harvest time. Yet, we know that doesn't always happen. Whether it is lack of rain or hail or insects, sometimes the crops don't produce what they hope for. Yet, the following spring there they are sowing the seeds once again. God works the same way. He does not stop sowing the seed of His Word in our lives, with the hope that at some point it will land in the good soil and take root in our lives. A true sign of God's grace and mercy.

We also can work to build our hearts and lives into good soil so we are more ready to hear God's Word. We started a new garden at our house a couple years ago and we have been working to build up this soil that was covered in grass and weeds to good soil for our garden. Over the past two years and still this year, we continue to pull out grass and weeds that are still trying to grow in this place and cleaning out the rocks and adding moss and other fertilizers to make the soil better. We need to do the same thing in our own lives, ridding ourselves of those things that get in the way of hearing God's Word and fertilizing our hearts with worship and prayer and Scripture.

May we all be good soil ready to hear and understand God's Word in our lives so that we may bear a good crop of love and grace and mercy in the world.

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more info

This 9 week class is open to HLC Members and Non-Members.
Classes start September 10th at 6:30pm (90 min sessions)

daveramsey.com/findaclass

WELCA

WELCA will meet Thursday, August 3rd at 9:00 for quilting. We will have lunch and then visit with Arlene Hovland in Brookings for our field trip. A second quilting day will be on August 17 at 9:00 am.

School supplies are on sale now! There will be school bags with a list attached sitting in the entry way. A list is printed below also.

School Kits for Lutheran World Relief Items Needed:

- 4 (70 Sheet) Spiral Notebooks
- 1 Centimeter/Inches Ruler
- 1 Large Eraser
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 1 Blunt Scissors
- 1 Box of 24 Crayons
- 5 Unsharpened Pencils
(wrapped with Rubber Band)
- 5 Ballpoint Pens
(wrapped with Rubber Band)



*Come Celebrate the End of Summer
Sunday, August 27th - Following worship
(The last Sunday with worship at 9:30am)*

- *Lunch Provided – including Tim Frankenhoff's Pulled Pork Sandwiches*
 - *Draw Partner Bean Bag Tournament
(All ages and abilities welcome to participate)*
 - *Time spent in fellowship with our Church Family*
 - *Bring a Lawn Chair*

HOPES HAPPENINGS

August Sermon Series – the Book of Ruth

The story of Ruth in the Old Testament is a wonderful story of human love reflecting and enacting divine love. Throughout the month of August we will study this story, reading one chapter each week and using that part of the story as our guide for worship. I encourage you to read each chapter before coming to worship.

August 6 – Ruth, Chapter 1

August 13 – Ruth, Chapter 2

August 20 – Ruth, Chapter 3

August 27 – Ruth, Chapter 4

Sunday School is right around the corner – Leaders/Helpers needed!

Sunday School will begin again on September 10th. Anyone interested in helping with Sunday School in any way please talk with Pastor Justin. This includes helping with music, teaching a class (all year or part time), being a substitute teacher, or in any other way. This is an important ministry of the church as we plant the seeds of faith in our children and we are always looking for leaders who want to be a part of it. A Sunday School “staff” meeting will be held towards the end of August, so please talk with Pastor Justin today!

Pie and Coffee with Bishop David Zellmer

Everyone is invited to an evening of Pie and Coffee and conversation with Bishop David Zellmer and others from the South Dakota Synod staff. It will be held Monday evening, August 21st from 6:30-8:00 at LCOOR in Watertown. If interested in attending, please talk with Pastor Justin.

Over 60 Luncheon

Margie Wright will be hosting an Over 60 Luncheon on Sunday, August 13 following worship. Stay after church for an afternoon of food and fellowship. Thank you Margie for planning and hosting this event!



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August 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2	3 9:00- WELCA quilting and field trip	4	5
6 4:00-Youth group meets	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Council meets following Worship. Over 60 luncheon following Worship	14	15	16	17 9:00 WELCA quilting	18 Newsletter items due	19
20	21 Summit school starts Pie & Coffee with the Bishop @ LCOOR	22	23	24	25	26
27 End of summer picnic following Worship	28	29	30	31		

Notes

Worship 9:30 every Sunday (unless otherwise noted)

Communion-13th and 27th

Communion committee-Jackie Adolph, Laura Frankenhoff

Worship Helpers-Team 1- Scott and Laurie Kneeland

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
PO BOX 886
SUMMIT, SD 57266

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U.S. Postage Paid
PERMIT NUMBER 2

"WORDS OF HOPE FROM HOPE"

Volume 44, Issue 8

August 2017

Address Service Requested

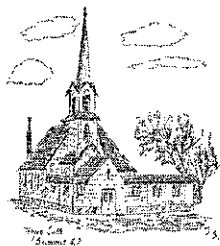
Printed monthly at Hope Lutheran Church

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August 2017

“It is the mission of Hope Lutheran Church to help people grow in their faith; to be a leader in the community; to serve the needs of all people; and to teach/educate all people

August Birthdays/Anniversaries

1-Chad and Becky Steinocker
1-Shenia Steinocker
3- Jim Wohlleber
4-Austin Quale,Brett Steinocker
4-Logan O'Farrell, Presley O'Farrell
5-Chase O'Farrell
5-Mila Christofferson
8- Thomas Frankenhoff
10-Brenda Redlin
10-Elizabeth Neugebauer, Jennifer Brouwer
11- Hudson Steinocker
12-Harper Rauen
13- Mark and Lisa Amdahl

14-David Cardwell
15-Jessie Phillips
15-Julie Birney
15-Brad Olson
16-Shaelyn Phillips
17-Mark Amdahl
17-Brook Pies, Marvin Amdahl
21-Lori Olson, Emmett Whempner
21-David and Jennifer Lewandowski
22-Andy Smith
23- Laura Frankenhoff
27- Joe Johnston
27-Tucker Reyelts