

THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15
Ron Voss, Pastor

***** May 2020

Dear servant of Christ,

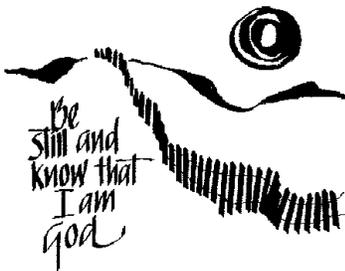
I found the following reflection in an old devotional book I was recently re-reading. I hope you find it as helpful as I did.

Time Alone With God

“Begin small and start promptly” is an old Quaker saying. The idea is to keep things simple and to begin soon. Simplicity begins with solitude—not mere time alone, but time alone with God. Henri Nouwen wrote: “Solitude begins with a time and place for God, and Him alone. If we really believe not only that God exists, but that He is actively present in our lives—healing, teaching, and guiding—we need to set aside a time and space to give Him our undivided attention.”

But where can we find solitude? Where can we find a quiet place in the midst of the din and demands of this world? “In a crowd, it’s difficult to see God,” Augustine said. “This vision craves secret room,” Jesus said, “close ther, who is un-

There is a meeting place as time and place where we His thoughts and He can us when He can have our His.



retirement.: “Go into your the door and pray to your Fa- seen.” (Matthew 6:6)

close as our closet door—a can meet with God and hear hear ours; a time for the two of full attention and we can have

Solitude can be a healing place where God repairs the damage done by the noise of the world.” The more you visit it,” Thomas a Kempis said, “the more you will want to return.”

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"I will awaken the dawn," said David. (Psalm 57:8) There's something to be said for meeting God before our busy days and schedules begin to tyrannize us. But we must not understand this in some legalistic way to mean we have to get up before the sun to merit a meeting with God. For many, morning is the most opportune time; for others there are times when it not only seems easier to meet with God, it is easier. It's something you have to work out with your body. The main thing is eagerness to meet Him. The advantage of doing so early is that we hear His thoughts before others invade our minds.

The first step is to find a Bible, a quiet place, and an uninterrupted period of time. Sit quietly and remind yourself that you're in the presence of God. He is there with you, eager to meet with you. "Stay in that secret place," A. W. Tozer said, "till the surrounding noises begin to fade out of your heart, till a sense of God's present has enveloped you. Listen for His inward voice till you learn to recognize it."

In His love,
Ron



May is Seminary Month

Daily we give thanks to God that our North American Lutheran Seminary students are being well-prepared to go out and continue the command of our risen Lord to "make disciples of all nations." What each of us needs to do:

Pray daily for our seminaries: students and faculty. Pray that the Holy Spirit will work mightily to prepare men and women to go forth with the glorious news of Jesus Christ and His salvation.

Look for individuals who have the faith and gifts for ministry. Talk to them, encourage them, connect them with mentors that can provide additional information and support.

Consider a special gift to the seminary this month (or any month!). Include the seminary in your will or estate.

Through our prayers, encouragement, and support, let's go with the gospel!!!!

Hopefully, we will be permitted to gather for worship and study again in the near future. In that hope, I have scheduled servants for May. It will be good to see all of you!



May Servants

Greeter/Usher: Judy Waugh
Communion Assistant:
Daniel Heckart

Snacks:

- **May 3—Mary Collins
- **May 10—Linda Drake
- **May 17—Tami Gerdemann
- **May 24—Lenore Heckart
- **May 31—Brunch

Flowers: Mary Collins

May Mission Giving

**\$500: The North American Lutheran Church General Fund

**\$1,000: The North American Lutheran Seminary



Thanks to all who have sent in their tithes and offerings during the shutdown!

It's Not About Me by Max Lucado

Sunday morning class continues when worship resumes

What would change if we finally found our place . . . and lived it? For our entire lives we've been urged to look out for number one. To find our place in the sun and soak it for all it's worth. To make a name for ourselves as if we are the headliners in life's drama.

But what happens when the sweet life we imagined proves to be sour? When our expensive toys break and our work is no longer needed and our bodies grow soft? What's next when all our efforts to take care of number one leave us feeling unsatisfied and the thrills we were promised turn up empty?

Best-selling author Max Lucado turns the greatest lie we've believed on its head . . . The one that says, "It's all about me," and he sets our sights on a different goal. What would happen if we all took our place and played our parts? If we started living like "Son" reflectors rather than individual stars and suns? If every person's priority became a divine pursuit, not a performance?

The God-centered life works. And it rescues us from a life that doesn't. Here is your lifeline to a life of purpose. Grab hold and let the rescue begin!