



Concordia Lutheran Church

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

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"Rain, rain, go away; come again another day!"

Have you, lately, caught yourself repeating this children's rhyme? You're not alone. In fact, this little poem-prayer has been around for a long time. There are versions of this limerick dating back to ancient Greece, making its way into the English language more than 300 years ago. Another version goes like this:

"Rain, rain, go away; come again another day; little Arthur wants to play." Artist William Denslow, in a 1901 collection of Mother Goose rhymes, used a golf theme to illustrate "little Arthur wants to play." Tough to golf in the rain! Seems this short verse reveals a personal frustration when rain interrupts our recreational activities.

True, rain does influence our plans, many times changing what we wanted to do. When it rains, everything that is not under cover gets wet. And, we all know that the earth soaks in the moisture, providing life to our green – at least for now – Valley. This certain truth is of such significance that the LORD moved Isaiah to write:

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater" (Isaiah 55:10). People have been thankful for the rain for millennia!

The Spirit then moves Isaiah to make the following connection:

"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). And, for millennia, people have experienced Life through the Word.

The Biblical image of "rain" is taken further. Ezekiel (chapter 20) is directed to go south and "preach" to the peoples in that land. Specifically, this great prophet is asked to "*nataph*" the Word of the LORD upon the people. Literally, this means that Ezekiel was to speak God's Word in such a way that it would "fall drop by drop" upon the hearer.

How does the Word "drip and drop" into your life? Daily Bible reading, family devotions, Sunday mornings, Adult Bible studies, and small groups are just some of the ways the Word can drip and drop into your thoughts, choices, relationships and vocations. I like the phrase: "it is not how much you get into the Bible; it is how much of the Bible gets into you."

Let's turn to Jesus for the final word: "*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me*" (John 5:39).

Luv ya'!

Pastor Craig

Happy July Birthdays

07/01 Bonnie Sohn	07/14 Elaina Vande Velde
07/04 Greg Fritz	07/20 Rick Riemenschneider
07/05 Eli Moon	07/27 Andy Hogrefe
07/07 Jeanne Willman	07/27 Leon Rinck
07/12 Peter Wharton	07/28 Lara Craig
07/14 Shirley Zuehlke	07/31 Sherry Carrier

Happy July Anniversary

07/08 Chris & Rebecca Duryea
07/12 Brian & Jerry Thornton
07/29 Bradley & Lara Craig
07/29 Greg & Jan Fritz



NEW SIGN IS GOING UP!!

Charley & Crew
were hard
at work
installing the
new sign
this week



Happy Independence Day!!

The Office will be closed
Thursday, July 4 & Friday, July 5th



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adult Bible Study: We are poised to consider 1 Corinthians 15:50ff. Here, Paul celebrates the profound Truth of the Resurrection and the practical reality through the Resurrection in our daily lives. See you this Sunday at 9AM.

Office Hours: Mon., July 1st - Wed., July 3rd & Mon. July 8th, the office hours will be from 9am—4pm and closed Thurs. & Friday.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Saturday, July 13th at 7am @ the Egg & I

Men's Night Out: Monday, July 22nd at 5pm @ Dude & Dans

Women's Night Out: Monday, July 22nd at 5pm @ Aurum