



ALC Connections

September 2015

LCMS Ascension Lutheran Church 2780 Haslett Rd. East Lansing MI

The Discipleship Chat

The Rudder

The Epistle lesson for Sept 13 is from James 3 (v.4-10) where James compares the tongue to the rudder of a ship.

"Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder ... So also the tongue is a small member ..."

Whether powered by huge sails or huge engines, it is the rudder that determines the direction of the ship.

"How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire? And the tongue is a fire ..." (James 3:5-6)

James reminds us that the tongue is very difficult to control.

"The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life ... for every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature can be tamed ... but no human being can tame the tongue." (James 3:6-8)

Of course, the tongue itself does not operate; it is the mind and attitude behind it. We already know the power of words. Kind words can heal. Harsh words can hurt. Positive words can encourage. Negative words can take the wind right out of someone's sails. And hateful, hurtful words can damage like nothing else can.

God speaks to our words:

"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up ... be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." (Eph 4:29, 32)

James observes: "with it (tongue) we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the image of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:9-10)

This is easier said than done. How easy is it for those words to slip out; belittling words, sarcastic words, insulting words, nasty words, words through which we have the last word and that feeling of satisfaction for,

say about 5 seconds, until we start to regret what we'd said. Back in Jr High school, our common retort to another who had said something rather foul or crude, was: "you EAT with that mouth?!"

Yes ... and "with it we bless our God and Father." God covers us with His forgiveness, grace and love so that we can be empowered to 'do better.' It certainly takes an intentional effort, an effort to carefully guard the things that come out of our mouths. But it's a goal worthy of all disciples.

May our attitude be that of the Psalmist in Ps 19:14 –
"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

-Pastor Dave

Access the Michigan In Touch:
http://michiganintouch.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/MIT_Dec13_web.pdf

Youth Confirmation classes will start up on Friday Sept 11 at 3:30 – 5:15 pm.

Sunday School for the Fall begins this Sunday, Sept 6.

Ascension needs you! The Nominating Committee seeks volunteers to serve in 2016 as Vice President, Parish Activities Chair Persons, Treasurer, Elder (2), Properties Committee member(3), and Education Committee Chair. Do you have a servant heart and believe God is calling you to service? If you are willing to serve or have questions, please contact Jake f, Alan, or Pastor. Note: The Properties Committee is responsible for oversight and administrative duties only as Paul and Gary have volunteered to be responsible for "maintenance".

The Women's Venue will be Thursday, September 17th at the Outback on Marsh Road, at 6pm.



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(included as a service from Church Extension Fund)

A Christian Preamble

Have you included a Christian Preamble as part of your planning documents? You may be asking,

“What’s the purpose of a Christian Preamble?”

First, take a look at an example of a Preamble.

First, I commit myself to God’s care, secure in His love for me and trusting in the salvation purchased for me through Christ’s suffering and death. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and have now joined my Lord in eternal glory.

Second, I commend my loved ones to the protecting arm of God, knowing that He will continue to provide for them despite my absence; and encourage them to place their faith and trust in Him alone.

Using a Christian Preamble first and foremost can be a comfort to your family, assuring them that God has kept His promises and you are safely home, in heaven.

It can also be an encouragement to them, reminding them to continue their personal quiet time, prayer and Bible study. You want them to continue attending services and growing in faith so you will be reunited with them in heaven.

A Christian Preamble may also be a quiet witness, planting the seed that may bring someone else to a personal relationship with God.

Some people choose to use a short, simple preamble like the one above, while others use this as a starting point and write some additional paragraphs, expressing other ideas important to them. Still others choose to write a preamble that is entirely their own thoughts.

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This document is provided to assist you in your estate planning process and is not meant to offer financial or legal advice.

Please contact your Attorney or Financial Advisor to obtain appropriate professional advice relevant to your particular circumstances.

Plan to attend the Saturday October 10 meeting with Pastor Walther from 9-12:30. Pastor Walther will share his report based on the surveys we completed in August and the Church Council’s report. This is the next step in our Self-Study. Be a part of Ascension moving forward.

Financial Update: At the end of July Ascension’s spending was within budget. However, although expenditures were \$7,000 less than last year through July, income for operations was \$6,000 less resulting in an operating deficit of \$15,000. Over \$122,000 was contributed for all purposes in the first six months of the year. A contract has been awarded for the masonry repairs, but due to the weather completion has been delayed. Due to City of East Lansing and state regulations, establishing specifications for the repairs to the parking lot surface and lighting have been delayed with no estimate of the timeline to completion.

Men’s Bible Study every Saturday at 8:00am. We are starting with Matthew, a story of a Jewish man. Come and have donuts and coffee with us and feel free to bring a friend. Great fellowship with other Christian men.

First Saturday Chapel on August 1 from 10:30 until noon.