

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Community Lenten Devotional 2014
God's Faithfulness**

Date: Sunday, March 9, 2014
Devotion Title: Remembering the Promise

Scripture passage: *Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel sighed because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage rose up to God. So God heard their groaning; and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them. Exodus 2:23-25*

Have you ever faced a challenge or crisis so overwhelming it seems as though you didn't stand a chance against it? Have you ever felt abandoned by everyone around you, as you had to face it? It might have even felt as though God Himself had abandoned you at the time. But like the sons of Israel you need to call out for help. The key to understanding the verse for today's devotional is the four phrases: God hears, God remembers, God sees and God knows. We can always ask God for help because he always hears us and remembers His promise to us. And in this crazy world of chaos God still sees each and every one of us and takes notice of us at all times.

In a weird coincidence, this day, March 9th, just happens to be the day I am celebrating my induction into a fraternity of Eagle scouts. This is a rank that all boys are welcome to strive for, many have aspirations for, but relatively few ever achieve. I reflect on the challenges and hardships I had to overcome to get here. I remember a time several years ago when I felt so overwhelmed by the prospect of achieving any rank at all that I thought about quitting and walking away. I remember praying to God and asking Him for help. Now, today, I can see His answer to me. The loving parents He gave me who always lent their gentle but firm support. The church family who believed in me. The community that supported my goals.

God heard my plea for help. God remembered His promise to the faithful. God saw my predicament. God took notice of me in my time of need and anguish. How refreshing it is to be able to pray and not lose heart. What a blessing in my life!

Prayer: Dear Lord, we thank you for your ever-watchfulness over us. Continue to remember us as you promised and hear our prayer when we call out to you in our own time even though the answers often come in your time. Teach us to remember that you are there for us always, even when we are facing daunting challenges. In your name we pray, Amen.

Submitted by: Michael Klauck

Date: Thursday March 27, 2014
Devotion Title: Have faith. God says “You’re worth it!”.

Scripture Passage: Jeremiah 33: 21-26. Only then could my covenant with my servant David be broken, so that he would not have a son to reign on his throne, and my covenant with my ministers the Levites. Just as the host of heaven cannot be numbered and the sands of the sea cannot be measured, so I will increase the offspring of my servant David, and the Levites who minister to me. The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Have you not observed how these people say, ‘The two families that the Lord chose have been rejected by him’, and how they hold my people in such contempt that they no longer regard them as a nation? Thus says the Lord: Only if I had not established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth, would I reject the offspring of Jacob and of my servant David and not choose any of his descendants as rulers over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have mercy upon them.

Key Scripture Verse: *The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah: Have you not observed how these people say, ‘The two families that the Lord chose have been rejected by him’, and how they hold my people in such contempt that they no longer regard them as a nation? Thus says the Lord: Only if I had not established my covenant with day and night and the ordinances of heaven and earth, would I reject the offspring of Jacob and of my servant David and not choose any of his descendants as rulers over the offspring of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For I will restore their fortunes and have mercy upon them. [Jeremiah 33: 24-26]*

A couple of months ago, I found myself in need of some dining room furniture, but didn’t want to spend a fortune. A friend of mine suggested that I try some second hand stores, and I ended up with a “gently used” table that clearly had a lot of history to it. It needed some restoration work, so I put it in the basement, and started the whole cleaning, stripping, refinishing process. Something that (if you have never restored anything) takes time, patience, and energy. But when I’m done, if I’m lucky, I’ll have something with tons of meaning that I can look at proudly with a smile on my face. I think that’s what God is telling Jeremiah here. His people may be a little banged up, a little unsure of their future, but God is committed to putting in the time and effort it takes to restore them. Because they’re worth it. All they need is a little faith, in God and his plan.

Prayer: Dear God, help us to understand that our lives are a refinishing process, and that we need to have faith in you and your plan for us.

Submitted by: Karen LeSieur