

NEWSLETTER

September
2008

A Short Story that Speaks Volumes for Our Lives

Facing Final Judgment

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left" (Matthew 25:31-33).



No one likes to be called a goat. It usually means that someone has made a mistake costing his team a game, or his company lots of money. Feeling like a goat is an uncomfortable situation.

Yet that's exactly where many people will find themselves on the last day – among the goats. This is what Jesus taught in a short story that speaks volumes for our lives. He described what will take place in the final judgment at the end of the world.

What is the meaning of Jesus' story? Let me illustrate. When I was a child, my family owned a pygmy goat. It was my brother's pet. He was a cute little guy complete with six-inch horns. He certainly showed the usual and expected characteristics of goats in that he was often

stubborn, sometimes almost arrogant, and enjoyed being alone. I think it made him feel like king of the farm yard.

Sheep on the other hand enjoy being together in flocks, and they listen and follow when the farmer calls them. Gathered together in the flock, sheep find safety from the dangers that threaten them. They enjoy the peace of grazing in the meadow. If a sheep happens to wander from the flock, the farmer must go after it.

Jesus uses the distinction of sheep and goats as a picture of those who will join him in heaven for all eternity and those who will not. The picture is stark. Goats - those who turn away from the voice of the farmer stubbornly following their own will and desires, and whose pursuits are set on worldly things - have no part in the peace of heaven.

Sheep - those who love the peace and safety the shepherd provides - will enjoy that peace and safety forever. That's a peace and safety found not in the absence of hardships in this life. It's a peace and safety found not in the desires of wealth. It is a peace and safety that comes from the knowledge and acceptance of sins forgiven through Jesus' own blood.

Trusting our Good Shepherd, Jesus, we have no fear of facing the final judgment. We are corralled by his love and rest safely in his arms. Wonderfully, he leads us to life with God forever.

CHURCH NEWS

Sermon Series-(continued): For our Sunday sermons, beginning September 14th, we will focus our attention again on profiles of the twelve Disciples. We have this great opportunity to learn more about these ordinary men which Jesus picked for the extraordinary work of building his kingdom. Let's all use this opportunity to learn about being disciples of our Lord, Jesus.

Jesus Cares Bible Class We are continuing our ministry to people with developmental disabilities. Bible class is scheduled here at church on Thursday, September 11th at 6:30pm. Members of the congregation are welcome to come and join in this ministry.

Tone Chimes and Choir: We thank the Lord for the opportunity and ability to glorify him with music from these two special groups. Practice begins on Wednesday, September 5th with tone chimes at 6:30pm and choir to follow at 7:30pm. **New-comers are always welcome to join either group!** Please speak to Jenny Scherer for tone chimes or Lonnie Rabe for choir if you are interested. Let's make some beautiful music!

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JESUS & ME CLASS

Jesus and Me class is designed for children under the age of 4 as an introduction to Sunday School. Parents and children interact together as they hear from God's Word and do a related craft project/activity sheet. All parents with young children are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please speak to Jenny Scherer or Jael Schmieg.

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CATECHISM INSTRUCTION

Parents of 5th - 8th grade students are reminded that Catechism instruction begins on September 3rd. The 5th and 6th grade students will meet at 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM on Wednesdays, followed by the 7th - 8th graders meeting at 4:45 PM to 6:15 PM.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 7th. Classes will be held after worship on Sundays beginning at 10:15 am. Children, age 4 through 8th grade, are to be a part of this program. This year's theme is: "***I Am Jesus' Little Lamb.***" We will kick off our Sunday School program with an Open House for parents and children from 10:15-10:40. We will have juice and snacks, a chance to meet the teachers, a video and our Sunday School families will receive information on the mission projects for this year.

Also, your presence in worship will be a great encouragement to your brothers and sisters in Christ. See you on the 7th!! If any parents have questions concerning Sunday School, please speak with Pastor Reichow.

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YOUTH NEWS

This summer, five of our youth had an exciting and fun time at the Youth Rally in Wisconsin. Fishing and tubing were also hits on the youth camping trip in August. Take some time to look at the photos on display. Ditch-cleanup will be happening soon. Watch the bulletin for further information.

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

2 nd	Arvid and Judy Schwartz (47 th Anniversary)
4 th	Marisa Luchsinger and Keith Schmidt
7 th	Loren Mackenthun and Delbert Heidemann
11 th	Sharon Papke and Chad Koenen
14 th	Myra Lustman and Elvera Brelje Kenwood and Joyce Rund (45 th Anniversary)
15 th	Alison Kettner
17 th	Nora Albers and Pearl Ortloff
19 th	Kayla Reichow Earl and Carolyn Lange (38 th Anniversary)
20 th	Ernie Michaelis
21 st	Lonnie Rabe
24 th	Ruth Lange
26 th	Donna Goette and Stephanie Koepp
28 th	Daniel Dammann
29 th	Janet Schuth
30 th	Rebecca Sullivan