

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

*****September 2018*****

ARE YOU HAPPY IN THE LORD??

Dear Servant of Christ,

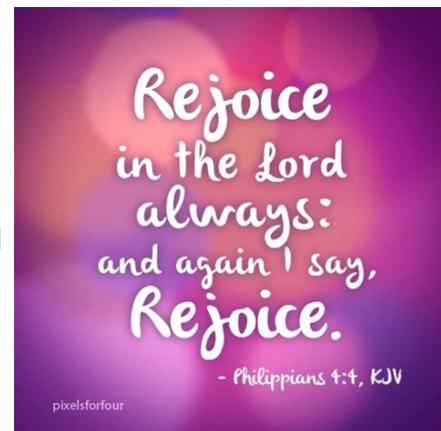
In the devotional book, "God's Word for Today," by O. Hallesby, the following devotion caused me to stop, think, and reflect on my personal relationship with God. Are you read it, I hope you will find it as meaningful as I did.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Philippians 4:4

Are you happy in the Lord? I am not asking whether you are seeking God, praying to God, reading about God, hearing about God, talking about God, debating God, nor am I asking you whether you have an awe of God or whether you *fear* Him. I am asking: *Are you happy in God?*

Perhaps you must answer in the negative. *Tell me one thing: Have you never wondered at this?* You enjoy other people. You enjoy animals. You enjoy nature and art. And you enjoy money. But God, your Creator, your Father, Him you do not enjoy.

Have you never said to yourself that this shows that there must be something wrong with you, in fact, something radically wrong? Have you never felt that this is abnormal? Undoubtedly you know that the Bible says that you are an enemy of God. "The mind of the flesh is enmity against God," it says. No doubt some people here and there are in their own minds quietly protesting against this and saying: "No, it cannot be said that I am an enemy of God, even though I am not particularly intimate with Him."



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S T A Y I N F O R M E D

But some will acknowledge the truth and say: "I am not happy in God. I have tried to enjoy God, but I do not succeed. And I do not know what to do about it." God will take care of that for you my friend You just do what He asks you to do: acknowledge before God that you do not love Him. And He will forgive, for Jesus'

sake, this great sin of yours, the most terrible sin of all! The basic sin, the sin for which Jesus shed His lifeblood.

And when He has forgiven you your sin, He will give you His Holy Spirit. And an entirely new joy will enter into your life: rejoicing in the Lord. Rejoicing that your name is written in the book of life!

In Christ,
Ron

September Servants



Greeter/Usher: Richard Drake
Communion Assistant: Gerald Retzlaff
Snacks:
**September 2 - Mary Collins
**September 9 - Linda Drake
**September 16 - Judy Waugh
**September 23 - Lenore Heckart
**September 30 - Tami Gerdemann

FLOWERS: Mary Collins

Outreach Visitation will continue on a regular basis. Let Ron know if you would like to tag along. We invite, we share the good news of Jesus. We encourage!

September Outreach/ Mission Support

\$333 - The North American Lutheran Church General Fund

\$600 - NALC Great Commission Society

Thank you for your faithful giving that allows us to support various mission efforts!

The Iowa Mission District Convocation will be held at First Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar, Iowa. Rev. David Wendel will be the speaker. Ron will represent Servants of Christ. There is a registration form enclosed if you would like to attend. See Ron.



Really Free!

a study of the book of Romans

Begins September 2

sometimes whether or not you really are a Christian? Do you long for a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ?

Do you long for a Christian life which is characterized by more joy and victory? Do you sometimes feel that the struggle with sin is hopeless? Are you plagued with feelings of guilt? Do you wonder

If the answer to any of these questions is “yes,” then the book of Romans is for you. For this letter shows clearly how we can escape the bondage to sin into a life of growing freedom and joy. Jesus promised this freedom: “You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” “If the Son sets you free,” He says, “then you will be *really free*” (John 8:32, 36 TEV). In Romans Paul explains the basis for this freedom and shows how it may become ours.

It was this book of the Bible that changed the life of Martin Luther and led him into a deep, personal, joyful, *free* relationship with Jesus Christ. You will want to be part of this study.

The Church is only as strong as its individual members who are rooted and grounded in the Word, in prayer, in worship, in study. To help in these areas, look over the resource and study materials that are available free of charge on the information table each Sunday morning. Take copies for yourself and for a friend.

For more in-depth study and growth, consider requesting a subscription (again, at no charge) to the magazine *Connections*. This magazine of evangelical renewal is filled with many articles that will encourage and inspire your faith walk. See Ron if interested.