

What Escapes Notice

Save me, O God, by your name... -Psalm 54:1

What escapes notice as you move through the day?

I sometimes ride to the office at the church. A friend told me after he had ridden his bike across Canada in record time, "Its amazing how much more you see when you ride your bike instead of driving." But how much escapes notice when I am riding? Walking might provide the opportunity for deeper engagement in the world—unless my sensory field is flooded by the sounds coming from my earbuds, like the pedestrians on the bridge who can't hear my bell....

What escapes notice about the people we love and cherish? Philosophers tell us, "Know thyself." But there is a lot about myself that escapes my notice. I need others to show me things about my character that I can't or don't want to notice. I need God to show me things neither I nor they notice. As the world breaks into the class of the vaccinated and the class of the unvaccinated, what are we not noticing about each other? As we accept the conveniences and annoyances of meeting remotely, what is being lost from our relationships? What escapes notice?

The Bible tells us that nothing escapes God's notice. This means we can talk with God about everything because God has noticed our thoughts, feelings, experiences, doubts, fears, joys, sorrows, everything. Bible Scholars tell us that Psalm 54 comes from the young man David told of in the books of Samuel and Kings. He had escaped notice for some time hiding from his king among Israel's Ziphite neighbours. King Saul was trying to protect his dynasty, but something had escaped his notice, something he never noticed, something that never escaped David's notice: God's faithfulness. When the Ziphites noticed David was wanted by the king and arranged to capture him and hand him over, David panicked. His panic led to prayer, his prayer led to confidence, his confidence led to worship, and his worship gave him peace.

Many things escape our notice in a day, in those we love, in ourselves, and in our situation. May God's faithfulness never escape our notice.

Let us pray. God our helper, thank you for always hearing our prayers. We pray for your help in this time of testing. Thank you for upholding your church in every time of trouble. Thank you for delivering us from every evil. Stir in us your Holy Spirit, that we may never cease to offer ourselves to you in praise and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. Amen (Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship Leader's Edition prayer for Psalm 54.)

Sunday School Notes

*Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. (Psalm 84:4)*

Zion started Sunday School again! We started last week with a nature walk and Bible lesson in the Cedar Room. Our Bible lesson was about the Cross. Do you remember a Bible verse about the Cross? If you missed our first Sunday School lesson, you could draw a cross at home and learn the words of a Bible verse about the Cross. Here's a good verse: *The message of the cross... is the power of God* (First Corinthians, chapter 1, verse 18, adapted). Thanks to Tracy for leading the nature walk, and to Myha and Rachel for leading the Bible lesson. Don't worry if you missed the first Sunday School event—you are welcome to start coming any time. We meet at the North doors by the parking lot just before nine o'clock on Sunday morning.

This is a special note for adults caring for children. We are learning that "the well-being of children and the well-being of creation are fundamentally linked. Child advocacy expert Richard Louv writes about "nature deficit disorder" in his book, *The Last Child in the Woods*, where he directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's children to some of the most disturbing childhood trends [such as] the increase in ADD, depression, and other mental health issues. When we cultivate children's relationship with nature, not only are they healthier in mind, body, and spirit, they also learn to protect and care for God's creation" (*Sundays and Seasons Year B 2021*, p. 269).

This Sunday is Bible Sunday during the worship service! Zion presents a Good News Bible to anyone in Grade Three. This year we will also present a Good News Bible to anyone who was in Grade Three last year, because we missed you during the lock-down. Come at twenty after ten and tell the usher you would like to receive a Good News Bible so Pastor Ron can present it during the Children's Message. Its OK if you can't come this Sunday—call Kaylyn in the church office so we can arrange for another Sunday. Thank you Kaylyn for helping with Bible Sunday!

WEDNESDAY MORNING PRAYER

We plan to begin Wednesday Morning Prayer on September 22. We meet synchronously at 10:00 in person in the Chapel, and at the same time by Zoom. Please wear a mask in person. Pre-registration is recommended because The Chapel capacity with physical distancing is six persons. We follow Morning Prayer in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (page 298), and use the Daily Lectionary readings, Year B (page 1138).

BIBLE STUDY

Its time to regroup after our summer break! We adapted the ELCIC National Bishop's suggestion and were reading through the Bible together. Bishop Susan provided Bible Reading guides over the summer, so let's check in on our summer Bible reading and decide what we would like to read together and how we would like to read together. Is meeting together in person an option? Do you prefer to meet by Zoom? A combination of the two? Is 12:30-2:00 p.m. on Tuesday a good time? Please call Judy at 306-382-4754 so we can regroup for next week.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Interest in the Book of Revelation has increased during the pandemic. Many people are questioning God's role in these events and wondering about the future. Interpreters are relating current world crises to the signs in the Book of Revelation, especially the Four Horses of the Seven Seals in Chapter Six. In response to requests from several people, Pastor Ron plans to offer an evening study on the Book of Revelation. Please call Kaylyn in the church office at 306-653-2442 or email her at zion.office@sasktel.net to express your preference for time and day and in-person or remote meeting. The duration of the study will be decided at the Introductory Session.

CONFIRMATION MINISTRY

Our first Confirmation Ministry event is planned for Sunday, October 3rd in Meewasin Park from 4:00-4:45 p.m. All youth Grades 7-9 are welcome, and parents are invited to stay. We will gather around campfires in the park to get to know each other a bit, find out about future Confirmation Ministry events, and check in with God. Pastor Ron is the fire-keeper and Pastor Marilyn is the Prayer leader. This event is part of the joint ministries of the Seven ELCIC Churches in Saskatoon (7ELCS).