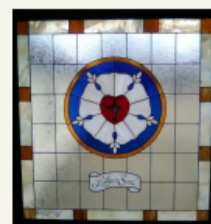




NEWSLETTER

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Grace Lutheran Church

Birthdays

9/06: Emily Ernest
9/06: Ada Granderson
9/07: Faith Wright
9/08: Byron Martin
9/08: Darlene Lampe
9/10: Michael
Garoutte
9/12: Dawne Votra
9/12: Sharon Barlow
9/15: Christina
Granderson
9/24: Judah
Granderson

Anniversaries

9/09: Paul & Barbara
Martin

Today and Tomorrow



I don't know about you, but I rely *heavily* on my calendar. I use a digital calendar, so I can pull out my phone and glance at what's coming up in an instant. Some weeks, I look at my calendar, and it's fairly open. Other weeks, it feels like I'm booked up from Sunday until Saturday. It can be overwhelming at times.

Maybe you can relate - doctors' appointments, commitments with family and friends, this or that social event, time to go grocery shopping or meet with a lawyer about some legal document, church events... It adds up, and it's overwhelming.

In light of this, I find Jesus' words quite helpful. Jesus says, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matt. 6:34). Jesus had told His disciples not to be anxious about food or clothing, because our heavenly Father knows we need these things. Jesus says that the Father feeds the birds and clothes the grass; if He does this, will He not also feed and clothe you?

"Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow..." When we look at our calendar and are overwhelmed by all that tomorrow might bring, we cling to Jesus' words. We trust our heavenly Father to take care of us *today*. *Today* we "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness" (Matt. 6:33). *Today* we receive food and clothing from our Father in heaven. *Today* we receive forgiveness, life, and salvation because of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. *Today* we are declared to be in a right relationship with God because of Jesus. "Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow..."

So, should we throw out our calendars and delete our digital ones? Should we cease ever thinking about or dealing with tomorrow? Should we stop making plans? By no means! But *when* we think about or make plans for tomorrow, we do so with a different attitude than the rest of the world. The world makes plans for tomorrow and is certain that their plans will come to pass. The world makes plans for tomorrow apart from God. The Christian thinks about tomorrow very differently. James says, "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit' - yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. ... Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:13-14a, 15).

When we make plans for tomorrow, we commend those plans to the Lord. Any plan or event has with it the asterisk, "If the Lord wills..." In this way, all our plans and everything on our calendars are left not in our hands, but in God's hands. We are free, then, to trust our Father *both* with *today* and with *tomorrow* - it is all in His capable hands. Thanks be to God!

In Christ's Service, Pastor Heitshusen

