

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

February 2022

Volume 142

A couple of weeks ago, an interesting question was asked in our adult Sunday school class regarding Judas who betrayed Jesus, and Peter who denied Jesus three times. What's the difference? The surprising answer is nothing! The only difference is how they responded with their actions: Judas hung himself, and Peter lived. The spiritual condition of each was the same. As Dr. J.A. Gibbs, author of Concordia's commentary on Matthew writes, "both have fallen away from faith in Jesus. Both are in despair. Like all the others (Mt 26:56b) both have ceased to be Jesus' disciples in any meaningful sense of the word "disciple".

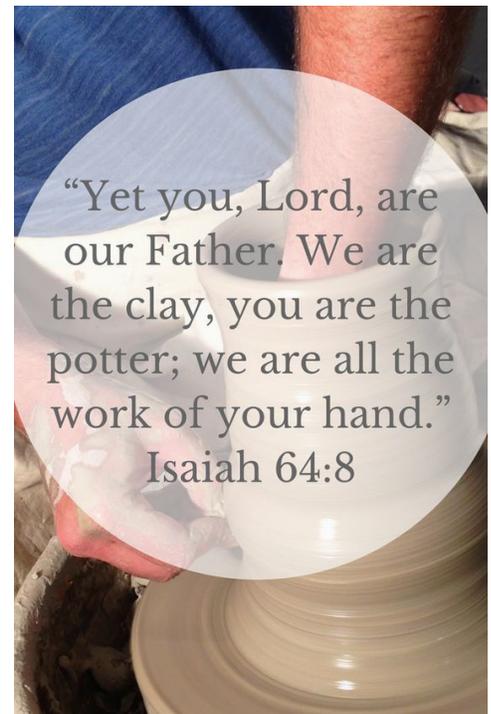
We like to think Peter and the other disciples were somehow different from Judas, better than he in relation to faith. The truth of the matter is all twelve disciples abandoned Jesus. Matthew 26:31 *Then Jesus told them, "This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.* The meaning of "fall away" is understood by Peter's denial and the fact that the other ten disciples ran. Jesus predicted that **all** of them would **fall away**. We see here that Peter is a representative of the twelve. All the disciples committed apostasy when Jesus was arrested, tried and crucified.

Both Judas and Peter expressed deep remorse for betraying Jesus, but remorse alone is not enough. Remorse must lead to true repentance: turning away from sin and turning to Christ and following him. Could Judas have been forgiven? Yes, just like Peter. The difference is that Peter was alive after Jesus' resurrection, Judas never saw Easter morning, thus forfeiting the opportunity of being forgiven and reconciled.

When we sin or even deny Christ by remaining silent when we could and should speak up, what matters is what or to whom we turn to when we are spiritually bankrupt. Judas took his sorrow, regret and confession to the wrong place, the chief priests and elders (Mt. 27:3-4). There he found no forgiveness, no mercy and no grace. He took his own life in unbelieving despair.

Peter also had nothing to offer, he too was spiritually bankrupt. However, he lived to see the risen Lord and there he found forgiveness and healing, mercy and grace that he didn't deserve or earn.

Are we any better than Peter or Judas? No! The point of this comparison is to reveal to us that we too are spiritually bankrupt in ourselves and possess nothing that would cause Jesus to rescue us, forgive and make us his children. Nor can we pray more earnestly to merit God's grace and mercy. The truth is that God alone can rescue and save, God alone through his inerrant word instills faith through the Holy Spirit that we might believe and trust. It is all God's doing. Like Peter, we need to avail ourselves to God's word and approach him in prayer and worship rather than running from him and in the end dying in unbelief.





Pilot Knob Lutheran Church
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FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Friends

I don't know about you but I really do not like this cold weather. We are very blessed to have such generous members of our congregation. When our furnace was going out – we asked for help and you gave. Thanks to all of you we can come and worship and not worry about the frigid January winds chilling us to the bone. Thank you very much! What a great feeling.

The sign-up sheets for the duties have been completed for the most part for 2022. One of those sheets includes the monthly custodians. Thank you to those people who has signed up to keep our church facility neat and tidy. As you clean if you notice that we are low on supplies – please make a note on the list on the refrigerator in the kitchen. We are going to try to order more items in bulk to save money but also need to know when we are running low. Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

In the coming months we hope to give the kitchen a little pick me up with a coat of paint and a back splash. Also coming up soon will be our annual Living Last Supper and right after that our project with the Families of the Fallen. Before you know it spring will be here and activities will be buzzing again.

Reminder that the annual meeting is February 13 following our Sunday service.

Council Chairperson

Cathy Caldwell

Areas of Outreach Supported by Pilot Knob Lutheran Church



MISSION

Strengthen families, by inspiring Christ-like leadership in the home, the church, and the government.

VISION

The Family Leader wants to see a **revived America** that honors God and blesses people.

OUR STORY

The Family Leader was birthed in 1996 as the Iowa Family Policy Center through Dr. James Dobson's vision of local organizations in each of America's 50 states advocating for righteous, God-honoring public policy.

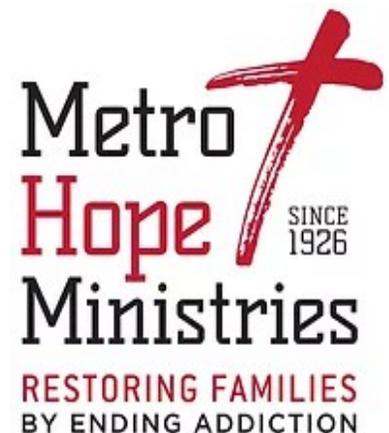
Through the years, however, we learned that enacting righteous policy falls short if there aren't godly, righteous leaders in government. And further growth revealed that not even winning elections is enough to turn the tide of a culture in need of revival. Rediscovering Christ-like leadership and returning to the heart of God requires engagement from Christ's Body, the Church.

Since 2010, The Family Leader has been pioneering a new (and, technically, very old) approach to engaging government – not from a policy-first perspective, and never from a partisan angle, but by coming alongside the Church in its gospel-first mission to transform lives and transform culture. The true power to change America lies in the Church becoming the salt and light Christ intended – in the home, in the community, *and* in government.

<https://www.thefamilyleader.com/about/>

We are Metro Hope, a residential, Christ-centered, drug and alcohol recovery program serving men, women, and mothers with children. Providing healing and hope for the whole family since 1926. Many of our residents are at the end of their options. Most have exhausted their support systems, lost their homes and are unable to support themselves or their families financially. Many have lost custody of their children and have experienced unemployment and homelessness. At Metro Hope, for a season of their lives, thousands of men and women in our programs have encountered Jesus and the hope He gives. On a daily basis, we are blessed to see people receive His grace, begin walking in His identity and strive to lead productive lives.

<https://www.metrohope.org/about-us>



Mission of the American Association of Lutheran Churches

The Fortress & the Frontier

All of our congregations are fortresses of safety in a post-Christian frontier. Each congregation is an outpost, carefully positioned as a haven, providing the protection of God's Word and the sustenance of His Holy Sacraments.

Each congregation is a fortress, an outpost from which God's people are sent forth with Christ's commission of Kingdom expansion and Gospel proclamation into a wilderness culture of immorality and unbelief.

Each congregational fortress in the AALC is precious. Some of our congregations are very small and some are located in remote areas, yet each one is connected to Christ Jesus and to the rest of our association. We stand together, committed to the care and support of our brothers and sisters.



We focus on Keeping the Fortress, but we also focus on Taking the Frontier. "Taking the Frontier" includes everything from congregational outreach to church-wide overseas missions. The gift of the gospel of Jesus Christ must never be hoarded as our own personal possession, but instead, be shared with a world lost in spiritual poverty and eternal darkness. God is ever expanding the AALC by motivating ministers and

multiplying ministries. With this said, however, we know that our efforts of protection and expansion are fruitless without Him "who makes all things new". Though He uses clay vessels like us, it is God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit who is **Keeping the Fortress** and **Taking the Frontier**. Hallelujah! Amen.

<https://www.taalc.org/what-is-our-mission>

Other ministries and areas to contribute are:

- Missionaries: Luke and Ruth Schroeder. They work with the Sama people in the Philippines.
- The Forest City Food Bank can receive financial donations or nonperishable food items. Donations can be given through the church and food items placed in the white basket near the library.
- We continue to receive donations for a new roof. Though it is not in need of repair, we would like to have a good start when that day arrives.

February Sermons & Scriptures

● February 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: Encountering the Divine

OT Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle Lesson: 1Corinthians 14:12b-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 5:1-11

● February 13, 2022

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: The Point of Trust

OT Lesson: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Epistle Lesson: 1Corinthians 15:1-20

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:17-26

● February 20, 2022

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Wrongs & Rights

OT Lesson: Genesis 45:3-15

Epistle Lesson: 1Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Gospel Lesson: Luke 6:27-38

● February 27, 2022

Transfiguration Sunday

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Jesus or Moses

OT Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 3:1-6

Gospel Lesson: Luke 9:28-36



February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Groundhog Day 4:30pm- Confirmation 6pm- New Member Class	3	4	5
6 Communion Sunday Greeters: Val & Cathy Reader: Jack	7	8 5:45pm- Deacons 6:30pm- Council	9 4:30pm- Confirmation Bday: Betty Waddington	10 10am- Quilting Bdays: Nick Smith Kristy Pedelty	11	12
13 Greeters: Don & Bobbi Reader: Angie 10:20am- Annual Meeting	14 Valentine's Day Bday: Michelle Jordan	15 9:30am- Ladies Study 2pm- WOL Bible Study	16 4:30pm- Confirmation	17	18	19 Bday: Heather Buck
20 Greeters: Randy & Deb Reader: Brandon Bdays: Sandy Smith Dave Albertson	21 Presidents' Day Bdays: Jack Smith Sopia Reese	22	23 4:30pm- Confirmation	24 10am- Quilting	25	26
27 Greeters: Greg & Sherry Reader: Bobbi	28					