

Sharing Our Faith at Home

Greetings!

Luke 8:26-39 tells about a man possessed by a Legion of demons. By the end of the story the man was healed and was sitting fully dressed and at peace at the feet of Jesus. The townspeople have become afraid of Jesus' power and ask him to leave. In many Bible stories when Jesus is about to leave, he tells the new believer, "Come. Follow me," and the person leaves home and family and follows Jesus. Not so here.

The man wants to leave with Jesus, but Jesus tells him to stay and "declare how much God has done for you." At times it is much easier to share our faith and tell our faith stories to strangers. To share with the people we know best is often difficult. Yet look at this man's challenge! The people have just told Jesus to leave their town—and the man is supposed to go to these same people now and "declare how much God has done for you." Talk about a challenge—and yet he went willingly into a hostile environment to tell others about this great healing and freedom he now enjoys—all because of Jesus!

So much for the excuse of "I can't witness because I have to stay at home" or "I can't talk about Jesus because I'm not sure people would be open to hearing the story." Our instructions cannot be more clearly stated: "Go and declare how much God has done for you!" Short, simple, straightforward—go and do!

If that seems a bit daunting—and let's face it: it is!—then remind yourself of these verses: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13) and "All things work together for good for those who love God." (Rom. 8:28)

Now, let us go with confidence and "declare what God has done for us!"

Blessings in Christ,

Shirley



Shirley Gangstad
Synod Vice President

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2007: A Synod Sharing Our Faith Stories

Children as Storytellers

By Rev. Jim Ahlquist
Congregational Renewal Team

Many times children are better at sharing "faith stories" than adult Lutherans who invite someone to church every 17 years! Bishop Jim Justman (East Central Synod of WI) writes of a pastor and daughter early one Easter morning:

"What are you doing, honey?"

"I'm waiting for Jesus to wake up, Daddy. It's time for him not to be dead anymore."

"How do you know that, sweetheart?"

"Daaaad...Don't you listen when you talk in church? God promised that Jesus would wake up, and that we won't ever have to be afraid again."

"Oh.." replied a somewhat sheepish preacher, who just happened to be a dad.

"Can I sit with you?"

"Sure!" she said.

So daughter and father snuggled into the rocker and stared contentedly out the window facing east. The horizon was already painted with broad strokes of pink and orange as if touched by the very hand of God. Soon the sky seemed ready to burst. With eyes fixed carefully toward the brand new day, the hearts of father and daughter leapt with joy as the first ray of the sun cascaded across the landscape. With a flash of brilliance and life, the darkness had been vanquished; the whole world looked clean and fresh.

"Hooray! Hooray!" shouted the delighted child as she scrambled down from her father's lap. "Come on Daddy! Let's go! Let's go!"

"Go where?"

"Daaadddd... It's not Easter 'til you tell somebody. We have to tell the others that He's awake again. That's what you said in church. Don't you remember?"

"Uh...sure...er...why...Yes, of course. Sure, sweetheart!"

"Come on...let's go! Jesus is alive!"



Called into God's Marvelous Light

*To Be Joyful Witnesses
To Be Christ-Centered Disciples
To Be Strong Leaders*