

Sermon

Rev. Lang Yang

“Do Not Drift Away”

Zion Lutheran Church – Tawas, Michigan
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost – LWML Sunday
10-4-14

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hebrews 2:1 “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away.” This is the word of the Lord. (Cross Reference – Proverbs 3:21, John 8:59)

Illustration “signs” (Show picture of 7 warning signs of cancer)

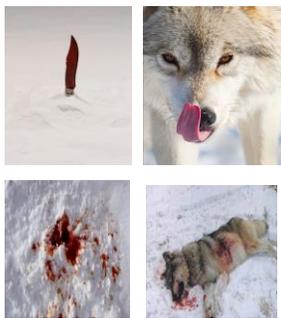
SEVEN WARNING SIGNALS OF CANCER

1. A change in bowel or bladder habits
2. A sore that does not heal
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge
4. Thickening or a lump in the breast or elsewhere
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing
6. Obvious change in a wart or mole
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness

The American Cancer Society has saved thousands of lives by educating the public about “7” warning signs of cancer.
1. A change in bowel or bladder habits 2. A sore that does not heal 3. Unusual bleeding or discharge 4. Thickening or lump in the breast or elsewhere 5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing 6. Obvious change in a wart or mole 7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.
There are thousands of lives that have been saved today because they recognize these warning signs. Most cancers are treatable if detected early. Have you detected the warning sign of your

spiritual faith? Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, the same thing is true for spiritual diseases if we don't recognize them.

I. When we look at our lives, we're not only drifting away from our personal lives but on our spiritual life as well that we have drifted away from the faith when God's first called us to believe Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. What led us to our drifting away? Our heart becomes hardened, we lost our belief and trust because sin had clouded our mind, and then slowly we turn away from the living God. Satan lies and his deceitfulness will do everything to make us believe that his way will satisfy our need. (Show trap for wolves)



Paul Harvey tells the story of how an Eskimo can set a trap and kill a wolf. He coats his knife blade with animal blood and allows it to freeze. Add another layer, then another, and another until the blade is completely concealed by frozen blood. You then fixed the knife in the ground, blade up. Wolf's keen sense attracted him and he sniffs and takes a lick then another. The wolf would lick faster & faster. Just when the wolf doesn't notice, the blade is exposed. The wolf doesn't realize he's being satisfied by his own warm blood. He literally bleeds to death! (Show drifting away)

Don't Drift Away From Bible Truth



In a similar way, when we drift away from the faith, we will face the consequence of bleeding our self spiritually. We don't attend church, we don't study God's Word, and we don't volunteer for the work of expanding Christ Kingdom. Jesus said "...you will be my witness... to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8) Instead, we become confuse and lost. We don't know how to tell other about our Savior Jesus Christ. In today Epistle lesson, the writer to the

Hebrews tell us, *"We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."* (Hebrews 2:1)

II. When was the last time your spouse, your son, your daughter, your grand children, friend or your neighbor attended church? **(Show Seventh Day Absentist)**

"Do you go to church?" "Yes, do you?" the new neighbor responded. "We're Methodists, and I go to church every Sunday with my mother." "Doesn't your daddy go too?" "No." "Isn't he a Methodist?" "I'm not sure. Mother said he is a Seventh Day Absentist."

A little girl asked her new neighbor, "Do you go to church?" "Yes, do you?" the new neighbor responded. "We're Methodists, and I go to church every Sunday with my mother." "Doesn't your daddy go too?" "No." "Isn't he a Methodist?" "I'm not sure. Mother said he is a Seventh Day Absentist (Absenteeism)." I don't know about Seventh Day Absentist, but there are a lot of First Day Absenteeism around. It mean a lot of people who don't come to church on any given Sunday. Have you invited anyone to Church?

(Show Invite)



There was a man who said to his neighbor, "Why don't you come and have a round of golf with me on Sunday morning?" The neighbor replied, "Oh no, I couldn't do that. I go to church every Sunday." "Well," said the first neighbor, "I don't know what your church is, but you can keep it to yourself. I have asked you to play golf a half dozen times, but you have never invited me to your

church." Could it be that some people just might come to church if we would invited them? Again, if we don't ask or invited them they certainly won't come.

(Show beautiful feet)



Have you invited anyone to church lately? Have you tell other about Jesus? Christ gave us the Great Commission *"Go make disciples of all nations..."* (Matthew 28:19) and St. Paul said, *"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How*

beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” (Romans 10:14-15) Even you cannot go, you can send someone or the least is to pray for the expansion of Christ’s Kingdom. (Show LWML Logo)



Today is LWML Sunday. They are the “mission heart” of thousands of volunteers who are daily dedicating their lives to making a difference in this world. It is composed of

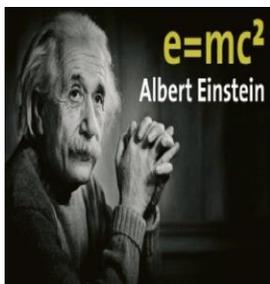
individual women and women’s groups within congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, on campuses, in resident homes, or in other settings.

(Show LWML – Psalm 100:2)



Their Mission is: *Mission Education, Mission Inspiration, Mission Service Financial grants for mission needs.* And The Motto is to: “*Serve the Lord with gladness.*” (Psalm 100:2) I’m greatly appreciated these women for their mission heart for using their time, talents and treasurer to raise thousands and thousands of dollars to help people through their grant to do the Lord’s work. I appreciated their encouragement and support. When I started my seminary education through the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) alternate route to ordination at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, a small grant from the LWML help me and other seminarian student pay for our education. Through the work that they do, they made not get the recognition of a thunderous applause for a job well done, but they have not drift away from their faithful services for the sake of the Gospel. Thank you, for all the LWML women for your continue faithful services.

- III. There was once a story about Einstein and a little girl conversation. In the course of their conversation at a dinner party, Albert Einstein’s young neighbor asked the white-haired scientist, (Show Albert Einstein)



“What is your profession?” “I devote myself to the study of physics,” Einstein replied. The girl looked at him in astonishment. “You mean to say you study physics at your age?” she exclaimed. “I finished mine a year ago.” Einstein never stopped working at what he did. The same must be true of us in the spiritual realm. We must not drift away from our faith but continue to believe, trust, and do the work God’s had set out for us to do.

(Show two mothers washing clothes)



It’s like the two mothers who were discussing their household duties and one said, “Do you feel that housework is below you?” The other said, “No, I feel it is beyond me.” I’m sure that’s how some mothers feel about life especially when they have children

and it seems like all they ever do is wash clothes. It's a never ending process. And so is cooking and cleaning house. It's never a "done deal." You see most things in life require continual upkeep or work. It is the same way with our faith. (Show all pictures)



A tiny seed in the crack of a sidewalk can grow into a beautiful flower. Tiny drops of water can dissolve a rock if it drips long enough. (Show Anchor for the Soul)



Jesus could have chosen to drift away from saving you and I but He chose to do according to God's will of coming to this world and die on the cross so that you may have life by believing and trusting Him as Lord and Savior. Since He is "the way the truth and the life ..." (John 14:6) there is a way for you to not drift away and that is to "...fix your eyes on Jesus..." (Hebrews 12:1-3). "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure..." (Hebrews 6:19)

(Show acronym for ANGEL)



- A Active in Service
- N Nurturing Our Faith
- G Giving Glory to God
- E Encouraging One Another
- L Leading Others to Jesus

The "Angel" acronym is a way to remind each and everyone's of us not to drift away from the faith. To be active in service (using our time, talent and treasure), nurturing our faith (coming to Bible class, learning from others), giving glory to God (coming to worship regularly), encouraging one another (fellowship with other) and leading others to Jesus Christ (sharing Jesus Christ with

others) that they too may be saved through His name. No matter where you are. It begins right here. Jerusalem -Your city, Judea -State, Samaria - U.S.A and Ends of the Earth - the whole world. It doesn't matter how far or how rough the road is, "Do not drift away and Go proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. (Show all picture)



As the writer to Hebrews said, "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." (Hebrews 2:1) You will not drift away because the Holy Spirit will help, guide, and lead you that your faith continue to stand firm in Jesus Christ that you will be able to do His work that will bring honor and glory to His name. Amen. Now may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind in Christ Jesus. Amen.