

**WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, July 16, 2024**  
**Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN**

**“ROADBLOCKS”**

**READING:** Psalm 16:8-11 – I have set the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let you Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

**NOTE:** Pastor K. did this Weekly Devotion video extemporaneously, so the following is a synopsis of the video and not word-for-word. For the complete text, listen to the video.

Have often told you that I despise the color orange in the summer! I hate orange signs, orange cones, orange barrels, orange vests, and everything that has to do with construction zone, utility work, tree trimming and the like if it is going to hold me up. Worst thing is I never know WHERE those zones will pop up. One day here, tomorrow there. If I knew WHERE they would jump up, I would do my best to reroute and avoid them.

Just today as I was coming to church along Slate Run Road there appeared the dreaded orange hoard. They were not there yesterday, but here they were doing utility “work” although I saw no one working at the time I went through the roadblock (except of course the two flaggers).

Roadblocks come in our lives much the same way. Everything is going along okay...then the phone rings with bad news. All is well...then someone runs a red light. It’s just a normal day...then a pain starts to radiate from your chest and your arm hurts. Roadblocks appear often when we least expect them.

We’re in hurricane season. We hear a week or more ahead that there is a “tropical depression” just off the Azore Islands. Then as it moves west it becomes a tropical storm with a name, like “Beryl”. Soon it’s a Category One or Two or Three hurricane that threatens various land masses. We get lots of warning that it may be heading our way. Tornado weather gets close attention. If the weather seems “iffy”, the meteorologists get out their Doppler Radar and show us “hooks” and “debris signatures” and warn us to get to our “safe places”. But there is one natural phenomena for which, so far, there is no early warning: earthquakes. One minute you are eating your soup...the next moment the ceiling falls on your head.

There are Roadblocks the catch us unawares in our living as well. The unexpected loss of a loved one, an accident out of the blue, an illness or condition that gave no warning sign. These things come. But the Psalmist reminds us that if we keep “the Lord ever before us” – that is right in the middle of our lives, we are NEVER alone whatever comes. With the Lord at our right hand, we will not be “shaken to pieces” – destroyed and brought into eternal loss. We have his promises that by trusting in God’s grace through Jesus Christ, we are his children and he will always hold us safe in his almighty hand. Roadblocks will appear. Troubles will come. But with God on our side, who can be against us? Amen.

**PRAYER:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1) FRANKENMUTH BUS TRIP – September 29-October 2. Registration is now open. Find information and forms in “News & Tidbits”, online, and in the Narthex. 14 seats available.

**2) BARDSTOWN BUS TRIP – On Wednesday, July 24, we leave Grace at 9:00 bound for Bardstown, KY, and Museum Row. For one \$10.00 fee you have access to all or some of: the Museum of Civil War Women, the Gen. Hal Moore Museum of Military History, The Museum of the Civil War's Western Theater, and Old Bardstown Village. At 1:00 we will have lunch at the historic Talbot Tavern, oldest existing tavern in Kentucky. Sign up at the office.**