

**WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, January 26, 2021**  
**Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN**

**“Not Like the Seed!”**

**READING:** I Corinthians 15:42-49 – So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the man made of earth, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.

Do you know what a sugar beet is? In the Saginaw Valley where I grew up, farmers grow thousands of acres of sugar beets. Imagine a white radish or a turnip but much, much larger with a big green leafy top and very white, very sweet flesh. They can get as big as a 2-liter bottle of soft drink. When they are processed, they produce the very same sugar that sugar cane produces. It’s a big business up north.

Now as big as a sugar beet might get, and as big and leafy its top, you’d never guess what its seed looked like. Sugar beet seeds are about as big as the trimmings from your pinky finger when you trim your nails, and they are about the same shape, too. They’re small, black, and look nothing at all like the beet they will become.

We’ve had a hard, sad stretch of deaths in our congregation the last couple of weeks. It started with Angie Graham whom COVID-19 claimed; a few days later the Lord called home Ewald Grieb and the very next day our brother, Bruce Mater. On the day of Bruce’s funeral we learned of the passing of a former member, Teala Been (Willa Daniel’s sister), and on the following Saturday the Lord called home Betty Mayfield (Angie’s and Ed’s mother) followed the very next morning by the sudden death of our sister, Vickie Shafer. One hard knock after another! I cannot remember such a confluence of funerals in all my 30 years here. Pastor and I have been immersed in grief and hurting folks, day after day. We pray there will be a respite for a good long while.

I’ve had people ask me how I deal with the sorrow I experience whenever one of these precious ones that have been my family for so long is called home. My response is always the same, “*I have a promise* that I will see each and every one of these again when I am called away or when they come in the clouds with the Lord Jesus at his Second Coming. ***I HAVE A PROMISE!***” And when we see our loved ones again, they will not look like they did in death. They will not be ravaged by cancer or age or Altsheimers or COVID or strokes or heart disease. They will not bear the marks of accident or violence. They will be whole and hale and beautiful and full of life and joy!

St. Paul says in our text that what was “sown” in burial was an earthy body composed of the water and minerals of the earth. “We are what we eat,” right? But the resurrected body will be like that of the “man from heaven”, our Lord Jesus Christ, who at his Resurrection did not bear the whip marks, the blood stains, the anguish of the Cross. Kept only are the nail marks and the wound of the spear as trophies and signs of his love for us. He rose never to die again. And along with St. Paul, St. John tells us in his first epistle that, “What we will be has not yet been made known, but we know that when he (Jesus) appears, we shall be like him for we shall see him as he is.” So we “sow in sorrow, but we reap in joy!”

We never want to give up our loved ones, and yet we know that death will come. We see our grandparents age, and then our parents. We see our older friends begin to fail, then it’s our turn. We know people who have tragic accidents or terminal illnesses. It’s as much a part of our lives as are the births, the graduations, the weddings, and more births. But our Lord has *GIVEN US A PROMISE*. Death will not have the last word. The body made of earth fashioned after the man made of earth will be sown perishable. But the spiritual body that will arise at the Last Day will be very little like what was sown. It will be “*like Jesus*”, not like the seed! Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S):

- 1) A NEW “GRIEF SHARE CLASS”: Pastor Woods is conducting a new “GriefShare Class” for anyone, member or not, who are struggling with grief over the loss of a loved one, recently or not so recent. This class has helped a lot of folks find healthy and effective ways to work through their grief and find peace under God’s promises. Tell friends who may benefit, too. It started this past Sunday, 1:00-3:00, but it’s not too late to join it this coming Sunday in the Fireside Room.
- 2) ENVELOPE PACKETS: If you find that on-line giving is more convenient for you these days and find that you are no longer using your offering envelopes, we’d encourage you to call the office and let Karen know. She can cancel your subscription for you. We save money that way, too. And if ever you want to use them again, you can be added quite easily.