

**WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, June 2, 2020**  
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

**“WHERE DOES THE TIME GO?”**

**READING: Psalm 90:1-6, 14-17 – Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn men back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O sons of men.” For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning – though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered...Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all of our days. Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as many years as we have seen trouble. May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands.**

**Willow is 14. Willow is my eldest grandchild, and during this past week she turned fourteen and she was confirmed. Where does the time go?!! It was just yesterday that Becky and I first laid our eyes upon the most beautiful child we’d ever seen! There she was in her mother’s arms, all pudgy cheeks and pink toes, and we fell deeply in love with her right there. Now she’s fourteen, confirmed, and headed for high school sometime this fall. How did that happen? Where does the time go?**

**Less than two weeks after she was born, we moved into the house we currently inhabit. It was Memorial Day weekend, and we found out Friday afternoon that we could move in on Monday and the people who bought the Clarksville place wanted to take possession on Tuesday! What to do? How are we going to get all of this done? Then, on Sunday morning I told the congregation that while I knew Monday was a holiday, we were in a bind and could use some help moving. The next morning at the appointed time, cars, pickups, and trailers filled the street. That house was emptied in record time. I still say the whole scene reminded me of vultures descending on a zebra carcass in the Serengeti! That was fourteen years ago last week. Where does the time go?**

**I’m more conscious of the passing of time now than ever before in my life. When I was younger, with a young family, I was too busy to notice as much. I had lots of years ahead of me; all the time in the world it seemed. But now, I see time as my most precious commodity. It goes TOO fast. I’m aware that around August 20, I’ll have been at Grace 30 years. Becky and I will celebrate our 47<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in a couple of weeks. We have eight grandchildren, and not one of them is a baby anymore. Where does the time go?**

**Psalm 90 is attributed to Moses himself. Here was a man of God who had spent 40 years learning all about Egypt. Then He spent another 40 years learning all about the desert. Then another 40 years leading a motley, disorderly, stiff-necked people through the wilderness**

right up to the Promised Land. I'm sure he often reflected upon his life and then wondered, "Where does the time go?" You see that thought reflected in the Psalm. "Throughout all generations..." – Think of how many generations of Hebrews Moses saw in 120 years! "You turn men back to dust..." – How many friends, family, and Israelites had Moses seen buried in their desert sojourn? "A thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by..." – Moses' 120 years are like a blink in God's eternal calendar. "Like the new grass..." – Here today; gone tomorrow! Where does the time go?

As Moses concludes the Psalm, he turns once more to the only One who is above time, the Creator of time, the Master of time: The Lord our God. He asks that God would grant to him and to Israel His unfailing love, His joy and gladness, His presence and His splendor, and His never-ending favor. Do you realize that the things Moses requests of God are the very things that will bless us in this life...and in the life to come? Since God is eternal, his gifts are eternal. Because of our Savior's sacrifice and resurrection, we already have God's promise of life in his heavenly mansions. So, while the clock keeps ticking here, our home with God has no clocks, no calendars, and no end!

Yes, I'm getting older! I am regularly reminded of that fact by what I see in the mirror, what my creaky joints and sore muscles tell me, and by every passing birthday of my children and grandchildren. I am often chagrined at how fast a year goes by, to say nothing of a week! But my God is eternal; his mercies never fail. I can sing with real meaning verses 5 and 6 of "O God, Our Help in Ages Past", "Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away; we fly forgotten as a dream dies at the opening day. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be Thou our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!" Where does the time go? Well, when we spend it loving both God and others, it's certainly not wasted. And, in heaven, there's a LOT MORE where that came from! Thanks be to God! Amen.

#### **PRAYER:**

**ANNOUNCEMENT(S):** Join us on Saturday for the Weekly Review. Saturday services and the regular Communion schedule will resume this coming weekend. Communion in early service the first and third Sundays of the month. Communion in late service the second and fourth Sundays. And Communion in the second and third Saturday evening services at 5:00.

**CONFIRMANDS:** Congratulations to our eighth grade Confirmands! They were truly a joy to teach and to learn from. God bless: Kaleb Korner, Willow Kischnick, Caroline Hadley, Lillian Nierman, Emily Garber, Aden Olson, Karson Evans, Leah Walden, Mary Alexander, and Rachel Wilcox.