

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, June 30, 2020
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

“The Windmill Farm”

READING: John 16:5-13 – Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, “Where are you going?” Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.

While I was in Michigan two weeks ago to visit my father, my daughter, Christa, and her two youngest children stayed with me at my sister, Sally’s, house. About two miles northeast of her home is the start of one of the largest windmill farms in the state. It stretches over fifteen miles along the Lake Huron shoreline. Hundreds of towers some 90 feet tall, with huge rotors that turn in the slightest breeze to turn a generator that produces electrical current at the cost of the tower and some connecting cables. The wind is free...when it blows.

That Tuesday afternoon we took Eva and Uri to Port Crescent State Park so they could experience a beautiful sandy beach and the big lake. As we headed toward Caseville, there was no wind at all. All those huge windmills sat absolutely still. Without a wind, there was no movement, and without any movement, there was no power. They just sat there in the sunlight, waiting.

In our text, Jesus tells his disciples that unless he leaves (after the Cross, the Resurrection, and the Ascension), the Counselor will not come. And, until the Counselor comes, they will just sit around, waiting for Jesus to do something, but making no movement themselves. And, without movement on their part, there will be no power to convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment. Jesus promised that when he had left them, the Holy Spirit would come to them and *power them up!*

I do not much believe in coincidences. That’s why I am always assured of God’s actions on our behalf. For instance, in the Old Testament the Hebrew word “*ruah*” can mean “wind” or “spirit” depending on the context. In the New Testament the Greek word “*pneuma*” can mean “wind” or “spirit” depending on the context. How marvelous that the two words that describe the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures should also describe the wind. Because when the Holy Spirit goes to work, you cannot see him, but you sure can see his works. Think about the first Pentecost Sunday! These disciples, a motley crew, prone to argue and strut and run away and hide out in fear, suddenly become effective preachers and teachers, fearless and

focused and faithful. Why? Because the Holy Spirit blew in, quite literally, and sharpened their memories and organized their thoughts. He came and guided them “into all truth”, and they were never the same again. They became dynamos! They were powered up, and the Church grew in leaps and bounds because they were moved to action. And, the Spirit still does his work on and in us. Every time we are moved to some Godly work or Godly word, it is the Spirit “blowing” through us and moving us to action that the Father’s will might be done and the love of Christ might be given.

When we came home at the end of that wonderful excursion, the wind had picked up dramatically. And, every single one of those scores of windmills was cranking out the voltage and sending power through those connectors to homes and businesses far and wide. The wind blew, the rotors were moved, and power resulted. That’s how that works. And, that’s how the Holy Spirit works, too. He “blows” through us and within us, and we are moved to action, powered up by his gifts to accomplish God’s purposes in our lives. We’re moved by the “ruah”, by the “pneuma”, by the Counselor Jesus promised to send to ALL his disciples, you and me included! Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S): Join us on Saturday for the Weekly Review. Saturday services and the regular Communion schedule have resumed. And, remember that both Sunday services will be live broadcast on the Internet regularly from now on. This coming Saturday and Sunday we will give thanks for the gifts God has given to America, and through it, to its citizens and the world. Join us in church or online.