

Devotional #4

Two Roofs – One Family

Listen to Scripture - Read Matthew 5: 13 - 16

In his sermon on the mount Jesus proclaims God's favor on those who aspire to live under God's rule (in the Beatitudes), and then offers two earthy images for the witness of the disciples.

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."



Watch the Video "Two Roofs – One Family" (6 minutes)

(As the video ends, allow a few moments for silent reflection)

Reflect together *(Feel free to do all the questions or pick and choose 1 or 2 questions to answer)*

Share briefly any images, words, memories, and/or emotions the video evoked.

Pastor Jack Damien, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, said, *"There is no them there's just us."* The elders come with *"a hunger (for God) and a thirst for life."* Outreach to those literally next door shapes who this congregation is; they live out the baptismal welcome (see ELW p.231) in a rather unique way.

- *How is your congregation's mission shaped by your context and community?*
- *Who are the neighbors near you who hunger for God's goodness, and who thirst for life?*
- *What risks have you been called to take to go deeper in faith?*

Baptism, inclusivity, and accompaniment are central themes in this congregation's story. Rosalie thought no one would be there, yet 80 people *"and one dog"* celebrated with her when she was baptized at age 76. Heather, who has Multiple Sclerosis, came to church *"to meet the God I was so angry with"* and found an outlet that *"meant the world to me."* Bill said, *"Someone's always with you."* Joy radiates from their faces as they talk.

- *Who are some examples of "salt" and "light" in your community -- any surprises?*
- *Share a story of how you have experienced the gifts of the spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, the fear of Lord, and a spirit of joy in God's presence.*
- *What are some "bushel baskets" that "hide your congregation's light" from others who long to worship God?*

Prayer

Good Shepherd, you call to us in our confusion and despair, and your voice gives us hope. Guide the work of your church in every place, especially where its witness is in need of renewal and its zeal is lacking. Thank you for keeping your promise always to be with us. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*(To "complete the circle," remember to close your meeting with **The Lord's Prayer.**)*

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To learn more about Good Shepherd Lutheran Church please contact Pastor Jack Damien at gslcofcasper@qwestoffice.net

To learn more about the ministry of Shepherd of the Valley Care Center go to www.svccwyo.org

or to see how you can share the daily bread, contact your local Care facility.