

Lutheran Church of the Master
580 Kuhn Road, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188
Curt Gerald, Interim Pastor
MAY 2, 2010
Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:00AM Confirmation Service Meditation

This meditation is based on the Confirmands' Verses (*unless otherwise indicated, all readings are printed from the **New International Version**. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica. Confirmands may have read from another version or translation*)(*Since this meditation is being posted on the internet, only first names are included.*)

(1) Matthew

Matthew 5:1-9

¹Now when he saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them saying:

³"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

(2) Julianne

Matthew 6:34

³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(3) Ashley

Proverbs 23:4

⁴ Do not wear yourself out to get rich;
have the wisdom to show restraint.

(4) Jackson

Psalm 55:22

²² Cast your cares on the LORD
and he will sustain you;
he will never let the righteous fall.

(5) Jesse

Psalm 56:3

³ When I am afraid, I will trust in you.

(6) Caroline

Selections from 1 Corinthians 13:

¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

⁴Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

⁸Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ¹¹When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. ¹²Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

¹³And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

(7) Samantha

Philippians 4:13

¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

(8) Brendan

Joshua 1:9

⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

(9) Sydnee

Genesis 31:49

⁴⁹It was also called Mizpah, ^[a] because he said, "May the LORD keep watch between you and me when we are away from each other. (Pastor Curt chose this verse for her since she was unable to participate in this service.)

(10) Kayla

Joshua 1:9

⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

(11) Andrea

Isaiah 40:28-31

²⁸ Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.

²⁹ He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.

³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;

³¹ but those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

(12) **Alex** *Isaiah 14:5*
⁵ The LORD has broken the rod of the wicked,
the scepter of the rulers,

(13) **LiLi** *Psalm 145:9*
⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.

(14) **Bryan** *Psalm 23:4*
⁴ Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

(15) **Carmen** *Psalm 27:8*
⁸ My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

(16) **Tasca** *Ephesians 6:14-17*
¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

(17) **Emma** *Ephesians 5:1-2*
¹Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children ²and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

- (18) **Eric** **Romans 5:8**
⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- (19) **Devan** **Jeremiah 6:16**
¹⁶This is what the LORD says:
 "Stand at the crossroads and look;
 ask for the ancient paths,
 ask where the good way is, and walk in it,
 and you will find rest for your souls.
 But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'
- (20) **Colin** **Psalms 145:2-3**
² Every day I will praise you
 and extol your name for ever and ever.
³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
 his greatness no one can fathom.
- (21) **Jennifer** **Romans 10:11**
¹¹As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."
- (22) **Angela** **Jeremiah 29:11**
¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- (23) **Joseph** **Jeremiah 29:10-11**
¹⁰⁻¹¹This is GOD's Word on the subject: "As soon as Babylon's seventy years are up and not a day before, I'll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. (From The Message)
- (24) **Liam** **1 Peter 4:1**
¹Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because he who has suffered in his body is done with sin.
1 John 3:1
¹How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him

(25) **Samantha**

Mark 1:1-3

¹The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²It is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way"—

³"a voice of one calling in the desert,
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.' "

(26) **Andrew**

Psalms 111:1

¹ Praise the LORD.

I will extol the LORD with all my heart
in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

When we consider all of the 25 readings that have just been read, they have pretty much proclaimed the Good News haven't they? We have heard readings from the Common Scriptures and from the Scriptures unique to the Christian community.

We have heard that

... we don't need to worry about tomorrow ... because we can cast our cares on God and trust God ... and God is everlasting and enables us to "soar like the eagles" ...

... we believe that God has already defeated the evil ones ... and that God always treats us with mercy ...

...with the Psalmist we believe God even walks with us into and through death ...

...we don't need to worry about getting rich ...

...and we rejoice in the promise that started with Isaiah which is the Good News about Jesus Christ ...

...Jesus calls us to be peacemakers and merciful ... because love is the greatest ... and our desire is to imitate him ... because we realize that in Jesus we see the face of God ... and we believe that there is no shame in trusting Jesus ...

...and Jesus gives us strength to do what he wants us to do ... and he will go with us wherever we go ... and we rejoice knowing that Jesus gave 100% for us in order that we might be called Children of God ...

...so we always seek to follow Jesus ... and to be dressed with that armor of salvation that protects us ...

...and in the words of Scripture, we do want to praise God every day

...so we stand at the crossroads ... and we believe that God has a plan for each one of us that is far greater than any plan we might have for ourselves ...
...and so we worship.

Amen.

So all I want to do this morning is to add a few words to the words of Scripture that you have chosen and already read for us.

(1) THANKS

To parents for being faithful to their baptismal promise
To baptismal sponsors who remembered and who reminded
To nursery attendants, SS teachers, VBS teachers, mentors, staff
To councils and committees and custodians and clergy and other congregations

(2) IT IS ALL ABOUT GOD

You didn't earn confirmation
This is not because you completed required sermon outlines, service hours, or worship duties.
This is because God is starting something ... in and through you ... and only God knows what God is doing ... stay tuned ... throughout the rest of your life.

(3) IT IS REALLY ONE LEG OF THE TRIPOD

We talked about it during Holy Week – that “one fell swoop” of what used to happen on Easter Eve when candidates were baptized and then anointed with oil and then received their first communion.

(4) A BEGINNING NOT AN ENDING

This isn't graduation ... it isn't about something being completed.
This is part of initiation ... into the Body of Christ ... and that means something is about to start ... what do you think it will be ... for you and through you?

(5) THIS IS ALSO ABOUT BEING EMPOWERED

I realize that this might not excite you ... but you know ... one of the perks is that as of today you are a voting member in this congregation.
Do you know how hard it is for a congregation to get the quorum needed to conduct business?

Do you realize that if the youth in a congregation got themselves organized ... they could be a considerably powerful voting block?

Of course ... the other side of that is that if you vote to build a gymnasium you also have to contribute the money to do so ... but that is part of the scenario to ... YOUR time, talents, and treasures are not intended to be hidden!

- (6) To use one of my favorite sayings, “if we had video screens hanging in the front of the sanctuary this morning,” I would probably share a video with the congregation today. No, confirmands, I wouldn’t try the one I tried on the retreat last month – “High School Musical” (the first one) ... just a few minutes into it, I could see it wasn’t going anywhere for most of you ... and it would be too long for right now.

I wish I had known about the video from You-Tube that my wife’s sister in South Dakota just sent to us this week. The [American Association of Retired Persons](#) held a contest in [2007](#) on [YouTube](#) of a contest called "U@50". The concept was to ask for videos to be submitted by people between the ages of 18-30 and expand upon the subject of what they expect their lives to be like at the age of 50.

Although first place was awarded to a film studies student at [Emerson College](#) in [Boston](#), it was the second place video that has since taken on a life of its own. Created by Jonathan Reed, the video is entitled "Lost Generation".

When I viewed this video on Tuesday, it was the 13,250,449th viewing on YouTube.

<http://geeks.pirillo.com/forum/topics/lost-generation-an-award>

A palindrome reads the same backwards as forwards.... If you group the lines, instead of individual letters, this story has the opposite meaning, from bottom to top.... Very clever.

This is only a 1 min. 44 sec. video and it is brilliant. As you listen intently, follow along with the words forward and backward.....

This is a video that was submitted in a contest by a 20 year old. The contest was titled "u @ 50," by AARP. This video won second place. When they showed it, everyone in the room was awestruck and broke into spontaneous applause. So simple and yet so brilliant.

Jonathan Reed is a 20-something native of Atlanta and (at least two years ago) a student at Columbia College in Chicago, and he wrote the palindrome below about himself and his peers, the so-called Lost Generation. As depressing as it is when you read it as written, it is just as uplifting in reverse. To reverse it, read line by line from the bottom up.

The Lost Generation

Jonathan Reed

I am part of a lost generation.
And I refuse to believe that
I can change the world.
I realize this may be a shock, but
“Happiness comes from within”
Is a lie, and
“Money will make me happy”
So in thirty years, I will tell my children
They are not the most important thing in my life.
My employer will know that
I have my priorities straight because
Work
Is more important than
Family
I tell you this:
Once upon a time
Families stayed together
But this will not be true in my era.
This is a quick fix society
Experts tell me
Thirty years from now, I will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of my divorce.
I do not concede that
I will live in a country of my own making.
In the future,
Environmental destruction will be the norm.
No longer can it be said that
My peers and I care about this Earth.
It will be evident that
My generation is apathetic and lethargic.
It is foolish to presume that
There is hope.
And all of this will come true unless we reverse it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42E2fAWM6rA>
<http://geeks.pirillo.com/forum/topics/lost-generation-an-award>

So ... our dear young friends ... God has an investment in each of you ... God is counting on you to work with Him in loving and blessing and, when necessary, changing the world.

That is why we are going to lay our hands on your heads and pray for God's blessings for each of you and for all of you.

You have been blessed in order that you might be a blessing.

Amen!

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lost_Generation

The "**Lost Generation**" is a term used to characterize a general feeling of disillusionment of [American](#) literary notables who lived in [Europe](#), most notably [Paris](#), after the [First World War](#). Figures identified with the "Lost Generation" included authors and artists such as [Ernest Hemingway](#), [F. Scott Fitzgerald](#), [Ezra Pound](#), [Sherwood Anderson](#), [Waldo Peirce](#), [John Dos Passos](#), [John Steinbeck](#), [Erich Maria Remarque](#) and [Cole Porter](#).

The term was popularized and often credited to author and poet [Gertrude Stein](#). Stein supposedly heard her French garage owner speak of his young auto mechanics, and their poor repair skills, as "une génération perdue."

The term has more recently been used as generic shorthand for groups of young people disproportionately affected by economic shocks, often involving lengthy periods of unemployment, such as those affected by the [Financial crisis of 2007–2010](#).^{[1][2]} This is partly based on evidence that it can be difficult for those affected to get back into employment when economic activity picks up.

A video by AARP about a "lost generation" has garnered over 12 million views promoting youth empowerment.

Origin of the term

The phrase is attributed to [Gertrude Stein](#)^[4], then popularized by [Ernest Hemingway](#) in the epigraph to his novel [The Sun Also Rises](#) and his memoir [A Moveable Feast](#). In the latter he explained "I tried to balance Miss Stein's quotation from the garage owner with one from [Ecclesiastes](#)." (A few lines later, recalling the risks and losses of the war, he adds: "I thought of Miss Stein and Sherwood Anderson and egotism and mental laziness versus discipline and I thought 'who is calling who a lost generation?") Broadly, the term is often used to refer to the younger [literary modernists](#).

Variouly, the term is used for the period from the end of World War I to the beginning of the [Great Depression](#), though in the [United States](#) it is used for the [generation](#) of young people who came of age during and shortly after World War I, alternatively known as the World War I Generation. In [Europe](#), they are mostly known as the "Generation of 1914", for the year World War I began. In [France](#), the country in which many [expatriates](#) settled, they were sometimes called the *Génération au Feu*, the Generation in Flames.

In Britain the term was originally used for those who died in the war,^[6] and often implicitly referred to upper-class casualties who were perceived to have died disproportionately, robbing the country of a future elite. Many felt "that 'the flower of youth' and the 'best of the nation' had been destroyed," for example such notable casualties as the poets [Isaac Rosenberg](#), [Rupert Brooke](#), and [Wilfred Owen](#),^[8] composer [George Butterworth](#) and physicist [Henry Moseley](#).

The presiding minister addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, who are making public affirmation of *their* baptism.

The presiding minister may continue with prayer.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for *these sisters and brothers*, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called *them* to yourself, enlightened *them* with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished *them* in the community of faith. Uphold your *servants* in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

The presiding minister addresses those making public affirmation of baptism.

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The minister addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Those making affirmation may kneel. The presiding minister prays for God's blessing.

The blessing will be repeated for each person. The minister may lay both hands on the head of the person and say:

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake,
stir up in *name* the gift of your Holy Spirit;
confirm *her/his* faith,
guide *her/his* life,
empower *her/his* in *her/his* serving,
give *her/his* patience in suffering,
and bring *her/his* to everlasting life.

Amen.

Those making public affirmation stand and face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.

Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all the world.