

Sermon- Our Saviors Lutheran Church - July 7th, 2019

Text- Luke 10:1-11

Scheels or Not!

Grace and Peace to you and from our Lord Jesus Christ. If you have missed church for the last few weeks, which is entirely possible, a recap is in order. A few weeks ago, we focused on Stewardship in July. Strange. But who knows if I will be here for Stewardship in the fall. Then we dealt with following Jesus. Today we continue the Stewardship theme with what appears to be volunteering from our Gospel. Jesus is sending out 70 souls to do some work. Great Gospel for you and me. One thing is certain. We do not want Jesus here at OSLC organizing a volunteer program.

Just imagine we are all together in the gathering area. Jesus comes in, clears his throat, and holding the normal clipboard, and says loudly, "Excuse me, can I have everyone's attention for a minute. I still need 70 volunteers for a service opportunity this week. This is a great chance to go out into strange and dangerous neighborhoods and invite yourselves into people's homes. It will be like you are defenseless lambs sent out alone into the midst of ravenous wolves. It will be fun. Oh, and please remember not to bring anything that might make it easier or safer or more comfortable for you to do that, okay? So just come on over here and we'll get you all signed up. Thank you!"

We know, since we are ELCA Lutherans, that this is no way to recruit volunteers. Everyone knows you have to sell it: tell people it won't be hard, that anyone can do this, tell them it won't take a lot of time or effort, tell them everything will be set up for them, all they have to do is show up...you have to make it easy for them to commit, so your program can be a success. What was Jesus thinking?

Of course, Jesus wasn't asking for volunteers. That's a pretty important thing to notice right from the beginning. Jesus APPOINTS the 70 and SENDS them out. And the crazy thing is that he sent them out totally unprepared. The least that he could have done was send them to the local Scheels store. Pick up everything they needed: high tech boots specialized for maximum performance, socks and clothes to keep rain out, shelters that withstand the strongest of elements, or food that

never spoils and tastes grand if you add a little water. But, they get none of these things. All he gave them was the Holy Spirit.

That's what they would have. God's spirit surrounding them.

Well, what's it mean for you and me. Remember, it's Stewardship time here in the summer. The focus is Time and Talent. And Jesus is sending us out. Armed with the Holy Spirit and little else. And he wants us to be successful. The problem is we have confused successful with numbers. You know how many people attend worship, how many people join OSLC. But in Christ's eyes, success is how many come to know Jesus and walk the walk. And, he is not sending us out unprepared, he's giving us the Holy Spirit and the good news to share.

So, what is it we can do, to be one of those sent out? You have a sheet that was included in the bulletin. I call it a sending out sheet.

Home bound Communion- we have 40 people to visit and only eight visitors. We need many more to tell the story of God's love by sharing communion. Can you do it? Of course you can. Only once a month.

Your church needs help at worship:

Lay readers

Communion Assistant

Setting up Communion - altar setup

Sing in the choir

Can you do it? Of course you can.

Or maybe

Going on a Mission Trip

Teaching Sunday School

Teaching Vacation Bible School

Can you do it? Of course you can.

So, here is what Jesus wants you to do. Remember he is sending you out and In. Armed with the Holy Spirit and the Good News.

Take a few moments, right now and fill in the sheet. What is he calling you to do?
Can you be one of the disciples, the followers? He and this church are counting on
you.

Amen. Let it be so