

Pastor Thelander Returns from Sabbatical Sunday. In the Words of the Epistle Reading, "I Will Be Filled with Joy When We Are Together Again."

The Rev. Dr. Brook Thelander returns to duty this Sunday, following his three-month sabbatical, the first in his seven and one-half years at Epworth.

This Sunday's reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy, from which the above quotation is taken, may cause Epworthies to think of Pastor Thelander in another portion of the reading, where Paul wrote, "And God chose me to be a preacher . . . of this Good News".

A highlight of what should be a glorious day will be Choral Evensong at 6 p.m. The service stands to be one which "you dare not miss", in the words of Lana Jutzy, Parish Life chairperson.

That will be true because of the service itself, but also because of the fellowship time afterward, which will feature (1) sharing of "How I Spent My Summer Vacation" (whether or not it included a vacation) and (2) a bridal shower for Peggy Ayers.

Wherever Some Eat and Others Do Not, There the Kingdom Does Not Exist

From the story of Lazarus and the rich man, Deacon Donald Hughes said in his sermon Sunday, we should not "be too quick to conclude that it is a sin to be wealthy, to wear fine linen and purple, or to set a plentiful table if one's estate can afford it."

"Neither is the story intended to glorify poverty and depreciate wealth," he continued. The Pharisees had thought that their wealth was a confirmation of God's favor, but the scriptures which they thought supported that view also "required that the harvest be shared with the poor and transient. Isaiah, the prophet, speaking for God, said to share our bread with the hungry, and to bring the homeless poor into our house" and "to cover the naked."

In the end the Jewishness of the rich man "did

not compensate for his neglect of the poor," Deacon Hughes said.

"It should not escape our attention that our scripture readings this morning begin and end with judgment against the indifferent rich. Amos says that the wealthy, famous and popular, to whom the people go for help, will be the first to be led away as captives, because they care nothing that their nation is going to ruin."

For us, Deacon Hughes said, "The way to change direction or to make a difference is really quite simple: one act at a time, one person at a time." As with the rich man's brothers, we can escape judgment if we search and obey the scriptures. "But bear this in mind: 'Wherever some eat and others do not, there the kingdom does not exist.' "



Paraphrase of Jesus' words in the Gospel lesson this Sunday: "You say you want faith? Then do the tasks God has given you to do, without asking for an award or thanks." It makes one think of Mother Teresa, and her persistence in her work over many years, on faith alone.

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Sundays

10:00 a.m.: Word & Table service

11:30 a.m.: Refreshments, conversation

11:45 a.m.: Post-service discussion

6:00 p.m.: (First Sundays only) Choral Evensong

Thursdays: 6:30 p.m.: Evening Prayers. 7:00 p.m.: Singing & discussing hymns.

Readings, 10/7, 10 a.m.: Hab. 1:1-2:4; Ps. 37:1-18; 2 Tim. 1:1-14; Luke 17:5-10. **10/7, 6 p.m.:** Ps. 118 (sung); 2 Kings 20:1-21; Acts 12:1-17. **10/14:** Ruth 1:1-19; Ps. 113; 2 Tim. 2:3-15; Luke 17:11-19.

Prayer Emphases: Germany; Evangelical Mennonite Church; Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Boise, and the Rev. Jim Grunow; Evangelicals for Social Action; parishioners on Plymouth Street.

10/7 Recessional Hymn: "Give to the winds thy fears, Hope, and be undismayed; God hears thy sighs, and counts thy tears, God shall lift up thy head. Through waves and clouds and storms, He gently clears the way; Wait thou His time, so shall the night Soon end in joyous day. Still heavy is thy heart? Still sink thy spirit down? Cast off the weight, let fear depart, Bid every care be gone. What though thou rulest not? Yet Heaven, and earth, and hell Proclaim, God sitteth on the throne, And ruleth all things well! Leave to His sovereign sway To choose and to command, So shalt thou wondering own His way, How wise, how strong his hand. Far, far above thy thought His counsel shall appear, When fully He the work hath wrought That caused thy needless fear! . . . And publish with our latest breath Thy love and guardian care."—Tr. John Wesley