



Encounter Christ Grow in faith Love as Christ loved Tell the Story

Church Website—bethlehemdavey.org



[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](#)

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The Tower of Babel

(If you aren't familiar with the story of the Tower of Babel you can find it in [Genesis 11:1-9](#). You might want to read it before reading the article.)

For my daily devotions this year I'm using a book called "Seeking Aliveness" by Brian D. McLaren. Although there are readings from Old and New Testament each week, the first several weeks have focused on the most ancient stories in the Bible – the creation story, the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent, Cain and Abel, Noah and the flood, and today, the story of the Tower of Babel.

McLaren talks about sin...and really original sin...as a rivalry. We want to be rivals of God instead of God's people, created and called to bless and care for creation. Although he says much the same thing as I typically preach, something about the word "rival" has opened it up for me. Ego has always been my chief downfall, and thinking of that in terms of rivalry with God has a ring to it that seems true. When my ego gets the best of me, I am essentially competing with God...particularly the God we see in Jesus Christ.

When we think we're in an even competition with God, we inevitably have to make God smaller...we try to make God in our image instead of the other way around. It also puts us in conflict with a lot of other people who are also trying to be God's rival.

So, today's devotion focused on the story of the Tower of Babel. I'll say first, I'm not convinced this story represents an historical event, although it's possible it was based on a real tower. Regardless, I still think it was inspired by God and profoundly true...I think God revealed things about Godself to the people in stories they could understand in their own time and place.

Brian McLaren relates some of the history surrounding the story. In the ancient Middle East, building towers and pyramids and massive temples was commonplace...think Egyptian pyramids. They were typically built by slave labor and built to honor the gods. There were the gods they couldn't see, and the gods they could, like the Pharaohs and Kings who usually took on a divine persona...they essentially became gods. Everyone assumed the gods were satisfied with this arrangement. A few essentially divine upper echelon folks were to be served by people who were for all intents and purposes their slaves.

What God reveals in the Tower of Babylon story is that God is better than that. God is not a god who wishes to have stone temples and towers and pyramids built by a system that makes people slaves. The tower building and temple building is revealed as another way humans practice their rivalry with God.

God will have none of it. So in the story, the people are scattered, their language scrambled and the Tower of Babylon construction is halted. Human arrogance is shown for what it is.

We don't read the Tower of Babylon story much in worship. It never shows up in the Narrative Lectionary. In the Revised Common Lectionary, it shows up at Pentecost once every three years. Then the focus is more on the language and the "unscrambling" that happens in the Pentecost story.

I think it's a story worth some serious thought in our own time and place. What are the things we do and support which try to rival God? In what ways do we think we can impress God...and other people...thinking it will make us superior? What would happen if we tried to follow the God we see in Jesus Christ instead of competing with God? As we work our way through Lent, learning from Jesus and wrestling with some of the questions Jesus asked, these just might be good questions to ask ourselves.

Christ's peace,

Pastor Kris

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday—March 29 at 8:00 pm. Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar

Whom are you looking for?

Good Friday—March 30 at 6:30 pm—Tenebrae Service

Easter—8:00 am Festival Worship with Holy Communion. Easter breakfast follows

Adult Affirmation of Baptism

Affirmation of Baptism isn't just a once and done thing for kids in middle school...the Christian life should be one of continually affirming our baptism. The Sunday after Easter, April 8, adults will have an opportunity to affirm their baptism during worship. This will begin as the Affirmation of Baptism by the Assembly, so everyone in the congregation will have the opportunity to affirm their baptism. But then we will allow you the opportunity to come forward for an individual affirmation and blessing.

March Calendar

March 3	10:00 am—First Communion class at Zion
March 4	10:30—Worship with Holy Communion First communion for Makenna Hellerich
March 7	9:00 am—Quilting 6:00 pm—Lent Midweek at Zion—What do you want me to do for you?
March 11	9:15 am—All-Congregation Sunday school 10:30 am—Guitar worship Blessing for those in manufacturing/shipping/warehouse/utilities 1:30 pm—Worship at Saunders Care Center
March 14	6:00 pm—Lent midweek at Bethlehem—Do you love me?
March 18	10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion Blessing for those in construction and trades
March 21	9:00 am—Quilting 6:00 pm—Lent midweek at Zion—How will you believe what I say?
March 25	9:15—Youth focus Sunday school 10:30—Worship—Palm Sunday Blessing—arts, floral, beautician
March 29	8:00 pm—Maundy Thursday worship
March 30	6:30 pm—Good Friday worship
April 1	No Sunday school 8:00 am—Easter worship Easter breakfast

Helpers

Lector—Janna Harsch

Communion Assistant—Marilyn Kahler

Ushers—Clint Harsch

Cleaners—Wk 1/2—Jeff and Tonya Brown

Wk 3/4—Mumgaard/Olson

Altar—Janna Harsch