

DEVOTIONAL: 16 – 22 June 2024

Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

Readings: Psalm 29:11; Psalm 119:165; Isaiah 26:3; Matthew 11:28-30; Romans 15:13

Romans 6:13 tells us our body is an instrument, and we choose to use it for righteousness or unrighteousness. The Greek word translated “instrument” there means “tool or weapon.” What kind of tool or weapon are you? Are you an instrument God holds in His hand to do His will?

- **Are you a battering ram?** The ancients would use a log or some other hard object to break down a wall or door. Have we filled our hearts with the Word to the degree that we can, speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15), break down barriers keeping the honest hearted from God?
- **Are you a crowbar?** Crowbars pry objects apart. There are things we should separate from our thinking and lifestyle. Are we trying to pull away from worldliness (James 4:4)?
- **Are you a chisel?** This is a tool that does meticulous, detailed work. Its blade carves or cuts hard materials. Do we have the tenacity and trust needed to use God’s Word and benefit from His providence to remake our lives into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18)?
- **Are you a level?** We live in not only a dishonest world but also a corrupt world. So many call good evil and evil good (Isiah 5:20). Can people find in us a reliable standard of right and wrong, as we reflect the principles of God’s Word? Levels are used to determine whether something is true and as it ought to be.
- **Are you a plane?** The plane smooths rough surfaces by repetitiously moving back and forth across the surface. All four Gospels (Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23) speak of John the immerser’s work as making ready the path of the Lord, making His paths straight. We are not forerunners of Jesus; we follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21). As we do follow Him, we are going to forge a path safe for others to follow (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- **Are you a magnet?** A magnet is an object that draws and holds another object disposed toward such attraction. Magnets can be used as tools themselves, but they are often made a part of other tools, such as hammers and screwdrivers. By living like Jesus, you will draw people to Him.

Paul also referred to “tools” or “weapons” when talking to the Corinthians. He mentions “armor of righteousness” and “weapons of our warfare” (same word). In both cases, the tools or weapons are spiritual and figurative, yet with them we can help shape and build up those around us. Be a tool in God’s toolbox. In Jesus precious name. Amen.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE, LET US PRAY WITH YOU & FOR YOU

- We extend our deepest and heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the family of **Ms. Joy Lynn Kuhaupt** who passed away on March 7, 2024. Bless those who mourn, eternal God, with the comfort of your love that they may face each new day with hope and the certainty that nothing can destroy the good that has been given. May their memories become joyful, their days enriched with friendship, and their lives encircled by your love. Amen. Cards and notes of support and care can be sent to: **Mr. Robert Kuhaupt, Sussex Mills Apartments, W240 N6345 Maple Ave. Apt. 116, Sussex, WI 53089.**
- Our continued love and support to **Mrs. Sandy Wamser**. Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: comfort and relieve your sick servant, Ms. Sandy, and give your power of healing to those who minister to her needs, that she may be strengthened in her weakness and have confidence in your abundant loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Cards and notes of love, encouragement and support for Ms. Sandy and Mr. Pat are greatly appreciated. Correspondence can be mailed to: **Mr. Pat and Mrs. Sandy Wamser, 3742 Pleasant Valley Road, West Bend, WI 53095.**

- Sincerest and heartfelt condolences are extended to Mr. Dean and Mrs. Carol Pok, and the Pok Family, on the passing of their father and mother, **Mr. Jerry J. Pok and Mrs. Margret “Marge” Louise Pok** who God whispered their name on January 23, 2024, and February 2, 2024, and lovingly welcomed them to their eternal home. Cards and notes of sympathy and condolences can be mailed to: **Mr. Dean and Mrs. Carol Pok, 1915 Hwy 28 E., Kewaskum, WI 53040.**
- **Mrs. Elizabeth “Betty” Nelson**, well known and beloved in the community of West Bend, passed away on March 12, 2024. We continue to keep the Nelson Family in our thoughts and prayers.
- Your continued prayers for healing and strength for **Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf** over the past years, has been needed and appreciated. You can send emails of prayers and support to: alankempf33@gmail.com; or cards and notes to **Mr. Allan and Mrs. Janice Liepert-Kempf, 414B. South Pleasantview Road, Plymouth, WI 53073; phone number: 920.838.1830.**
- **Mrs. Nancy Whitson** extends her grateful appreciation to you for taking the time to send cards of love and support. Cards and notes of encouragement and support can be mailed to: **Mrs. Nancy Whitson, Aria of Brookfield, 18740 West Bluemound Road, Room 103, Brookfield, WI 53045.**
- **Bro. Bob Krell** continues to give God thanks and praise for healing and strength. He is very grateful for your prayers and support. Heavenly Father, we come before you in faith, seeking your healing touch. We believe in your power to restore health and well-being. Please lay your hands upon Br. Bob and remove any sickness or pain from his body. Grant him strength and vitality so he may continue to serve you and others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen. Amen. Cards and notes of love and encouragement can be mailed to: **Mr. Bob and Mrs. Jean Krell, 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.**
- We continue our prayer vigil for **Mr. Dennis Liepert** on his extensive journey of recovery. Lord, you know me inside and out. You know about my pain and distress; you understand the fears of my heart. At the cross you endured unabating agony. You have gone before me into the darkness and emerged in power and glory. At this time I lean on You; I draw my strength from Your endless love and live in Your limitless grace trusting in You. Amen. Cards and notes of love and support can be mailed to: **Mr. Dennis and Mrs. Tammy Liepert, 7361 Tower Drive, West Bend, WI 53090.**
- **Mr. Michael Cahoon**, son of Mr. Jim and Mrs. Sandy Cahoon, has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and is still on a journey of healing. Cards and notes filled with prayers of encouragement and support can be sent to: **Mr. Michael Cahoon, C/O: Mr. Jim and Mrs. Sandy Cahoon, 1615 Beverly Lane, WI 53090.**
- We give thanks and praise that **Mr. Ben Barth**, husband of Ms. Heather Wolf, granddaughter of Mr. Roger and Mrs. Mary Rogge. recipient of a new heart and new lungs. "Living Lord, Your love has held me and kept me through this suffering. Now may your hope and healing lead me quickly to a place of restoration. O Lord the oil of your healing flows through me like a living stream. Correspondence can be mailed to: **Mr. Ben and Mrs. Heather Barth, 223 South 11th Ave., West Bend, WI 53095.**
- We remain in prayer and support for **Mrs. Ann Cording**. Cards and notes of love and care can be mailed to: **Mrs. Ann Cording, 1416 S. Silverbrook Drive, West Bend WI 53095.**
- **Mr. Chuck Rogge** is still on a journey of healing. He is grateful for the cards and notes of support. Please continue to flood the mailbox with love and support to: **Mr. Chuck and Mrs. Sue Rogge, 5011 Hwy. P, West Bend, WI 53095.**

Let us pray: Almighty God, we bless you for our lives, we give you praise for your abundant mercy and grace we receive. We thank you for your faithfulness even though we are not that faithful to you. Lord Jesus, we ask you to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul, and spirit. We want you to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through life and make our enemies be at peace with us. Let your peace reign in our family, at our place of work, businesses and everything we lay our hands on. Let your angels of peace go ahead of us when we go out and stay by our side when we return. In Jesus' name, Amen. ~ Debbie McDaniel

Your humble Pastor-servant leaders,

Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin