



RUHL'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER WEEKEND EDITION

June 6, 2019

“Thinking Out Loud” by Rev. Blaine R. Wenger

“Half-Way”

Most reading this, I am sure, are familiar with the image of a glass of water that is – well here is the question – half full, or half empty. It is an image, or illustration meant to challenge us in the way that we see and think things. Do we see what is there? Or, do we notice the fact that some is missing? How you answer that question gives some insight about how you probably approach other things in life. The implication, or the stated point is usually something along the lines – think positive. Lately I have seen people pointing out the fact that when you consider this image, you don't have to just focus on what is there. There can be another approach. No matter how much is in the glass, you can fill it up again. So, half full, or half empty, the glass does not have to stay that way. I like that. There is future potential. If things aren't going the way that you would like, they can get better. If things are going ok, they can get even better. Half – whatever – doesn't have to be the end of the story.

Saturday was June 1. Our year, 2019 is coming up on half-way. In several conversations lately, the fact of it being June already has been noted. “Where has the year gone?” “How can it be June already?” “Can you believe it is June already?” Maybe you can relate? Time is always marching on. Sometimes we are quicker to notice its passing than at other times. Maybe I am more aware right now as there is a graduation about to happen in our family. But others notice it too. How can it be June already? I think that statements like this are our way of looking at the “glass” that is the year, and trying to decide if it is half full, or half empty.

Whether you made some resolutions back around the beginning of the year or not, are you where you thought you would be? Or, where you would like to be? Or, where you should be? The “mark” might be different for you in different areas of your life – physical, financial, relational, emotional, spiritual, etc. As you consider different areas of your life, are you “on track” for June? Maybe the first question to consider is, “are you actually working on anything?” Do you have goals or an objective in mind, or is life just sort of happening to you?

I'm not suggesting that every moment of your life must be regimented. What I would suggest is that as a follower of Jesus, one who desires to have life to the full, and for others to have that for themselves, some aspiration and planning is a good thing. How are you striving to grow in your faith? How are you personally trying to make a difference in the lives of others around you for the kingdom? How are you seeking to grow and care for yourself that would honor that you are a temple of the Holy Spirit? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

As you look at the year ahead, almost half-way finished, is it time to get serious about the goals you have? Is it necessary to adjust the goals that had been set? Do you need to set some goals in the first place that you would make the most of that most precious commodity – time? Each of us has “glass” if you will. How we look at it determines so very much. But don't forget, you can refill the glass. If you want a better relationship with a friend or family member, or if you want a deeper understanding of God, start to work on it. If you need to take better care of yourself one way or another, it may seem a bit overwhelming, but growth in anything is incremental. Start. If you want to “do something big,” you have to take the first steps and keep at it. 2019 is almost half-way, what might lie ahead!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Blaine

This Week In Worship

This Week In Worship – it is Pentecost Sunday! This is the day that we remember (and celebrate) the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early church – just as Jesus promised. This event is generally seen as the “birthday” of the church that we are a part of today. You can start to get ready for worship by reading Acts 2:1-21. Reflect on our passage for the day. What is God saying to you?

Sunday, we will also be recognizing those who are graduating from High School and Higher Education. Come out and support our Graduates. Look for them so that you can offer a personal note of congratulations and blessing. Since it is Graduate Recognition Sunday, our Youth Praise Band will be leading the music. We have some great music planned to praise God. You might get in the mood ahead of time by listening on You Tube. A couple of the numbers that they will be playing and we will be singing are “Resurrection Day” and “Marching On.” It should be a great day of worship, celebration and fellowship. See you Sunday!