

Zion Lutheran Freeland: 4th-6th Grade Sunday School

Family Learning Activity for October 11

Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 22: 1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

22 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: **2** "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. **3** He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

4 "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.'

5 "But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. **6** The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. **7** The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

8 "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. **9** So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' **10** So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. **12** He asked, 'How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?' The man was speechless.

13 "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

14 "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

Family Discussion Questions

1. What lesson do you think Jesus is trying to teach his disciples?
2. Have you ever been to a wedding? If so, why is the reception/banquet important?
3. The king was upset because a guest was unprepared to attend the banquet. What does "being prepared" for God mean to you?
4. What is one question you have about this Gospel passage? How could you find the answer to this question?

Family Activity - "Seal of Faith"

Directions: Please read about the Luther Seal and complete the following activity.

Martin Luther's Seal or the Luther Rose¹

As it became more and more plain to Dr. Martin Luther that the cross of Christ and the pride of the world were at odds with each other, he chose for his family a new crest, which has become the "family crest" of Lutherans worldwide. The best person to explain the meaning of the now famous "Luther Seal" is Dr. Martin Luther, himself..



First, there should be a black cross set in a heart, which should keep its natural colour. This will remind me that faith in the Crucified saves us. Because: *"If you believe in your heart, you will be justified."* Even though it is a black cross, which kills us and causes pain, yet it allows the heart to remain its natural colour; it does not destroy the heart's nature, that is, it does not kill the heart, but keeps it alive. Because "The just will live by faith" - but faith in the Crucified.

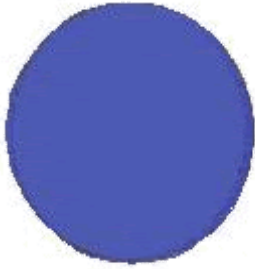


Now, although the cross is black, mortified, and intended to cause pain, yet it does not tend to change the colour of the heart, does not destroy nature, i.e., does not kill, but keeps alive. *"For the just shall live by faith,"* - by faith in the saviour.



But this heart is fixed upon the center of a white rose, to show that faith causes joy, consolation and peace. The rose is white, not red, because white is the ideal colour of all angels and blessed spirits.

¹ Info taken from <https://www.goodshepherd.nb.ca/seal/>



The rose, moreover, is fixed on a sky-coloured ground, to denote that such joy of faith in the spirit is but an earnest yearning and beginning of heavenly joy to come, as anticipated and held by hope, though not yet revealed.



And around this groundbase is a golden ring, to signify that such bliss in heaven is endless, and more precious than all joys and treasures, since gold is the best and most treasured metal. Christ, our dear Lord, He will give us grace unto eternal life.



Put them all together,
the complete seal.

My Family's Seal of Faith ~ Create a special crest or seal for your family, including symbols and designs that symbolize the elements of faith that are important to your family. Make sure to explain what the symbols stand for.

