

Marge Martens – Women's Rector

Ephesians 2:8-10 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

One of the hardest things for a good person to do is to accept something he has not earned. A gift is something you can only accept. You can't earn it!! We are pardoned, forgiven and saved by the grace of God. And what is grace? It is God's love in action for those who don't deserve it. It is a gift that is given when you don't deserve it. It is love you receive before you've earned it. It is credit when it is not justified. It is GRACE.. God's Riches At Christ's Expense.

Let's make a great leap of faith and embrace God's grace. Accept His understanding and forgiveness. Trust Him not only to cleanse you of sin and negativity, but also to inspire you to treat other persons the same way. You will soon begin to realize that you are forgiven not **through** the good works you do, but to do good works!

Pray for the Teams of the Men and Women's weekends as we prepare. Pray for the opportunity to invite someone as a guest for the weekend to receive this gift of Grace. And please consider the opportunity to come and serve on the Palanca Teams. You will discover God's Grace in a whole new way!!

TEAM Practice Weekends are: Jan. 9-10 at Christ Lutheran Church in Yankton and Jan. 24 at St. Luke's Lutheran in Sioux City.

Grace and Peace to you,

Marge Martens

Don Curtis – Men's Rector

Decolores, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am Don Curtis from Mitchell, S.D. and I am so graciously honored to be the Men's Rector for the weekend of Feb 5—Feb 8, 2009. The verse that I have chosen for this weekend is from John 10:9 "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come and go out, and find pasture."

As I reflect on this verse, I find myself totally enthralled by the way Jesus tell us that this is the only way to God and Heaven and it is only through him that we can get to heaven, and as I hunger for him to be with me, he reminds us that he opens the gate continuously for us to go in and out for "pasture," to enjoy the great things that he puts in front of us daily. The triumphants and the pains, the life challenges, jobs, school, grades, finances, & parenting. I called my dad and ask where the book was? His response was "In God's hands, the Bible." The events in our lives; births, deaths, marriages, anniversaries, promotions, lay offs, God's opening the gate for us to come in and graze with him, and to cherish these moments that are in our lives.

He also offers security and safety to us and he reminds us to thoroughly enjoy all that is laid in front of us; Green grass for the livestock in the spring, Plentiful fragrance rains for the crops, Warm summer heat for his wheat fields dancing in HIS wind, Bountiful harvests in the fall, Frost on the trees during the winter, and last but not least The Christmas Eve Snow that falls silently and gently to the ground after candle light service, which by the way you never hear a complaint about, Yes these are the pastures that Jesus and God rotate us around in so we can feel, see, and touch Jesus at the gate as we wander safely to God's Kingdom.