

Follow Up Questions from message on Sunday, October 8, 2017

Lutheran Like Us Series – What Happened?

Re-read: Romans 3:21-26

1. The story of Martin Luther and his life includes an early event where Luther prayed to God to save him during a lightning storm. Luther was afraid that if he died he wouldn't go to heaven. He worried that he had not earned his way into God's heavenly Grace. Do you know anyone who believes this; that you have to behave well in order to please God? IF so, why do they believe it?
2. Pastor Jon explained that the key question for Luther is one that we wander about from time to time. Is salvation forever? Why is that a complicated question?
3. Paul wrote in chapter 3 verse 23, ***Since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...*** why is this good news?
4. ***...they are now justified by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.*** What do you think 'sacrifice of atonement' means?
5. Confusion over the essence of salvation can cause us to think that our faith is the reason why we are saved. Why is that wrong? If not by our faith, then how are we saved?
6. What is the gift Paul talks about and when did you receive this gift from God? Hint: it has to do with water.
7. Do you remember your childhood faith? Why do we encourage people to believe like a child believes?
8. Pastor Jon shared in his message: *"So salvation is not sustained with you, it's a gift, and once received, it's yours, whether you believe it or not, or even want it anymore, it's yours.* Agree or not?
9. Think of someone closer to you who no longer is part of the church. How can you share this message with them?