



RETURNING

WEEK NINE

“At Our Savior’s Way Lutheran Church, we value Returning God’s Blessings.”

Martha and Joe were married for over 40 years. When Martha became ill with Alzheimer’s disease, Joe cared for her for many years at home. When Martha went into a nursing home, Joe was devastated. He was determined that they would not be separated. Every day Joe drove to the nursing home to visit Martha until she died four years later. Mary wanted to go to college but her parents could not afford the high tuition. Out of love, Mary’s dad took an extra job to pay for her tuition. Bill was concerned about the homeless in his community, so he volunteered to pick-up Panera Bread to support the families who were living at the local shelter. We do crazy things for love. We do not sacrifice because we have to or we because we are obligated. We give because our hearts compel us. The desire to return God’s blessings is a natural response of those who know God’s love and care about their neighbors. God’s love makes us a little bit crazy!

The Apostle Paul gave his life as a sacrifice to be a missionary, traveling the world to share God’s love. Paul described himself as the worst of sinners. There was no reason for God to love him. Paul had persecuted the church, rejected Jesus Christ and was an enemy of all those who believed in Jesus. Yet, Jesus came to Paul on the Road to Damascus, and called him to be a missionary. Paul described his ministry as a compulsion of the heart. He was so grateful for all that God did for Him, and so in awe of God’s love to send Jesus to die on a cross to forgive his sins, that Paul wanted to return God’s blessing. “For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

We glorify God when we take pleasure in using our lives for God’s purposes. Everything we have is a gift of God. We return God’s blessings whenever we work at what we are doing as a service to God. Freely, returning God’s blessings is a core value of our life together at Our Savior’s Way. We follow Jesus into the world and share His love in whatever way possible so others may be blessed in Jesus’ name.

***Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.
- Colossians 3:23.***