

**“LET’S GET BUSY!”**

Proverbs 9:10-11

*May the peace of Christ, to which you were called as one body, rule in your hearts.* {Col 3:15}

Dear Redeemed in Christ,

It was a scene I won’t soon forget. Exactly **83** (Thur) **85** (Sat) **86** (Sun) days ago, I witnessed a parade driving down Eau Claire St., (the road between church/school). Channels 7 or 9 didn’t cover it. There were no reporters. No bystanders sat along the parade route on lawn chairs. But there was a parade of **happy people in their cars** honking their horns of jubilation and joy that the school year had officially ended. This was the day teachers could celebrate another successful school year and now begin their summer siesta of rest & relaxation.

I haven’t seen any parades recently with horns blowing, but I have seen for the past weeks a silent parade of our teachers’ cars (that includes our newest teacher) spending hours of their days preparing for a new school year that begins Monday. The teachers are excited, they are gearing up for the time when those 3 famous words will officially declare: **“LET’S GET BUSY!”**

Husbands hear those words on weekends when their wives hand them their “honey-do” list. Football/track/soccer coaches have been barking it in practices. Public school staffs have been experiencing it during in-service meetings. And once the month of September is here, all of us here at St. Peter will see how the calendar is waking up from its summer snooze and telling us:

**“LET’S GET BUSY!”**

Proverbs speaks of good reasons to get busy with a different focus. What our text teaches us is to get busy...

1. Getting wisdom
2. Cherishing blessings

## 1

**Who is the “wisest” person you know?** Wisdom is highly valued. Students look for the best college for their career pursuits. CEO’s gather the most skilled people on their finance and marketing teams. Financial planners make the wisest choices for their clients. Teachers use their wisdom and training to take their students to the next level. I’m looking at a bunch of wise people right now.

If there is one name from the Bible that comes to mind when we speak of wisdom (apart from Jesus himself), it would have to be Solomon. He penned most of the wise sayings in Proverbs. Just after Solomon succeed his father David as ruler over Israel, God approached Solomon with an offer he couldn’t refuse: **a blank check for anything he wanted.** We can only imagine what we would say with an offer like that. What did Solomon request? **Now O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David...So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.** Solomon asked God for wisdom to govern His people.

What is the “wisdom” that Proverbs wants us to get? The word “wisdom” is found some 54 times in Proverbs and nowhere is the word defined better than in our text: **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING.** You hear the same words repeated in Psalm 111:10: **THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.** What is the “fear of the Lord?”

The fear of the Lord is the ultimate respect, knowledge, trust, and awe that come from knowing that God is the Lord of heaven and earth. He is the creator of all things: the oceans, seas, mountains and trees; plants, animals, and people. None of them, none of us would exist without the Lord. Astronomers look through telescopes and see countless stars and galaxies that don’t end. Biologists look through microscopes to find the smallest of cells of living organisms. The Lord of heaven & earth keeps the oceans in their places, the sun/moon/stars shining night & day just as they have been ordered to do. He governs our world, our breath, our nature, our lives. And in spite of attempts to explain Him away, **it is the Lord who is at the heart & core of everything** we call this life on earth. And without Him, everything would cease to exist. Is there anymore reason to get busy fearing the Lord?

Well, there is a better reason. We see His commands to follow. He has written them in our hearts. He has written them down in His word. Luther begins each meaning to the commandments: **WE SHOULD FEAR AND LOVE GOD THAT WE DO/DO NOT...** The fact is that when God says **DO**, we say **DON’T** and when he says **DON’T**, we say **DO**. God’s Laws are perfect and clear what’s right and wrong, and yet how often have you/I rebelled. How often we have stomped on his will in favor of ours and thrown out his word like the garbage. How often we have determined what’s right & wrong and shook our feisty fists at him claiming He is

unfair, unloving, or unjust? How often we kick him out of our priorities so we can take the bull by the horns and selfishly reshape our priorities for ourselves, in essence making ourselves “god”. We don’t have to get busy getting sinful wisdom. We’ve got enough of that already and it will only lead to our destruction as God renders his judgment of eternal punishment in hell.

Thus the need to **get busy getting wisdom** of Jesus. **God so loved the world that He gave his one & only Son, that whoever believe in him shall NOT perish, but have eternal life.** {Jn 3:16} God loved us & God gave Jesus to hang on the cross. God branded him the sinner to take on our punishment, our sin, our death and pay the price of justice with his death on the cross. Jesus suffered for you to free you from sin’s curse, death’s grip, and hell’s sentence. Jesus has redeemed you with His life giving his body and shedding his blood to forgive you of all your sins. WHY? Because of his grace and mercy so focused that he did not want to see any of us in hell, but all of us in heaven.

Now the **FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM.** Real wisdom begins with the knowledge and trust that God has taken away our sins because of Christ’s work. Real wisdom is the understanding that this Holy God has taken care of our trip to heaven by sending Jesus to us to be the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**. That’s why Jesus is **the real wisdom we want to get!**

## 2

God’s wisdom, the fear of the Lord, doesn’t come to us by some diploma or degree. It comes to us through faith which God’s Spirit works in us through the Gospel and sacraments. With that wisdom **come blessings** which we want **to get busy cherishing.**

**FOR THROUGH ME YOU DAYS WILL BE MANY AND YEARS WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR LIFE.** In addition to the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation, God has blessed us in other ways. He is the source of all things, temporal, physical, emotional, and spiritual. His love and mercy moves us to thank and praise, serve and obey him. As we cherish his blessings in our lives, we grow in appreciation of living day and year of our lives in glory and honor to him. We live for him now during our time of grace on this earth with His wisdom so we can live with him during our days of eternity in heaven. And if one of those blessings is a long life and many years, praise be His name. **So if you are many in years already, cherish that as a blessing from God.**

We see those blessings around us to cherish: a **family of believers** gathered for worship, a **Key to Life childcare** to provide a safe haven for children and spiritual wisdom for them, **Sunday School, Catechism** instructions, **Bible classes**, multiple opportunities to serve him with our talents. Especially do we acknowledge the blessing of our School and all our teachers who partner with Pastor Mahnke and me in dedicating our lives to help children **get wisdom** in their classrooms and courses. All of us then can **get busy** in getting that wisdom in taking advantage of those courses in God’s Word to get more of His spiritual wisdom to grow in our faith!

This weekend, we add another **tremendous blessing** to our faculty (beyond the ones we already have) in the person of Mrs. Brittany Venus. As you are installed, Brittany, remember the privilege to be God’s voice sharing the love of Christ with these little lambs. Martin Luther College in New Ulm, MN gave you a special wisdom for this task. This is what you trained for. Now the Spirit has called you to **get busy** guiding these little Kindergarten hearts to the cross of Jesus so they know their Shepherd and Savior. The Holy Spirit will mold, shape, and touch their hearts through your teaching to strengthen their knowledge of the Holy One. Don’t ever underestimate what God will do through you, but cherish (as you say in your biography) **“...working here with St. Peter’s youngest students and reaching out to many more!”** May God bless your ministry to these precious souls.

**Who is the “wisest” person you know?** By God’s grace through His Word, **YOU ARE!** **For the fear of the Lord** who loved us, forgave us, and opened heaven for us **is the beginning of wisdom.** **Cherish his blessings** and **LET’S GET BUSY** as we grow together in faith with God’s wisdom! **Amen**