**4/13/24**

**The Forever Idear**

**John 14:1-6**

Dear family members, friends, and congregation of Ed, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (2 Corinthians 1:2 NRSV) (1) **Amen.**

The first Chapter of Genesis offers us the words; “Then God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.” (Genesis 1:3-4 NRSV) (1) You know when God said let there be light, I could have honestly pictured Ed being there. No, that is not a shot at his age, as I know he was only 82. I just for some reason can picture Ed being there way back then and telling God I got this, I’m your man for the job. I am sure Ed would have told him that I can handle your darkness issue with a few power cords here, a surge protector and a breaker box over there, a few fixtures here and there, and then let me tell you about these new LED bulbs that are supposed to save you some money and pretty much last forever now. I really can picture Ed asking God what do you think about my “idears” there? I can also picture him telling God that he had 47 years of experience as an electrical engineer. I can see him asking God if he got the job. I also learned from Ed’s family was that he pretty much only had that one job his entire life. Well, that of course does not seem to account for that TV Repair Man job he had when he was young so he could meet his eventual wife, Fran. However, we realize that his career and work at Furlow Associates only identified a part of his, and it was not his only purpose here on this earth. Although, with that being said I mean every single one of these electrical cords, light fixtures, and each one of these bulbs in this church and throughout the building were handled by Ed at some point or another. So, indeed, let there be light, and there you have my bad humor as my way of dealing with rough moments.

So, in my personal disclaimer here, I want you all to know that I will do my very best to hold it together and exhibit a sense of professionalism in the very presence of my very own loss and grief. Ed was indeed a wonderful man that became a great friend almost instantly. Then, Ed and Fran quickly became part of our extended family. Ed was also a mentor who happened to have a bunch of tools, several items he saved from other jobs, a wealth of knowledge, and he of course was full of several “idears.” He is the very reason we are all gathered here today in this space. We are here to pay memory and respect for the life he lived and the very lives he touched. Praise be to God for blessing us and allowing Ed to be such a significant part of our church family and each and every one of our lives for sure.

Now, while today is definitely about honoring the life and memory of Ed, it is also very much about standing up here and sharing the message from our Gospel Reading. Of course, Ed did not just come here for council meetings, or to repair things, or to sneak an extra sugary snack at coffee hour when Fran was not looking. He came here to be fed with the Word of God, he came here for Holy Communion, and he came here for fellowship as well. So, let’s see how we can continue to intertwine the memories of Ed and the Word of God throughout the message today. I can only hope to share with you all just a little glimpse into the fabulous life Ed led here on earth, and his very ministry, as well as the works and ministry of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit too. Ed indeed left an impact on my life personally and professionally, and he for sure showed others just a little bit of Christ by listening and helping out where he could. For this I will forever be grateful to have known and loved Ed.

Now, with all of that being said so far, I do know for certain that getting the news of Ed’s passing was but really was not expected. I mean of course Ed had been battling some health matters for some time now, but I know for certain there were several people out there hoping and praying for a miracle of health and healing. I know for certain I was, and I had even voiced that in January when things seemed to take a really bad turn. I called my wife on face time with the permission of Fran and Ed so that Ed could talk to Heather on camera while she was still at work. I remember him telling her that he missed her. That right there hit me hard. Thankfully, Heather was able to get out of work and rush down to visit with Ed. However, God decided to intervene and turn things around after that point in January. Ed bounced back and was up and about. Ed ended up getting around the house in his scooter, and he and Fran would debate if he could manage to get around safely whether it was set on turtle or rabbit speed. He was getting around, interacting, and doing things. We got more time with him, and that moment in January indeed was not the final moment or hour. Ed, his sons, and grandsons would even make plans for him to get outside to the porch in his scooter on a little metal ramp. Then, following this, additional plans were even in the works to build a long ramp from the deck, and to even get something for the back of the car to transport his scooter. Ed was going to be able to get back out in the community again!

There indeed was hope and there was healing. I mean I even got to bring some stuff over for a project or two that I had been working on at the church. Now, of course Ed and I had differing “idears.” So, he said to bring everything over so we could work on it together. Ed was so happy to have a little bit of church brought to him, and he was happy to guide and provide support along the way. Now, little did I know this would be my very last project with him as all of sudden last Sunday morning things came to what seemed to be a crashing halt. I know for certain, that just like myself, when you got the news of Ed’s passing, and over these past few days, that at one point or another you might have felt shock, disbelief, frustration, guilt, anger, and sadness. I am even sure that a few of you may have wished you had that one final time to reach out to Ed or visit with him before his passing. Well, I am standing here to inform you that any and all those feelings are extremely normal. They are indeed several pieces of this very puzzle that we all have unfortunately come to know over time as the process of grief. Unfortunately, those feelings will not just magically go away either. They are extremely normal to continue to have in the days and months and years that follow as well. So, I want to remind you all to seek comfort in the Lord our God, and to not push those very feelings down inside. Seeking comfort and refuge in God is what he desires and asks for, and we should not be afraid to do so. I know for certain that Ed would want and expect that from every one of us as well.

We are also reminded to seek out and provide support to one another too. With that in mind I would like to extend condolences to the family and friends of Ed from those of us here at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church. It is indeed very hard saying good-bye to a church member and friend, and I know Ed will be greatly missed for sure. I want to extend our congregation’s prayers and support to all of you. I want you to know that we are here for your continued prayers and support in the days, months, and years ahead.

Now, getting back to the Gospel Reading we hear the very words “Do not let your hearts be troubled.” Each time I hear that I question how he can say that. I know that is indeed easier said than done for each and every one of us. I know for certain my heart is troubled because I do not have Ed to lean on for advice, or to complete projects with. I do not have him to come in and clean up after the mistakes I have made, and to teach me how to do things an alternative or possibly better way. I no longer have our former Church Council President providing feedback, mindset, and guidance on various things. What I have come to learn is that there was more to that very first verse. It also says, “Believe in God, believe also in me.” As I believed in Ed, just like we all believe in Jesus Christ. We all must also remember to believe in God, and for that fact the Holy Spirit as well. They intercede where Ed could not, or cannot anymore.

With that being said I am forever grateful that Ed fought hard to provide so much insight into why we needed a Capital Improvement Fund over the years. He knew he was not going to be here to do the work, or be able to provide guidance on the projects or jobs at hand. He also knew that we could not budget for or expect some things that come up. We also have indeed experienced that over the last few years with our heating and air conditioning systems being replaced; and our windows and walls in the fellowship hall and food pantry needing major work. The Capital Improvement Fund will always be synonymous with Ed, and thank goodness for that. It will carry on his thought process, his purpose, his ministry, and his design for years to come.

I am also sure that you will hear plenty more about Ed here today as several other family members and friends will be afforded the opportunity to share at the end of our service. I also encourage you to read over the beautiful synopsis of his life that was composed by his family that we have shared right on the back of the very bulletins you have in your hands.

Now, as sure as I am of the fact that Ed would say enough about me, get on with it, we got lunch to go eat. I also know for certain that he would want me to share with you and remind you of the very fact that “The resurrection is the center of Christian funerals—or at least it should be. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope. As Paul writes to the Corinthians, if Jesus did not rise from the dead then we are of all people to be pitied the most.” (5)

As I said earlier “It is popular now to talk about funerals being a “celebration of life.” Certainly, remembering and celebrating the impact that the person has had upon us is important—but this isn’t the main reason we gather as Christians. Christians gather to hear the Word of God proclaimed that there is life after death and to celebrate this truth—this reality.” (5) Now, thankfully, “Jesus doesn’t give us a long list of instructions on what to do to get to heaven. Instead, he comes to guide us. When you have someone who has walked the path before and who knows the way, you can be assured that you will arrive at your destination and that you do not need to worry or fear.” (5)

We are also comforted and forever reminded that, “When we have questions about death we need to stop and listen, listen to Jesus and hear His word which tells us, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." but it can be hard advice…. We do not like to think about death if we have any doubts about our own readiness. But still Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled."” (4) “One of the promises that Jesus makes to his disciples is, “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.” Though death may separate us from our family and friends—at least for a time—we will never be separated from Jesus.” (5)

I also know for certain that “The days, weeks, and months ahead are going to be rough, you’ll have good days and bad days, you’ll miss a husband, a father, a grandfather, a church member, and a friend; but if there’s one thing that will get you through that, is grace. Look around today, see all these faces here? We’re all here to show that love and grace that Christ first gave to us by continuing to love and support each other today and in the future.” (2) Ed “…would want to see that each one of us here today knows that just as Jesus prepared a place for him, that He is preparing a place for each one of us, and that one day, He will call us from this life of pain, tears, and strife, to an eternal life of joy, peace, and comfort!” (3) We know for certain that “Death has been conquered by the cross of Christ. There is life after death—life with Jesus.” (5)

As we reflect on our continued lives on this ball of mud, as we imagine what our message and ministry might be, and as we imagine what our lives might be without Ed. We can sit back and say Thank You Lord! We can thank the Lord our God for blessing us with Ed in our lives. We can thank the Lord our God for the pictures and the memories, and the skills and knowledge Ed imparted on all of us. We do indeed thank the Lord our God for this good and faithful servant that has now been called to eternal rest and salvation.

Amen.

**References**

(1) Bible.com

(2) SermonCentral.com

Grace

Contributed by Christopher Martin on Dec 18, 2007

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Denomination: Lutheran

(3) SermonCentral.com

"Freda's Homecoming"

Contributed by Christopher Martin on Dec 18, 2007

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Denomination: Lutheran

(4) SermonCentral.com

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

Contributed by Christopher Raiford on Sep 2, 2004

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Denomination: Lutheran

(5) SermonCentral.com

Fear Of Life's Final Moments Series

Contributed by Kevin Ruffcorn on Feb 2, 2010

Scripture: John 14:1-6

Denomination: Lutheran

**John 14:1-6**

1Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. 2In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. 4And you know the way to the place where I am going." 5Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" 6Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**EVOY’S OBITUARY**

Edward F. Green, Jr. born March 23, 1942 in Camden NJ, entered into life eternal Sunday, April 7 at his residence just 16 days after his 82nd birthday.

The son of the late Edward F. Green, Sr. and Irene (David) Green, Ed grew up in Collingswood and attended Collingswood High School. He later attended the Spring Garden Institute where he earned his degree in electrical engineering.

He and his wife lived in West Deptford for 39 years before retiring and relocating to Townbank 17 years ago. He was employed by Furlow Associates Consulting Engineers located in Claymont, DE for 47 years as a Senior Electrical Designer and an Associate partner before he retired in March of 2007.

Ed was a longtime member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Woodbury and Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas.

Ed loved his large family and friends dearly and also his extended Church families. He enjoyed many visits especially after retirement in Townbank by the bay. Ed enjoyed HO trains, fixing and making them run. He could be found a lot of days cleaning up, making repairs and restoring his Church properties. In retirement he helped with many projects for the property owners association of Townbank. He worked with many friends, enjoyed socials and events but especially enjoyed the pancake breakfasts. Ed was known to have a tool that could fix anything and worked side by side with so many men, women and kids to get things fixed and restored so they could be enjoyed for many years to come.

Ed will be forever missed by the one true love of his life, his wife of 59 years Francine (Daily); his children Edward J. (Sandra) grandsons Kristopher (Madison) and Kolby, Douglas M. (Lynne) and Andrew J. (Kate).

Funeral Services will be held 11AM Saturday, April 13 at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Villas. Interment will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Holy Spirit Lutheran Church Capital Improvement Fund 1220 Bayshore Road Villas NJ 08251, the Lymphoma and Leukemia Cancer Society or the Property Owners of Townbank.

Source: https://evoyfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/3590/Edward-Green-Jr/obituary.html#tribute-start