

The Abiding Grace Connection

God intended it for good...

"It's a hard knock life"—this catchy refrain from Annie could have very well been Joseph's theme song. Abandoned by his family. Slavery. Prison time in a foreign land. Joseph had every reason to hate his brothers and blame them for everything he had endured. They had kidnapped him; sold him into slavery; and told his father he was dead. And now he had the power as second in command in the most powerful nation in the world, Egypt. And dad has just died. Joseph could finally get his revenge and his brothers were afraid. They had wronged

But Joseph said to them,
"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:19,20

him, so they begged his forgiveness. And Joseph forgave them. He reminded them that God had been in charge the whole time. God had accomplished good despite their evil intents.

Our life is like that sometimes isn't it? People wrong us and we seek revenge. Bad things happen and we demand that God explain it. How could a loving God allow so much evil? But our God didn't bring evil into this world. We did. Our parents Adam & Eve sinned in the

Garden of Eden and brought all sorts of trouble. We have sinful intentions; at times we try to harm others with our words and actions. But our God still accomplishes good. He saw our miserable condition and sent his Son to die for the evil things we say & do. He uses rough times to draw us closer to him and good times to remind us of his love. We don't always understand how he works; but he tells us that he loves us. No matter what happens in our lives we know God intends it for the good of his children.

This is the Savior we want to share, and why I am here in Georgia. My wife, Jenni, and I moved from Wisconsin knowing that God would use us to spread his message of salvation to many lives. I am excited to be here and to share with each and every one of you the good that is now being done. I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Vicar Lincoln Albrecht

Fall Family Fun Day!

Join us to celebrate the goodness of God with this Fun Day Festival designed for all the families of the whole community!

October 11th, 2009

The celebration will start with worship at 10:30 followed by lunch, music, hayrides, a cakewalk, moonwalks, face painting and fun and games for kids of all ages.

Sunday, Oct. 11th, 10:30 AM

At the site of our future home:

5510 Hwy 212

There is no charge!

Come Grow with Us!

Abiding Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church ...

... where families connect

Email Extra

(A little something not available in the print edition.)

Learning from Jesus' miracles.

Jesus is Miraculous **He Makes Us Eternally Rich**

Andrew... spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." ... The men sat down, about five thousand of them. Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten (John 6:8-13).

You see it every late night on the television. Some infomercial that has the next best way to earn better than a full-time paycheck working part time from the comfort of your own home. Or, is your inbox flooded with "Get Rich Quick!" schemes? Sometimes they are appealing. Sure would take care of some of those bills, slow down the rat race, or just make life more comfortable. Maybe you have thought, "If I could just win the lottery, life would be better."

Things were similar during Jesus time, too. People were coming to see Jesus because of the miracles he was performing. His notoriety had spread. People saw him as the answer to their problems in life. Jesus' own disciples were still learning who Jesus truly was. Jesus wanted all to know he was God, but he also wanted them to know he had come to make them right with God.

Just before his miracle of feeding the 5,000, Jesus leads Philip to see how amazing his power was with a question: "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Eight months' wages would not buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" (John 6:5-7) Philip saw what an impossible task this would be to feed more than 5,000 people.

By this miracle Jesus showed that he has the power to provide what we need. As God he can do what is impossible. The people recognized he was someone special, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world" (John 6:14). But Jesus is more; he is our Savior God.

If we are honest with ourselves; we know money isn't the answer. All the riches in the world won't solve all our problems. We have seen lottery winner after big business man lose it all. Current economic conditions remind us that investing in the stock market isn't such a sure thing all the time. But there is one sure thing, one constant, in a fluctuating market, our Savior. You see, worldly riches will not make us right with a holy God, undo our sins, or save us from death and judgment. In his life, Jesus made it clear that he came to make us rich toward God. He gives us the certainty that we can live eternally with God in heaven. Jesus had the power to take away our sins and to give us his perfect life. That is the greatest miracle Jesus has accomplished for the world and you. As our Savior he brings us peace with God.

We invite you to gather with us and learn more about the spiritual riches God provides us now and for eternity through Jesus.

