

## Clark Fork Seventh-day Adventist Church

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### For Today

## How Far Would You Go to Help a Friend?

Luke 5 tells us the story about four people on the business ends of a stretcher, carrying a friend who had been paralyzed to Jesus for help. He was inside a house, surrounded by so many people that every door and window was blocked. When “excuse me” and “pardon me” failed to clear the way, things looked pretty hopeless. They were stuck outside, completely blocked off, and if it were not for some creative problem solving, that would have been the end of the story.

When horizontal measures were just not doing the job, this foursome thought vertically. Palestinian households used their rooftops as an extra room, so an external stairway and some teamwork facilitated hoisting their stretcher-bound friend to the tiled roof. Then, without so much as a conference or a committee meeting, the digging and dismantling began. Tile fragments and falling dust would have alerted the occupants of the packed house that something strange was going on over their heads, but no one was prepared for the response of Jesus. As they lowered the stretcher into the room, Jesus said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

High fives all around, and I’m sure the crowd parted for the guys this time, as the newly healed man obediently picked up his bed and went home, followed by his four satisfied advocates.

Scripture tells us Jesus’s words gave the Pharisees what they came for that day: evidence to initiate a blasphemy charge. However, for those who came with open hearts, it profoundly established Jesus’s identity as God the Son. Because restoring life to paralyzed limbs is a mere carnival stunt compared to forgiving sin, Jesus went on to heal the man, lifting in a flash his burden of helplessness and hopelessness.

How far would you go to help a friend? How much would you risk to bring a friend to Jesus? Are you willing to make a scene? Break social norms? Break a sweat?

When God witnessed the helpless condition of humanity, he put a plan in place that cost him everything. There was no horizontal way out of our fallenness, so he thought vertically. Down he came, wearing a body that could bleed and die, because that was the only way to make things right again.

God’s great rescue plan set the stage for Paul, chief of the apostles and “chief of sinners,” to observe that “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32) Having gone to such lengths already, what would God NOT do to win your heart?

After having sat on the receiving end of such grace, having taken the “all things” of rescue and salvation from the God of the universe, how could we not also freely give?

*from MicheleMorin.net*

# Happy Sabbath!

**God,  
I have put my  
trust in You.  
Show me the  
way I should  
go.**

*Psalm 143:8*



**Clark Fork Seventh-day Adventist Church**

Sabbath, November 23, 2019

## Sabbath Worship

### *Rejoicing in God's Presence, 9:30 a.m.*

Welcome	Wally Remitz
Opening Song	
<i>Adults Sabbath School, Sanctuary, 9:50–10:40 a.m.</i>	Robert Steele

### *Welcome and Announcements, 10:45 a.m.*

Hymn of the Month, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus"	Wally Remitz Hymn 535
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### *God's Family in Worship, 11 a.m.*

Preparing our hearts for worship. Leaders and congregation kneel in prayer.

Opening Hymn, "Only Trust Him"	Hymn 279
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Scripture Reading: Romans 3:28

Prayer and Praise

Congregation Hymn *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline Thine ear to us, and grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

Call for Morning Offering Education Endowment/Camp MiVoden

Doxology, "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Hymn 694

Children's Story Nancy Rojic

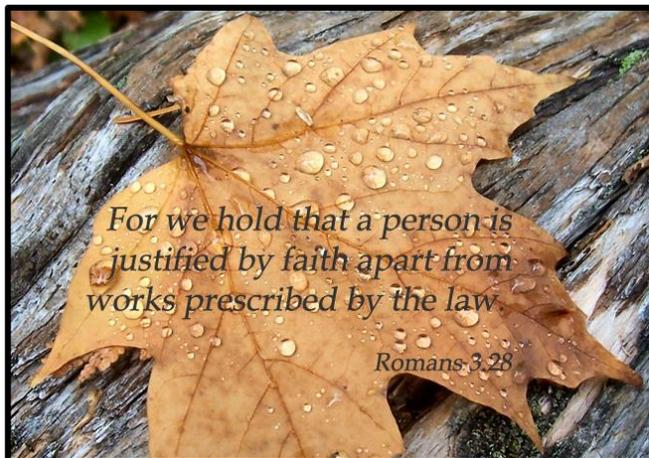
Special Music Olaf and Jayne Betat

Sermon "Practical Lessons on Faith" Olaf Betat

Closing Hymn, "Trust and Obey" Hymn 590

Benediction

Postlude



## Welcome

We are glad that you came to worship Jesus with us today! Our prayer is that through Bible study, prayer, and song, you will experience God's presence and blessing. Please stay and fellowship with us at the potluck meal following church service. Everyone is invited!

## Announcements

**Upcoming:** November 30, Wayne Carrigan  
December 7, Wally Remitz  
December 14, Olaf Betat  
December 21, Denny Evans

**Our speaker next week, Wayne Carrigan** and his wife Colleen live in Bonners Ferry. She works at Lifetree Wellness Center in CdA, and he manages the BF church thrift store. Wayne says, "On Nov 30, we are looking forward to sharing with everyone God's Air Force! You won't want to miss how God is working, and how God wants to work in our lives! We look forward to worshipping with you."

**"Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings,"** All are welcome to join our Bible Study on Tuesday evenings, from 6 p.m. at Beth Duffey's house.



**Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 28, Church Potluck!** Dinner from 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Those preparing can arrive earlier.

**Adventist Child Protection Screening Compliance:** Required for all Church Board Members and those volunteering for Sabbath School and other activities with children. Extra copies of the procedure on the clipboard. Only 6 weeks until the **December 31 Deadline.**

**Prayer Requests:** Call Janet Remitz. 406-847-5526.

**Bulletin information deadline Wednesday noon to Beth.**

*Clark Fork, Sunset tonight: 3:58 p.m.*

*Next Friday night: 3:54 p.m.*