

## **Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – December 12, 2010**

### **Milestones and Measurements**

**Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to *them*. Acts 2:38-41**

It is not uncommon to find in many American households those pencil marks on the door jamb of the closet or on the kitchen wall chronicling the growth of the children living there. Each mark is made with care as the child grows in stature. Other historical records chronicle the growth of the individual also. Perhaps its clippings from the local paper’s sports section detailing the athletic accomplishments of a family member, or report cards with excellent grades, or class projects with stickers on them; any or all displayed proudly on the door of the refrigerator for all passers-by to see. Whatever it might be we love to trace and record milestones and measurements in our lives...especially when they show growth and improvement. It is a time for rejoicing and satisfaction in a job well done and reflection upon the gifts and talents God has blessed us with. We can even find such a notation about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when the Scriptures record the only details we have about His childhood: “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.”

Like etching another pencil mark on the record of our history together, today we mark another milestone at Grace. This year we celebrate 75 years of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in the community of Brenham. What began as a few faithful families gathering together to hear God’s Word, has grown under the blessing and direction of God’s hand. Many an individual has been baptized in this congregation in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The photo record in the hallway near the office bears testimony to the young people who have confirmed their faith

before the altar of God in this place, the result of countless hours of faithful instruction by pastors, parents, and teachers. Families have begun their journey together in God's name upon the foundation of Jesus Christ as a multitude of weddings have taken place at Grace over 75 years. And we have grieved and rejoiced together as we have buried loved ones from this sanctuary of God, praising God for their victory through Christ Jesus and entrusting their earthly remains to the precious promises of His grace, for He is the resurrection and the life.

As joyful as the celebration of this milestone may be, we must remember that our work is not yet complete. We cannot detail the future in terms of what God has planned in store for Grace Lutheran. We can only trust the faithfulness of His grace and mercy through Word and Sacrament and constantly be about our Father's business. The message of Pentecost preached by Peter is the same message we share today. Repentance and remission of sins is to be preached to all people in the name of Jesus, that they may be saved from this perverse generation as we also have been by the gracious mercy of God. Be assured that as the Good News of Jesus Christ is shared with the world, God will by the power of His Word add continually to His Kingdom. What a wonderful comfort we have in knowing that the promise of God's mercy is for us and our children...and all who are afar off whom the Lord our God will call.

- Remember: Our calling is to share the Good News. God will add the increase. Why not share the Good News of Jesus with someone you know today?

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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