***Rockford Lutheran*  CHAPEL TALKS**

**Greetings in Christ!**

**Thank you for volunteering to speak in Chapel!** Chapel talks are a privilege where we get to present the Gospel to students, teachers and guests of Rockford Lutheran.

**These Biblical truths are central to the task at hand:**

1. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Rom. 3:23)

2. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

3. Jesus called all His followers to share this Good News. (Matt. 28:16-20)

We’re excited to support you as you prepare to share this Good News!

**Some guidelines to follow:**

**1. DO use the Bible.** Applied Christianity will provide you with the Scripture lessons they will use in the worship service. Incorporating one or all of these into your message is a great idea. You certainly may expand on that and use additional passages.

**2. DO consider the context of passages you choose.** You don’t necessarily need to share that context in your message, but be aware of it to avoid cherry-picking a verse and presenting it with a meaning separate from its use in the Word.

**3. DO keep Christ at the CENTER of your message.** NOT every chapel talk must focus exclusively on the fall of man, the substitutionary death of Jesus for our sins, and His resurrection, but *what Jesus did on the cross should be included in* ***every*** *message.*

**4. DON’T promote “good works” as the means to make God love us or forgive us or save us.** Chapel talks typically lend themselves well to emphasizing some sort of call to action. Do this. Think this. Certainly there is a place for that, for God is perfect and He has commanded us to follow Him perfectly. However, any encouragement to “be better people” should include a reminder that Jesus called us to do that, but He died for us because we can’t do it perfectly. God does not love us according to how good we are. He loves us according to how good HE is, despite our sinfulness.

**5. We DON’T describe faith in Jesus as something we “choose.”** We don’t “decide” to “invite Jesus into our hearts.” We emphasize the fact that:

 *“faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”* (Romans 10:17)

*"...Jesus (is) the author and perfector of faith"* (Hebrews 12:2)

*" ... God has allotted to each a measure of faith.”* (Romans 12:3)

*"Even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—"* (Ephesians 2:5)

*"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 3:21)*

**6. KEEP IN MIND THESE historical Christian doctrines that may differ somewhat from what some denominations now teach:**

 **\*The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God.** (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

**\*God is a Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.** One God in three persons.

(Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 1)

 **\*All people are born into sin.** We are all guilty of “original” sin and actual sin.

(Romans 3:10-18; Psalm 51:5)

**\*The only way for this sin problem to be solved is through faith in the grace of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.** We call this “justification.”

(Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28-30)

**\*Good works are a response to God for His sovereignty and mercy.** We are commanded to follow His will, to help others, and to focus on what is good and right and pure. Our works do not *earn* us earthly blessings, God’s favor, or salvation. God grows our faith through works of service, which we call “sanctification.” (Galatians 2:16;

Philemon 3:9; Ephesians 2:8-10)

**\*There are three “means of grace”: Scripture, Holy Communion, and Baptism.** God works faith and forgiveness of sins through these three means.The latter two are also the only two Sacraments in Lutheran theology:

**a. The Bible commands discernment regarding Communion,** so Lutherans encourage participants to be old enough to understand what the Bible says about this. We take Jesus at His word when He called the bread and wine His body and blood, which are present “in, with, and under the bread and wine.” (1 Corinthians 10-11; Matthew 26:26-29)

**b. Baptism is a work of the Holy Spirit through the water and Word.** It is not a human affirmation of faith. Thus, Lutherans baptize any person of any age with no training or specific instruction. This includes infants. A person need only be baptized once, and we believe any use of water is acceptable (sprinkling, immersion, etc.) Students on our campus who have not been baptized are invited to participate in this rite in a chapel service in January. (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 18:8)

**7.** **Time and Format:** Aim for a chapel message of 7-10 minutes in length. You are welcome to bring in visual aids and other methods to communicate the truth of God’s Word, **but they are NOT required**. Slideshow presentations MUST BE IN Google Slides and can run off your computer or be incorporated into the full chapel slideshow. Please submit them as much in advance as possible: NO LATER THAN 7:00 the day before your talk for high school.

**Don’t hesitate to contact any of the following for encouragement or assistance:**

Mr. Hamrick, Chapel Director Don Kortze, Academic Dean, Chris Wilson- Worship Arts leader

THANK YOU AGAIN AND MAY THE WORDS OF YOUR MOUTH AND THE MEDITATION OF ALL OF OUR HEARTS BE ACCEPTABLE IN HIS SIGHT!