

A Funeral Sermon for Norman T. Kemnitz-Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church-Westfield Wi, 53964

*Jesus Answered: "I am the way, the Truth and the Life..." John 14:6*

**Sermon Goal:** That the hearer may know and believe that Jesus is the way, the Truth and the Life

**Sermon Theme:** Don Not be troubled, for Eternal life is ours through Christ Jesus.

**Sermon Title:** "May you have Peace!"

**Liturgical Date:** Funeral / 8<sup>th</sup> Week after Pentecost

**Other Readings:** Psalm 121;1 Thessalonians 4:4-18

**Visuals:** None

**Sermon Text:** John 14:1-7

**Calendar Date:** July 29, 2017

**Series:** Special / Funeral

**Sermon Structure:** Narrative

**Greeting:** Grace to you and peace from God our Father, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

**Text:** Our text for this Day is from the Gospel of John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter, which was just read a few moments ago. And it serves as the basis for this day's meditation, in Jesus' Name. Amen!

**Salutation:** Dear friends, family, and respected guests, especially to you Debbie, Amber, Abby, Aric, Alisa, and Adam, and to the rest of the family, in the Name of Christ Jesus, may God's peace be with you.

**Introduction:** Norman Thomas Kemnitz was born into this life on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1948 in Portege, Wisconsin. On December 10, 1948, He was baptized into the faith. And on May 27, 1962 Norman was confirmed into the church's faith. On November 7<sup>th</sup>, 1973 Norman married the love of his life Debbie, and together were blessed with 5 beautiful children. God made a farmer out of Norman. Over the years he grew his farm from a 10-cow hobby into to a family business where his entire family participated in. Norman loved farming and hunting. He would do everything he could for anyone. Norman loved the land and all that grew there. He loved watching the crops grow through harvest, the smell of freshly cut hay and caring for his cows. He enjoyed watching the wildlife and especially enjoyed the deer around the farm. Norman was truly blessed and He love life to its fullest.

**Transition:** Looking at the text for today, we see how Christian people of the faith are truly blessed.

**Sermon:** Nonetheless, death has come to a loved one in your family. Humanly speaking, we have to say that it came rather suddenly and quite unexpectedly. No one, including myself, was quite prepared for this. Yes, its true, Norman was only 68 years of age. He wasn't old, and yet he wasn't young either. No one had any indication that death was near for Him. We were all taken by total surprise at the events leading up to his death. And yet Norman has died. According to faith, we Christians say the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ mercifully took Norman to be with Him in heaven, and that is true.

But now what? As family members and as friends, you have the task of coping with his untimely death. And we too here at Immanuel must also deal with a loss of a loved one from the body of Christ. But as we think about Norman today, many things come to mind. A loving husband, a caring father and grandfather, a friend, a brother, a mentor, a brother in Christ, we must also remember the most important thing, that God granted to him, and that is faith in His Son Jesus Christ—a great and holy privilege that Norman cherished— knowing Jesus as the only Lord and Savior and having faith in the forgiveness of all his sins. That is what was important to Norman.

This is what Norman rejoiced in. He knew the Bible and he knew it well. He believed that Jesus was the truth, the way, and the life. He believed that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven so that he, and all Christian who believed, would have forgiveness, life and Salvation.

Saint Paul says it best: "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Norman new this and believed this. That is why he always clung to the Lord.

You see, Norman knew the Lord and the love that He had for him. He knew and believed in his heart that Jesus died and rose for him. Norman knew he was a sinner, but he also knew that he was a child of God. By believing in Jesus, and accepting Him as his only Lord and Savior, Norman knew that someday he would receive the crown of righteousness which was promised to him and to all who faithfully believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.

Norman, always rejoiced in the truth. He always knew and believed that Jesus loved him and that he had a place with Christ, and now the truth is he still walks with Him, this time in eternity. Norman knew Jesus. He knew the voice of the Good Shepherd, and He followed it. And now He has eternal Life in heaven with Jesus forever.

**Conclusion:** My dear friends in Christ, especially to you Debbie, Amber, Abby, Aric, Alisa, and Adam, do not let your hearts be trouble. Trust in God and also in Jesus Christ. For in the Father's house are many rooms, one prepared

especially for Norman. Take comfort in the Lord and know that He is the truth, the way, and the life. Be assured of His many promises—and that Jesus calls those who are His to be with Him in heaven for eternity.

May you cast all of your anxieties on the Lord, and may each of you this day, experience the peace of God that passes all understanding, and may you ever be sure that Norman is ever walking in heaven with the Lord, and with all the saints. Praise be to God for Jesus Christ who has washed us clean, and has covered us with a crown of His righteousness, in His Name. Amen!