

News of Nathaniel Brown's Seminary Journey

March 2018

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! March has been a crazy month for me. At the beginning of the month, I was told that I would be Sacristan for the Chapel on

campus. This means that I am in charge of changing the paraments and doing other things related to



the chapel in the upcoming year. I am super excited to serve in that capacity. I have also been working on my first sermon for my Homiletics class. We are using the text and walking through a sermon prep sheet to talk about what the text says in the original language, the liturgical texts of the day, how the text would apply to hearers, and what the text would mean for the original hearers of the text. My sermon prep sheet was double spaced and was twelve pages long! It has been helpful to see the process that all pastors go through in the planning of a sermon.

This week is the middle of the semester, so there are projects that need to be done. I need to do two sermon analysis by the end of the week. I also need to prepare a case study for

my Introduction to Practical Theology class. Right now I am enrolled in Synoptic Gospels and Pauline Epistles. Synoptic Gospels was the first half of the semester, and is now over. For that class, we mostly focused on the Gospel of Luke since that will be the main



Prayer List:

- For all people, that they may come to the knowledge of Christ and so be saved.
- For all our leaders, that the rules they enact may lead us to quiet and dignified lives.
- That the Church, may be strengthened.
- For the Seminary students in St. Louis and in Ft. Wayne, that they may be able to serve His people faithfully.
- For my homiletics class, that we can preach our first sermons faithfully.
- That those hurting from infertility may continue to trust in Christ's sufficiency.
- That peace can occur in the Middle East and on the Korean peninsula.

If you have prayer requests, or want to talk, please send them to me! My email is brownn@csl.edu, and my address is: 801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105

Gospel used when I am on vicarage! Next week I will start in Pauline Epistles. We will probably focus on one of the epistles with commentary going into all of the other books.

I have found out what my classes for the Summer and Fall will be. I am taking Assimilation and



Inclusion in Congregational Life and Biblical Hebrew in the Summer. In the Fall I am taking Pastoral Care and the Word, Torah, the Prophets, German, Systematics I, and the Lutheran Church and the Reformation. I am super excited for these classes, but I am a bit scared. Next month is Call Day for the second years and the fourth years, and that means that I have about a year until I am on vicarage. Keeping that in my mind is helpful, but also incredibly humbling.

A few of you asked about Christian Friends of New Americans. They are a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. I was told this on my first day: If you hear of a country in the news that is ravaged by war, or genocide, or bad things happening, within 6 months, they will be in St. Louis. I have had the pleasure of serving kids from Yemen, Somalia, Ghana, Nepal, among other countries. The director is Rev. Stanish Stanley, an immigrant from India, and he has been wonderful to work with over the past couple of months. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, CFNA runs an after school program for the kids. There is time to help for homework, and some time to run around and play. After all those activities are completed, chapel is held. Usually one of the pastors gives a devotional on a basic Lutheran teaching. One of the pastors couldn't make it one week, so I was asked to give a devotion. With a little amount of prep time, I decided to go with Jeremiah 29:11-14. The text is: For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. These are words of comfort for Americans, especially verse 11. These words of comfort are given right before the Israelites were to be exiled into Babylon. This text means something special to the kids of CFNA, and more to me after preaching to them. What I remembered and what hit home for me is most of the kids at CFNA are baptized into Christ, but more importantly, they are exiles from their land. God promises to be with them too. God's peace be with you this month. †

