Pastor Hanke's Blog
January 5, 2020

<u>The Lost Child Found the Lost Adults</u>

Bible Reference: Luke 2:40-52

Have one of your children ever gotten lost and you couldn't find them? Mindy is a lot more sensitive about our children getting lost than I am. I can be too easy going. Yet I did experience this dreaded feeling at least once. I can't remember if it was Audrey or Ellie, but one of them crawled into a hidden space in a closet upstairs in our home and I couldn't find her. I ran through the house in a panic looking for her (and I am the easy going one). It seemed like I had checked everywhere, but I still couldn't find her, so I ran through every room again. Finally I found her in an area of a closet I had missed. Whew! I let out a huge sigh of relief and the calmness settled in again. Mindy always likes to ask the question, What if we didn't find her? That's never a question that a parent wants to answer.

Our reading today talks about how Mary and Joseph lost Jesus, and I imagine, felt that same sense of dread. I certainly have never lost a child for 3 days, and I can't imagine how Mindy would react if we did. As we read this story, it can bring up a ton of questions, like why is this the only story we hear about Jesus being a child? What meaning can be found in Jesus getting "lost" in the temple? Why were his parents confused? And why is Jesus allowed to talk back to his parents?

This weekend, though we will attempt to tackle some of these questions, we will really be looking for the true significance of this story. This story tells us about a tradition that Mary & Joseph were following, but for Jesus, this event is more about foreshadowing what is to come. It sets the stage for the journey Jesus will take for us. Jesus knows that, so actually his parents are the ones that are lost since they don't have a clue about what is truly going on. Join us this Sunday as we pull away from the distracting parts of this story and get to the true meaning of the only story told of Jesus as a child.

Peace,

Pastor Will