



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

*May 20, 2018*

### **Tents are Temporary**

Bible Reference: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

We did a lot of camping when I was a little kid. Those who heard last week's message, or read the blog, can probably guess one of the things I didn't like about camping—the water of course. I also didn't like the nasty showers, sweating while trying to sleep at night, sleeping on rocks, or feeling dirty all the time. However, I loved the time we spent around the campfire. I also loved being in nature, and the wonderful food we made. In fact, hobo meals (meat & veggies cooked in aluminum foil packets) have made it to our home menu, with an occasional fried donut. I remember camping as glimpses of greatness mixed with a lot of moments I wasn't so fond of. Camping always made me appreciate home that much more.

The reading this week references a camping-like experience. It reminds us that this life is tough, but it also has its glimpses of heaven. For the most part, we are set-up in these "tents" just trying to make it through. Yet I think we quickly forget this life is only temporary, and start thinking of this life as our permanent home. It's not. While we wait for our heavenly home, let's make the most of the opportunities to share with others how temporal this life is.

Sunday is Confirmation Sunday and Gabe Probst will be confirmed. With only one student, perhaps your first reaction is to wish we had bigger classes; and there is nothing wrong with desiring more young people to confirm their faith in Jesus. But I also want you to see the joy in the size of our congregation. Whether we have three confirmands (like last year) or one, a congregation our size is able to celebrate the work God is doing in a very intentional way. That is a joy we can all share! My own confirmation class was so big that my time to share my faith story was quite limited. Gabe, on the other hand, will truly be able to share his story of how the Holy Spirit has guided him to understand that we are just living in tents in this life until we get to our true home. Gabe got to pick out all of our Bible verses for this weekend, he is playing piano before the service, and he will share his faith story in a very personal way. Intentional steps. Such a joy!

Not only is this weekend Confirmation Sunday, but also Pentecost. What a great connection! At Pentecost the people were sent out to help the world understand where their true home was. Gabe will do the same for us as he shares his confirmation verses and faith testimony—a very powerful message for each of us. How can we live more like we are camping rather than setting up our lives to stay?

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*