



**FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 15**

## **WEEKLY WORD**

Read Romans 6:1b-11. You may want to read these weekly texts in more than one version of the Bible, just to get a wider perspective of meaning. This week you should try to include reading this passage from THE MESSAGE version of the Bible. If you go to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), you can look at any verses using any version.

Paul is known for long, theological sentences that sometimes require reading over a few times to take in all that he is saying. That is where a paraphrase such as THE MESSAGE can be helpful. This is the only place in Paul's letter to the Romans that Paul mentions baptism, connecting it with Jesus' death and resurrection. As you chew on this text, think about your own baptism and how, what it represents in your life, impacts your day to day.

## **WEEKLY CHEW**

*Please wrestle with these questions during the week and feel free to offer your thoughts or questions on our LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN CHURCH SR WEEKLY WALK page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251008952628293/>.*

1. This text really speaks of the *GRACE* we are given in the waters of our baptism, that envelopes us throughout the rest of our lives. How does the fact that you are living your life within a shroud of grace affect your day to day life? What does it do to your understanding of sin and its potential stain on your life?
2. Why is it sometimes particularly hard to *HEAR* grace in our lives? Grace means a fresh start for us...a new beginning. In what ways do you find a disconnect between hearing or reading that and living out that reality?
3. Knowing that God forgives us does not mean we should go ahead and do whatever we want because God will forgive us in the end...even though that gift is already ours through baptism. Sometimes that take on grace is referred to as "cheap grace." How have you experienced the tug-a-war between sin and grace in your own day to day life?
4. Portions of this text are often read at funerals, linking our lives with the death and resurrection of Christ through the waters of our baptism. It is a word of comfort and hope concerning our loved ones who remain well in God's care even though they are no longer with us. This word from Paul is all the more about our lives now, after baptism and before our grave. What do you hear it saying about *YOUR* life in the here and now?

5. What does it mean to you to “walk in newness of life?” In what practical, everyday ways has your life been made anew, transformed because of what God has given you?

## **WEEKLY PRACTICE**

This text in *THE MESSAGE* ends with this:


*From now on think of it this way. Sin speaks a dead language that means nothing to you; God speaks your mother tongue, and you hang on every word.*

This week, think of the ways and opportunities you are provided to hear the *mother tongue*. Are you encountering it each and every day? What are things you can do to hear it more often?

Who are people in your life who are models of “walking in newness of life?” What can you learn from them?

## **PRA YER**

God of grace and endless life, you claimed us in baptism and made us your very own. Help us to hear your voice and promise and presence in our lives that we may daily walk in newness of life. Amen.



**Therefore we have been  
buried with him by baptism  
into death, so that just as  
*Christ*  
was raised from the dead by  
the glory of the *Father*,  
so we too might walk in  
n e w n e s s o f l i f e .**

**Romans 6:4 NRSV**