

Augustana College  
Chapel of Reconciliation

Will Dietzler

Here I Stand

26 Feb 2010

Good morning. I was up extremely late last night finishing today's sermon so I apologize for any lack of clarity. It's been a busy week.

I'm nearly 20 years old  
I've had an education  
I've studied Biology  
I've been inside a lab  
Dissected Violets  
I know the way things are...

Ok this is not my sermon. That is my opening monologue to the Fantastiks which opened last night and runs this weekend and next.

I have to start over....I know its here somewhere. Ahh here we go.

My boys are driving me crazy. I am the father of two teenage boys who are in love with the same girl...

This isn't it either!!! That's an excerpt from my senior show "Sons of Harry [Working Title]" which opens in April.

Where is my sermon?

Semper Cres Sis? Nope that's Carmina Burana...That's my audition piece for the black hills playhouse...my media effects homework...my resume...which is blank apparently.

Where is my sermon?

Ok If you couldn't already tell, there is a lot of stuff going on in my life and this sermon got pushed to last night. A full 12 hours before I was set to preach...I had all my ideas I just didn't have them written down yet. What have I been doing?

As Julie Andrews tells us. Let's start from the very beginning, a very good place to start. Christ has been in my life as long as I can remember. My mother was the choir director at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN for 11 and a half note-worthy years. Jr. Choir, Friday School and Senior High Youth Gatherings were some of my most exciting experiences as a child. When I got to college I became a chapel musician, a camp counselor at NESODAK for 2

summers and a Youth Assistant at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Jesus Was Cool...but only when I had those wonderful experiences. As soon as I left the comforts of Camp, Atlanta and Ubuntu, church...there was the real world staring me square in the face. Its ok to forget to go to church...to become overwhelmed with homework and extracurricular activities up the wazoo... choir, Theatre, improv, movie marathons, smallville marathons...the Olympics...facebook...socializing...All took Precedence. What have I been doing?

Lately my faith has been driven by questions.

Where is God in any of this? Why does God get pushed to the end of my priority list? How do I repay what Christ did for me? Am I doing enough to secure my place in heaven?

Believe me when I tell you that these questions and many others that weigh heavy on our hearts...Are irrelevant, especially the last one.

There have been 2 experiences in my life where I have felt God putting his stamp on my forehead and helping me realize how ridiculous those questions are.

Camp people...I apologize...but you get to hear this story 1 more time.

My sophomore year of College I felt as though I was on to bigger and better things. I was going to get an internship in the prestigious office of Senator Byron Dorgan (ND) in Washington DC. I sent my cover letter and essay which was amazing and I had an unbelievable interview. I could sense that they loved me and wanted me in Washington. I was on to bigger and better things. Around the same time I was walking through the Commons on the day of the Camp fair. A friend of mine waves me over and I meet AJ and Liz Franken...assistant Directors at NESODAK. After a couple minutes AJ persuades me to apply for a counselor position and I had an interview with liz that lasted almost an hour. My parents thought it would be smart of me to have a backup plan so I figured this could be it. In the middle of March I received word from Washington. They didn't have room for me. They like everything about me...but couldn't find a spot for me. So much for bigger and better things. The NEXT day I got a letter from the Franken's extending a call to become a counselor. So I was Off to Waubay South Dakota for the duration for the summer not knowing where or what I would be doing.

My first two days I was extremely shy. I know right? I didn't know what I was getting into and I had missed all of staff training because I was in Italy with the Augustana Choir. My first Tuesday I got to play my guitar for campfire worship. After the last song I GOT IT. I looked up, smiled and said. Ok God. I'm yours.

The second experience was Dr. Croghans Luther Reformation course. TAKE THIS CLASS!!! IT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

From Studying Luther's writings and reading Gehard Forde and Steven Paulson I affirmed my Lutheranism and acquired new information that would finish the mold that was my faith and allowed me to answer and move on from those irrelevant questions.

Where is God in Any of this? Stop looking. He'll find you...like telling you to go to Waubay when you thought you were on to bigger and better things in Washington DC...It turns out the bigger and better things were shaping the lives of new believers and sharing the Gospel of Christ. There is nothing bigger or better than that.

Why does God get pushed to the end of the priority list? Easy...but still disheartening. We all fall short of the glory of God. Fact. Luther's Small Catechism says "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him but instead the Holy spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy, and kept me in the true faith...etc"

It's about finding the right intention. Everything I should be doing should be for the Glory of God and the glory of others.

Improv Philosophy: make your partner look good...it's not about you. When you work together...IT WORKS. Like we are the vine and he is the branches. He's created a community in Christ and it is only because of that community that I stand here today.

How do I repay what God did for me? Summarized in two words...I can't.

Am I doing enough to secure my place in heaven? NO...because I can't. Heaven is not some rung at the top of a ladder that I can climb too. It may not feel like its enough to simply believe. We continue to be witnesses of injustice in the world; Racism, Disease, Poverty, disaster. We turn our backs on our savior and continue sinning. But I find peace in today's text...

Everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved. (sung)

It's a sign of faith when you surrender yourself and believe the lord will take care of you.

Everyone who calls on the name of the lord will be saved.

I'd like to close by re-reading the lyrics to Who am I?

Not because of who I am, but because of what you've done.  
Not because of what I've done, but because of who you are  
I am a flower quickly fading, here today and gone tomorrow  
A wave tossed in the ocean, a vapor in the wind  
Still You hear me when I'm calling, Lord you catch me when I'm falling  
And you've told me who I am...I am yours. I am yours.

AMEN.

**MORNING WORSHIP**  
**Friday, March 26, 2010**

**Prelude**

*“Who Am I?”*

Lyrics - Mark Hall  
Music by Casting Crowns

**Welcome/Announcements**

**Invocation**

**Prayer**

Serenity Prayer

Lord, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.

**Scripture**

Romans 10:8-13

**Message**

*“Here I Stand”*

Will Dietzler  
Hometown: Fargo, ND  
Majors: Theater and Communications

**Hymn**

*“Father I Adore You”*

Father I adore you, I lay my life before you, how I love you.

Jesus I adore you, I lay my life before you, how I love you.

Spirit I adore you, I lay my life before you, how I love you.

Terrye Coelho - 1972 Marantha! Music  
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**Prayer/Lord’s Prayer**

**Benediction**

**Dismissal**

L: Go in Peace & serve the Lord.

C: **OK.....we will!!**

**Postlude**

Camp Medley arr. by Will Dietzler

## CAMPUS MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**“REVIVE AT 5”** - All are welcome to worship on Sunday evenings at 5 pm in the chapel. We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer and celebrating Holy Eucharist.

**SERVING THE BANQUET** - Campus Ministry will be serving the Banquet on Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in need of many more workers!! Please sign up for one of the shifts on the Narthex table.

**CHAPEL STAFF APPLICATIONS** - Applications for chapel staff for the next school year will be available on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**. If you are considering applying for staff, please see Carol in the chapel office. Voting for chapel president will be **Fri., Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> and Sun., Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>**. Interviews will be held **Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>** for staff, and the announcement for staff will be sometime the week of the 29<sup>th</sup>.

### CHAPEL SCHEDULE:

Sunday (28<sup>th</sup>) - Dist. Scholar/Family Weekend Worship, 9 am  
Evening Worship - “Revive at 5” - 5 pm - Prism Outreach team

Monday (1<sup>st</sup>) - Morning Prayer, 10 am - Margo Nelson, Nurs.

Tuesday (2<sup>nd</sup>)- Roman Catholic Mass, 10 am

Wednesday (3<sup>rd</sup>) Holy Communion, 10 am - Jetty Duffy-Matzner

Friday (5<sup>th</sup>) Worship, 10 am - Drew Adam, Sr. Spkr.