Lutheran Pioneer Devotion – Outline

Activity Tie-In: Fire-building

- Object – candle (x3) (cup of water, dirt)
- Bible verse – Leviticus 6:12-13
    - "The fire on the altar must be kept burning; it must not go out. Every morning the priest is to add firewood and arrange the burnt offering on the fire and burn the fat of the fellowship offerings on it. The fire must be kept burning on the altar continuously; it must not go out."
- Lesson – the importance of keeping a fire going
    - Warmth
    - Safety
    - Means to cook

Introduction

- Activity – What do you think would happen to the candle if it was affected by wind? By water? By dirt? (The flame is extinguished.) Is there anything you can do to prevent it from going out? (Block it, protect it from those things that can happen)

Lesson

- Bible verse
- Why God commanded His people to keep the fire going (or see questions below)
    - It was where they were supposed to sacrifice to Him.
- Keeping Jesus at the center of our lives
- How we can keep the fire going in our lives
    - Being faithful to the word of God
    - Going to church regularly
    - Spending time in the word at home with family and by yourself
- Keeping a fire going at a campsite is important: provides warmth and safety
- Keeping the fire going in our lives is important because It can represent our faith that God wants us to keep nourished and going as we study His word, worship in His house, and live according to His word.

Questions for Interactive Lesson (To be included at the leader's discretion; best if used after the reading of the verse but before making the connection to Jesus)

- Why did God ask that His people offer burnt sacrifices?
    - It is a voluntary act of worship to atone for unintentional sins in general and a way to show commitment and complete devotion to God.
- Why do you think it was important for the Israelites to keep the fire going at all times?
    - Because that is what God asked them to do, and so the fire would be ready at any time to make an offering to God.
- Does God ask us to do the same thing, offer burnt sacrifices?

- No
- Why not?
    - Because Jesus was our perfect sacrifice
    - He atoned for all of our sins, once and for all
    - He fulfilled the Law for us, so that we don't have to worry and we can keep our focus on God and His love for us.

Closing Prayer

Dear Lord, You have given us a faith, one that is like fire. You want us to keep our fires going, keep our faith in You strong. Teach us how to do this, according to Your word. Help us to protect it from worldly threats and distractions, so that we might grow stronger and closer to You in trust and love. Help us to do this and to live our lives according to Your will and to Your glory. In Jesus' name, Amen.