

LEGACY

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

Psalm 78:4

Although I am not a big fan of the heat, as a teacher I cherish my summer and the change of pace it brings. I enjoy the mornings lingering with my coffee, newspaper, and uninterrupted devotion time. There are no papers to grade or lessons to plan. Very little, if anything, hangs over my head on Sunday evening. I have more relaxed time with family and friends. My bucket is refilled. It is a time to reflect, evaluate, and anticipate another school year.

This summer I have found my thoughts and reflections coming back to the word “legacy.” Maybe it’s because one of the last things I did before leaving my classroom in June was to look at a small stone that has been sitting on my desk all year. It is small and smooth and the word “legacy” is written on it. It was given to me by my friend and colleague as a reminder of the impact we make on the lives around us. Though I left the stone at school as a reminder for next year, the word continues to pop up this summer. I drove past a whole new living and working development in progress nearby named Tustin Legacy...a new storage basket bears the name Urban Legacy...Legacybox.com offers to take your treasures and turn them into digital memories that will last forever.

Legacy is defined as something that is most important which is handed down from one generation to the next. When you think about it, we are each called to be in the business of legacy building. Besides teaching children to read and write and add and subtract, we have the privilege of sharing the truth of God’s redeeming love every day. Though we know it well, many of our students and their families have never heard the story of salvation. We need to tell and retell over and over again the story of Jesus and His work on the cross. We are called to tell and retell the importance of the Word and sacraments. We need to daily tell and retell the story of grace through our words and actions.

It all begins with the work of Jesus...by grace, through faith we are called to be His heirs eternally. That’s the legacy Luther rediscovered five hundred years ago. It’s the same story we share today.

We have been blessed to be called to the teaching ministry and to be in this place at this time. As we head back to school this fall, take joy in ministry and the legacy we nurture. Allow God to use the “cracked pots” that are our earthly lives to further His legacy. Delight in turning eyes and hearts to Jesus. Tell and retell the story of His work and love alive in your life to the next generation. Faith alone...grace alone...scripture alone—it’s the most important thing we teach and the legacy we leave.

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