

**June 24, 2018**

**Fifth Sunday After Pentecost**

**Mark 4:35-41 (Lectionary 12)**

**Lutheran Church of Our Father, Greensboro, NC**

*(For this Sunday's sermon, I told Linda Williams' The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything. The telling of the story was not recorded, but here is a link to it being read by someone else: <https://tinyurl.com/yckk79ey>. Below is a manuscript of how I ended the story.)*

Oh friends, Fear is a powerful thing. And a truth that we heard in both of today's stories is that when we ignore things, they just get bigger. Storms just get bigger. The things you're afraid of follow you. But when you face them, with love, when your faith is the power of Jesus' love, even the strongest storms can be silenced.

You are a Child of God. And God has promised that there is no storm, no sea, no spooky pumpkin head, nor anything else in all of creation that can separate you from God's love. And when you turn around and face things – when you stand before the fears and perils of the world filled with the love of Christ as your strength – amazing things can happen. In Jesus' name, Amen.