

July/August 2021 NEWSLETTER



PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Where everybody is somebody because Jesus Christ is Lord!"

Ministers: The Congregation
Pastor: Ian McMichael
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General Announcements

The next meeting of the **Difficult Conversations Group** will be **July 18th** directly following worship until about 1pm. We will be discussing the questions "Should the Church be political? If so, how?" Come ready to engage and discuss. Bring a friend! Questions? See Pastor Ian.

We will also meet again **August 15th-** topic TBA!

We are hiring a **Faith Formation Director!** A full job description can be found on our webpage peacelutherancolfax.org. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please see Pastor Ian.

Mark your calendar! **Rally Sunday** will be **September 19th** this year.

Worship time is now at **11:00 AM** for the remainder of the year.

Remember in your Prayers

Milt Klettke, Queenie Leinweber, Lyndell Repp, Katie Schmick, Tim Silvernale, Jim, Repp, Ed Collison, Mike Hanson and Linda Mickelson.

Sunday Attendance

Week 1 June 6	Week 2 June 13	Week 3 June 20	Week 4 June 27
11	19	13	10

Pastor's Message

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." And they said, "Do as you said." – Genesis 18:1-5

Dear Siblings in Christ,

This story from Genesis thrusts Abraham into the host role as three unexpected guests show up out of nowhere. Abraham offers them water and refreshment and sends his servant scurrying to fulfill the wishes of his new guests. What a host! Later in the story, it is revealed that these three guests have come to reveal important news! The guests have arrived to shed light on the promise given to Abraham and Sarah from God. Abraham and Sarah would be the beginning of a whole new people. How is that for a surprise?

Hospitality. Many of us could go on for days about our hospitality stories, the ways we have either given or received it in our lives and the ways that, even if it didn't change our lives, it certainly made for some better days! We need other people in our lives. Certain moments make that very clear. I took my car in to get looked at the other day because after four weeks of a very very slowly deflating tire and filling and refilling the tire itself, I was finally convinced I had a leak. Turns out, I was right on both counts. It was really slow and it was indeed a leak. The guy looking at it took 30 minutes or so to figure out what was going on because it was so small it wasn't even worth a patch. So he spent time clearing debris out of the seal and I was on my way. When I pulled my card out to pay, he simply sent me on my way with a smile. Hospitality.

I remember as well back in college as I had just started my study abroad term in Chile. Turns out there are only very specific places you can print the material you need for class and they are often a block or two away from the school itself. I knew none of this and so spent an hour or so very lost until a group of students came up and asked me what I needed. I must have looked pretty sad by that point. They then took me to the print shop, helped me get my order in and invited me to lunch. Hospitality.

While these stories are not necessarily sacred in nature, they are lifeboats sent from the Divine. So, as you travel this summer I invite you to keep an eye out for opportunities to be hospitable, or to simply allow hospitality to come to you in moments of need. May your encounters with people be bountiful and God's grace be sufficient. Even if three guests don't end up bringing you news of a new people, there are still plenty of chances to be surprised and awakened by God's hospitality in the world.

Peace,

Pastor Ian

A DEEPLY SPIRITUAL ACT

June 4, 2021

From Bishop Eaton

The first-century church in **Corinth** must have been a lively place. Its members were competitive, jealous, divided into factions and litigious. The congregation was diverse. There were Jews and gentiles, rich and poor, men and women, young and old, those brand new to the faith and those with more maturity.

Paul spent over 18 months establishing the church in Corinth. He worked with, lived with and loved these people. Paul wanted them to know the risen Christ and the life of love and freedom found in Christ.

While the Corinthians were enthusiastic, they weren't very disciplined. They argued about which of them had the superior spiritual pedigree—those baptized by Paul or those baptized by Apollos. They took each other to court. And when they gathered for the Lord's Supper—neither decently nor in good order—Paul wrote, “When you come together, it is not really to eat the Lord's supper. For when the time comes to eat, each of you goes ahead with your own

supper, and one goes hungry and another becomes drunk” (1 Corinthians 11:20-21).

At his **ascension**, Jesus told his disciples that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The church in Jerusalem was the foundation of the Christian movement. It became the parent of the churches founded by the apostles throughout the world.

The decision had been taken at the Council at Jerusalem to welcome gentiles into the way of Jesus. This was a critically important decision and a difficult one. It wasn’t universally embraced by everyone. And the saints in Jerusalem had fallen on hard times. Famine threatened the city. Paul organized a massive stewardship campaign among the gentile churches to send aid to the church in Jerusalem.

Stewardship lets us rest in the promise of God’s abundance.

Paul would have done well as a development officer. He urged the believers to give generously and cheerfully. He set them up to compete with each other to see which church could be most generous. The enthusiastic Corinthians jumped at the chance, especially if they could do better than the Macedonians! But their lack of discipline was stronger than their zeal, and their stewardship campaign faltered.

Paul wasn’t going to have it. In his second letter to the Corinthians, he laid out the spiritual basis for giving: it was about opening the self

and the community, it was about glorifying God, it was a new way of thinking about sufficiency.

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8).

The concept of sufficiency had changed over the centuries. In Cynic and Stoic philosophy, true self-sufficiency was attained when a person became completely independent, with no need of anyone or anything else. By the time Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, self-sufficiency meant not just having enough for oneself but having enough to give away to others. One could have all the wealth and power and status in the world, but if one didn't share with others, that person was not self-sufficient. Contrast the rich young man who could give nothing away with the poor widow who gave everything. The rich young man went away grieving. The widow gave freely.

Stewardship is a deeply spiritual act. It moves us out of ourselves and toward the neighbor in need. It glorifies God. It brings freedom from wealth and status. It unclenches our hands and hearts. It lets us rest in the promise of God's abundance. We become cheerful givers.

Happy Birthday!!

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
					Scot Cocking	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Mitch Jamison					Marten Larkin	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		Alexis Maki		Christina Solimine		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Kathy Carr		Stella McNeilly			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		Julie Roberts				

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Lola Gillespie	Christine Henning Judy Young		Jim Repp			Colby Cocking Sarah Whelchel
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Marisa Wigen			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Wayne Henning					Kent Miller Cathy Landers	Annie Larkin
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Lorna Hanrahan						
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		Jon Kehne				

