

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
LAC DU FLAMBEAU
OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XXII ISSUE X

Our Mission Statement:

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors."



INVASIVE, INTRODUCED, INTERRELATED RELIGIONS

For some reason, coincidence probably, I have lately read several magazine reports on invasive species. Some of these reports consider invasive species to be bad – a threat to indigenous species. Others consider invasive species to be good – valuable for benefits they might bring to existing species and various human activities. Because they are good, let's call them "introduced species" instead of "invasive-species." And still others of the reports refer to "inter species" – the ways homo-sapiens (human beings) relate to the other 8.7 million species on our planet.

Examples? For the past 160 years feral house cats have invaded Hawaii, threatening the extinction of over 30 native bird species according to the United States Geological Survey. During that same time period, earthworms were introduced to North America from Europe – in the worm-deprived areas where they were introduced, agricultural productivity has increased by as much as 25 percent. And the big story as far as inter species interactions are concerned is that the "big two," humans and animals, is now the "big three" – humans, animals, and machines. Machines that produce remarkable results using artificial intelligence (AI).

Conclusions? Perhaps it is foolhardy to generalize moral worth to invasive -, introduced-, inter species. Perhaps one or two or all three can be both good and/or bad depending on the cultural circumstances prevailing where they invade, are introduced, and/or interact. After all, cultures create value.

Since I recently began teaching a Sunday School class on world religions and their relationships to Christianity, it occurred to me that perhaps some of these insights regarding invasive species might have application to issues raised when cultures where Christianity has been/is the dominant religion are "invaded" by "non-Christian" religions. What has been our traditional response to such invasions/introductions. What are our most common responses today? What should our ideal responses look like in the future?

Often our first, traditional response has been that all such religious incursions are bad and should be resisted. These religions are, after all, our competitors. They seek new converts, drawing on our largely Christian populations. Some have been quite successful in flipping Christians to other religions.

More and more, however, increasing numbers of Christians are thinking that some of these religions function more like introduced European earthworms than feral house cats in Hawaii. Many see introduced religions increasing the overall religious fertility of the religion-deprived areas where they are introduced – that is, secularized Western cultures where to admit to religious convictions is tantamount to admitting to weak-mindedness and superstition. In such cultures that seem hell-bent on denigrating all forms of religious belief, Christian or otherwise, don't we as Christians benefit from any form of thinking that admits God is real? Is it possible that new religions could increase religious fertility in such areas by as much as 25%?

Perhaps a theologically sound approach to non-Christian religions resides more along the lines of thinking propounded by inter species studies. As one of my journal articles noted, "[Inter specism] was once a technical term used in science to describe how one species got along with another. Now it is a word of more consequence: it evokes the new connections between humans and non-humans that are being made possible by technology." The essay references a book written by James Bridle (*Ways of Being*, Allen Lane, 2022) in which he argues that the first step to a more productive inter-specism is to show more respect for non-human forms of intelligence. And the second step is to realize more fully that we live in an entangled and more than human world. As Bridle says, "Everything is messier than it seems."

I think it is likely that our road to a more faithful and productive response to non-Christian religions can learn from these insights. A more faithful and productive “inter-religious specism” must begin with a fuller and deeper respect for non-Christian ways of religious thinking - even in areas where we strongly disagree. Respect does not mean we must give up on disagreement. And a more faithful and productive inter-religious specism must acknowledge that we are living in an increasingly entangled and more than human religious world. Indeed, religiously, everything is messier than it seems.

Those two steps, inter-religious respect and acknowledgment of a religiously messy world are not the end of the matter. We will still have more work to do. But they are a good start to dealing with our world of religious pluralism.

Rev. Terry Muck



SPECIAL DAYS FOR OCTOBER 2024

Pastor Appreciation Month	
World Communion Sunday	October 6
Columbus Day	October 14
Indigenous People Day	October 14
Reformation Sunday	October 27
Reformation Day	October 31



Birthdays

Jo Mayeau	October 1
Carol Callow	October 14
Diane Galaty	October 24
Nancy Teichmiller	October 26
Dennis Tibstra	October 27
Ann Hall	October 29

Anniversaries

Grant and Carol Callow	October 14
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Scripture readings for October

Oct. 6 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: Job 1:1; 2:1-10 and Ps. 26;

Complementary: Gen. 2:18-24 and Ps. 8; Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16

Oct. 13 – 21st Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Ps. 22:1-15;

Complementary: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Ps. 90:12-17; Heb. 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

Oct. 20 – 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: Job 38:1-7 (34-41) and Ps. 104:1-9, 24, 35c;

Complementary: Isa. 53:4-12 and Ps. 91:9-16; Heb. 5:1-10; Mark 10:35-45

Oct. 27 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Semicontinuous: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Ps. 34:1-8 (19-22);

Complementary: Jer. 31:7-9 and Ps. 126; Heb. 7:23-28; Mark 10:46-52

Article Regarding the Lakeland Pantry Interfaith Outreach program

Contributed by Jill Consie

Community Presbyterian Church is a member of the Lakeland Pantry Interfaith Outreach program. The group meets by-monthly to discuss ways the area churches can support the food pantry. Not only do people with food insecurities receive food from the food pantry, but there are many outreach programs that support families in need including Hope in a backpack, non-perishable boxes for churches, police and fire stations, and the group is working on placing food boxes at campgrounds, trailer parks, and the Women's shelter, Headstart and Yahweh Warrior Lodge in our community. They also supply food to some school programs. They are a wide-reaching organization, and our church is doing our part to support them.

In the month of September and October, the pantry is asking for donations of laundry soap, and bars of soap. These items can be brought to church on Sunday and placed in the box provided. Looking ahead to the holidays, we can help the pantry with monetary donations for ham and turkeys that are given to families in need for their holiday dinners. Please designate on your check that is written out to the Lakeland food pantry, that the money should go to buy meat as they are greatly in need of this kind of support for the holidays.

Thank you for your donation, which can help make a difference in someone's life that is in need.

The following article was contributed by Ralph Kerler regarding the tribal comments on the Facebook account.

Comments in Tribal Facebook account. Lots of comments about banishing Rep Mary Felzkowski for her terrorism comment. Mostly negative against her. These represent the two extremes. The first helps explain why we don't see many tribal members at church but the second offers hope that the road access issue might be resolved. I don't know how representative these are.

Adam D. Pilarczyk

Why want nothing to do with their ways, their churches or their politics. Hope the Tribes start making their own laws that align in No way with Westerners. Theirs have been tainted by the church and rich for centuries and their commandments mean nothing to them. They have 0 morals, only \$ on their minds. From Canada to South America... They have never been with the Tribes, both sides spew only empty words to further their agenda.

Sarah Pyawasit

An unfair comparison, and tasteless remark from Felzkowski. Was it enough to justify banishment? I don't think so. But that's just me. We Native Americans have been called far worse, for example, it literally

reads in the Declaration of Independence “Merciless Indian “Savages” when referencing Native Americans. However, these are merely words, and only have power when given power.

To elude that the barricades are equivalent to an act of terrorism is laughable because it is not even close to an act of terrorism. Although, if we are going down that road, Native Americans have experienced countless acts of terrorism and genocide since the arrival of Columbus in 1492. Let’s not forget about the walleye wars and the continued harassment of our spearers every harvest season to this day. Is she willing to make the same comparison against her own “constituents”?

I feel as a Tribal member, and former Council member, that real negotiation needs to happen, and this dispute needs to come to a close sooner than later. I can probably guess how much we’ve paid in legal fees thus far for legal advice and input regarding this issue, with no resolution. I’d like to see an open meeting for Membership to give their suggestions and opinions on any negotiations and how to resolve this tactfully, because as to date, there have been no open meetings for Membership to attend. As a Tribal member, I’ve only known of these media statements to be released, which allow for too many assumptions and not enough answers to questions. I’d like to see any and all attempts by both the Tribe and the Town to resolve this mess, I’d like to see what’s been brought to the table by each side and why it was declined. I feel that Membership needs to be heard and included in on the decisions regarding these easements. Especially if our reputation is being put on the line when it comes to the government-to-government relations with the State. How will this banishment affect any funding in the future? Lots to consider, and perhaps consideration needs to be given on the overall impact to the Tribe before making hasty and thoughtless decisions like the banishment resolution. It’s really childish and just as tasteless as the remark made by Felzkowski.

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If you have an IRA or 401 K and are looking for a tax deduction by the end of the year, you might want to consider a donation sent by your IRA provider or 401K provider. The check needs to be written by the provider, or it will not be considered a tax deduction. Please consider this thoughtfully. Thank you.

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WE ARE IN NEED OF PEOPLE TO SIGN UP FOR:

GREETER
USHERS
LITURGISTS
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS



**“REJOICE ALWAYS, PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, GIVE
THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS THE
WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS FOR YOU.”**

———— 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-17 ————



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Articles are to be submitted by the last Sunday of the month.

If you are online, the following web addresses will provide you with news and information about the General Assembly, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Presbytery of Northern Waters www.pcusa.org/crisis; outreach/evangelism; www.stopinfindout.org; northernwaters.net. We also have the Newsletter on our website: www.ldfchurch.com.

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THE PRESENT, AND YET TO BE

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