

Community

Presbyterian Church

of

Lac du Flambeau

Community Press

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To: All the “Good and Gentlefolk” of Community Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, Wi.

Greetings from the “Northwoods”

It is Tuesday morning, the 28th of January, and it is doing something different – it’s snowing – off and on lightly, but snowing! I know those of you who love warmer climates are smiling now, but, let me say this – it is absolutely beautiful – all 52 inches of it. That’s right, 52. One of our folks here measured that at her home. We are on a record setting pace. I guess it’s a good thing Carolyn and I like snow and cold temperatures or else we would really be in for some bad times. Enjoy your time wherever you are and we will look forward to your return come spring when it is equally beautiful up here.

Over the past few Sundays I have been speaking about the church, that is to say, you, me – us, and I wish to share some of those thoughts with you here in this February Newsletter. In dealing with this issue, I took another long look at a British theologian, Lesslie Newbigin, who addressed many of the societal issues that confronted him in the 20th Century. He was born in 1909 and died in 1998. For a major portion of the 20th century, he contributed to the debate and defended the faith in a pluralistic society. He was originally ordained in the Church of Scotland, but in light of his extensive work in South India, he became one of the leaders in the Church of South India and eventually one of its first bishops.

I begin with this statement of Newbigin’s about the church: “When the church tries to embody the rule of God in the forms of earthly power, it may achieve that power, but it is no longer a sign of the Kingdom.”(Emphasis added)

This statement is almost a repeat of what the reformers were saying and doing during the reformation period. Indeed, at that time individuals like Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Bucer, Cranmer, and others were raising the same issues with the Roman Catholic Church and its worldly imperialism. Newbigin raises this powerful question for us to consider here and now in our time. After all, if the Kingdom of God has been made manifest in Jesus of

Nazareth, why do so many suffer under earthly power? That is a painful, soul-searching question, which we must continually ask of ourselves. The question, the idea, challenges us; it disturbs us (or it should); it upends us.

Well then, how is the Kingdom of God at hand now? Do we really believe God’s upending rule to reign supreme? Does the call of Jesus cause us to radically re-

orient ourselves? If we aren’t willing to consider this, if we are not willing to hear and to heed God’s call – not simply to those nice biblical passages of times long past, but now – then nothing much will matter, will it? Perhaps it is the word “Kingdom?” We do not think in those terms much any longer. That is why I prefer to refer to Jesus as “the Love of God Incarnate.”

But let me simply say this: God’s light will shine – darkness will be lifted. It cannot be stopped. However, if we choose not to respond, if we are consumed with lesser things, the Kingdom (God’s Love Incarnate) will be far off to those in need. Maybe that is why Jesus begins with a call and the Apostle Paul admonishes unity with one another in his writings. We simply cannot reach out to people, if we are ensnared in self-interest.

And what does following Jesus suggest to us: following Jesus comes from letting go, letting go of our cherished secular attachments, letting go of our fears and allegiance to our tribe. A Latino father, who brought his young son to enter the United States of America told a reporter: “I don’t know what’s going to happen to my son, as they tearfully departed. I don’t know if we will ever be reunited.” That hit home to me, for I, although hardly wealthy at any time during my lifetime, never recall having those kind of fears with which to deal. It hit me very forcefully.

What happened to them, what will happen to all of us, is in God’s hands. However, what happens to them, to all of us, is also influenced by those of us

who claim to be the Body of Christ. Those of us who claim to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world today.

It is a difficult challenge, isn't it? Yes, but if we try and if we use our talents, gifts, et.al., especially if we seek God's guidance, patience, mercy, and most of all **LOVE!**

As a church, as a community of believers, we do much here at LDF, but we can always improve – especially if we lean on the gracious Love of God demonstrated to us in and through Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

Think on these things...reflect on your faith, as I will mine, and let us be about our God's business as best we can. Amen and Amen!

Until next time,

Pax et Caritas,
Bill Anderson

SESSION NOTES from JANUARY 2020

No notes this month. Next Session meeting will be March 13th at 10:00 AM

Burden Bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ...we announce His message, work for justice, pray for mercy... and suffer with the sufferers.

Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR JANUARY were:

Jan. 5 , 2019: Linda Lockwood

Jan. 12, 2019: Bill & Fran Raduege

Jan. 19, 2019: Edi Spellmeyer

Jan. 26, 2019: Deb & Ron Wilke

Thank you all for your time, hard work and contribution to the fellowship.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Erv Teichmiller	Feb. 7
Ken Biek	Feb. 11
Barbara Schneider	Feb. 13
Liz Clark	Feb. 15
Rick Kamerad	Feb. 17
Sue Robertson	Feb. 19
Deb Wilke	Feb. 19
Rev. Bill Anderson	Feb. 22
Carol Schmitz	Feb. 23

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

John and Claudia Tegtmeier	Feb. 13
Dave and Marie Peterman	Feb. 13
George and JoAnne Zickert	Feb. 27

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With the choir's suspension, there isn't much to write about. However, hope remains eternal and one day, hopefully soon, we shall once again try to support our clergy with music and joy and fun. Knowing that the lack of music is harmful to health, we continue to solicit support from our congregation, especially those who contribute to other musical venues but not to our choir. We need a few more voices to complement those of

our active choir members and we'll be "off to the races." Please let me know if you are willing to assist in a fun activity that encourages better health and brings joy to the effort. Sing with us and lets get this show on the road.

As far as the website is concerned, we are still improving. It is still a work in progress and will always be in a state of revision, addition, and inclusion so please visit the website (ldfchurch.com) on a regular basis to keep updated on church activities and events. Also, since the Newsletter and sermons are available via the website, we will be reducing the number of copies of these features that are currently sent in the mail.

Because of the choir's furlough, there are no anthems currently scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Shugar, Music Director & Webmaster

FEBRUARY 2020 SCRIPTURE READINGS

Feb. 2, 2020

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday

Micah 6: 1-8; Ps. 15; 1Cor. 1: 18-31; Matt. 5: 1-12

Feb. 9, 2020

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isa. 58: 1-9a(9b-12); Ps.112: 1-9(10);
1 Cor. 2: 1-12(13-16); Matt. 5: 13-20

Feb. 16, 2020

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Deut. 30: 15-20; Ps. 119: 1-8; 1 Cor. 3: 1-9;
Matt. 5: 21-37

Feb. 23, 2020

Transfiguration of the Lord
Exodus 24: 12-18; Ps. 2 or Ps. 99; 2 Peter 1: 16-21;
Matt. 5: 17: 1-9

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon.

Liturgist will be called each week or emailed to tell them what the readings will be.

Liturgist for the month of February will be:

Feb. 2: Sam Shugar

Ushers for the month of February will be:

As of the date of this printing we have no one that has signed up.

Obviously, we are in serious need of Liturgists and Ushers. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Your participation is urgently needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

SPECIAL DATES

African-American History Month

Valentines Day Feb. 14

Presidents Day Feb. 17

Transfiguration of Our Lord Feb. 23

Ash Wednesday Feb. 26

Leap Day Feb. 29

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".

Deacon's Report

Our Christmas decorating party had the largest number of members to help in my memory. And we had more flowers than ever, too. Thank you all for your participation. We took the tree and decorations down on January 6 at 4PM.

We begin the New Year with fewer Deacons – 5. There will be a few changes in our assignment, the greatest change will be in the Prayer Chain. Jillanne did the requests in such a special way. Edi Spellmeyer is set to replace her as the contact person. Our snowbird representative will be Barbara Schneider – who

will serve only in the summer months, just a
Linda Lockwood has done the past few years.

We look forward to serving our
community in the new year – if you have any
suggestions for us to consider, please let us
know.

Now that Christmas and New Year is
past, the real work of the Church begins anew.
Please pray for the Deacons as they begin this
new year.

In His service, Edi Spellmeyer, Moderator

A prayer for Ash Wednesday

Lord of the winds,
I cry to thee
I that am dust,

And blown about
By every gust
I fly to thee.

Lord of the waters,
Unto thee I call.
I that am weed
Upon the waters borne,
And by the waters torn,
Tossed by the waters,
At thy feet I fall.

Mary Coleridge (1861-

1907)