

*Community*

*Presbyterian Church*

*of*

*Lac du Flambeau*

# Community Press

Vol. XVI Issue X October 2019

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

Greetings!

It is once again coming to a sad part of every year for me. The time is coming when many of our faithful friends, “the snowbirds,” shall be departing for warmer climates and away from the beautiful but cold and snow-covered Northwoods. Of course, we shall have our share of those who love the winter coming up to sail through our beautiful trails on their snowmobiles, or ski and ice-skate. Not too many will be here with us, but they shall be around taking in the beauty and wonders of God’s magnificent creation. Carolyn and I love the winters here: crisp, clean and refreshing — a far cry from New York City where we grew up. Of course, NYC is also magnificent in its own, but in a very different way. In any event, we shall enjoy the days to come, with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas rapidly moving toward us. But, we are thankful for our summer friends and how they enrich and share in the good work we do, especially through mission and service.

Turning now to another, more difficult subject: I want to share a few thoughts with you this month on the topic: “Maturing in Faith” and in so doing, address some of the issues we all face in these difficult days.

Sometimes I wonder if we really understand our simple human actions have divine repercussions, or so it seems, if we take our Christian faith seriously. Our reconciliation with one another is inextricably linked to being reconciled to God. The question is: how shall we respond? Shall we follow along with the normally expected responses of others? I would suggest the letter of the law is not sufficient, our spirits must conform as well.

In his letter to the Corinthian churches, Paul recognizes we are infants in our faith and that Jesus is always calling us to a Christian maturity well beyond our years. How do we mature? How do we grow in the faith?

Ah—there’s the rub! How do we listen to Jesus in the midst of all we are hearing in the world these days? There is a cacophony of voices telling us that alternative facts equal truth. We hear many things on many issues from the financial crisis to bans on refugees, from the gun crisis to a continued not so hidden racism, et.al. The trajectory of the rhetoric of this age is not one of increased care for neighbors, but one of increased “self-centeredness,” “self-protection” and “exclusivity.”

Will we respond as infants in the faith, with continued divisions quarreling or as those mature in Jesus, the Christ, not only refraining from hatred, prejudice or even murder, but refusing to capitulate to our anger as well? Which shall we choose? “Life”—loving the Lord? Or “Death”—bowing to the gods of this age, the idols of security, wealth and power?

Of course, we already know the answer. We choose life. We shall put away our childish things. We shall grow in grace and abound in steadfast love. We know the correct response, yet we capitulate to alternative facts.

Why? The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak! The only way we shall hear and heed the message of Jesus in these chaotic times is to listen carefully and to do so together in community. I am convinced a way to do this is through prayer, reflection, worship and mutual accountability.

A fine example of this is a not too well-known pastor/theologian by the name of Howard Thurman who had the ability to withstand scrutiny. Thurman understood the gospel requires seeing others and letting others see us for who we really are. He understood the value of seeing himself and others through the lens of loving scrutiny. By the way, the Latin origin of the word scrutiny means not only to search, but also to “sort trash.”

If we are to be mature in our faith and in Jesus, God’s Love Incarnate, and not yield to our infantile impulses, we must be open to sorting through the trash generated all around us and in our own lives. We need colleagues in the faith to help us in this daunting, embarrassing task. This support will help our yes be yes and our no be no.

If we are going to be open to Jesus and listen to the gospel of love, we need not only look, but also see; we need to be mature and not give in to the infantile divisive chaos and ambiguity within the church and without—a world in trouble. This may very well feel as if we are being meddlesome, and this causes difficulties, especially in our individualistic, hero-enamored world. But isn’t that the point? We are called by God to live differently, even from the faithful before us and differently from the world around us.

This understanding suggests an “ante” that Jesus brings in Matthew’s gospel. Our earthly relationships matter a great deal to our God. How we treat our sisters and brothers, our neighbors and friends, and our enemies matter more than our personal piety or our gifts on the altar. Our righteousness should exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees, not only of Scripture but their counterparts today, through fulfilling the law, the whole law, the law that makes for a good neighborhood, and through the LOVE that follows not just THE LETTER OF THE LAW, but the SPIRIT OF THE LAW.

We. Must be mature in Jesus, the Christ, to live the BUT I SAY way, and we need Paul and Apollos, loving scrutiny, mutual accountability and we need the community of faith, you and me, to plant and water so that God will give the growth.

No one, certainly not Jesus, ever suggested living the life of faith and love, i.e. the gospel, would be a piece of cake. On the contrary, though the statement is simple and easily flows from our lips, it is incredibly difficult to LIVE. But, LIVE IT WE MUST, HOWEVER LIMITED OUR EXPRESSION OF THIS AGAPE MAY BE!

And so it is, I believe. Until next time, as always,

Pax et Caritas

Bill Anderson

## SESSION NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER

After determining there was a quorum, the Moderator, Dr. Anderson, called the meeting to order with an opening prayer at 10:00 AM on Friday September 13, 2019.

Dr. Anderson asked for suggestions on what to do about the Xerox printer. We would like Xerox to take it back due to the number of problems we have had with it. After much discussion, it was suggested by Gary Beier that a certified letter be sent to Xerox with a list of the problems we have had with the machine and see what kind of a response we get.

Two Deacons and one Elder need to be elected. Dr. Anderson mentioned that a member was interested in the Elder position and that Edi Spellmeyer had someone interested in a Deacon position. Dr. Anderson would like to recall the Congregational Meeting very soon.

The new website is up and running thanks to Elder Shugar and his son-in-law. You can check out the new website which is [www.ldfchurch.com](http://www.ldfchurch.com).

Next was a discussion on forming a committee to help bring new members to our Church. Some suggestions for names were: Committee for the Extension of our Christian Influence and Expanding our Christian Church.

Dr. Anderson indicated that one member was interested. There was a motion made to form a committee. The committee should consist of one member of the Session, one Deacon and three Congregation Members. Dr. Anderson will work on getting a committee together.

The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Friday October 11, 2019.

With no further business to be brought before the Session, a motion was made that the meeting should adjourn. Meeting was closed with prayer at 11:30

Respectfully,

Kathy LaBarge, Clerk



## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR SEPTEMBER were:

SEPT. 1, 2019: Deb & Ron Wilke

SEPT. 8, 2019: Sam & Shirley Shugar

SEPT.15, 2019: Fran Raduege

SEPT.22, 2019: Delma Erikson

SEPT.29, 2019: Arlene Morrison

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

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Jo Mayeau	Oct. 1
Don Morlan	Oct. 14
Diane Galaxy	Oct. 24
Nancy Teichmiller	Oct. 26
Dennis Tibstra	Oct. 27
Ann Hall	Oct. 29

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Alan and Carol Schmitz	Oct. 14
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## Volume 2, Issue 10



## THE CHOIR CORNER



It is with great pleasure that I welcome new members Steve Schunk and Kim Johnson to our choir family. Steve and Kim bring sorely needed voices to our plucky little band of committed singers. We are hoping that their dedication might inspire other members who have pleasing voices to try us out and help to add harmony and richness to our vocal offerings. We are approaching the time when we will lose several of our talented members to the warmer climes for the winter season. So, while we add a few, we lose a few for a net gain in numbers of @ zero. We are sorely lacking in the men's section. Steve adds his bass voice to complement our Pastor with his every anthem solos, but we lack support in the tenor section. Our soprano section is solid, but we will soon lose Delma over the winter. Kim will solidify our Alto section to help offset the loss of Jan Hoppe. It's as the gamblers say, "You win some and you lose some." That's our choirs history. But as its director, I am proud of the efforts and dedication that each member brings to our choral program. It is hard for me to believe that we can do so much with so few. It's a tribute to each choir member's desire to assist our clergy in bringing an inspiring message of faith, love, and charity to us each and every Sunday.

I have asked our choir to help recruit new members from acquaintances, friends, and neighbors using our website, salesmanship, bribes, or whatever technique it takes short of mendacity or any other shady approach. I have an open offer before anyone who brings in a new member **who also joins the choir** to an all expenses dinner for them and their new recruit.

If you haven't already visited our new website, I encourage you to do so. Login to [www.ldfchurch.com](http://www.ldfchurch.com) and view the information contained therein. You may even find yourself in some of the photos that are telling visitors to the site about our church and its activities. Among the descriptions of life at CPC is a section on the choir, and so much more. I have rambled on far too long so, the anthems for October are (conditions permitting):

October 6: Come to the Feast

October 13: On Eagle's Wings

October 20: Only This I Ask

October 27: Peace

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Shugar  
Music Director

## OCTOBER SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Oct. 6, 2019

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Communion Sunday  
Lam. 1: 1-6 or 3: 19-26; Ps. 137; 2 Tim 1: 1-14;  
Luke 17: 5-10

### Oct. 13, 2019

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jer. 29: 1, 4-7; Ps. 66: 1-12; 2 Tim. 2: 8-15;  
Luke 17: 11-19

### Oct. 20, 2019

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jer. 31: 27-34; Ps. 119: 97-104; 2 Tim. 3:14- 4:5;  
Luke 18: 1-18

### Oct. 27, 2019

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Joel 2:23-32; Ps. 65; 2 Tim. 4: 6-8; Luke 18: 9-14

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon. Liturgists will be called each week to tell them what the readings will be.

Liturgists for the month of October will be:

Oct. 6:  
Oct. 13:  
Oct. 20:  
Oct. 27:

Ushers for the month of October will be:

Oct. 6:  
Oct. 13:  
Oct. 20:  
Oct. 27:

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

## DEACONS REPORT

The meeting scheduled for 9/9/19 was attended by 3 of our members, so, we tabled the meeting until October.

Shirley, Fran and Edi did review the financial report and delayed any action until more members are present. Some of our concerns were for the amount budgeted for the Pastors fund and the Session. We are working within the budget so far this year in spite of the tax change regarding charitable deductions.

We spoke briefly to the lack of the Nominating Committee's action on replacing 2 Deacons. Pastor Anderson called me this week and it seems the group will meet soon.

We received notice that "Food for Kids" has been cancelled for October.

Our next meeting (hopefully) will be October 7<sup>th</sup>, if needed.

Edi Spellmeyer, Moderator

## Special Notes From the Moderator of the Congregation/Session

I want to advise the congregation that I intend to reconvene the recessed Annual Congregation Meeting of 25 August on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the service, to complete our election of new officers. We shall be electing one member to Session and two to the Board of Deacons. In addition, we shall need to have four congregational members elected to the Nominating Committee for 2020.

The second item is that we have passed out the pledge cards for 2020. Please return them to us by Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> so Session can establish the budget for 2020.

In light of the recent tax law changes, which may or may not affect your taxes, some folk who have IRAs that require withdrawals after you reach the age of 70 ½, have given their contributions through that distribution, since it would not then be taxable to them. If this interests you, check with your tax advisor. We need all the help we can get if we are to maintain our meaningful mission work. We have a good history and record in this area and I hope we can continue to keep and/or improve it.

Thanks for all you do and God bless all of you for your work and faithfulness.

Bill Anderson

Moderator/Congregation/Session

## Special Dates for October

World Communion Sunday	Oct. 6
Reformation Sunday	Oct. 27
Reformation Day	Oct. 31

*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".*