

Community

Presbyterian Church

of

Lac du Flambeau

Community Press

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To: All the Good and Faithful Communicants of the
Lac du Flambeau Presbyterian Church

As I have been reflecting on the substance for this month's Newsletter, I have our abbreviated, online services very much in mind. The last time we held a traditional service here at LDF was on the 5th of April 2020. We cancelled the service of the 12th and have since that time been holding virtual services. This has been going on for four months. We have gotten progressively better with the virtual services, but there is nothing like having real, live people in church on a Sunday morning. I miss seeing all of you very much with your warm, smiling faces and the genuine love and grace that you manifest in your lives. This is, in my humble opinion, a really great church, doing much good work. I look forward to the time when we return to some sense of normal.

So far, at least at the present moment, we are holding our own in terms of our financial commitments and programs, e.g., the mission committee has disbursed its first round of contributions and we are still above water, financially, as of the end of June. However, we are just barely there and that was due, in large measure, to some large donations that were gifted early. I hope that we can all honor our pledge commitments so that we can still have a successful year such as those we have been having for much more than a decade and a half. One significant negative is going to be the lack of contribution from the work at our Thrift Shop. We have not been to open and the season for that venture is already half over. All of the profits from the Thrift Shop have always gone to missions. So, think about it please, pray about it, and do what you are able to do. We need to pull together.

One positive of all of this is that we are improving our computer skills. We have a virtual service each Sunday (but I look forward to the day we can return to normal) and have had varied success but not without some difficulties. But we are improving. To join us, please download Zoom on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Click on Zoom and then click on "Join a Meeting". When you see the meeting number space, enter 2556380623 (no need for spaces) and you will then enter the virtual

service. This will be the host Janice Anderson's page, who will start the meeting 5 to 10 minutes before 10AM. After the meeting starts, check to make sure your video and audio are turned on. You'll be able to see who else is watching at the top of your screen. Since only 4 people are displayed at the top, you may have to click on the arrows to left and right to see the other people. We usually get together after the service to share information between the participants. That should do it. If there are any problems with the download you can contact Ralph Kerler at 651-303-5612 (cell #) or Mary J. Stevens at 715-892-3964 for assistance. I hope to see you there on Sundays and hope even more, we will be able to return to normal. Perhaps if the politicians can ever get together and listen to the scientists???

It does not take much genius to know that the world is in much turmoil, not only with the COVID-19, but with those who will use this dilemma to advance their own negative agendas. The world is a hostile place, racism still persists, economic, justice is lacking, hatred is abundant, power and force is used against the weak. But, we in the Christian community have a message in our faith, a message propounding grace, peace, trust, joy, speaking out against all evil; we are, if we take our faith seriously, God's agents in this world. It is a role that requires strength, courage, endurance, a willingness to stand-up and be counted. In these difficult circumstances, I am reminded of a book written by Paul Tillich: In The End God. We have to remember, God, whose very nature is Love, is with us in these difficulties, aiding us, giving us strength and courage, and in the end, God will prevail. Even the little things we may do, really matter and while we may not see immediate results, we can be assured God is using us as we respond, with God, in all we do. Be at peace; do the good, love God and your fellow human beings.

Amen and Amen!

Bill A

SESSION NOTES from July 2020

After determining there was a quorum the moderator, Dr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM with an opening prayer.

Sunday morning virtual Church Services will continue until further notice. If you would like to join us on Sunday morning and don't know how to get online, contact our new webmaster Mary Jane Stevens.

Again, the Session is losing two of the current Elders. If anyone is interested in being an Elder please let a Session Member know.

This was Sam Shugar's last Session meeting. We wish him well and thank you to him for all that he has done for the church. He will be missed.

With no further business to be brought before the Session, motion was made to adjourn. Meeting was closed with prayer at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy LaBarge, Clerk of Session

SPECIAL DATES for AUGUST 2020

There are no special dates for August

GOD AMID PANDEMIC

Last spring, life change as we became familiar with terms such as social distancing, flattening the curve and self-quarantining. We could hardly believe the closed schools, businesses and especially churches – just as Holy Week and Easter drew near! The coronavirus ran rampant in the world. Where was God?

But as the spread continued, many civic leaders stepped up, calmly informing us of the facts, of actions being taken to mitigate the crisis and of how we could help. Healthcare professionals risked their lives and endured separation from families; teachers drew on astounding stores of creativity to teach online; pastors delivered sermons and lessons to empty sanctuaries as members listened and prayed while living in lockdown. Surely God was present – through them!

Then I remembered how God assures us through Isaiah, "Fear not! When you pass through the waters, the fires, yes, even the pandemics of this world, I will be with you" (43:1-2, paraphrased). And Jesus echoes, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20).

Sandy Hyland

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Jack Miller	Aug. 3
Shirlee Gallagher	Aug. 6
Marie Peterman	Aug. 12
Charles Granger	Aug. 16
Carol Gelwicks	Aug. 17
Diane Bridgeforth	Aug. 19
John Spellmeyer	Aug. 21

ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Carol Gelwicks	Aug. 1
Mark and Jo Mayeau	Aug. 6
Dr. Bill and Fran Raduege	Aug. 24
Charles and Ellen Granger	Aug. 26
Jerry and Linda Lockwood	Aug. 29

AUGUST 2020 SCRIPTURE READINGS

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August 2, 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday
Gen. 32:22-31; Ps. 17:1-7,15; Romans 9:1-5;
Matthew 14:13-21

August 9, 2020

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gen. 37:1-4,12-28; Ps.105:1-6,16-22,45b;
Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16, 2020

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gen. 45:1-15; Ps.133; Romans 11:1-2a,29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20)21-28

August 23, 2020

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exod.1:8-2:10; Ps. 124; Romans 12:1-8;
Matthew 16: 13-20

August 30, 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exod. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6,23-26, 45c;
Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
These readings are suggested by the
Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be
changed depending on the topic of the sermon.

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".

