

Community

Presbyterian Church

of

Lac du Flambeau

Community Press

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To: All the "Good and Gentlefolk" of the Community
Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau

GREETINGS:

It is early afternoon here at the LDF Church on the first day of October. Despite the fact that we have been laboring under difficult circumstances for most of this year, it does not seem that there is an end in sight just yet. During this time we have been conducting virtual services, with a few attendees to aid with the service. But I know most of us are missing the wonderful fellowship contact (for which we are well-known) we have under normal circumstances. Nevertheless, we are persevering and working hard to continue as much of our work as possible. So far our finances, while slightly strained, are holding up—we still have a decent reserve. I thank you for your faithfulness in keeping the church's work and mission alive and pray you continue to do so.

We are living, then, as you are all aware, in very difficult times, but we, in the Christian faith community (and other religious faiths as well) still have a responsibility to this world in which we live. Even as others build walls of exclusion, erect towers of hate and fill the land with floods of evil, we are challenged to reach out in love to those who are mistreated and misunderstood in so many ways. We need to demonstrate with our words and actions, publicly and repeatedly, no one is outside of the grace of God! We need to affirm the God who LOVE does not belong to any one faith, any one denomination, or any one person. God reaches out to all human beings - - -this is what our faith teaches and challenges us to do. And it is not easy.

We have a great deal of work to do, in our nation, in our churches and in God's magnificent world. Sometimes it can feel overwhelming. How grateful I am as I think of all of you my friends, and colleagues, and family, partners in this journey of life - - - in a journey we share together.

I found this same sentiment reflected in a

comment made by Tenzin Gysato, the 14th Dalai Lama who is the author of "Toward a True Kinship of Faiths: How the World's Religions Can Come Together." He makes the point that "finding common ground among faiths can help bridge needless divides at a time when unified action is more crucial than ever. As a species we must embrace the oneness of humanity, as we face global issues like pandemics, economic crises and ecological disaster. At that scale, our response must be one."

Harmony among the major faiths is an essential ingredient of peaceful coexistence in our world. From this perspective, mutual understanding among our traditions is not merely the business of religious believers, it matters for the welfare of humanity as a whole.

I close with a poem I wrote sometime ago, which I believe speaks to our situation today on several levels, but certainly on a faith level. It is simply called:

The Gift

Life's greatest gift is simple, pure and clear,
Always other-centered, bringing light that all may see
And hear the touchstone, the model: Jesus of Nazareth
God's love incarnate: guilty, gently, always near.
Love has no bounds, belongs to no race,
Nation, gender or season, this gift of peace,
Joy and compassion is freely given.
God's Love Incarnate - - -always the reason.

May God's peace, compassion, joy and Love be with you always.

Pax et Caritas,

Bill A

SESSION NOTES from September 2020

Next scheduled meeting will be October 9, 2020

Truth + Love

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the *Christian post*, "Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, 'If you cut off someone's nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.' If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener's nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child's head and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love."

Taken from the October *Newsletter Newsletter*

Holy Mysteries

Dwell in the wonder of these two gifts of God: that God made us in His very image (Genesis 1:26), and then – "much more"! – that Christ came to earth as a human being (Philippians 2:7).

Ponder and savor how poet John Donne (1572-1631) describes these mysteries:

"'Twas much, that man was made like God before,
But, that God should be made like man, much more".

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

Jo Mayeau	Oct. 1
Don Morlan	Oct. 14
Nancy Teichmiller	Oct. 26
Dennis Tibstra	Oct. 29
James Applegren	Oct. 29

ANNIVERSARIES

Alan and Carol Schmitz	Oct. 14
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OCTOBER 2020 SCRIPTURE READINGS SCRIPTURE READINGS

October 4, 2020

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Communion Sunday
Exod. 20:1- 4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps. 19; Phil. 3: 4b-14;
Matt. 21:33-46

October 11, 2020

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exod. 32: ; Ps. 106: 1-6, 19-23; Phil 4: 1-9;
Matt. 22:1-14

October 18, 2020

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Exod. 33: 12-23; Ps. 99; 1 Thess. 1: 1-10;
Matt. 22: 15-22

September 27, 2020

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Reformation Sunday
Deut. 34: 1-12; Ps. 90: 1-6, 13-17; 1 Thess. 2: 1-8;
Matt. 22: 34 - 46

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

SPECIAL DATES for AUGUST 2020

Pastor Appreciation Month	
World Communion Sunday	Oct. 4, 2020
Reformation Sunday	Oct. 25, 2020
Reformation Day	Oct. 31, 2020

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".

