

OUR REDEEMER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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July 2018



From the desk of Pastor Matt Nelson

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Stop.

Read that again (please).

Why can I call you my dear “sisters and brothers?” There is one main reason for it: we have the same Father. We pray together, “Our Father...” as we have been instructed by our LORD. Sometimes I hear off the cuff analysis of the LORD’s Prayer summarizing the opening words with reference to creation which makes Him everybody’s Father. It’s possible to say something that is true, yet still mostly useless. Unless I’m missing something, to say that God is everyone’s father because of creation is one of those things – true enough, but more must be said. What is important to say is that everyone is the recipient of God’s mercy in creation and He calls and seeks all people to receive Him as Father. You have done this; you have received God’s gifts of mercy in Christ, and as invited, you call Him Father. As a result of His saving work for you and now in you, you have true brothers and sisters because in the rebirth of baptism God has made them so.

But back to “Our Father...” Not, “O Almighty God.” Not, “O Great and Terrible Ruler of All Things.” Instead, some of the most beautiful words in Holy Scripture: (Jesus said) “Pray then like this: “Our Father...” (Mt 6.9). It is sometimes helpful to stack up adjectives when describing God, but it is important to note that when we are instructed to pray Jesus does not do that, rather He invites and instructs that we pray “Our Father.” Part of what makes the opening words of the LORD’s Prayer so remarkable is we could rightly use a big pile of adjectives describing God’s power, glory, and dominion, and yet that selfsame God tells us ‘call me Father.’

And note too that He is not just “My Father”, but “Our Father.” We join together with every generation of believers and speak to God in this most remarkable way – to call Him Father. I’m reading a little devotional book about the LORD’s Prayer and I’d like to quote it here:

“I think that today the world has somewhat lost the meaning of fatherhood. It is a world sick with orphanism. Saying and taking to heart the Our Father means understanding that I am not an only child. It is a risk, that of feeling like only children that we Christians run... I think that if we could do so, many of us would put up a sign in front of God that says “Private Property.” This is the temptation. It would be easy to pray to a God who has only one child, and that child is you.”

Our Father, Reflections on the Lord’s Prayer

You’re not alone dear brothers and sisters. Please pray the Our Father in your homes, at your meals, with your children and grandchildren. It is the very special prayer that Jesus gave us to pray. It does not comprise your entire life of prayer, but it does stand at the center of it.

The Peace of the LORD be with you.

- Pastor Nelson

Pastor Stinnett will be speaking at our church on July 25 at 7:00 pm regarding his current missionary work in Ethiopia.

Pastor will be attending continuing education classes at Trinity Lutheran Camp in Bigfork July 20 - August 4. Call his cell phone 871-5282 if you need to contact him.

Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and office carpets will be cleaned July 30.

Communion Schedule

July

- 1 - 8:30 am
- 8 - 11:00 am
- 15 - 8:30 am
- 22 - 11:00 am
- 29 - 8:30 am

August

- 5 - 11:00 am
- 12 - 8:30 am
- 19 - 11:00 am
- 26 - 8:30 am

Lending a Hand in July

Ushers: (early) (late) Larry Workman & Chris Avsec

Greeters: (early) Art & Louise Delventhal

Money Counters: Nancy Werner & Vicki Avsec

Altar Guild: Kelly Kyle

Music: Joyce Baumgartner, Rae Workman, Nancy Landell, Tawn Bueltmann

Acolytes: Georgia Morrell, Noah Peters, Josie Ekholt, Alona Johnson, Christopher Daenzer, Emily Wicks, Rachel Eberhart

Blessings on your special day!

Birthdays

1 - Larry Landell
1 - Dalton Sellers
2 - Irv Erickson
2 - Pastor Nelson
5 - Keith Eberhart
5 - Travis Turner
7 - Katie Daenzer
8 - Charlotte Chertudi
9 - Amanda Creighton
9 - Heather Parrish
9 - Jan Thomas
10 - Maggie Stone
11 - Kevin Egger
11 - Timothy Kempff
11 - Shirley Thompson
13 - Chris Avsec
13 - Darin Stone
13 - Courtney Stuhler

17 - Hailey Sapa
17 - Cindy Younkin
19 - Mike Jurva
20 - Cainen Erickson
20 - Corey Johnson
21 - Brad Peters
22 - Leslie Moody
23 - Faith Eberhart
23 - Isaiah Moody
26 - Taylor Jarrett
27 - Vivian Eberhart
27 - Ashley Herbert
28 - Creighton Sawyer
30 - Joe Peters
31 - Bill Hoppe

Anniversaries

6 - Travis & Linda Addington (22 years)
9 - Shannon & Tracy Click (24 years)
12 - Eric & Ann Creighton (38 yrs)
13 - Roger & Carla Swearengen (27 yrs)
14 - Neil & Amanda Creighton (1 year)
15 - Jayme & Heather Parrish (1 yr)
16 - Eric & Kayla Sharpe (7 years)
23 - Joe & Lynda Peters (41 years)

If you
have a birthday
or anniversary
that falls in this
month and are
not listed, please
update your
information with
Deb.

LWML News

Ladies have you been wanting to attend a retreat? Well now is your chance!

Consider attending the LWML Montana District 2018 Retreat
September 21-23, 2018 at
Trinity Lutheran Camp (on Flathead Lake near Bigfork)

The theme of the retreat is **“As Far as the East Is from the West”** Psalm 103.12

There will be Bible study, servant activities, music, fun, fellowship, and, of course, wonderful food.

Registration fee is \$85.00 per person

- Check in will begin on Friday at 4:00 pm
- Dinner on Friday will be served at 6:00 pm
- Retreat will end on Sunday at noon
- Please bring the following items: sleeping bag, pillow, Bible, walking shoes and any personal items you may need.

Registration forms can be found in the most recent Montana LWML Missive.
Please return registration form and fee to later than September 5, 2018.
If you have questions, contact Peg Hoppe.

VBS Program: July 23-27, 2018

Program: "Lost and Found – The Parables of Jesus"

Premise: Using selected parables of Jesus we will teach the children the Law/Gospel message that all people are lost in sin and that Jesus is the seeking God who finds that which is lost and saves us. We must emphasize over and over these two things: that all are lost and cannot rescue themselves, and that Jesus will not stop looking until He finds, secures, and saves.

These parables emphasize God's seeking us and making us His own people.

Backdrop: Cityscape for background with changing elements to fit the parable of the day. We will be using a painted fabric backdrop. VBS Pictures will be taken in a 'refrigerator box' decorated to be a "Treasure Box" – the children are God's treasure that He has sought and found and made His own.

Bible Stories: **Monday:** Lost Coin (Lk 15.1-10)
Tuesday: Lost Son (Lk 15.11-32)
Wednesday: Lost Neighbor (Lk 10.25-37)
Thursday: Lost Sheep (Lk 15.1-10)
Friday: Lost Treasure (Mt 13.44-46)

Crafts: **Monday:** Sugar Cookies (shaped as coins)
Tuesday: Welcome Home ornament
Wednesday: Tie-Dye t-shirts
Thursday: Puppets – sheep and shepherd
Friday: Treasure boxes

(More than one craft each day and age-appropriate crafts from class-to-class.)

Float: Treasure Chest – cardboard sheets painted and decorated with coins, jewels, etc. **HELP NEEDED PRIOR TO VBS CUTTING OUT VARIOUS ELEMENTS FOR THE KIDS TO PAINT.**

Daily Bible Verses:

Monday: "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19.10

Tuesday: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." 1 John 3.1

Wednesday: "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works" Ephesians 2.10

Thursday: "...I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered..." Ezekiel 34.12

Friday: (Jesus said) "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." John 3.16-17

