

First Lutheran Ch.

June Newsletter 2024

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The other day I picked up a book our oldest son, Joshua, gave me for either my birthday or Christmas. He would do that often. He was a Chaplain's Assistant in the Army. The following is part of a sermon. It's taken from "Be Strong and Courageous: An Anthology of Sermons to Warriors." The sermon was given by Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel), R. Richard Spencer June 20, 2010 in Germany.

Auscultabo Ut Serviam

(I Will Listen That I May Serve)

. . . In April, 1849, a powerful French army was marking toward the city of Rome. The army was so powerful that it destroyed everything in its path. No one thought it could be stopped. In the face of these great odds, General Garibaldi issued the following proclamation to the able-bodied men of Italy" "All efforts to stop this powerful army have failed. I have nothing to offer you but hunger and thirst, hardship and death. But call on all who love their country to join me."

From all over Italy, people responded to General Garibaldi's call – poor people, rich people, old people, and young people. To everyone's surprise, that army of volunteers defeated the French.

Years later, in England, something similar happened. In the early 1900's, Sir Ernest Shackleton needed volunteers to accompany him on a dangerous expedition to the South Pole. He placed the following ad in the London Times:

"Wanted: Persons for dangerous journey. Small wages, bitter cold, long months of complete darkness, constant danger, safe return doubtful, honor and recognition if successful."

People thought that Shackleton would have difficulty recruiting the twenty-eight volunteers that he needed. To their surprise, he was swamped with over five thousand applications from all over England. In the months ahead, it did indeed suffer great hardship, including arctic storms and polar blizzards. However, the expedition succeeded and returned home to honor and recognition.

In today's Gospel from Saint Luke, Jesus makes a similar call to people. His call is not to take up arms to defend homelands. Nor is it a call to embark on an expedition to the ends of the earth. Rather, it is a call to people to join Him in establishing God's kingdom on Earth. It is a call to people to help Him transform the world into the kind of place that God had in mind when God created it. And like Garibaldi and Shackleton, Jesus tells His followers that the task won't be easy.

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"If anyone wished to come after Me," He says, "he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake, will save it."

And since that day Jesus spoke those words, millions of men and women have accepted His invitation. Millions of men and women have joined Him to try to make our world into the kind of place that God intended it to be.

. . . That is why He said, "I don't point out a light for you to follow, I am the light." (John 8:12) "Pick up your cross and follow Me."

"I don't point out a way for you to travel. 'I AM the way.'" (John 14:6)

"I don't point out a life for you to imitate. 'I AM the life.'" (John 11:25) Pick up your cross and follow Me!"

This, my friends, is why we have gathered together. This is what we celebrate in this sacred liturgy: Listening to God's Word which leads us to action. . .

I close with a prayer to Jesus and invite you to join me in their prayer. It was written by an anonymous Christian nearly 1,500 years ago.

Lord!

Be a bright flame before me.

Be a guiding star above me.

Be a smooth path below me.

Be a kindly Shepherd behind me.

Be these things today – tonight – forever." Amen.

Auscultabo Ut Serviam" – "I will listen that I may serve."

I hope you enjoyed this as much as I did and that it brought you something to meditate on as you move forward in your walk with Christ.

Your New Council Members:

There's really only one NEW Council Member. May 19th the congregation elected for their council members the following:

- Nils Almgren
- Chuck Gray
- Jim Wackerly
- Joe Glass
- Bill Heierding
- Sue Wackerly

CONGRATULATIONS to You All

Installation of the Council Members will be June 2, 2024 during the Service.

Here are a few thoughts to help you get the most from your quiet time.
Read a section of Scripture...slowly. This is where your conversation with God begins. He speaks to you through His Word, and you speak with Him in prayer.

- *Don't be in a hurry; don't try to read too large an amount; don't race through it.*
- *Repeatedly, read a passage over and over until you start to picture it in your mind. The reason more people don't get more out of their Bible is that they do not read the Scripture repeatedly.*
- *Without Stopping. Don't stop in the middle of a sentence to go off on a tangent and do a doctrinal study. Just read that section for the pure joy of it, allow God to speak to you. Remember that your goal is here to is not to gain information, but to feed on the Word and to get to know Christ better.*
- *Aloud but quietly. Reading it aloud will improve your concentration, if you have that problem. It will also help you understand what you are reading better because you will be both seeing and hearing what you are reading. Read softly enough, however, so that you won't disturb anyone.*
- *Systematically. Read through a book at a time in an orderly method. Do not use the "random dip" method- a passage here, a chapter there, what you like here, an interesting portion there. You'll understand the Bible better if you read it as it was written – a book or letter at a time.*

(The joyfulnoiseletter.com)

Lutherans for Life

June, 2024

June 2 – Pentecost II (Proper 4B) – Abortion and euthanasia aim to avoid disabilities by eliminating the persons who have them. The Christian community, on the other hand, regards persons with disabilities as reasons for rejoicing. Even the most fragile human bodies testify to the goodness of the God who created and sustains them (2 Corinthians 4:7-11). Let us declare and demonstrate how the life of Jesus manifests in every neighbor!

June 9 – Pentecost III (Proper 5B) – We believe Almighty God creates human beings in His own image, and so we also speak (2 Corinthians 4:13) against using death as a solution. We believe He redeems each one through His beloved Son, and so we also speak it despite political opposition or popular opinion. We believe He calls them all by His very Spirit, and so we also speak the sanctity of every human life!

June 16 – Pentecost IV (Proper 6B)/Father's Day – Fathers embody how much difference the little things make. What seems just a personal choice at first quickly affects everyone around with its repercussions. The devil uses privacy and independence as deceptions. But salvation also only starts small (Mark 4:30-32). An embryo soon grows into the Savior of the universe, and one word spoken in courage and compassion changes untold hearts and saves countless lives.

June 23 – Pentecost V (Proper 7B) – “Widen your hearts,” the Apostle exhorts his Corinthian companions (2 Corinthians 6:13). He has just instructed them how God's grace prevails to make life worthwhile without regard to anyone's size, skills, or circumstances. Doesn't His love expand our imaginations and affections to receive every human life as a gift and privilege? Won't our voices offer the same opportunities to neighbors in surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis?

June 30 – Pentecost VI (Proper 8B) – “Silence.” “Dust.” “Strikes.” “Insults.” “Grief.” Lamentations knows right where it hurts. And this Word of the Lord gives us a God who comforts just how each needs: “steadfast love,” “mercies,” “faithfulness,” “salvation,” “compassion,” and “abundance.” Let us diagnose abortion by naming it sinfulness, so that we may directly dispense the healing that the hearts it has broken long for.



June, 2024

Serving the Lord in June

- 2 Grays
- 9 Wackerlys
- 16 Heierdings
- 23 Joe Glass
- 30 Heierdings

Communion Deacon: Bill Heierding

Alternate: Chuck Gray

Communion: Altar Guild

Happy Birthday



- 1 Kelly Monroe
- 28 Naomi Lee

13 Jessie Ray

28 Abbie Johnston