

Good News for Cowards

Jesus is more straightforward in today's gospel than we might want to hear. He makes it strikingly clear that there is danger in this life, especially in following Jesus in his way of love, mercy, justice, and compassion. There is danger because many forces oppose God's way because of fear, greed, and selfishness.

Just by saying these things, Jesus raises our anxiety and provokes our own worry. But he doesn't leave us there. In fact, he says outright, "Do not fear" (Matt. 10:28). And beyond that, he tells us why we do not need to be afraid: "You are valuable to God."

We might feel like cowards at times. Fear grips us. We find it difficult to act for the sake of the gospel when there is risk, be it physical, social, or financial. The word *coward* comes from the word for "tail," like an animal putting its tail between its legs. We want to put our tail between our legs and hide.

Jesus summons us to something else: courage. The word *courage* comes from the word for "heart." Sometimes we say to someone facing a difficult time, "Take heart!" Courage enables a person to act even though they are afraid. They act from their heart, their sense of who they really are. Jesus tells us who we really are: we are valuable to God, so our lives matter. We will not be forgotten or abandoned, especially when we face troubles. This is our heart, our courage.

Jesus also says, "It is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher" (Matt. 10:25). Jesus faced ridicule, rejection, suffering, and death for his commitment to God's kingdom of love. We are not alone in our attempts to walk the way of love, mercy, justice, and compassion. Jesus, our teacher, walks this way with us. Take heart!

HOLY TRINITY

Triune God, Triune Church

On this Trinity Sunday, we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples. They are words of sending, command, and blessing. They include the great promise, comfort, and empowerment: "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:20).

The rest of Jesus' message is all about what happens *until* the end of the age. In the meantime, the church is active in sharing the good news, baptizing, and teaching the way of Jesus. This is done at Jesus' command and under his authority with people of all nations. The word "nations" doesn't quite capture the breadth of what Jesus means. The actual term in Greek is more expansive, including all ethnicities and cultures. Instead of a blank, monochromatic sheet of paper, the church is a colorful patchwork quilt of people pieced together, stitched together, and united in the love of Christ.

Today we celebrate that we know God as Trinity. The Trinity serves as a model for the life of the church: God is not one-dimensional, but multifaceted. The Trinity is not monochromatic, but rather a swirling, colorful dance. There is no division in the Trinity, but an indwelling of the Spirit, the gentle authority of Christ, and the blessing of the Father.

In a world that is often polarized and divided, and in which marginalized groups face persecution and strife, we are called as followers of Christ to live beyond borders and division. The church is to be a gathering of peoples made up of every type of human distinction. By gathering all varieties of people into Christ, we live into the embodied reality of our triune God. May we be emboldened to do so, knowing that we are accompanied and empowered by our Savior "to the end of the age."

Harvest of Compassion

Jesus sends out his disciples to labor for the kingdom. He uses the metaphor of a harvest and says there is plenty to harvest but that there are not enough workers. The church has seen itself throughout the centuries as being sent to labor for the harvest. Most often, the assumption has been that the harvest is people, and the goal is making them members of the church. Much of the missionary impulse and institutional focus of the church have been about increasing numbers and making more members.

But notice how Jesus describes the labor of the harvest: proclaim, cure, cleanse, raise, cast out. The focus is not on making people a part of the church (although welcoming others is certainly part of the good news). The goal of the labor—the harvest—is healing, helping, liberating, renewing. The world is full of great unmet needs, and many people are suffering; hopelessness and despair abound. The harvest of the kingdom is a harvest of compassionate deeds.

What happens when no one is available to harvest the crops? They sit in the field and eventually go bad. What happens to people when no one joins in the harvest of compassion? People continue to suffer, lives are diminished, and God’s intentions of abundant life for all are left to rot. Jesus is inviting all who are willing to join in the harvest of compassion, and the time is now.

What happens when the church shifts its mission from harvesting people to harvesting acts of compassion? The witness of the church becomes rooted in concrete acts of care for others, and suffering is alleviated. The good news of Jesus is known in the great ingathering of compassion and justice done in Jesus’ name. It begins at the table every Sunday, when we celebrate the feast of the kingdom that Jesus himself brought to fruition through his own life, death, and resurrection. May that gift now bear fruit in our lives by his grace.

Ladies of Grace Activities :

TBA



Notes from the Office: WELCOME BACK!!!!

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!!!!

Council Meeting will be June 13th at 10:00 AM.

Our 'Noisy Offering' will be on June 14th. Noisy offering buckets will be set in the Narthex for donations!!

The sign up sheets for worship servers is in the narthex please take time to sign up for any service you can help serve. Thanks!!!

Newsletter updates due June 22nd.



SUMMER
BEGINS

Carol Heesch	7
Sandy Borstad	11
Bethine Nelson	11
Jim & Judy Werth	12
Richard & Krista Johnson	15
Wally & Elaine Krueger	23
Ron & Bev Oestmann	23
Isaiah Guerra	26
Zach Lute	27

If we missed anyone PLEASE contact the office.

AMONG THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY ARE:

Congregation members: **Sherry Brooks, Edna Gross, Gary Albertson, Jeana Lute, Wally Krueger, Shanna Longoria, Celia Scott, Savvas Poulos, Chuck and Jody Bothwell.**

Family members: **Connie Dawe, Mason Lomelino, Karen Carmichael, Darwin Gunderson, Shane Gray, Diane Frei, Lydia Gutierrez, Helen Gray, Barb Lute, Barb Fitzpatrick, Brandie Sherry, Larry Gutierrez, Penny Cook, Joann Fuller, Cleo Lute, Frank Fuller, Gaston Meza, Abel Longoria, Jim Downes.**

Congregation friends: **Jason McGinnis, Mason Spradling, Al Lundy, Cheryl Dear, Luanne Ruffle, Judy Schorman, Sandi Jaeger, Emilio Zuniga, Ro MacMillan, Marsha Guerrero Brown, Tom Sands.**

Those who serve: **Dustin Dunbar, Adam Troy Gutierrez, Lance Corporal Anthony Zepeda, Ben McCormick.**

PRAYER CHAIN 2020

Phyllis McKee	425-5776	Elaine Krueger	428-2895
Carol Heesch	564-1031	Betty Longoria	970-2053
Barbara Lomelino	357-1490	Sherry Brooks	797-2615
Jeana Lute	402-720-9431		



Olive

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).

Sunday School—After worship.

Confirmation Class-



PANTRY NEEDS

- Canned Pasta with Meat
- Canned Tuna
- Tuna Helper
- Canned Fruits
- Juices/ Kool-Aid
- Sugar
- Flour



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Deadline for the July Newsletter is Tuesday June 22nd. Please get all information to the church office, secretary@gelelca.org, or the office mailbox.

THANKS

The July Newsletter will be ready by email Friday June 26th and in the Narthex Sunday June 28th.

We're on the Web
<http://www.gelelca.org>
We are also on face book!!

Lord, take me where you want me to go; Let me meet who you want me to meet; Tell me what you want me to say, and keep me out of your way.

MISSION STATEMENT

God's purpose for Grace Lutheran Church is:
Welcome to Grace,
Welcome the Message.

Principle Values:
Jesus is Lord
Everyone is welcome.
All serve in different ways.
Seek and share the message.
God's love is life changing.

2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Schlossnagle, Ann	Pastor	503-707-7406
Demro, Jan	President	956-497-6950
Morton, Ron	Vice-President	956-873-1312
Ramsey, Pam	Secretary	956-454-1036
Morton, Bonnie	Treasurer	956-226-7301
Longoria, Mia		956-970-2017
Lomelino, Barb		956-357-1490
Longoria, Betty		956-970-2053
Kester, Debi		956-202-5958



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



SERVICE SCHEDULE

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Ushers				
Lector				
Acolyte	Congregational Youth	Congregational Youth	Congregational Youth	Congregational Youth
Altar Guild	Carol Heesch	Carol Heesch	Carol Heesch	Carol Heesch

A kindled fire

“I can worship outside among nature just as well as I can inside a church building.” That claim is especially common during the summer, when church attendance tends to decline.

Certainly it’s possible to worship and talk to God among his creation. In fact, George Washington Carver called nature “an unlimited broadcasting station, through which God speaks to us every hour, if we will only tune in.” And Martin Luther said, “God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars.”

Yet corporate, or church, worship is still vital. Luther also noted: “At home, in my own house, there is no warmth or vigor in me, but in the church when the multitude is gathered together, a fire is kindled in my heart and it breaks its way through.” When we’re away from God’s house, we miss blessings and opportunities including communion, fellowship and support. So this summer, spend time in nature but don’t neglect “to meet together” (see Hebrews 10:25)!

Our Father

You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one’s holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

—J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*

The act of asking

In *Everyday Spirituality*, James Hazelwood explores 27 ordinary activities that are, he asserts, more spiritual than we tend to think. One is asking questions. “We see God in all the questions we ask, whether or not they are religious. The simple act of asking questions indicates that we are meaning-seeking creatures.”

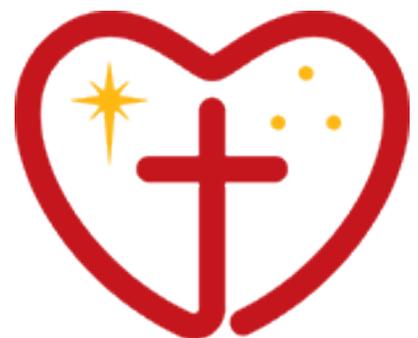
The pastor continues: “We inquire of the meaning of life, the purpose of work and relationships. We even ask it of our very own existence. The answers often come not in clear proclamations of certainty but in stories, tales and the myths of life. ... Inquiry, wonder, and discovery are things that the human mind loves.” Then he offers this thought-provoking statement: “When we ask questions, we are engaging in prayer.”

Do you agree? What other daily activities might be more intertwined with your faith than you thought? While you ponder even these questions, do you sense the Holy Spirit moving you?

Seeing stars

The stars shine over the mountains,
the stars shine over the sea,
The stars look up to the mighty God,
the stars look down on me;
The stars shall last for a million years,
a million years and a day,
But God and I will live and love,
when the stars have passed away.

—Robert Louis Stevenson



PUZZLE PAGE

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 251

Matt.9:33-10:10

H B A P O S T L E S S H E E P
C I N U T Y E N R U O J G S E
A S U E A D D A H T E A A N T
E D I S E A S E I S S M D A E
R W E L A E H S U S O E U E R
P O T K Y N C S E H Z S O L U
O R L D O A D M T A E G O C R
E C N I R P M A M D A N F H Z
S M A I H E S A L V L I R A E
I E O I L T H T T S O H E N B
A T L D I E W P I T T C E D E
R I M R G E A M E J H A L R D
P E I R L N O R O H C E Y E E
Y P O V N N I H S M S T W W E
S H E A V E N K E I J U D A S

Apostles Chosen

AMAZED ANDREW
FREELY APOSTLES
HEAL CLEANSE
HEAVEN CROWDS
ISRAEL DISEASE
JAMES ISCARIOT
JESUS JOURNEY
JOHN KINGDOM
JUDAS PREACH
PETER MATTHEW
PHILIP MESSAGE
PRINCE SANDALS
RAISE SHEPHERD
SHEEP TEACHING
SIMON THOMAS
SPIRITS ZEBEDEE
SPOKE TWELVE
TUNIC ZEALOT
THADDAEUS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:

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Each day remember this: "I am a child of God.
That is how God sees me in Christ."