

Grace News



SEND ME YOUR TIRED....

...YEARNING TO BREATH FREE

Driving around today I do so with the news of another attack in London. The scene is an all too familiar one: someone has taken a vehicle and run it through a group of people. The number of dead and injured are announced, almost in clinical fashion. Three things stood out about this story (I had also read an account of it earlier in the day). *First*, the attack took place at a mosque. The victims were Muslims who had just finished worship during Ramadan (which means: 'It (this month) was named Ramaḍān because it burns the sins of people with righteous deeds'); *Second*, in the radio interview, the one being interviewed spoke of a tradition in England. A minute of silence is observed after such tragedies. What was a once or twice a year observance is now happening weekly, or more often. It is difficult to keep up; and *Third*, an Imam, Mohammed Mahmoud shielded the driver from harm, telling the furious mob: "Do not touch him," undoubtedly saving the man's life and halting further injury or death.

As we enter into "high summer" all around are flags; fireworks are beginning to be heard, there is a renewed interest in the founding of this country and the principles that are its foundation. All this is laced with talk of tougher standards for the security of this nation; the need to ban travelers from certain countries because that is where terrorist/terrorism comes from (though no record of this exists. Now, if we would like to discuss the homegrown variety....); millions are displaced from their homes because of wars and terrorism, in search of safe havens, a new place to call home. As the saying goes: "Freedom ain't free."

The desire for freedom isn't new. It is laced throughout the stories of scripture: from the Exodus from Egypt to the return from Babylon. From the uprisings against the Assyrians to many revolts against the Romans. From the declaration at Jesus that we have never been slave to anyone to Paul's declaration that in Christ there is neither male or female, Greek or Jew, slave or free.

As we, as a nation, as congregations, as individuals, struggle with the meaning of freedom—for ourselves and for those who seek release from intolerable situations, it may serve us well to read and consider two passages of Scrip-

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Send Me Your Tired



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- an Imam, Mohammed Mahmoud shielded the driver from harm, telling the furious mob: "Do not touch him," undoubtedly saving the man's life and halting further injury or death.
- The Lutheran Confessions state "the power of church and civil government must not be mixed ... [while] both be held in honor and acknowledged as a gift and blessing" (Augsburg Confession, Article 28).

BARNYARD ROUNDUP!!!

July 31 - August 4



Jesus loves you always and forever no matter what!

"What is the Barnyard Roundup VBS? In Barnyard Roundup VBS, your children learn that Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gathers us together!"

They'll look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and explore five farm-tastic Bible accounts that teach us how God is with us, provides for all our needs, and protects us now and forever! Jesus, our Savior, cares, provides, leads, and forgives us! "

Gather 'Round Songs, Skits
Storytelling, Science in the Sheep Pen
Bible Challenge, Bales of Fun Games
Bountiful Blessing Snacks, Udderly Cool Crafts

Family Night Thursday!

Contact Michelle to find out what you can do!
541.297.0050 or magoo@presys.comVBS



Jesus, our Good Shepherd, gathers us together!



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



May 5, 2017

On May 4, President Trump signed an executive order titled “Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty.” The measure addresses the IRS ban on political campaigning by tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations, an important protection for houses of worship. That regulation is codified into law, so it would take an act of Congress to reverse, but President Trump signaled his administration’s opposition to the rule by directing the IRS to use maximum discretion to refrain from enforcing it.

The Lutheran Confessions state “the power of church and civil government must not be mixed ... [while] both be held in honor and acknowledged as a gift and blessing” (Augsburg Confession, Article 28). The ELCA Constitution affirms that one of the purposes of this church is to “work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor, maintaining institutional separation of church and state in a relation of functional interaction” (ELCA Constitution 4.03.n.). Our social teaching encourages members and leaders to be politically active as citizens and to provide moral leadership that advocates for just and fair policies. Nothing in the current IRS rules prohibit such activities.

Neither our theological heritage nor our social teaching lift up what we would understand today as partisan activity by church officials—endorsing or funding specific candidates, for instance—because that confuses the appropriate responsibilities of church and state leadership.

Exemption from taxation is an appropriate benefit granted to churches and other charities. The restriction on endorsement of political candidates in no way restricts freedom of religion. In fact, it allows churches to continue to focus on ministry and protects them from being lured into participation in partisan politics to the detriment of their proclamation and mission. The ELCA provides this guidance to ministries on participation in the electoral process.

Earlier this year, the ELCA joined with 99 diverse faith groups in sending a letter to Congress opposing any effort to undermine the so-called Johnson Amendment—those IRS regulations that protect both the taxpayer and our houses of worship. We do not seek or desire a change in tax law that could prove divisive in our congregations or detrimental to our witness of Christ. Let us not be tempted to participate in partisan politics, but rather focus on being part of God’s reconciling work through Christ in the world and proclaiming the gospel word.

God’s peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop

Dwelling in the Word

4th Sunday after Pentecost - June 28, 2017
Matthew 10:40-42

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. 41 Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; 42 and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

The May 2017 issue of the Living Lutheran carries an article entitled “Would they notice?” The author notes the common question, “If your congregation closed its doors tomorrow, would the surrounding community notice?” He thinks it’s a reasonable question, but might also be something of a guilt trip to smaller congregations which don’t have huge, programmatic impacts anyway.

As I read the article I found myself asking, “But what is ‘the church’? Is it not people?” The question should be “If Ruth, or Bob, or Jim, or you or me disappeared, would the surrounding community notice?” And the “surrounding community,” as Jesus points out in this week’s Gospel lesson, might simply be a child who is given a cup of water.

Shall congregations have nothing to feel guilty about if they’re simply being what they are. However, if you and I could disappear and nobody would notice, I think guilt is the right response!

This teaching from Jesus in Matthew 10 is not about welcoming the stranger. It is about the stranger’s welcome of us, as disciples of God. And verse 42 is unique in that - if “little ones” refers to disciples like you and me - then the one who does not lose their reward is the one whom we have served, and who has served us in return.

I don’t have a completed sermon here, but just a thought. Our churches don’t have to be “successful” in any corporate sense. Some of us are fading. Doors are closing - it’s hard. But the question is not, “If your congregation closed its doors tomorrow, would the surrounding community notice?” The answer to that, frankly, is probably “No” because by the time a congregation closes it has usually experienced dwindling capacity for some time. The question that captures my imagination, rather, is “Am I, personally, living with integrity? Am I, personally, being a disciple?” With or without a vital congregation behind me am I faithful, intentional, joyful, trusting?”

Those to whom we minister are not looking to welcome a “congregation.” They are touched by individuals, like you and me. And whoever welcomes you and the love you give welcomes Jesus. Isn’t that what it’s all about?!

Joy!

Bp. Dave Brauer-Rieke





I can make others feel welcome by being friendly.

GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Contact Us:

Give us a call for more information about our services and ministries.

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Worship: Sunday Morning @ 8:45 @
First United Methodist Church, 191
E. Gladys

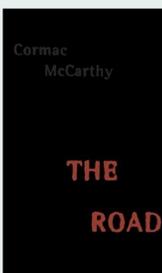
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Send Me Your Tired

ture. The first being Luke 4. Jesus is home, he is at worship, he is given the scroll of Isaiah. He reads of the Spirit of God being upon him; by this Spirit he proclaims release from all sorts of maladies; by this Spirit he proclaims the Lord's Jubilee being fulfilled in their sight; to which all the people rejoice, until they realize that Jesus is speaking of this Jubilee being for all people, not just the covenant people.

The other passage would be from Matthew 25, the story of the king separating sheep from goats, one to blessedness the other to separation. The criteria of separation is whether one saw Jesus in the other—the sick, the hungry, the prisoner, the blind. When one served one of these, or any who have been disenfranchised, they have served Jesus. The only expression of surprise is not seeing Jesus where Jesus is, in the other.

As we celebrate our 241st birthday as a nation, as we wrestle with the ongoing struggle of "freedom," do we seek to be guided by the Spirit to proclaim, in word and deed, the freedom that comes through Christ? Do we see Jesus, a foreign born refugee, in the other?



Novel Ideas

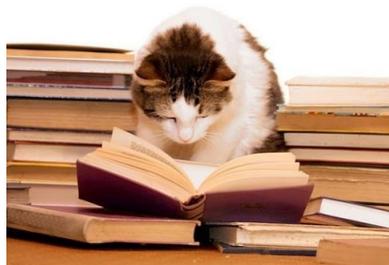
meets on the final Tuesday of the month (July 25th). Doors to Davis Hall open 5:30ish PM. Bring something to munch on and a desire for conversation.

The book for July is *The Road*, by Cormac McCarthy. *The Road* is the profoundly moving story of a journey. It boldly imagines a future in which no hope remains, but in which the father and his son, "each the other's world entire," are sustained by love. Awesome in the totality of its vision, it is an unflinching meditation on the worst and the best that we are capable of: ultimate destructiveness, desperate tenacity, and the tenderness that keeps two people alive in the face of total devastation.



How is the ELCA observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation?

The ELCA is one church body organized in three expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization. Each expression has its particular functions, but all three share a common mission of doing God's work in the world and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Congregations, members, synods and other institutions of the ELCA will be observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by a variety of events and activities in the coming years. Many of the local activities will reflect the magnitude of work being done on a national and international scale.



Some areas of engagement will surround acknowledging what Martin Luther did to spark the Reformation, revisiting the roots of our Lutheran beliefs and what those roots mean today for us and our engagement with others.

In all of these activities, the ELCA seeks to find in this historic milestone an occasion to give a confident and joyful witness of the life and freedom in Jesus Christ that is for all.

Serving God's People

<i>Date</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Acolyte</i>
Jul 2	John Larson	Cooper/Larson	
Jul 9	Phil Schmidt	Kunningrud/Schmidt	
Jul 16	Steve Anderson	Rice/McMullen	
Jul 23	Kevin Hedgepeth	Hedgepeth	
Jul 30	Dot Hensley	Hensley	

Celebrations

<i>Date</i>	<i>Celebration</i>	<i>Celebrant</i>
Jul 1	Birthday	Regina Marks
Jul 3	Baptismal Birthday	Justus Gerrard
Jul 3	Baptismal Birthday	Khloe Gerrard
Jul 7	Birthday	Lauren Brewer
Jul 7	Birthday	Issac Madore
Jul 13	Baptismal Birthday	Issac Madore
Jul 19	Anniversary	Pam & Wes Stonecypher
Jul 21	Birthday	Dick Hensley
Jul 21	Baptismal Birthday	Parker Reid
Jul 25	Birthday	Jon Larson
Jul 25	Baptismal Birthday	Eleanor Leininger
Jul 28	Birthday	Elvira Eisele
Jul 29	Birthday	Daniel Meyers



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

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<p>2 4 Pentecost 8:45 Worship & Communion</p>	<p>3 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 9:30a Next Text 2.0</p>		<p>5 9a Pastor @ Starbucks</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

<p>9 5 Pentecost 8:45 Worship & Communion 5:30 Worship @ Prison</p>	<p>10 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 9:30a Next Text 2.0</p>	<p>11 8a Coffee @ Pheasants</p>	<p>12 9a Pastor @ Starbucks 10a Gather Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

<p>16 6 Pentecost 8:45 Worship and Communion 11a Preach @ FUMC</p>	<p>17 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 9:30a Next Text 2.0</p>	<p>18 8a Coffee @ Pheasants 7p VBS Mtg.</p>	<p>19 9a Pastor @ Starbucks 9:30a Foot Clinic</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

<p>23 7 Pentecost 8:45 Worship & Communion 5p Church Picnic @ Hedgepeths</p>	<p>24 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 9:30a Next Text 2.0</p>	<p>25 8a Coffee @ Pheasants</p>	<p>26 9a Pastor @ Starbucks 10a Gather Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 7p Tapping Into Faith @ Hermiston Tavern</p>
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Pastor Inch—Hermiston

<p>30 8 Pentecost 8:45 Worship & Communion</p>	<p>31 6:32a Next Text @ Pheasants 9:30a Next Text 2.0</p>
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Barnyard Roundup—Vacation Bible School @ FUMC @ 9a

Pastor Inch—Hermiston