



The Adventiser

Advent Lutheran Church

Our mission: To grow in the Lord and to make Him known.

Summer 2017

+ Faith and Trust

Recently an individual who attends our church gave me his written thoughts on a sermon by one of our guest pastors. He makes some excellent points and offers up some suggestions on how we could venture into the outreach world. I hope you find it interesting reading. Blessings Dave Neely

Reflecting on 'Faith'

January 2017

A Sunday sermon on the topic of Faith, necessarily brief in order to fit with the liturgy, made me think about this topic. The meaning of Faith goes to the essence of being a Christian, as Luther taught us. Perhaps these comments will stimulate others to think about the subject of 'Faith', to ask questions as this congregation works with a new minister and explores priorities. Perhaps someone would like to add to, modify or share his own version of these comments. Finally, I offer these comments not as a proclamation from someone who thinks he/she is a particularly good Christian. I am certainly not.

First of all, it seems as if we sometimes confuse faith and belief. In many Christian sects, the preamble to the Creed goes something like, "let us confess our Faith." But is Creed the same as Faith, and are we entirely right to put so much emphasis on creed? Wasn't it Faith that moved Mary to accept being the mother of Jesus? As I read it, what she said was, "I cannot fully comprehend what is being asked of me, but here I am to do God's will." In our own lives, have we not sometimes had strong beliefs but fallen down on acting like Christians guided by love and faith? Perhaps for these, and a lot better and more reasons than I can think of, Luther proclaimed the pivotal importance of faith.

But what is Faith? This is where my reflection led me.

Faith and trust are different words in English, but they are rooted in the same word in Latin. They spring from the word *Fides*. Since Italian is more accessible to people today, let's look at their meaning in Italian. *Fede* is the Italian word for faith and for trust. *Fede* is the root for a lot of meanings:

- *Fidare* is to trust. It is also to lend. After all, would we lend our money to someone we do not trust?
- *Fidarsi* mean to trust in something or someone.
- *Affidarsi* is to put our trust, to throw our lot in with someone, some idea, some initiative. It implies membership as well.
- From *Fede* derive *fidanzata* and *fidanzato*, woman and man who promise themselves to each other in marriage, who promise to trust each other and to look after each other. Thus trust entails an obligation, a responsibility.
- *Confidare* is to rely on, to confide in someone, to entrust someone with a task.

Credere is different from *fidare*. *Credere* is to believe, to think, to imagine, to suppose, to understand, and only in a very loose sense, to trust. We would do well as a congregation to *fidare*. If congregation means that people gather together, we should gather to put faith in God and in each other, to rely on each other, to promise God and each other to fulfill our responsibilities. A pastor and a congregation need to trust in each other. Remember, trust also means responsibility.

The sermon also touched on the relationship between charity and trust, and stewardship. As I understood it, trust goes beyond charity. What we do for others, we should do with a sense of responsibility to those we try to help. Does it seem to you that, sometimes, when we do charitable acts, we see them as one-time deals? We see someone in need, something terrible, and we want to do something right away. It's natural, right?



***At the Abyss: No smiling faces to see, no consoling words to hear,
no hands to grasp, no one to trust***

But could it be that we have additional responsibilities? We cannot be everything to everyone everywhere. But, could we try to: Do more? Actually help someone or some group of people over time? Better know whom we are helping? Know their stories? Their actual needs? Laugh and grief with them? How as a small congregation might we contribute to the betterment of their own continuing lives? To understand that recipients of our generosity may want to enter into a mutual relationship with us? That sometimes, there may be ongoing responsibilities? Likewise, stewardship is not just about money. It is about a continuing responsibility.

So, what do we do about all this? We all want closure. When someone has a thought, we want that person to also give us the answer. I am unable to do that. But, perhaps, if we think together about the foregoing, we will have better questions for a future pastor, for our congregation, and for ourselves? Perhaps we can help a future pastor think about all this. Perhaps we can think together about it? Perhaps we can increase our faith? Perhaps we can be builders of trust and stewardship?

Advent Church Council

The Voters Meeting will be on Sunday, June 25 immediately after the worship service. The meeting will include a brief financial update, an update on the call process, a vote on 2017 mission funding, and the election of Council members. The slate for the election: President - Dave Neely; Recording Secretary – Karen Baker; Board of Church Properties – Outside: Paul Simis, Inside: Clay Wriedt; Board of Finance – Judy Neely; Board of Education – open. The Board of Outreach is also open. If you know of anyone interested in either of the two open positions, please talk with Dave Neely or Ron Hinkle.

Call Committee

The call committee has requested a new list of potential candidates from the Southeastern District. They have responded that we should expect the new list no later than mid-June. As always, your questions, feedback, suggestions, and especially your prayers are welcome and encouraged!

Board of Finance and Stewardship

Through mid-May, income to the general fund is \$58,287.13 and expenses are \$41,143.41. Keep in mind that, although we have received more than we need to cover current expenses, we are not paying the salary of a full-time pastor. In anticipation of hopefully doing that in the near future, I encourage you to be consistent and faithful with your offering. Thank you for your continued support of God's work at Advent.

LCMS Stewardship Newsletter. May 2017

"It is more blessed to give than to receive," said St. Paul, quoting our Lord (Acts 20:35). How can this be?

Jesus and His disciples withdrew to a mountain by the shore of the Sea of Galilee. The crowds followed them, for the Lord had just showered upon them the gift of His teaching, the gift of His Word. But the day was waning; the sun was setting, and it was getting late. Looking upon the crowds, Jesus had compassion on them and asked, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" (John 6:5) Philip said that two hundred denarii (a day's wages for two hundred men) could not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.

But Andrew, Peter's brother, brought a young boy forward, who had five barley loaves and two small fish. "But," Andrew asked, "what are they for so many?" (John 6:9). Jesus replied, "Have the people sit down." (John 6:10)

Then Jesus, the Son of God, gave them a second gift, a gift from what only He could give—a gift from above. He took the bread and the fish, gave thanks, blessed them, and distributed them to the crowd. Then came the miracle. As these five loaves and two fish were given out, they multiplied. He fed the hungry crowd until they were all full. And twelve baskets full were left over.

But Jesus was not the only one who gave that day. There is one person who also gave from what he had. It was the boy with the five loaves and the two fish. All the others, including the boy, received the gift of a miraculous feast. And they would look back on it with wonder. But the boy, when he would look back on it, would look back and remember not just what he received. He would look back with wonder and delight when the Son of God made his gift into something miraculous. For it is more blessed to give than to receive.

This our Lord does for each of us. He presses our gifts, no matter how big or how small, into His service and works wonders with them. He provides through what we give: water for baptism, bread and wine for the Lord's Supper, a man called and sent for the preaching of the Gospel and Absolution. He provides a building in which we can gather as His children, lights so that we might not gather in darkness. He provides funds for the care of the poor and struggling, for missionaries who preach and teach beyond our borders. He makes Christians, disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ in our midst by bringing them to faith and nurturing them in that faith. He takes our gifts and turns them into something miraculous.

Indeed, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thus we give. We give of what we have. And the Lord works His wonders.

Board of Worship

Summer Worship Time: This summer, our Worship time will **stay at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will be in recess from June 4 through September 3.

If anyone is interested in sharing their musical talents for the prelude, offertory, or communion musical interlude, please contact Xavier Richert.

Worship Leaders for June: Pastor Larry Lineberger – June 4; Pastor James McDaniels – June 11 and 18, Pastor Greg Williamson – June 25.

Birthdays

Patricia Williams	June 5	Tom Berrong	July 12	Gayle Zarnt	Aug. 7
Alice Neebe	June 7	Chris Lehman	July 16	Colleen Walther	Aug. 8
Amie Sheref	June 7	Ruth Schwasinger	July 16	Dave Neely	Aug. 18
Karen Baker	June 10	Cameron Gunn	July 17	Ginger Massey	Aug. 19
Loni Augusta Sheref	June 12	Nicholas Hoffman	July 18	Grace Hoffman	Aug. 21
Rick Heizler	June 21	Joe Schradie	July 19	Pat Dominguez	Aug. 25
Simon Walker	June 24	Linda Mather	July 19	Carolyn Jones	Aug. 25
Dorothy Schmidt	June 27	Ed Wriedt	July 22	Dorothy Preisel	Aug. 26
Emma Richie	July 1	Laura Simis	Aug. 4	Bill Ackerman	Aug. 28
Vi Messick	July 11	Jacob Thomas	Aug. 4		

Anniversaries

Lydia & Tom Berrong	June 11	Judy & Dave Neely	July 4
Marge & Joe Schradie	June 18	Gayle & Denny Zarnt	July 8
Sam & Jon Fischer	June 19	Carolyn & Craig Walker	Aug. 14
Carolyn & Ron Hinkle	June 20	Laurene & Bill Ackerman	Aug. 19
Karla & John Byrnes	June 21	Wendy Rosenstock & John Cangelosi	Aug. 21
Pamela Ro & Tim	June 28	Loni & Gary Gunn	Aug. 30

Please let the church office or Carolyn Jones know if your birthday or anniversary dates aren't listed or are incorrect. We want to celebrate with you and keep our church records up to date.

Tending the Flame Conference

What's going on at Tending the Flame - speakers, workshops, worship and an Oompah Fest?! Yes, of course. In this Reformation 500 Anniversary year we just had to add this special event to the conference. Real German music and authentic German dancers will be present to entertain us. In addition, 5 congregations will share their journey in iNeighborhood. Come get your picture with Martin Luther, enjoy a polka, and engage in a time a fellowship. A special German dinner will be served find out more about this and the Tending the Flame Conference (August 4 - 5, 2017) on our website at: <http://www.se.lcms.org/ttf2017>

Men's Retreat

The Men of Advent look forward to another great weekend of fellowship, studying God's Word and growing together in Christ in 2017! We have currently reserved 10 rooms, which hold up to 20 men double occupancy, at the Trinity Center in Salter Path, NC from October 27-29, 2017. Also, for planning purposes we plan to have another retreat from October 5-7, 2018. Let Dave Neely, Bill Ackerman or John Stow know if you can attend.

Women of Advent

The Women of Advent are in recess during the summer months. See you in September!

500th anniversary of the Reformation

Save the date: November 5, 2017. On that Sunday, the LCMS churches in our district will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Joyce Rea, chairman of the prayer team for the event, writes, "We are all privileged to be part of God's love in action. . . The name of the event at Dorton Arena in Raleigh is **Changing the World, One Life at a Time**. There are so many facets to this event: worship, preaching, a free clinic, music festival, art show, kid zone, and probably more." Many volunteers are needed from every church in the district for every aspect of the celebration. To offer your help, contact John Cangelosi canjello@gmail.com>, Judy Neely <neelyjl@gmail.com>, Lois Durr <loisdurr58@gmail.com>, or Lorraine Bleeke <lorraineb1978@gmail.com>.

One thing we all can do is pray. To help make all the details come together smoothly, Joyce requests prayers for the following:

- **Publicity:** Please ask the Lord to bless the efforts of the team to let everyone in the area know about this big event.
- **Funding:** Please ask God to bless us with all the funds needed for the event. We have applied for grants and are waiting to hear if they will come through.
- **Music Festival:** Ask God to bless the efforts of the music team as they coordinate with all the churches for the orchestra, choirs, hand-bells, and talent to perform throughout the day.
- **Kid Zone:** We still need preschool teachers, staff, and volunteers to serve for a few hours each the day of the event. Please ask God to bring all the people needed.
- **Health Clinic:** We will offer blood donation, nurses for exams, vision screening, nutrition counseling, peripheral artery (PAD) screening, dental services, and more. As plans are taking shape, please ask God to provide two more leaders, one to serve as liaison with the PAD bus from Rex Hospital, and one to coordinate with the NC Food Bank who will provide nutrition information to our guests.
- **Advocates and Interpreters:** These are the key people whose efforts bring God's two touches, services and love, to our guests. Ask God to bring hundreds of people for this service. Could He possibly be touching your heart to serve in this capacity?

Prayers are essential for the success of this special celebration. "With God, all things are possible." Thank you for your prayers.

The Adventiser, the newsletter for Advent Lutheran Church, is published quarterly. Contact Karla Byrnes (kmkbyrnes@gmail.com) if you have something you would like included or have comments or suggestions.

Newsletter Deadline for the Fall 2017 issue: Tuesday, August 22, 2017

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Pastor: Rev. James McDaniels, Vacancy Pastor

Sundays

10:30am Divine Service with Holy Communion



Dates to Remember

Sunday, June 4

Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes
in recess through September 4

Sunday, June 25, 11:45am

Voter's Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 11

Resume Sunday School
and Adult Bible Classes

October 27-29, 2017

Men of Advent Retreat, Salter Path NC

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Dorton Arena
500th Reformation Anniversary Event