

Chronicle

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

September 2020

WE'RE ALL IN THIS

Together

Let's build each other up.

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Serve
Love

&
Encourage

Hebrews 10: 24-25

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A Message from Pastor Daniel Provost

Dear fellow redeemed in Christ,
Normally I'd be writing in September about school restarting, programs resuming here at the church, including Sunday School, Adult Bible Study, and the like. Or, I'd mention fall football, and have at least some mention of the Packers having a good team this year (whoops – there it is – I just can't help myself! ☺). But, so much of this is up in the air this year that there just isn't much to write about. So, I thought I'd answer a perennial question that has come from many of you – what does our Pastor do at all of these various conferences he goes to? Why is he gone 3 or 4 times a year? What could he bring back from this for our edification?

This last continuing education conference that I attended in Council Bluffs was about a very contemporary issue that faces us – the **changing definition in our culture about personhood**; specifically, who qualifies for it? Most of us would think that all people, from conception to natural death, would qualify for this designation. However, there are many movers and shakers in the contemporary culture that would beg to differ with us. Incrementally, many categories of people are in the process of having their personhood revoked – children in the womb or the elderly who are terminally ill. Frighteningly enough, some would extend this to being able to “terminate” the lives of small children (up until the age of 2 has already been proposed in a couple of state legislatures), and even those who are afraid that old age will affect their quality of life, and want to go out “on their own terms”. Life issues – some of those controversial topics that we believe in, but we wouldn't dare speak about at the dinner table with friends – that was our focus.

I think that the most surprising thing that I learned in this class from Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer is the **terrifying history of the abortion movement** (which ultimately grew out of the push for birth control). [After all, you know that I have the blessing and the curse of being an historian! ☺). Going back to the beginning of the twentieth century, thought leaders such as Margaret Sanger and Alfred Rehwinkel, Eldon Weisheit and even our own Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) were certainly of a different mind than most of us today. Remember that the CTCR, Rehwinkel and Weisheit were Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod people! Sanger, of course, was famous as one of the main pushers of birth control, and later abortion, to ultimately proposing eugenics

and eliminating undesirable characteristics in babies. You'd think that Rehwinkel (1959) and Weisheit (1976) would be completely opposed to this – but they weren't! They encouraged women considering abortion to weigh the options, and make their own decision based upon what would be best FOR THEM. This was the thinking of the “experts” of the day, they said, so we should respect them and do what they say. There was **very little theology** put into this – it was very much the pastor as a counselor, rather than pastor as a shepherd of souls, using spiritual medicine of the Word of God and the Sacraments to come up with the God-pleasing answer of preserving the life that He created.

It's scary to see how one transgression of God's Law leads to another, and then another, and then another. If we lose the idea that we are created in the image of God, then it's easy to fall into the pit of thinking that we can decide whose life has value, and whose life doesn't. Connected, but leading to different conclusions, is the theory posited by Charles Darwin that evolution created man, not our Almighty God. If man is nothing more than another animal creature, then there's no end to the decisions that he can make concerning himself, such as body mutilation (sex reassignment surgery) and the entire Transgender movement (deciding for oneself what gender a person decides that they are, not what they were created to be). We also talked about the **consequences of deviating from God's ideal marriage** of a man and a woman for a lifetime such as divorce, gay marriage, polygamy, polyamory, contract marriage, throuples and quadruples, etc. [Talk to me if you'd like to learn more about what some of these terms mean...]

The most helpful thing that we did during this week that 16 of us pastors and laypeople spent together was journeying back to the Scriptures, and finding God's ideal spelled out in the pages of the Bible. We studied Jesus' citation of marriage in the Gospels, where He says that except for marital unfaithfulness, divorce is not looked upon kindly in the eyes of God. We talked about John the Baptist leaping in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth, when he was initially in the presence of the Savior, Jesus, before either of them were born, showing that there is indeed life from conception, and certainly before natural birth. Even the institution of marriage in the Garden of Eden shows us that matrimony was instituted by God for the procreation of children and the completion of man with one that is complementary to him, rather than the same as him – one man,

one woman, for a lifetime.

I'm sure that by this point, I've touched on some controversial social issue that has impacted your life in some way. I do this with absolutely no malice intended. Far from it! I will state over and over again that there is forgiveness for every sin except the sin against the Holy Spirit, which is the refusal to believe in God Himself until the point of our earthly death. But, the church can no longer punt the ball to "experts" in the medical community or in the governmental realm, or anywhere else. We MUST be willing to be salt and light to a world that is no longer salty, and that is groping around in the darkness of sin. We cannot be milquetoast in thinking that we can shrink away from these issues – we are called by the Holy Spirit to speak the truth IN LOVE to those within our sphere of influence.

This doesn't come naturally to us – we as Lutherans are very good at blending into the woodwork, not being controversial, and staying out of the fight. Some might even think that we shouldn't weigh into these social issues at all, that we should focus on just teaching the Scriptures. But, **if we don't speak these truths, we are leaving a large portion of the Scriptures unspoken.** One would have to discount the fifth commandment, the sixth commandment, along with the first commandment, just on first blush, to avoid talking about issues of life and avoidance of depravity. The Law of God does indeed have three uses – we're used to using it for the second use, to show our sin, but we often forget about the third use, a guideline for Christian living. This class that I was just a part of was a "kick in the pants", at least to me, that I've been complacent on speaking to these dire subjects. If we don't call out specific sins, we're guilty of at least not being part of a solution to the problem.

In these grey and latter days, when the love of many has grown cold, and our government and our culture are more and more opposed to what we know to be the truth, we must build one another up, encourage each other, and urge each other to stronger faith and courageous good works. We know from Scripture that these signs are indications that the end is nearer now than when we first believed. **Perhaps we were placed in this time and place for a reason** – to be witnesses to the hope that lies within us, to a higher standard than this world has. We pray that God would use us for His purposes, and give us the words to say, and the strength to endure the persecution and ridicule that will come, for the greater good of preparing us for the world to come in heaven. Thanks

be to God that the evil of this world WILL come to an end, in His time, and according to His plan.

More to come on this subject in the future. I hope to see you in church and around the community!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Daniel M. Provost

THANK YOU!

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who helped clean brush and trees at church on August 15th. We really appreciate your help. *Trustees*

DIGITAL ACCESS

WWW.OURSAVLUTHERAN.COM

PLEASE CONTINUE TO USE OUR WEBSITE TO ACCESS DIGITAL SERVICES, BULLETINS, CHRONICLERS, ACTIVITY CALENDAR AND PASTOR'S BLOG

NEW!!

PASTORS SERMONS ARE NOW ON THE WEBSITE UNDER THE RESOURCES TAB.

CHECK IT OUT!

LIBRARY NEWS



Please see if any of these titles are something you might want to check out. Put your name on the check out card with month and year in the date area. Put the card in the card box. Please try to bring the book/dvd back within a month or so.

ADULT NON-FICTION

Title and call number

501 practical ways to love your grandparents	306.87 Son
Life after divorce	306.89 Ree
Lifelong learning	320 Gro
Christians in the marketplace	331 Hyb
Living large	332.024 Alb
Thanks for the mammogram	362.1 Wal
The hand of God	363.4 Nat
The Lodge	366.9 Ron
Speaking in stories	372.6 Whi
College bound	378.1 Win
Celebrate Jesus at Christmas	394.2 Ree
Make a Christmas memory	394.26 Kan
The very first Easter	394.26 Mai
First festivals: Christmas	394.26 Roc



LWML BYTES

The ministry of the University Lutheran Chapel addresses the very real problem of young adults being susceptible to depression leading to suicide, making it the second most common cause of death among college students. The chapel renovation has been designed to include a dedicated space for Christian counseling services to provide guidance and hope. For more information, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-14.

LWML Grant #14 for the 2019-2021 biennium is Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown Lincoln. This grant will help with the renovation of the University Lutheran Chapel, where anyone can go to be loved, to be healed with the help of Christian counselors, and to receive hope through Word and Sacrament. For more information, go to www.lwml.org/2019-2021-mission-grant-14.



THE RECIPE BOX

FALL TART

From www.soscuisine.com

Ingredients

200 g puff pastry dough
parchment paper, to line the sheet
1/4 C. white flour (all purpose)
1/4 C. brown sugar
1 tsp ground cardamom
3 apples
3 pears
1 C. cranberries
1 tbsp butter, unsalted
6 scoops vanilla ice cream
[optional]



Before you start!

Defrost the puff pastry dough at room temperature for 2 hours or overnight in the refrigerator. The dough should be flexible but still feel cold to the touch.

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400°. Butter a large baking sheet and line it with parchment paper.
2. Combine the flour, brown sugar, and cardamom in a large bowl. Peel the apples, remove and discard the cores, then cut them into 5 mm thick segments. Peel the pears, remove and discard the cores, then cut them into slightly thicker segments (about 7 mm). Place the apple and pear pieces into the flour mixture as soon as they are ready in order to avoid darkening. Add the cranberries, then toss gently to make sure the fruits are thoroughly coated.
3. On a lightly floured board, roll out the puff pastry to a 33 cm square (approx.), using a rolling pin. Place the pastry on the prepared baking sheet. Arrange the fruit in the centre of the pastry leaving an uncovered frame of about 5 cm from the edges. Fold the pastry back over the fruit. Cut the butter into small pieces and add them on top.
4. Cook the tart in the middle of the oven about 15 min. Lower the heat to 375°, then continue to cook 30-35 min, until the fruits are tender and the pastry is crisp and golden.
5. Take the tart out of the oven and set it aside to let it cool, about 15 min. Serve the tart luke-warm, with an optional scoop of vanilla ice cream on top of each serving.

QUICK PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE

From www.allrecipes.com

Ingredients

1 c. milk, divided
1 tbsp white sugar, or more to taste
1 tbsp pumpkin puree
1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
1/2 tsp vanilla extract
1/4 c. brewed espresso



Directions

1. Whisk 1/2 c. milk, sugar, pumpkin puree, pumpkin pie spice, and vanilla extract in a small saucepan over low heat. Simmer for 5 minutes. Whisk in remaining 1/2 c. milk.
2. Pour milk mixture through a fine-mesh sieve to remove pulp. Return milk mixture to saucepan and simmer, whisking, 2 minutes. Add espresso and whisk until foamy, 1 minute.

FALL ROASTED VEGGIES

From www.mealz.com

Ingredients

1 large sweet potato
1 large yellow onion
2 parsnips
1/2 tsp of nutmeg
1 tsp of salt
1 tbsp of brown sugar
1/2 tbsp of rosemary
2 tbsp of olive oil



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400°.
2. Scrub veggies under cold water and pat dry with paper towel.
3. Chop sweet potato, parsnips, and onion in large wedges.
4. Mix veggies with seasonings and olive oil in large bowl
5. Place seasoned veggies on large cooking sheet
6. Bake for about 25 minutes, flipping once halfway through baking. Broil on high for 5 minutes to crisp veggies at the end.
7. Serve hot and enjoy!

Upcoming Events in September



SEPTEMBER 7TH
LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 8TH
6:30PM TRUSTEES MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10TH
7:00PM ELDERS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15TH
6:30PM COUNCIL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18TH
Chronicle Deadline

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP
SUNDAY'S AT 9:00AM
WEDNESDAY'S AT 7:00PM

TUESDAY'S IN SEPTEMBER
BULLETIN DEADLINE - AM



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