Chronicler

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PROVOST…

Dear Fellow Redeemed in Christ,

*"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, **a peculiar people**; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*
(1 Peter 2:9, KJV, emphasis added).

It's not often that I quote the Scriptures from the King James version – some of the terminology is so out-of-date that it often confuses us. However, I have to agree with Gary Thies, from Mission Central, that this particular translation captures what St. Peter is trying to convey to the early church – we are called to be a different people, a people that look strange to the world. We're odd because we've been called by God, and given the gift of faith – that gives us an outlook on life and the world to come that's quite different than the rest of those around us. This has a number of impacts on our lives, but I'd like to briefly mention here a couple of ***weird characteristics of Lutheran Christians***, and we shouldn't be surprised to be called strange, even crazy, by those around us.

First, we preach, teach, and hear a **unique Gospel**. Most of the churches that surround us emphasize at least in part, if not totally, the reason for us being included in God's kingdom of heaven as having something to do with our own strivings. Whether it be "choosing" God, or being saved by grace and works equally, other churches water down the Gospel, and turn it into a new Law. Lutherans, on the other hand, recognize that there are two parts to the proclamation of the Word of God – the Law and the Gospel. The Law leads to the Gospel; the Law needs to be preached to secure sinners, while the Gospel needs to be preached to those who repent; the Gospel must predominate, but the Law must be a part of every sermon. The list goes on. But, I heard it said lately that you can really tell the theology of a church and pastor by what the sermon sounds like at a funeral. If it's focused on Christ and Him crucified, with some brief mention of the deceased, then you're probably dealing with an orthodox Lutheran church. But, if the sermon is littered with references to the deceased, and you're wondering where Jesus is in the sermon, then it's much less likely that you're in the right church to hear the Gospel.

Second, we have a **fleshed-out, codified doctrine** in the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It's called the **Book of Concord**. Not only do we pledge to be bound to it as a faithful exposition of the Word of God, but we actually study its pages. There are no mistakes in these 10 works – we believe that they are 100% correct according to Scripture. They help us to unpack the Scriptures, and apply them to a large number of practical, real-life situations. For example, when trying to ascertain a correct doctrine of the Holy Ministry, and how the men with these Divine Calls interact with the congregations they serve, there are no less than three articles in the Augsburg Confession, plus many other mentions throughout the Book of Concord, that deal with this subject. These articles, in turn, draw from the Holy Scriptures in John 20, Matthew 28, and Luke 24, as well as the Pastoral Epistles. There is no better read for Christians to undertake, after the Bible itself, of course, than the Confessions of our Lutheran Christian church. Other churches don't have this clarity and confidence; we as a peculiar people are blessed with these wonderful gifts.

Third, we have the **orderliness of the liturgy**, whereby for centuries we have received the gifts of God in the same way – through the means that He has given us, His Word and His Sacraments. It has always been our concern that the things that happen, and the vehicles by which the gifts are delivered, are reverent, predictable, and don't draw attention to themselves. If the changing of the liturgy doesn't distract us, then we notice the things that DO change – the hymns, the Scriptures, and the sermon. I could go on to great length about the benefits of the Divine Liturgy, but I'll suffice it to say that it's another of the things that makes confessional Lutherans distinctive in a sea of independence, individualism, and innovation that characterize the rest of Christendom.

As you can see, we are a peculiar people, and ***that's a good thing!*** We shouldn't be ashamed to be different; rather, we should be thankful that a Lutheran theology and practice have been gifted to us over the centuries, by which we are made faithful recipients of God's grace. Don't be afraid to be different; **don't be afraid to be intentionally Lutheran**! I hope to see you in church, in Bible study, and around the community!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Daniel M. Provost

our ELDERS

The **2022 Ballot** to cover the council members will be voted on during the October Voter's meeting. Currently 2 trustees and the council secretary are in the first year of a 2-year term. Assuming they will continue for another year, we still have **many positions to fill** and ask members from the congregation to prayerfully consider how they can help to fill these roles. A big thank you to Nancy for being treasurer for 6 years and to Julie for being Financial Secretary for 5 years — both beyond the normal limit of 2 terms of 2 years each. **The positions that need to be filled are President, 5-7 Elders, Treasurer, Financial Secretary, 3-4 Trustees, Education, and Mission and Evangelism.** Any interest, please let Doug Woebbeking know, and he will add your name to the ballot.

Your OSL Elders— Doug, Darryl and Ron

Lutheran Women in Mission
Lutheran Women's Missionary League

An Opportunity to Serve!
Our zone is looking for some volunteers from the society for Vice President and Secretary. Names will be placed on the ballot for the election at the Fall Rally, Oct. 30. Marsha has more information from the zone, so please let her know if you have an interest.

Tammi Christensen, Marshalltown Zone Secretary

IDE TODAY

Pick up your copy of this publication (in the Narthex) for lots of Iowa District East news.

THIS MONTH .....

AUGUST 5
6:30-8p School Supply Drive, Maytag Bowl
Concert at 7p
AUGUST 6
9a Caring and Sharing Meeting at OSL
Everyone Welcome!
AUGUST 4, 11, 18, & 25
1:30p Sunday Readings Bible Study
AUGUST 10
6:30p Trustees Meeting
6:30p Elders Meeting
AUGUST 13-15
Vacation Bible School
AUGUST 17
6:30 p Council Meeting

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR USHERS-ALTAR GUILD AND FELLOWSHIP! SIGN-UP ON CHURCH OFFICE DOOR IF YOU CAN HELP.

FRESH STRAWBERRY BUNDT CAKE RECIPE

—made with a yogurt cake batter. This moist and tender strawberry cake will make your day. *(Submitted by Julie Dlouhy)*

Ingredients

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2 cups granulated sugar
3 large eggs
3 T lemon juice, divided
Zest of 1 lemon
2 -1/2 cups flour, divided
1/2 t baking soda
1/2 t salt
8 oz. Greek yogurt, plain or vanilla
12 oz. fresh strawberries, diced
1 c powdered sugar

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease and flour a 10 in. bundt pan. In a large bowl, sift together 2 -1/4 cups of flour, baking soda, and salt. Mix in the lemon zest and set aside.
2. In a separate bowl, use an electric mixer to cream together the butter and granulated sugar until light and fluffy, 3-5 mins. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in 1 T lemon juice. Alternate beating in the flour mixture and the yogurt, mixing just until incorporated. *(con't)*

!! ICE CREAM !!

We all scream for ice cream!!

July 24—An Ice Cream Social was held for the **pure delicious fun of it**! About 25 attendees did a good job of ruining their dinner with ice cream and multiple yummy toppings! (But there was fruit, right?) Thank you to all who organized, contributed, assisted and attended!

LIBRARY NEWS

Check out this book for faith verification *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom, call number 940.54 Ten. Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch Christian watchmaker. Along with her family members, she helped many Jewish people during the World War II Holocaust to escape from the Nazis by making an upstairs "hiding place". Read about her being sent to a concentration camp and how she used her faith there. *Marsha Berndt*

Did you know…..

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO HUM WHILE HOLDING YOUR NOSE

You just tested it, didn't you? Normally, when you hum, the air is able to escape through your nose to create the sound, and of course, it can't do that when you're holding it shut.

3. Toss the strawberries with the remaining 1/4 cup of flour. Gently mix them into the batter.

4. Pour the batter into the bundt pan. Place in the oven and reduce the temperature to 325 degrees. Bake for 60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean .

5. Allow to cool at least 20 minutes in the pan, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely. Once cooled whisk together the remaining 2 T of lemon juice and the powdered sugar. Drizzle over the top of the cake.

Notes

The consistency of the yogurt and the juiciness of the berries, greatly determines the consistency of the batter. Thick (dryer) yogurt will produce a thicker batter, in which the berries won't sink to the bottom, (top) of the cake. Either way, it is a great cake. Don't worry about the thickness of the batter.