**The Monthly Newsletter of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Lindy, Nebraska**

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**The Rod and Staff**



**August 2019**

**“One Book”**

***All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.”***

* **2 Timothy 3:16 ESV**

It is well-known that the Bible is perhaps the most widely circulated book in the history of the world. And yet people often comment that for being such a “bestseller,” it remains largely unread. Part of this is due to the fact that the Bible is a different type of book than a typical beach novel. Trying to read the Bible from cover to cover, at least at first, is not the best approach. You’ll likely get discouraged after the first couple of books and quit.

Different groups of Christians have different ways of talking about how the Bible and its contents apply to us today. Interpreting the Bible and understanding its authority for the Church can be tricky at times, but we nonetheless confess that the Bible is God’s book and message for us, that it is “inspired” (from the Greek word that means “breathed out”).

The constitution of the North American Lutheran Church, of which Good Shepherd is a member, says this: *“The NALC confesses…The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God’s revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them the Holy Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.”* It goes on to say further: *“The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments [are] the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life, ‘according to which all doctrines should and must be judged. (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I).”*

For this month, I thought I would share a brief reflection on the Bible by the late Alvin Rogness, a Lutheran pastor and at one time president of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. From his book *Living in the Kingdom: Reflections on Luther’s Catechism*, we read:

*The Christian church really has but one book. Of course thousands of books have been written about the faith, but all draw from the one book, the Bible. The Bible is the basis for our faith. It is of utmost importance to Christians.*

*We who are Christians believe that the Bible is different from all other books. It is not an encyclopedia where you can look up information about birds or stars. The whole world of chemistry and biology, for instance, is not in this book. God gives us this kind of knowledge largely through studies in science.*

*The Bible is God’s book, and God reveals himself in it. He does not tell us everything about himself in this book, but he does tell us all that we need to know about him.*

*The strange thing about the Bible is that God uses it as a kind of door through which he comes to us. It is almost as if he leaps out of the pages to enter our hearts. Or think of the Bible as a lake. You sit on the bank fishing for knowledge about God. Suddenly God himself (not knowledge about him) takes the hook and pulls you in. God catches you.*

*By far the most important fact about the Bible is the Jesus Christ is in it. Luther said that the Bible is like a cradle holding Jesus…When you read through all 66 books, and I hope you will, you will find some books more interesting and helpful than others. Some of them you will read over and over again, perhaps memorizing your favorite parts. You will feed on them for courage and hope and comfort. The 23rd Psalm and John 3:16 are probably memorized more often than any other parts of the Bible. But there are many, many more great passages.*

*The pity is that we don’t read the Bible very much, even we who are Christians. Or when we do, we hurry through a few verses as if it is an unpleasant chore…The Bible can be exciting reading. Get a translation that appeals to you. Your pastor can help you choose one from the many versions now available. Try to be alone when you read…As you read, imagine that God himself is talking to you.*

* Pr. T. E. Jacobson

**Commemoration of the Saints**

Lutherans do not venerate (pray to) special people called “saints.” Our Lutheran confessional documents speak against that practice. However, those same documents that prohibit the veneration of saints encourage Christian people to look to the lives of significant Christians of the past as a source of encouragement for our lives in the present.

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We remember this month the life of **Francis of Assisi**, an Italian friar and preacher who lived from 1181-1226. The current Pope of the Roman Catholic Church took his papal name from this man and is known as “Pope Francis.” He was born into a wealthy family, but he came to reject wealth as a means to obtaining happiness. He and his followers lived a simple life of poverty.

Francis of Assisi is one of the most famous figures in world history, commonly referred to as “Saint Francis” even by non-Christians. At a time when the church hierarchy in Rome was focused on temporal power and was corrupt, in need of reform, Francis advocated for a simpler message: “To follow the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and to walk in his footsteps.” He encouraged respect for all of creation, including animals. He also sought to reach out to Muslims with the good news of Jesus Christ. The well-known hymn “All Creatures of Our God and King” was written by him. In it, he sought to remind human beings that their purpose is to give glory to God, even as the rest of creation does.

*Most high, good Lord, grant your people grace gladly to renounce the vanities of this world, that following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Featured Hymn for August**

***All Creatures of Our God and King***

*Lutheran Hymnal for Church and Home, 20*

1. All creatures of our God and king, lift up your voice with us and sing: Alleluia! Alleluia! O burning sun with golden beam and silver moon with softer gleam Refrain

Refrain: Oh, praise him! Oh praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

1. O rushing wind and breezes soft, o clouds that ride the winds aloft: Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O rising morn in praise rejoice, O lights of evening, find a voice. Refrain
2. O flowing waters, pure and clear, make music for your Lord to hear. Oh, praise him! Alleluia! O fire so masterful and bright, providing us with warmth and light. Refrain
3. Let all things their creator bless and worship God in humbleness, Oh, praise him! Alleluia! Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit Three in One. Refrain

*Note: The song of Francis of Assisi, this texts shows the warm feelings for creation by which Francis is known. He counts all creation as being among his family and capable of praising God, even death, trusting that God’s promise of life in Christ has the final word.*

**Monthly Watchword for August**

“And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’”

* Matthew 10:7 ESV

**Ushers for August:**

* Head Ushers:
  + Tim and Annie Jessen
* Ushers:
  + Jeff and Beth Barger
  + Perry and Lavonne Kolterman
  + Les and Denise Yule
  + Renee Kauth

**Website:** The web address is as follows:

* **www.gselclindy.weebly.com**

**Martin Luther’s Morning Prayer**

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I ask you to protect me this day also from sin and every evil, that in all I do today I may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all that is mine. Let you holy angel watch over me, that the wicked foe have no power over me.

**From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism:**

**The Sacrament of Baptism**

***What is baptism?***

*Baptism is not merely water; it is water used according to God’s command and connected with God’s Word.*

***What is this Word of God?***

*It is the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ as recorded in the last chapter of Matthew, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).*

**Birthdays for August**

*Note: This list of birthdays is a work in progress, as we are currently trying to gather membership information from the old congregational record into an electronic form. If your name is not listed in the appropriate month, please let pastor know your birthday so that it can be added in the future. If you would not like your name to be listed, simply let pastor know. The birthdays are provided here as a way of giving thanks for the lives of members of the congregation. Happy birthday to all!*

* August 3: Jim Petersen
* August 6: Gregg McGee
* August 9: Sandra Ziegler
* August 22: Darci Barger

**Baptismal Anniversaries for August**

*Note: Just as it is important to acknowledge the beginning of our earthly lives with our birthdays, it is even more important for us as Christians to remember the day when God has given us a new birthday, a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3). Lutherans confess that baptism is the means by which God gives us as a part of sinful humanity a new relationship with him, a promise that our faith can look to all our lives. In turn, we are called to a life of repentance and faith that trusts in Christ as our salvation. As with the birthdays, this list is a work in progress. Blessed baptismal anniversaries to everyone!*

* August 1: Larry Barnes
* August 1: Mark McManigal
* August 3: Garry Kumm
* August 3: Venita Sage
* August 5: Matthew Hanson
* August 18: Ryder Eckmann
* August 20: Addison Barger
* August 20: Troy Poppe
* August 22: Ashley Guenther
* August 23: Elliot Olson
* August 24: Jacob Stewart
* August 25: Tara Barger
* August 27: Kora Poppe

**Worship Schedule**

August 4: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Pastor gone at NALC convocation in Indianapolis; youth led; **Note: No Holy Communion**) (Green)

August 11: Ninth Sunday after Pentecost **with Holy Communion** at altar rail (Pastor and family on vacation; Pr. Larry Jerke presiding) (Green)

August 18: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost with Holy Communion in continuous line (Green)

August 25: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

**Important Announcements**

* We will continue, once a month on the fourth Sunday of the month, having a time of adult education during the Sunday school hour, starting at 9:30 AM. This month, it will be on August 25.
* The Church council meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14 at 7:00 PM, unless the council would like to move it to the following week since Pr. Tom will still be away.
* The Women of the Word/Women of the North American Lutheran Church will meet at the usual time of 10:00 on Wednesday August 21.
* Pr. Tom will be away first at the NALC convocation in Indianapolis and then on vacation from August 2-15. If there is an emergency requiring a pastor during that time, contact Pr. Dani Jo (Ninke) Bierwagen at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton (605) 665-8848 (church number) or (605) 661-2796 (cell); many thanks to the youth and others for leading worship on August 4, and thanks to Pr. Larry Jerke for filling in on August 11! Please come and give him a warm welcome.
* There will be an introductory meeting for any new confirmation students (seventh graders) on Wednesday August 28 at 7:00 PM.

**August 2019**

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| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4  Worship, 10:30, No Holy Communion as usual; Pr. Tom away; youth led)  Green | 5 | 6 | 7  Pr. Tom away at NALC convocation | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11  Worship, 10:30 with Holy Communion (altar rail); Pr. Larry Jerke presiding  Green | 12 | 13 | 14  Pr. Tom away on vacation, returning August 15  Church council meeting, 7:00 PM? | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18  Worship, 10:30; Holy Communion (continuous)  Green | 19 | 20 | 21  Pr. Tom in Lindy | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25  Adult education, 9:30  Worship, 10:30  Green | 26 | 27 | 28 29 30 31  Pr. Tom in Lindy  Confirmation  Meeting for new  Students, 7:00 PM | | | |
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Good Shepherd Evangelical

Lutheran Church of Lindy

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