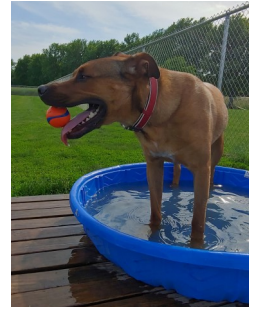


The Reverend's Ruminations - August 2021



As we swelter under yet another heat wave, still with little moisture on the crops and lawns, it's no doubt that we're in the "dog days of summer." I'm not so sure that the dogs of the area even enjoy having their persona attached to such heat, but who am I to change an historic idiom? Maybe we should all follow the lead of our canine family members, Lando (left) and Obi-Wan (right), and enjoy a dip in a pool or local lake!



Despite the undeniable summer climate, some of our church boards and the council have already begun looking ahead to what for many has become another checkpoint in the return from COVID restrictions: **autumn**—and a new school year. As I mentioned in last month's "Ruminations," we are cautiously optimistic that improved (albeit slowing) vaccination rates in the area may allow us to resume some of our favorite church activities like the Free Community Meal or an adult Sunday School class by September. Christian Education opportunities for all ages are set to kick off on September 12, so I hope that you will take part whether you're 3, 83, or anywhere between (and beyond)!

Before we get the cart before the horse (wow, another old idiom in the same article?), maybe we should think about August. "Minnesota's Other Big Fair" (the Martin County Fair) and THE Minnesota State Fair are still on the horizon, but will be here before you know it. At church during the month of August, our sermons will continue to draw from the epistle lessons in the Revised Common Lectionary, and specifically Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. We've already spent the last three weeks of July looking at selections from the first three chapters of Ephesians, so if you're staying cool indoors and are looking for an easily accessible book of the Bible, check out the remaining three chapters—or read through Paul's letter in its entirety to prepare for the upcoming worship experience.

The city of Ephesus was a metropolitan port city important to the Persian, Egyptian, and Roman Empires, and located near the western shores of modern-day Turkey. As such it was a melting pot of many cults and religions of those eras. Fairmont may not be quite as strategic or metropolitan, but our modern world continually bombards us with influences, both evil and holy, each and every day. As Paul encouraged the young Christian congregation in Ephesus, so I encourage you as it may apply:

"Now this I affirm and insist on in the Lord: you must no longer live as the Gentiles live, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of their ignorance and hardness of heart. They have lost all sensitivity and have abandoned themselves to licentiousness, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. That is not the way you learned Christ! For surely you have heard about him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus. You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (4:17-24, NRSV)

May the remainder of your summer be filled with warmth, family, and opportunities of rejuvenation for your soul.

Yours in Christ's service,

Rev. Cory Germain