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# CONNECTION

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Our Savior Lutheran Church

Mesquite, TX

August 2020

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## LEADERSHIP: JESUS-STYLE

Jesus never taught a course on leadership. But Jesus was a leader. He modelled leadership. Every moment of his life he showed what leadership means.

The essence of being a leader is to lead by example. Jesus never asked anyone to do something that he wouldn't do himself. Take up your cross? He did it. Be a servant? He washed feet. Love your neighbor? Jesus excluded no one—not even the despised tax collector or the diseased leper.

Anyone who claims to be a leader today must be held to the same standard. Wear a mask? Don't ask without wearing one. Start normal school? Don't mandate if you won't send your own children. Social distance? Don't promote mass gatherings.

A crisis in leadership happens when leaders expect a different standard than their followers and are not held accountable as is everyone else. We are in that crisis of leadership... and it not only affects our country, it affects our leadership around the world.

We are no longer leaders in the fight against climate change. We withdrew from international networking and cooperation. We are not leaders against autocratic rulers. In many cases, we befriend them...often for financial benefit. We are not leaders in the coronavirus pandemic. We withdrew funding from the World Health Organization. We are leaders, though, in one aspect... in cases, in death, in mixed messaging and mixed communication.

No, Jesus never taught a course in leadership, but he showed us what leadership means. It means honesty, accountability, compassion, and empathy... because if you can't feel how others feel, you can't be their leader.

Jesus, you see, didn't lead from an ivory tower. He came down to be with us. He shared the birthing experience from a manger. He empathized with life's journey by experiencing life to the fullest. He felt how rejection and suffering feels on the ground, in a garden called Gethsemane, and at Golgotha. He tasted our death on a cross.

Jesus never wrote a book on leadership, but he is the book. And Jesus invites us to follow in his footsteps and write our own book on leadership—the Jesus way... through honesty, accountability, compassion, empathy... and love.

## SUNDAY, JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 9-10AM “THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS”



We'll have Communion again by car, once again, on July 26<sup>th</sup>, so we can commune with the saints of Our Savior and two saints who we commemorate this week—Mary Magdalene and James. We will again have stations and practice strict social distancing between cars! We will also celebrate Holy Communion with the only contact being you and those in your car. Pastor Schelter will say the Words of Institution at the Communion station. There will also be a station for you to drop off canned goods and/or an offering. Unlike fast food drive-thrus, there will be no charge. Just get ready to go marching in with all the saints at our Communion of Saints drive-thru. (You will never have to get out of your car. The drive-thru should take about 5 minutes. And don't forget to watch our 11am Facebook Live service—July 26<sup>th</sup>. Next Communion Drive-thru is scheduled for August 30 from 9-10am—weather permitting of course.)

## BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS...

No one is sure when or how school will start, so we won't schedule Blessing of the Backpacks. We will wait to celebrate our students and teachers when we have figured out the new school year. Maybe we'll have a Blessing of the Laptops at the August 30 drive-thru. In the meantime, we pray for the safety of our students and teachers alike.

## When Will We Start In-Person Worship?

Our hearts say now, but the numbers say no. The church council decided last Sunday to wait until the early fall to re-evaluate the possibility of in-person worship. Until the numbers let up in a significant way, it seems the risk is still too great. We would like to be able to almost guarantee the safety of our worshippers in-person. Until then, stay posted... and always feel free to express your thoughts on the best way to move forward in these unprecedented times. (When we do resume, there will be necessary precautions in place, including perhaps having our first service outdoors under the shade trees.)

## Nancy's Health Notes

Have you ever felt as if you don't belong? With the limitations with which we are currently living, lots of questions arise about belonging. There are many factors that contribute to confusion and feelings of isolation that may be long standing.

In past decades, it was not uncommon to be born, grow up, and settle in the same town. Those individuals will refer to their "home town." However, that sense of belonging does not exist for everyone, especially for those families who moved frequently. Heads of households were responsible for the primary financial well-being of the family and would follow where the work was found. The parents of these families had their "home town" but what happened to the kids? New schools, new friends, and new neighborhoods were obstacles to the kids being able to gain a feeling of belonging.

The feeling of not belonging may last a lifetime or may dissipate as lives become intertwined. Everyone needs to feel as if they are part of a group: it is second nature.

Some of the areas where people are part of a group include: the work environment, sports activities, clubs, and religious groups. How does a person know if they fit in? At work, you do not get fired. During sporting events, you are actively participating, not just a bench warmer. Some clubs are open to anyone such as a garden club because of a common interest. There are also exclusive clubs whose members are by invitation only. Each of these areas have criteria which define the responsibilities one has as a participant.

Church is another story. If a person enters a church for the first time, do they feel welcomed or not. Labeling a church as a welcoming place does not always reflect reality. We each have areas where we like to sit. What if a new person is sitting in a pew where a long-time member sits? If a new member signs up to help at a dinner, are they included in the activity and the conversation and included in the future dinners? There are areas where long-standing members are accustomed to completing a task with each other; which may cause the new member to not feel included. There is a difference between not being included and being excluded.



During the extended period of time we are away from church, a new set of concerns arise. Are we staying connected as a church family? The daily devotions Pastor Schelter has on the phonetree are a positive example of being connected. The Connection is another way and has value in learning of some specific needs within the church. I found the pen pal to be an excellent way to feel connected and just maybe become acquainted with a family who usually attends at a different time.

Think about those things you have done or said that enhances the sense of belonging for another person.

You must have self-respect: only then can you respect somebody.

When you become part of the universe, the universe becomes part of you.

Life is a flow of love: your participation is requested.

*Nancy Wilson, RN, FCN*

# AUGUST

## BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
7	Austin Morton
13	Jon Cook
14	Tanner Faaborg
	Randy Peterson
16	Christine Hocker
17	Diana Bruneau
	Renata del-Busto
19	Brandi Dannen
	Sophie DeShazo
	Jake Lippincott
	George Morton
20	Jeremy Richardson
	Serenity Tran
21	Kay Crawford
23	Kaethe Combs
	Alice Hofer
	Pauline Hutchinson
	Marie Villegas
24	Teresa Hall
25	Phoenix Nawroki
26	Ashton Brockman
27	Shay Semmler
31	Richard Mastin
	John Schelter
	Kathryn Utoska

## BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Date	Name
1	Christina Gipson
	Jasmine Gipson
4	Chuck Philbrick
9	Sonja Conoly
12	Cynthia Lubben
24	Robert Hutchinson
31	Laura Stidd



## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Date		Years
10	Michael & Sonja Conoly	29
25	Mark & Carol Murray	41

## *Whatever Happened to Reformation 500?*



The coronavirus has cancelled our fellowships, potlucks, skits, and Martin Luther shenanigans. It seems like a long time ago that we celebrated the showdown in Augsburg and the musical in Leipzig. In fact, it's been over a year, and, as Texans say about Pace picante sauce, "Podnah, that's been too long!" In 1520, there were no showdowns or debates, but that didn't stop Luther. He was busy writing... and 500 years ago in the summer and fall of 1520 Luther published 3 chief writings, which today are considered 3 of the greatest reformation treatises.

The first was entitled "To the Christian Nobility" and it appeared in August of 1520. It was followed in September by "The Captivity of the Church" and in October by "The Freedom of the Christian."

That gives us something to celebrate. So, this August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, we'll have a Zoom meeting for the first of Luther's writings. We'll Zoom-in on one of Luther's most powerful writings in which Luther espoused "the priesthood of all believers." This treatise started the reformation not only of the church, but all of political society. (If you let us know in advance that you're going to Zoom-in on August 19, we'll send you some reading material in advance so we can have a well-informed discussion. There will be a link on Facebook in August or if you email in advance, we'll email you the link.) While we won't be back in Leipzig's Auerbach Keller, we'll still have a toast to good ole' Marty Luther as the Reformation 500 rally rolls on.





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"I GUESS I NEVER REALIZED HOW NON-ESSENTIAL YOU ARE."

Mr. President, about the masks you've sent so far...



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