

Faith Lutheran Church

FAITHLINES

FROM PASTOR CODY

Cody Blust, Pastor
 Pat Hoar, Secretary
 Rebecca Keck, Music Director
 Shelley Grubb, Bell Choir
 Steve Conrad, Gardens
 Will Melick, Grounds
 Randy Peck, Custodian



“Do all you can to preach the gospel and if necessary use words!” – St. Francis of Assisi

What does it mean to share the gospel? Do we merely say the words and call that enough? Do we need to use words at all to share the gospel? According to the quote above, St. Francis claims that living out the Gospel, that is a life exemplifying what the gospel teaches, is the best way to share the Gospel.

Through the example of Jesus and the Disciples we see that both are needed together to fully share the Gospel. We see there is a merger of both teaching the good news and living out what was taught in the way Jesus and his disciples interacted with people.

Through the examples of Jesus and the Disciples, along with the reminder from St. Francis of Assisi, we learn that it is not enough to simply say the words or act out what we believe but we need to do both in tandem. We need to do both to not only show by our actions but to vocalize why we do what we do. Merely serving others can be attributed to any number of things, but through sharing why we are serving others, sharing God’s love with the world, we give a fuller witness to our God. May we be brave enough to share the Gospel with both our words and our deeds so that everyone has the chance to share in the love God pours out on all of us.

Inside this issue:

Jesus Calling	2
Book Corner	2
Composer’s Craft	3
Birthdays and Anniversaries	4
President’s Ponderings	4
To Know and Share God’s Love	6
First Fridays	6

DAILY DEVOTIONS

The July through September daily devotional books *Portals of Prayer* and *Christ in Our Home* are available in the rack by the entrance door.

EUCHRE

We will be having Euchre on July 17th at 6:00 pm at the Eastern Star facility, Iris Section. Come join us. Please bring a snack to share.

JESUS CALLING

We will meet Monday, July 6th, at 11 am. Cheryl Johnson will lead us through the last chapter of “Promised Rest” by Michelle Diercks, pages 192-215.

We will start a new book in August. “The Gift of Years” by Joan Chittister.

BOOK CORNER

Graham, Billy, *The Reason For My Hope*, W Publishing Group (Thomas Nelson), Nashville, Tennessee, 2013; 207 pp.

Decades ago, when I was at a very low point in my life, there was a Billy Graham Crusade being held in the old Cooper Stadium in the Bottoms of Columbus just south of the I-70 freeway. I decided to attend, and there, aside from being rejuvenated in my faith, and worshipping with thousands of others I had never met, I purchased about half a dozen of Graham's books at a stand on the way out of the stadium. This book was one of them.

Billy Graham, as most older Americans know, has touched millions worldwide who needed Jesus in their lives. He has touched more people face-to-face with the Gospel than any person in history, and has done so on every continent and in over 185 countries. Many of his books have become classics, and this, I believe is one of them.

The book is about Salvation. There are some hard truths written here, but among those is God's promise that Jesus came "to seek and save that which was lost." (Luke 19: 10) This book, one of Graham's last, written in his 90's, comes at a time of turbulence in the collective and individual souls of people everywhere. His message in light that illuminates the darkness. Here, Graham reminds us that the salvation we seek, and receive from the Lord is from our own self-destructive thoughts, desires, and actions. This is summarized on the dust jacket, where it states "If we don't think we need salvation, we're fooling ourselves. If we think we are beyond salvation, we're underestimating God. If we just don't want to think about salvation, we're putting ourselves in eternal peril." This message is a breath of fresh air for those who seek their way from despair and disillusionment. Graham reminds the reader that "When God spoke to the prophet Isaiah about the coming salvation, He told him to write down everything he heard. 'that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever,' (Isaiah 30: 8 ESV) and, 'Therefore the Lord wants to be gracious to you. . .blessed are all those who wait for him.'" (v. 18, ESV)

These books are not scripture, but they turn us toward scripture, and, with prayer, can lead us to the Word that God gives us to direct our lives and bring us closer to the God who created and loves us beyond measure. I would highly recommend this book. *DK*

**The teachers and directors at Learning Lighthouse
that go far above the beyond to meet kids’ needs.**

COMPOSER'S CRAFT

Sublime

Crown Him With Many Crowns and In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Oftentimes as we praise God in song with hymns from our worship service book *Evangelical Book of Worship*, we encounter words or phrases that are so familiar to us that we sing them without thinking too much of the meaning, and yet, at other times we continue to wonder what some of these might mean, yet never look further to find the meaning. Such may be the case for many of you reading this, as it has been for me since I was a child with the word *sublime*, found in many Christian hymns, but for the purposes of this writing, found in two hymn favorites to many that are included in our book of worship. Those hymns are *Crown Him With Many Crowns* (ELW #855/856), and *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW #324).

Aside from those hymns, I first had this very descriptive word called to my attention in a History of Art survey course, taken as an adult, as one of three chronologically organized, at The Ohio State University. It was introduced specifically relevant to the course topic when studying the period of Romanticism in the arts, including literature, visual arts, architecture, and music. Romanticism was a reaction to the logical and reason of the previous period in the arts known as "The Age of Reason," or, in short "The Enlightenment." It was, as *The American College Dictionary* states, ". . .characterized by freedom of treatment, imagination, picturesqueness, (and) subordination of form to matter. . . (and) proper to romance, rather than to real or practice life; fanciful; unpractical; quixotic..." (p 1053) Included in this period of literature was the advent of Gothic literature, introduced by Mary Shelley in *Frankenstein*, and further developed and popularized by the poems and short stories of Edgar Allan Poe. Included in the visual arts expressions of Romanticism, such as the Hudson River School of painting, was the concept of the sublime. The aforementioned dictionary defines sublime in this same context as "elevated or lofty in thought, language, etc., impressing the mind with a sense of grandeur or power; inspiring awe..." (p 1205) It is no accident, then, that our target hymns were written in 1825 (*In the Cross of Christ I Glory*) and 1851 (*Crown Him With Many Crowns*), which were the middle and latter stages of Romanticism in the art world.

The first of these, taken chronologically, was written by John Bowring (1792-1872). Legend had it that this hymnist was inspired by the destruction of a cathedral on the island of Macao, near Hong Kong, which left only the front wall to remain with a blackened cross, eventually weathered by time as well. This story is similar to that of the tragedy of 9/11, which left behind a cross-shaped beam that became a special place for meditation for Christians in New York. The legend is appealing as it relates to this hymn because of the phrase in it "...tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time..." It may be a compelling story, even though its accuracy may be suspect. What is not suspect is how the popular tune associated with the hymn was written.

The tune most associated with this hymn is also titled *Rathbun*, interestingly named for a soprano member of the choir at Central Baptist Church in Norwich, Connecticut, where the composer, Ithamar Conkey, was the church. One very rainy Sunday morning, Mrs. Beriah S. Rathbun, that soprano, (note, not a baritone member) was the only choir member to appear for worship. Disappointed, Conkey closed up the organ and went home, noting the sermon series topic was Christ on the Cross. It was then and there that his attention was turned to this hymn, and when he created the tune that was so associate with it. In our hymnal and worship book, the line utilizing "sublime" is "...all the light of sacred story, gathers round its head sublime." So beautifully fitting.

Our second hymn from our worship book, *Crown Him With Many Crowns*, is equally interesting in its background and use of the word sublime. It's most common stanzas were written by two composers, Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903). It was originally written by Bridges in six eight-line stanzas referencing Revelation 19: 12, "...and on his head were many crowns". Eventually there were twelve stanzas, all beginning with a different first line.

Bridges wrote this hymn based on Revelation 19: 12: "...and on His head were many crowns." Bridges eventually converted to Roman Catholicism in 1848, and some of his verses were interpreted as "overly Roman Catholic" by some in the establishment Anglican Church (Church of England).

As a result, extra stanzas were added by Godfrey Thring as a result of controversy over some of the verses written by Bridges as "overly Catholic." Godfrey Thring was a strict Anglican clergyman who added six new verses, for the total of twelve that have wound up in various Protestant hymnals in various combinations.

In our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* book (cranberry), the line including our feature term "sublime," we sing in verse four: "Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time, creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime..." Incidentally, entirely consistent with the use of "sublime" in the context in which we have been discussing it here, *ineffably* is defined as "...that (which) cannot be uttered or expressed..." Indeed. DK

BIRTHDAYS

07/01 Stephen Rowe
 07/02 Bob Atwell
 07/05 Virginia Lundquist, Steve Norberg,
 Mya Wildermuth
 07/08 Jill Park, Carley Cammuse
 07/14 Patti Dice
 07/15 Christina Barnard
 07/16 Kathy Atwell
 07/22 Rachel Cammuse
 07/24 Cathy Adamski
 07/26 James Morey, Jessica Howard
 07/27 Tammy Stull
 07/28 Betty McDonald, Joe Curran
 07/30 Fran Smyser, Stan Park, Martha Denman
 07/31 Isabelle Conkle



ANNIVERSARIES

07/12 James & Kelley Morey
 07/20 Paul & Molly Ulery



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Summer is in full swing, and in the United States we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation. Thinking about how we mark important milestones in our national community made me think about how seldom we talk about or celebrate milestones in our faith

journeys. We may celebrate the anniversary of the founding of a congregation, as we did last year, or of the ordination anniversary of a pastor, but I don't ever remember talking about or celebrating anyone's baptism or confirmation anniversary. I could look up my dates for those, but I don't have them stored in my memory. However, I think there are more significant moments in my journey than those formal occasions. I believe the significance of these moments is not the date on which they occurred, but the impact they have had on my faith.

One of these moments occurred for me many decades ago when I was a young teenager in catechism class. I had an inquisitive mind and always questioned things that didn't make logical sense to me. During a discussion in which I had asked such questions, my pastor didn't chastise me or tell me that I just had to believe it on God's authority. Rather, he gave me permission to have doubts about my faith. He encouraged me to share them with him, my classmates, and especially with God. The concept that I could have doubts and still be loved by God was life changing for me. I know that it provided fertile soil for my growing faith and has allowed it to grow stronger throughout my life.

What moments in your faith journey do you have to celebrate?

In Christ's love,
 Sally Berger
 Council President

ELCA NEWS

ELCA Receives Lilly Endowment Grant to Strengthen Lutheran Disaster Response June 1, 2026

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has received a \$1.2 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its initiative Hope After the Storm: Capacity Building for Faith-Based Disaster Relief Organizations. The grant will enable Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to strengthen its capacity to support communities through sustained, long-term recovery.

SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD NEWS

Every fall at Jacob's Porch is full of chances to meet new people around campus. The very first Sunday of the semester we head out to the Oval along with hundreds of other organizations to meet new students and share about our community at the Student Involvement Fair.

It was at one of these fairs that we met Damian for the first time. He was a transfer student coming into his junior year when he first heard about us but was deeply interested and growing in his new discovery of the Catholic church. In the beginning of this year, as he began seeking more chances to find a faith community, he came to Jacob's Porch and has described his time with us as "the best semester of his entire school career." It was during his time at Jacob's Porch that he began to find a sense of belonging and acceptance he had yet to find in other campus ministries.

Damian is someone with a great sense of adventure and a desire to travel all over the world. He is interested in going to a maritime academy and setting to the sea to explore even more after college. Getting to learn his deep thirst for knowledge, Jacob's Porch has been a place he has felt he has received "intellectual and theological knowledge greater than any he's heard anywhere before" from the ministers and community. This has been a place for him to grow as a person, learn about Jesus, social issues, marginalized voices, and how they are a part of a theologically active faith and life. Damian says, "Being a part of Jacob's Porch, he feels like he is a better person and a better Christian."

Jacob's Porch has become a home for him and though he wishes he could have found us sooner, is so grateful to be a part of this community. His hope as he finishes up his time at OSU is that more people find Jacob's Porch. He says, "if anyone is lonely and the school feels too big, my hope is they find us in order to have a place to belong and be accepted as they are."

Jacob's Porch is your Lutheran Campus Ministry serving college students across central Ohio and is located at The Ohio State University. If you would like to connect a student to Jacob's Porch, become a church partner with your congregation or support the ministry financially or in other ways you can go to www.jacobsporch.com or contact Pastor Grant Eckhart directly at grant@jacobsporch.com.

The uplifting of God's spirit throughout our community.

TO KNOW AND SHARE GOD'S LOVE

Romans 15:7—Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Do we accept everyone who sets foot in our church ? Back in A day, there were those who when a stranger came to church and sat down in “ My “ pew seat there might have been resentment. They have had that seat for twenty years ! Are we welcoming ? Do we just say, here, take my seat ? Or come sit with us ? Here is a bulletin ? We all need to be accepting of anyone who walks through the doors of our church home. ANY ONE! We also need to reach out to others, ANY ONE who might not be attending church. INVITE them to share our HOME church. Remember we are trying to get one new person per family to come to our church. JUST ONE..... ANY ONE...*Art Schad*

FIRST FRIDAYS

The next First Friday will be July 3rd. The theme will be “PARTY LIKE IT’S 1776.”

Celebrate the spirit of independence with a patriotic First Friday honoring America’s 250th anniversary. Red, white, and blue fun, historic nods, and all-American energy make this a star-spangled summer celebration. Faith Lutheran will once again be part of the First Friday events with a booth on Main Street. We are looking for volunteers to help out with the events doing things like setting up, talking to people or running games, and cleaning up our booth after the event. There is a sign-up sheet by the church kitchen volunteers are asked to sign up on. If you have questions, please reach out to Pastor Cody or Kaitlyn for more information.

VBS THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped out with our Vacation Bible School! All the kids had a great time and learned a lot about the Fruit of the Spirit, and making new friends. We could not have made our VBS happen without our hardworking volunteers. We appreciate all those who gave their time to share their gifts in music, crafts, games, sharing in skits, and preparing food for the kids to enjoy.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

The collection is almost there! **Two hundred more dollars** is needed for the ELCA to buy a computer for a community that needs one. The donation collection can is on the table on Sundays in the Fellowship Hall.



Rain so I don't have to water the garden.

Faith Lutheran Church
170 Mansfield Avenue
Mt. Vernon, OH 43050
Phone: 740-393-3666
Fax: 740-393-2729
E-mail: faithlutheranmtvernon@gmail.com

We're on the Web!
FLCMTV.org

Our Mission Is To Know and Share God's Love



Worship Sunday 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15



A mother that supported a life with Christian hope and love.