

Faith Ev. Lutheran Church

714 N Grand Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-2216



2020 July/August Newsletter

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation

Our 2020 Confirmation date is Sunday, August 30 at our 11:00 am service. The Day of Questioning and reading of essays will be Wednesday, August 26 at 6:30 pm.

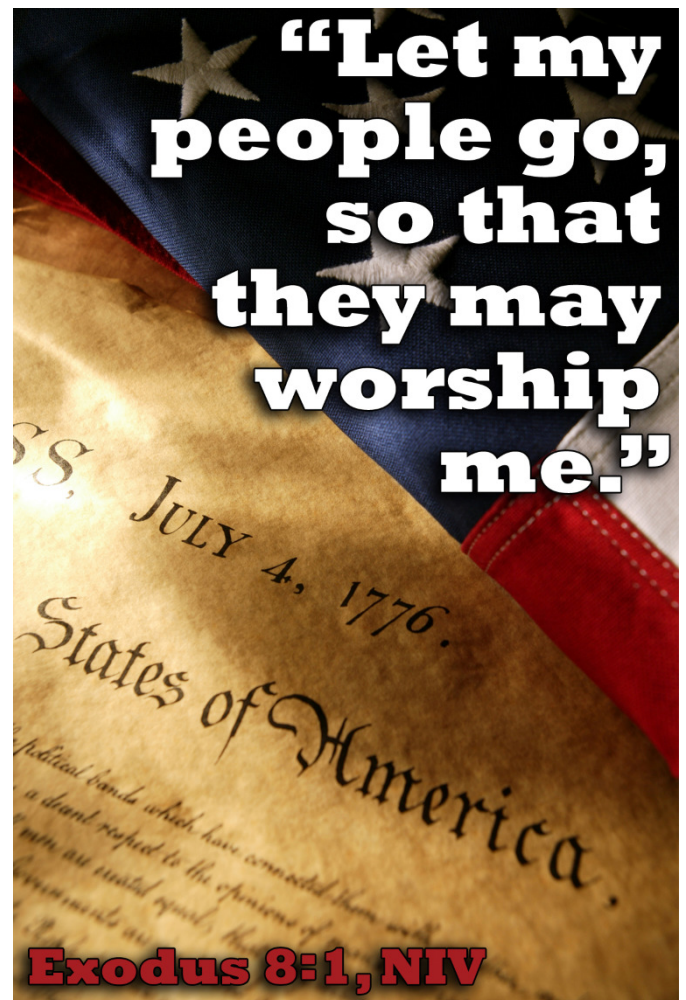
Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 am

Communion 1st and 3rd Sunday of the Month

11:00 am

Communion 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month



Exodus 8:1, NIV

Sent Forth By God's Blessing



On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. (John 20:19-20)

Our text tells us that the disciples gathered in fear on that first Easter Sunday. They were afraid for their lives. They truly thought that those who killed Jesus were now going to come after them and kill them, too! The bottom line is that they had no peace, and they lacked a faith that believed Jesus would rise from the dead.

Many things scare us. Some people are afraid of heights. Other people are afraid of the dark. Studies show that people are most often scared by spiders, snakes and other creepy crawly things. In today’s world, there is a fear of the Coronavirus. So, what is it that scares you?

Perhaps you’ve outgrown a fear you had when you were young. Yet as we grow older, we realize that a new set of fears have arisen. Will our health hold up? Will our children be okay when they leave the house? Will we have enough money to support ourselves? All of these “fears” are things that are out of our control. They, too, rob us of peace – which is where faith in Jesus comes in.

Just as the disciples could not control the enemies of Jesus, so we can’t control the economy, disease, or people who wish to cause harm. Oh, if only Jesus would appear to us and say, “Peace be with you!”

But don’t be fooled. This “peace” Jesus gives is not intended to make all the bad things in this life go away. The peace Jesus gives strengthens us as we endure the many difficult challenges of life. The peace Jesus gives also lifts our eyes from the temporary things of this world to the eternal things of heaven. The peace Jesus gives is the assurance that our sins are forgiven, and we will be in heaven forever with him.



In Jesus Christ, there is truly nothing to fear. Neither terrorists, illness, thieves, storms, nothing can take away the eternal promises our Lord has made to us. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:38-39) Trusting in him and His words, we will have the peace Jesus gives.

As we prepare to observe birth of our nation on July 4th, I encourage you to say a pray thanking God for the peace and freedoms He gives. Especially for the peace and freedoms we have enjoyed and continue to enjoy as a country as well as those who have died defending these freedoms and securing this peace.

In Service to Christ and Neighbor,

Pastor Cory T. Rji



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“Now I Depart”

Last month, we considered how the colors of our church decorations help us to remember different parts of Jesus' life. We tried to stay focused on the paraments, those cloths on the altar, pulpit, and lectern. Now this month, we will talk about the banners. They have an extra ability to focus our attention in new ways.

I want to discuss a particular banner. This one is new, and it was also given as a memorial. We will be using it this coming Reformation Day (in October). Hopefully, this will allow you to see the banner in a new way. The banner is red, which is the color of Reformation Day. We remember the Holy Spirit, who comes down upon God's people. One of those people, Martin Luther, was particularly influential in the life of the church.

Martin Luther is hold-

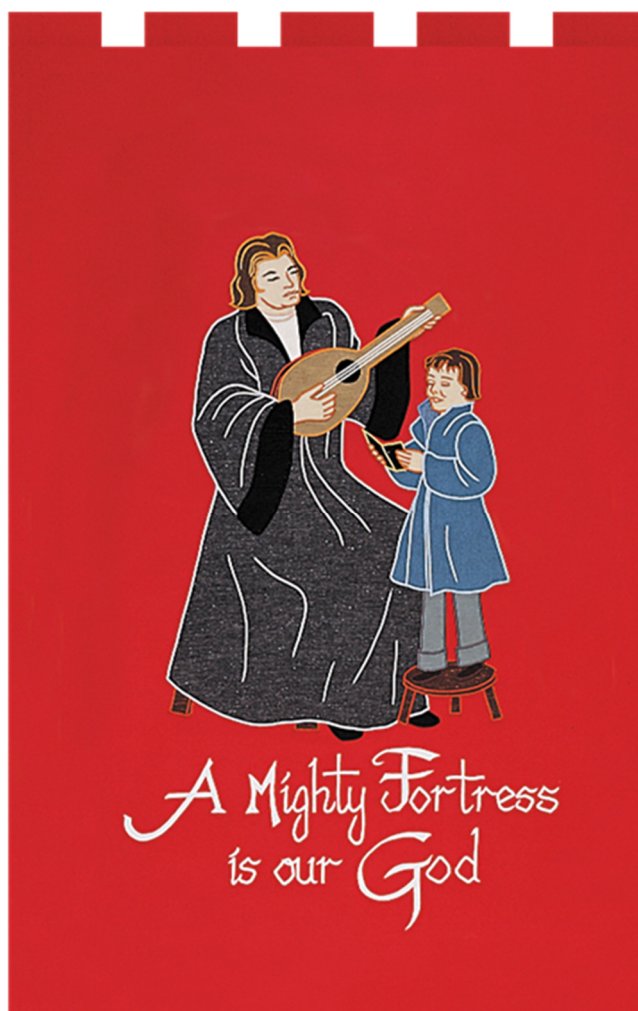
ing a lute (old-time guitar) and singing with a boy. He taught how music is uniquely able to communicate God's Word. Many of our songs are paraphrases of God's

But Martin Luther is not alone. That boy is also singing with him. This faith is not meant to be kept to ourselves. We learn about God so that, as one reason among many, we can teach the faith to our children. Those might not be biological children, but any youngsters who come to church. The banner is able to communicate to us: our faith, given to us by the Holy Spirit, is wonderfully transmitted through song, and in many forms, is given to a new generation of God's people.

Each banner is different, and I could write about any of them. As you see them, try to uncover what they are telling you about God.

We're getting towards the end of our look at objects in the sanctuary. Next time, we will further explore music and singing.

Pastor Sam



Word. He wrote a wide variety of songs. One that we sing on Reformation Day is “A Mighty Fortress is Our God.” Those words are written at the bottom of the banner.

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O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING!

“The Lord is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation. He is my God and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.” Exodus 15:2

During the course of the pandemic, many people, including myself, turned to music for comfort and connection. I constantly listened to music, whether it was radio, CD’s or YouTube. While I know I don’t speak for everyone, music is my happy place; it transports me to a different level, and often brings back memories – both good and painful. Because of that, I decided to create a “playlist” of sorts; a variety of some of my favorite sacred vocal music. I say “some,” because after I started listing selections and thinking about them, it was obvious I had enough material to write a thesis! I included hymns, choral selections and contemporary recordings.

I grew up in Minnesota, Land of 10,000 Lakes, also known as the Land of 10,000 Choirs. Choral Country! Minnesota is known for its deep roots of exceptional choral singing, performance and composition; born from the strong vocal music traditions of German and Scandinavian immigrants. Singing is a social experience – a cheap way to make music, since everyone has a built-in instrument. Growing up, singing and music were a large part of my life.

LSB507 “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” (NICEA)
This is the first hymn I memorized as a kid.

We learned hymns in VBS and Sunday School, and I have memories of my home congregation heartily singing this stirring hymn every Trinity Sunday. It can stand alone in place of the Sanctus.

LSB501 “Come Down, O Love Divine” (DOWN AMPNEY)
The music of this Pentecost hymn was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams. It is a staple of the Anglican Hymnal, and its lovely text is a sensitive invitation to the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts and kindle them aglow with his holy flame.

“I WILL PRAISE THEE, O LORD” (SSATB - Knut Nystedt)
I sang this arrangement of Psalm 9:1,2 as a junior in high school. Our a cappella chorus of 60+ students met for re-

hearsals in the gymnasium. The full sound of the ensemble gave me shivers every time – voices raised higher than the basketball hoops!

“BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR” (SSAATTBB - F. Melius Christian- sen) Another a cappella selection sung my junior year in high school chorus, this hymn of praise to our wonderful Savior begins with seamless and exquisite humming. We took it to contest and earned a Superior rating. The St. Olaf Choir traditionally ends every concert with this choral treasure – how can one ever doubt the existence of God?

“ROCK OF AGES” (Sung by Chris Rice) Rice’s simple vocals and tag ending are supported by a beautiful piano accompaniment. “Rock of Ages” is an endearing term for God. The message is that humans, through their own efforts, could never repay the sacrifice and bloodshed of God’s son.

“STAY WITH US” (setting by Egil Hovland) This arrangement by the Norwegian composer shows off the lyrical beauty of the choral sound. The reassuring text is taken from Luke 24:29, the account of the Road to Emmaus. It is a perfect hymn for the evening.

LSB336 “Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending” (HELMSLEY) This Advent hymn is based on Revelation 1:5-7. The text is a thrilling visual which tells of awaiting the second coming of Jesus Christ.

One can picture the dazzling sight of Christ in all his glory, descending to earth with the clouds.

“YOU SAY” (sung by Lauren Daigle) This contemporary Christian piece spoke to me as I was caring for my husband during his last year-and-a-half of life. A good share of the time I was operating on little to no sleep; I was exhausted and felt physically and emotionally weak. I was also trying to keep all my other commitments as well. “You” in this song is God himself. It was a reminder of God’s unfailing love, and that love is a source of strength.

SING! Continued on next page

SING! continued

“GIVE ME JESUS” (sung by Danny Gokey) The American spiritual is born from the struggle of the Black people, and one of my favorite genres. Gokey’s version is heartfelt and soulful, stripped raw. I asked Rodd to sing this in like style at my husband’s memorial service. Its message clings to the only hope of mankind – Jesus. Even if one has nothing else, our eternity is secured.

“DONA NOBIS PACEM” (Ralph Vaughan Williams) This is a not-so-familiar large work for chorus, orchestra, soprano and baritone soloists that I sang as a junior in college. Composed following World War I, it is a plea for peace. Having sung it during the time of the Vietnam War, it was just as relevant. It combines parts of the Catholic Mass, poetry by Walt Whitman, and texts from Micah, Leviticus, Psalms, Isaiah and Luke. It is powerful, agonizing and hauntingly beautiful. The visuals painted by the music are stunning. The final chorus ends with a Christmas climax, “Glory to God in the Highest!”

LSB804 “O Worship the King” (HANOVER) Here’s another hymn, often sung by my home congregation at the opening of worship during my growing-up years. It is a song of praise, based on Psalm 104. The four words to describe our Lord in verse five – Maker, Defender, Redeemer, Friend – still stick with me today.

“COME TO JESUS” (sung by Chris Rice) This is an example of a song in its simplicity, with minimal accompaniment – yet powerful and moving. Its message is that our true home is in heaven, not on earth.

LSB356 “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came” (GABRIEL’S MESSAGE) This was originally a Basque folk carol, which beautifully describes the annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the archangel Gabriel. Mary learned that she would become the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The text and music combine to paint a picture of mystery.

“SONG OF CELEBRATION” (SATB – Allen Pote) I felt compelled to include a favorite that our Faith Choir sang on several occasions. (I call them the “glory years,” when we had nearly 40 voices.) This anthem of praise is based on Psalm 108 and Micah 6:8. The full chords, rhythmic drive and thought-provoking middle section all contribute to a memorable anthem. “Awake, my soul, and sing!”

Does sacred music have meaning for you? Looking for something different to do? Write out a “playlist” of your favorite sacred music. I’d love to see it!

Karen Lindbloom



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God Won't Ask...But Will Ask

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but will ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.

God won't ask the square footage of your home, but will ask how many you welcomed into your home.

God won't ask about the fancy clothes you had in your closet, but will ask how many of those clothes helped the needy.

God won't ask about your social status, but will ask what kind of class you displayed.

God won't ask how many material possessions you had, but will ask if they were the most important things in your life.

God won't ask what your highest salary was, but will ask if you compromised your character to obtain that salary.

God won't ask how much overtime you worked, but will ask how much overtime you put into your family and loved ones.

God won't ask how many promotions you received, but will ask how you promoted others.

God won't ask what your job title was, but will ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.

God won't ask what you did to help yourself, but will ask what you did to help others.

God won't ask how much people gave to you, but will ask how much you gave to others.

God won't ask how many friends you had, but will ask what kind of people you chose to have as friends.

God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but will ask how you treated your neighbors.

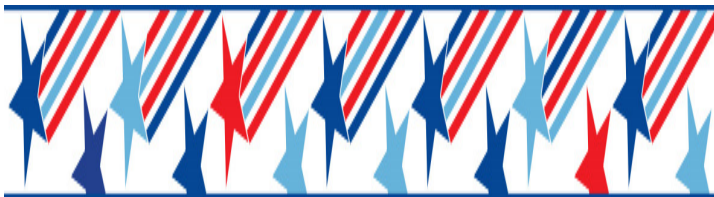
"Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God." Martin Luther

I Got Carried Away

The late Danny Thomas lost his lifesavings of \$600 at a time when he was out of work. He and his wife, Rosie, had a baby on the way, and they needed money. Danny worked at part-time jobs so Rosie could buy groceries. He also borrowed money from friends. It was a tough time in his life. A week before the baby was born, Danny had the grand total of \$7.85 to his name. What would he do? "My despair led me to my first exposure to the powers of faith," Danny would later recall.

On Sunday morning Danny went to church. When the offering plate was passed he put in his "usual one dollar." But something unexpected happened that day. A special missions offering was taken. The priest explained where the mission offering would go, and Danny felt he had to give something. "I got carried away," Danny said, "and ended up giving my seven dollars." He had given away all his money that Sunday. What in the world had he done? He walked up to the altar rail, got on his knees and prayed aloud. "Look, I've given my last seven bucks," he prayed. "I need it back tenfold because I've got a kid on the way, and I have to pay the hospital bill." He went home with a mere eighty-five cents in his pocket—all the money he had in the world.

"You won't believe this," Danny Thomas later wrote, "but the next morning the phone rang in the rooming house hall." It was a job offer. He was offered a part in a commercial. The job wasn't much but the pay was good—seventy-five dollars. "I literally dropped telephone receiver," Danny remembered. "First I whooped with joy; then an eerie feeling came over me." He remembered what he had prayed at church the day before. "The seventy-five dollar fee," he said, "unheard of for me at that time was almost exactly ten times the amount of money I had donated to the church."



Receiving a Total Makeover

In recent years, the reference to “makeovers” has been a fashionable and popular term. In the area of personal finance, Dave Ramsey titled his best-selling book *The Money Makeover*. A television show titled “Extreme Makeover” followed the stories of fortunate individuals who were chosen for a once-in-a-lifetime chance to have beauty experts change and update their appearance. Another television show called “Extreme Home Makeover” focused on remodeling and modernizing people’s homes.

However in a much more profound and meaningful way, Christians experience a life-changing “makeover” when the Holy Spirit transforms us into new people of faith who desire to live in and for Jesus. This is a total “makeover” because the Holy Spirit, through the Sacrament of Baptism, brings us to faith, and we die to our sinful selves and our old, earthly way of living. We enter upon a whole new way of life in Christ. Our new present life is hidden with Christ in God. When the Holy Spirit brings us to faith in Jesus through the Gospel, we become more Christ-like. Unfortunately, our sinful nature still clings to us, so we live with this constant tension between our new lives in Jesus and our old nature. This new inner nature is a spiritual change, and we are filled with the peace of God and the blessing of knowing that we are forgiven.

Our new lives in Christ are also reflected in our outward actions. To the world our actions aren’t always visible, but through faith we desire to live lives that please God. God



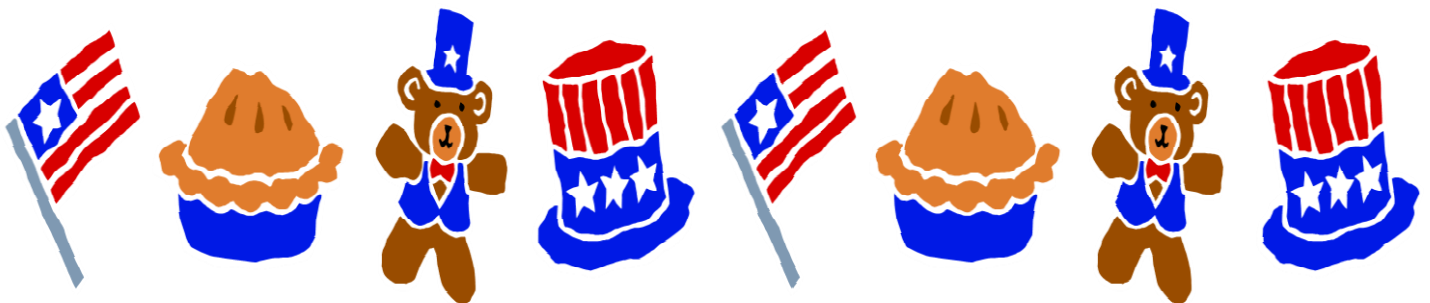
gives us strength to resist the world’s standards and values. He opens our eyes so we can see how self-centered, greedy, selfish, and dishonest we are. As new creatures in Christ, we have power to put sin to death in our lives (2 Corinthians 5:16-21). We are encouraged to strive daily to use the spiritual power that we have been given to refuse to devote our bodies and minds to the service of sin.

Our new lives in Jesus need to be continually nourished. Like a growing plant that needs water, sunlight, and nutrients from the soil, our faith needs to be filled with God’s Word and the opportunity to receive Jesus’ body and blood in Holy Communion. Through faithful reading and studying of the Bible, we grow in faith and knowledge. The more our faith grows, the more others will see the total



“makeover” that God has given to us and, by God’s grace, desire the same for themselves. May all of us be nourished constantly by the Gospel and continually growing in our faith.

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