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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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FROM THE PASTOR...

Greek myth says the Trojan War started when the #1 head honcho god Zeus threw a party. Zeus invited all the gods and goddesses to the party except one: the goddess Eris. Eris was the goddess of mischief; she caused conflict everywhere she went. Not wanting the drama, Zeus left her off the invite list. But, as you can imagine, Eris wasn't happy about it. As the gods were having a good time at the party, Eris crashes the party and throws a golden apple right in the middle of the dance floor. The beautiful golden apple had just one word written on it: "Kallisti" which translated means "For the most beautiful one." Three goddesses: Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite, started fighting over the golden apple because each was certain she was the most beautiful. They went to Zeus and asked him to decide who the apple belonged to: which one was the fairest of them all. Zeus didn't get to be head god by being stupid and he realized making that decision was a no-win so he appointed Paris, the Prince of Troy, as the judge. Each of the goddesses tried to bribe Paris into choosing her as the most beautiful. Hera offered him political power. Athena promised wisdom. And Aphrodite tempted him with the most beautiful woman in the world: Helen, the wife of the king of Sparta. Paris chose Aphrodite which immediately angered Hera and Athena and started the Trojan War.

So according to myth, this war and bloodshed were all started by the spiteful goddess Eris and her golden apple mixed with the pride of three goddesses. The Roman name for the goddess Eris is "Discord." Pride and discord have been causing war and separation for a long time. Look at Genesis 9. A long time ago, after the waters of the great flood dried up, God told Noah and his family to go and multiply. They were supposed to spread out and settle in the fertile valleys; plant crops and reap rich harvests. That's what God wanted them to do and that's what God told them to do. Except they thought they knew better. They figured if they ignored God's command to spread out, they could determine their own destiny. If



THE TOWER OF BABEL

they stuck together, they could do anything, be gods themselves. Interesting when the Bible talks about these folks it doesn't call them children of God; it calls them children of men—children of Adam. Adam: who walked the way of the flesh not the spirit; the way of sin and selfishness; the way of

discord and pride. What they were, showed by what they did: "Let us build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves." They were saying, "We don't care about God's way or what God wants. We want to build ourselves a city." They weren't building it to honor God; they wanted to please themselves, to make a name for themselves.

Maybe their tower wasn't Eris' golden apple inscribed with the words "to the fairest of them all" but it stirred up the same pride: let us make a name for ourselves. And it led to the same place: discord, brokenness, separation. God's first commandment says, "You shall have no other gods before me." Adam and Eve wanted to be gods themselves. Their sin caused the separation of people from God. The people building the tower wanted to be gods themselves. Their sin led to the separation of people from people. Children of Babel are proud people: full of themselves. Their motto of life is "Me First. I want to live my own life! I'll do what I want to do... what I think is right! I'll live by my own rules! I only want what makes me happy!" Their lives revolve around themselves. They want to play god. The people looked with pride as their tall tower pointed to heaven! We are truly the fairest of them all! God watched too.

What a contrast between God and these proud people; the Lord said, "Come, let us go down" The mighty God, who fills the universe, had to come down to a town of bricks with a tiny tower. The awesome God had to stoop down to these little people who could only play at being God. Then within the Trinity God speaks, "If the people will go this far, they'll just keep on going. There's no filter with these people when they get an idea in their heads. There's no stopping them. We said we wouldn't destroy them again in a flood. But they will destroy themselves." God came down, He confused their language. The people couldn't understand each other.

God didn't come down in anger or rage or fear that folks wouldn't need him anymore. No, he came down in love. God stooped down in grace. He knew where the people were headed. It's not like God was worried they could actually build a tower up to him; no one can climb up to God through their own efforts. God knew if they continued in their sinful pride, they would fall farther away from him and get lost within themselves. So, to stop them from doing greater spiritual harm to themselves, God came down. God entered their world. God intervened. God does that: comes down, enters our world, intervenes in our lives. From a Christmas manger to a wooden cross and an empty tomb, God comes down in grace; to save us from ourselves. God came down, He confused their language. People couldn't understand each other. The tower was abandoned. The work stopped.

The ruins were called “Babel” which still means “a place of noise and confusion.” From then on not just their nationalities and languages, but also their customs and cultures, their goals and dreams, their plans and purposes, their loves and communications would be as confused on the outside as they already were misguided on the inside. Today we have more stuff to help us communicate than ever before: cell phone, Internet, Facebook, Twitter... but we still can't communicate well. We're awash in social media yet studies show we are less social than ever. A few years ago I was in this gigantic shopping mall in San Jose. It was after Christmas with all the after-Christmas sales drawing big crowds. Not a big shopper, but I like people watching, so that's mostly what I did. I remember seeing a group of 20-somethings, maybe five or six, walking along but they weren't talking—not to each other—every single one of them was looking, talking, or texting on their phones. They might as well have been alone. I was kind of surprised they were able to walk along together since none of them looked at each other. We have tools to help us keep in touch with each other beyond the wildest dreams of our grandparents; so how come we seem to communicate less than ever? Noise does not equal speech. Being in the same room talking does not mean connecting. It doesn't mean we really understand each other. The tower is long gone, but the Babble remains. And so, Pentecost comes...

Babel is about discord and separation; Pentecost is about peace and bringing people together. At Babel, God confuses people's language and separates them for their own good, to keep them from falling further away from Him. On Pentecost he brings people, separated by many languages, together through the Gospel. At Babel, proud people are scattered all over the world. On Pentecost, forgiven people who were scattered all over the world are brought together under the cross. Pentecost is the anti-Babel. On Pentecost, Babel is undone -- overturned. Babel was about people trying to climb up to the gods. Pentecost is about God coming down to people. Babel is about accomplishing and doing stuff ourselves. Pentecost is about receiving what God has done for us. Babel is about us. Pentecost is about what God does in us.

We don't need some fake goddess like Eris to spread discord. We're pretty good at doing that ourselves. We're quick to anger and slow to forgive. We're easily offended and hard and stingy with our resources. And we're separated from God and each other. We're confused about what's important. Living in the tower of Babel makes us confused about who we are. Trying to grab the golden apple, we think our worth is tied to how much we have or how much we can take or how much other people love us. We think our worth is about how high we can build the tower. But in Pentecost, God comes down. God knows we can never build a tower high enough to climb up to him, so he comes down to us. In love he stoops down to a manger in Bethlehem. In love he stoops down to a cross on a lonely hill. In love he comes down in a mighty wind and with tongues of fire to bring us to him and heal our brokenness. And he comes down and we're not separated anymore. He comes down and we're not confused any more.

Pentecost people stand at the foot of the cross see how much God loves them. Standing together under its shadow we know we are there only because God came down in grace. Standing shoulder to shoulder at the cross we know we are truly equal: equally loved, equally forgiven. Pride gives way to humility and anger to forgiveness and separation to communication. And as Pentecost people we know, not just who we are, but why we are. We know God put us here on this earth, in this time and place, for a purpose: Jesus showed us how to live a Pentecost life. He fed the hungry; healed the sick; forgave his enemies; told the confused about God's love for them. He washed dirty feet and defended the weak. As Pentecost people we know where we're going: heaven. That is home; a place more wonderful than we can conceive! There will be no more tears, no hunger or thirst, no sorrow. God will give us a single tongue to praise and glorify his name forever. We'll join with the great multitude no one can count from every tribe, nation, people, and language. All Pentecost people who know where they're going. No more babbling. No more confusion. Eris is still tossing golden apples around. Towers of Babel are going up every day. Don't be confused. ✨

...Pastor Steve Eckert

JULY SUNDAYS

- Jul 07 - Christian Education Board
- Jul 14 - Lee Family
- Jul 21 - Linda Bornhofft/Vicki Amaral
- Jul 28 - Doreen Fasig/Art Atrops



MOWING IN JULY



Jul 06 Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting

- Jul 13 Reese Riddiough, Keith Almond, Nathan Schofield
- Jul 20 Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle
- Jul 27 Mark Hathaway, Terry Morgan, Dick Scholar

SUMMER WORSHIP

8:30 AM – Bible Study

9:30 AM – Worship Service

(Effective through September 1)



Jul 02 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg.
Jul 04 Independence Day – Church Office Closed
 Jul 07 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
 Jul 07 9:30 am Comm. Svc
 Jul 07 LWML Mite Box
 Jul 14 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
 Jul 14 9:30 am Worship Svc.
Jul 15 July Ministry Schedule Due
 Jul 16 9:30 am Tabitha Quilting Group
 Jul 18 7:00 pm Council Mtg.
 Jul 20 11:30 am Women's Luncheon
Jul 20 July Newsletter Deadline
 Jul 21 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
 Jul 21 9:30 am Comm. Svc.
 Jul 28 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
 Jul 28 9:30 am Worship Svc.

Jul 01 Mark & Connie Hathaway
 Jul 02 Dennis & Margaret Payne
 Jul 08 Reese & Jane Riddiough
 Jul 16 Lon & Julie Miller
 Jul 18 Rex & Cathleen Van Den Berg
 Jul 19 Michael & Rebecca Foley
 Jul 20 Gil & Beth Vela
 Jul 22 Gary & Anita Lange
 Jul 24 Matt & Kelly Olney
 Jul 25 Adrian & Kelli Zamudio



Jul 01 Brent Clavin, Stella Graham, Caleb Miller, Jytte Willcox
 Jul 02 Mark Borchert
 Jul 03 Evelyn Cronan
 Jul 05 Deborah Heuchert
 Jul 06 Keith Almond
 Jul 07 Betty Rozek
 Jul 08 Mary Clark
 Jul 09 Terry Morgan
 Jul 10 Dennis Bornhoft
 Jul 12 Winona Hall, Kyleigh Pischke
 Jul 13 Earl Glasser, Ali Mayes, Keith Pierce, Dawn Schofield
 Jul 14 Randy Shaffer
 Jul 15 Corinne Shaffer
 Jul 18 Myrna Presnell
 Jul 19 Saige Borchert
 Jul 21 Judy Moffatt
 Jul 23 Lucas Mayes
 Jul 24 Madelyn Pierce
 Jul 25 Kristen Riley
 Jul 27 Diana Brown
 Jul 28 Charlotte Barraza

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Gil & Beth Vela
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LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION



MITE BOX – 1ST SUNDAY

The Mite Box will be available on July 7 outside church. Once again, you will have the opportunity of supporting many worthwhile Lutheran mission activities.



ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE Saturday – September 21

The annual Rummage Sale will accept donations beginning September 16 until the sale itself. Why not begin setting aside gently used, clean clothing; operable appliances; knick-knacks, kitchen ware, toys, jewelry, etc. It's never too early to declutter cupboards, closets, and garages!

ELDER'S CORNER

Freedom in Christ

In the “land of the free,” we often confuse the true nature of freedom. For many of us, freedom has become synonymous with personal independence—the ability to make our own decisions and choose our own path in life, to do whatever we want, whenever we want. But this is not the freedom that Jesus promised us. When Jesus revealed himself as the Messiah, He said that He had come to Earth to “proclaim freedom” (Luke 4:18). And on another occasion, Jesus said, “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Jesus was not setting us free to do whatever we wanted; He was freeing us to do what we ought to do. He was liberating us to walk in relationship with God and to be the kind of people He created us to be—to have the ability to obey God and follow His will in our lives. This is the freedom that sin had long denied us. Jesus shocked the Pharisees, the spiritual leaders of His day, when He stated, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin” (John 8:34). Jesus was asserting that we are all under the power and control of a natural tendency to sin; we can’t get away from it by ourselves. Sin brings a penalty that, by ourselves, we can’t escape either. The Bible says, “The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23).

How do we find freedom from the penalty and power of sin? That comes through faith and believing in Jesus Christ’s death on the cross as the payment for our sin. As we submit to Christ, sin loses its power—Christ’s power takes over. As we put our trust in Christ and follow Him, our sinful habits, thoughts and attitudes lose their control. Guilt disappears, and peace of mind dominates. Right habits become the norm. That’s freedom—true freedom! ✨

...Art Atrops

SLOW DOWN AND RELAX

“Be Still and Know” is the theme of a beachside Women’s Luncheon on Saturday, July 20, at 11:30am—In this busy world, we often feel rushed from one activity to the next. Slow down and relax with your sisters in Christ as we discuss God’s words of hope and encouragement for your life—inviting us to be still and know that the Lord is always with us. This will also be an opportune time to share in fellowship and enjoy a delectable meal by God’s beautiful ocean at the Sea Venture Restaurant. Cost is \$15 per person. Please speak to Deborah Maddison with any questions; sign up and pay by June 30. ✨

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



July’s Featured Items – School Supplies

Pencils Erasers Notebooks Pencil Cases

All donated items may be placed in the designated box in the church narthex.

Plastic, heavy cardboard, and regular “go” boxes are available for those wishing to pack their individual shoeboxes at any time.

To donate financially, please make your check payable to: **LCOS**. Mark “Shoeboxes” in the check memo section and deposit in any Sunday offering plate.

Interested in making drawstring backpacks? If you wish to join this effort, contact Evie Cronan (805-714-7249) for a pattern, material, and cording. ✨

Contact Persons: Kathy Lee (530-263-0479).
Anita Lange (805-680-8522)

SMILE! YOU’RE PART OF LCOS!

The photo directory is being updated! To include your photo, choose one of the following options:



- Have your photo taken at church on Sunday by Pastor Oliver or Lisa DiModica.
- Send your electronic photo to Lisa DiModica’s email at pldimodica@yahoo.com.
- Give printed photo to Pastor Oliver or Lisa DiModica.

Deadline is August 11, 2019. Any questions, text, call, or talk to Pastor Oliver or Lisa DiModica. ✨



LISTEN FOR THE "ROAR"

Vacation Bible School--one day kid's retreat: ROAR

VBS! Saturday, August 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Save the date. Registration information is available online (www.myvbs.org/lcos), from Deborah, or at the church office. See Deborah or Kelly Olney if you are able to help out. ✨



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

"IN DEPENDENCE" DAY!

Always live "in dependence" on God.

Directions: Use the vowel code to complete Psalm 16:8, NIV.

A=	E=	I=	O=	U=

_ k _ _ p my _ y _ s
 _ lw _ ys _ n th _ L _ RD.
 W _ th h _ m _ t my
 r _ ght h _ nd,
 w _ ll n _ t b _ sh _ k _ n.
 Ps _ lm 16:8, N _ V

Answer: I will not be shaken. Psalm 16:8, NIV



Dear Friends—As we leave Santa Maria for new adventures and family fun, our thoughts turn to the many blessings we have received at Lutheran Church of Our Savior. We are grateful for the friendships, love, encouragement, growth in faith, and wonderful memories shared with each of you over our 45 years here. Thank you for being who you are...a family of God, that we were blessed to be a part of. Love and blessings to each of you—

Gil and Beth Vela P.S. Our new address is: 7621 Greenwater Circle, Castle Rock, CO 80108 (805-720-3287 & gfvela@earthlink.net)



Dear Church Family: We first joined in fellowship with our LCOS family in 2001 when Nathan was attending training at Vandenberg AFB. Since then, every new assignment to the Central Coast of California has brought us joy as we knew we'd be coming back home to LCOS! This departure, however, will be our last as we make a permanent move to Indiana to celebrate a new chapter in life—post Air Force and post children (with Kathryn and Samuel both graduating college this year). Thank you to our family in Christ. We love you and will miss you greatly. Please feel free to remain in contact with us at our new address: **524 N. Franklin St., Greensburg, IN 47240**—Yours in Christ's love and grace, **Nathan, Lola, and Samuel Vandrey**

Portals of Prayer

The July – September Portals of Prayer are available on the Ushers' Table as well as in the Narthex. There is no charge for these daily devotional booklets. Included are a limited number of large-print copies that are intended for those who are visually compromised. Please take one and use it each day to grow closer with our Lord. ✨

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

With God's power within us, we are empowered to serve. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Cor. 5:17) How am I serving God? To whom am I His servant? ✨

Lutheran Church of Our Savior
4725 South Bradley Road
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Our Mission

“Responding to God’s love, Lutheran Church of Our Savior desires to reach more people **for** Christ by proclaiming Him, by growing in faith, and by caring for all people.”



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship – 9:30 AM
Sunday School/Bible Class – 8:30 AM
(effective thru September 1)

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16*