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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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FROM THE PASTOR...

Some folks did a study on kids and faith a while back. They wanted to see how family life affected their kids' faith when they grew up. I don't remember all the details of the study but I do remember they found kids raised in homes where dad was present and practiced his faith the kids were highly likely to practice their faith when they grew up and had their own children. The kids of single parent faithful dads were almost twice as likely to be faithful adults as the kids of single moms who practiced their faith at home. It is clear dad's faith life profoundly affects the faith development of their children. June is Father's Day month and if we're going to get any spiritual benefits from this day, we have to turn our thoughts upward. We've got to look at "Our Father who is in heaven..." Jesus refers to the Father 39 times! Jesus says one of the reasons he came to earth is to show us the Father. But almost every week when we pray, "Our Father, who is in heaven," what do we really mean—what do we really think about? I want to warn you about a couple of bad ideas some people have about their Heavenly Father.

Once upon a time a dad won a new bicycle at a raffle. He had five kids so he didn't know which of his kids to give the bike to. He called them together and said, "Kids, I'm going to give this bicycle to the one who deserves it the most. So I need to ask you some questions: Who is the most obedient? Who never talks back to mom? Who does everything mom says? All five kids just looked at each other and then they all answered at the same time, "Okay dad! You get the bike." That's



kind of how some people think about our heavenly Father. Not the part about doing everything mom says, but the part about giving gifts to the most deserving. For those folks, our Father in heaven is a judge sitting up in heaven keeping a record book of sins and successes. The Father in heaven keeps score and if you have a good one, he gives you blessings. If you have a bad score, you get punished. This is the father of "up

religion." This is the father of the Law and no Gospel. This is the father who is never satisfied. This is the father you can never please. This is the father who is always pointing out our failures. This father is kind of like a teacher who puts a smiley face on your paper when you do well and a frowny face if you don't. There's no room for love here. All you get are long lists of "shoulds and should nots."

God's law is absolutely necessary. It's a curb to keep a sinful selfish world from completely destroying itself. And like a mirror, it shows us our sin. It shows us we are not perfect, tells us we're sinners and we need God to do something about our sin problem. And it is a wonderful guide to teach us how to live as God's people. God's law is a good thing. It's God's expression of his love for us. But in the hands of an up religion god, the Law is a killer. The law by itself can never lead us to love our heavenly Father. If all someone sees is a heavenly Father who is a lawgiver, policeman, and judge. If all they see is the father of laws, some folks will give up on him. That's because they realize they can never measure up to his perfect laws so why bother trying. They become like the "black sheep" of the family: The one who gives up trying to please and earn dad's love because it's too hard—you can't do it. They wind up hating God and running away or rebelling against him. At best, they just ignore him.

If that doesn't happen, then this does: when we see only the father of laws, we get afraid of him and decided to do everything we can to climb up to him. We don't try to please him because we love him: we try to please him because we fear him. So we try to earn his love and acceptance. We become the Pharisee: turn into the "good kid" of the family who tries to do everything just perfect so he will be loved. But inside we always know we can never do enough or be good enough.

Is this the father you pray to: The cosmic cop, the heartless judge, the unpleasable lawgiver? Running away from God or trying to be the super kid and earn his love; that's really two sides of the same coin. The religion of this father is one of chains. This father is harsh and punishing. He is not love. When Jesus teaches us to pray, "Our Father who is in heaven" that is not the father he has in mind.

Some people pray, "Our Father who art in heaven" but really mean their grandfather who art in heaven. We joke about parents becoming grandparents and spoiling their grandchildren. I Googled "grandparents spoil children" and got 557,000 results! Lots of people think God is like some great grandpa in the sky. The god of the perpetual smiling face: grandpa god doesn't judge; Grandpa god smiles at everything you do. He gives everybody a trophy. Grandpa god pats you on the head and says, "You're Ok. Just showing up in life is enough. Don't worry about it." With Grandpa god everything and anything goes. He just tells you to try hard and do your best. Grandpa god doesn't ask for any sacrifices. No judgment. No sin. You're not really responsible for anything. But the harsh reality of life is there is sin in this world. Some things are right and some things are wrong. There is good and there is bad. But the grandpa god doesn't seem to know the

difference and so he can't guide us. The grandpa god can't challenge us to be more than we thought we could be. He can't come to us when we're beaten down by life and pick us up and show us how to walk proudly. That's because grandpa god has no answers for life. He can't tell us why we hurt, or why we suffer. He can't tell us the purpose for our lives. He can't inspire us to do something with our lives that has value beyond ourselves. Grandpa god has no power to help or to heal or to give strength. Grandpa god is weak and without meaningful answers. When Jesus teaches us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven" Jesus is not thinking about his grandfather.

When Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father" this is the father he had in mind: "Holy is your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread." Jesus tells you about a Father who has power to judge and will. This father is holy and will not tolerate sin. But this father's love is so strong he will not let your sins keep you away from him. So this Father continues to provide for us. He keeps giving us all we truly need. This is the father of the open hands: Loving and giving. When Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father who art in heaven... forgive us our trespasses ..." He showed us the Father of the cross. This is the suffering Father. This is the Father whose love drives him to send his son to die for us. Any dad or mom will tell you the one thing worse than their own suffering is standing helpless and watching their child suffer. Imagine on Good Friday the heavenly Father looking down at the cross; knowing he had the power to stop it all, but loving you and me so much he turned away. Father and Son, together, loving sinful people like you and me so much they will do this [cross]. This is the forgiving father, who for Jesus' sake gives us new life. This is the loving father who adopts us into his family through the water of baptism. There he makes us his own and loves us, not because of what we are, but because of what we have become through faith in Jesus.

When Jesus taught us to pray "Our Father who is in heaven" he wasn't talking about the stern record-keeping, rewards/punishment "Up" religion god. And he wasn't talking about grandpa god either. He was talking about the loving, sacrificing, providing Father. And if God blesses you to be a father of your own children, this loving, sacrificing, providing heavenly Father is the one we follow and reflect.

Once upon a time, the teacher told her Sunday school class to draw a picture of God. One kid drew a bright colorful rainbow. Another kid drew a picture of an old man with a long white beard sitting on a throne in the clouds. One little boy drew God looking a lot like superman. But the best picture came from a little girl who said, "I didn't know what God looked like, so I just drew a picture of my daddy." When you live godly lives; when you forgive as God forgives; when you love as God loves; your children will look at you and they will see God's reflection. ✨

...Pastor Steve Eckert



JUNE SUNDAYS

- Jun 02 – Christian Education Board
- Jun 09 – Wobrock Family
- Jun 16 – Foley Brothers
- Jun 23 – Anita Lange
- Jun 30 – Dawn Scofield



MOWING IN JUNE



Jun 01 Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting

- Jun 08 Reese Riddiough, Keith Almond, Nathan Schofield
- Jun 15 Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle
- Jun 22 Mark Hathaway, Terry Morgan, Dick Scholar
- Jun 29 Corey Maddison, Harold Oliver

SUMMER WORSHIP

8:30 AM – Bible Study

9:30 AM – Worship Service

(Effective through September 1)



- Jun 02 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Jun 02 9:30 am Comm. Svc.
- Jun 06 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg.
- Jun 09 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Jun 09 9:30 am Worship Svc.
- Jun 10 6:00 pm Men's Club
- Jun 15 **Jun Ministry Schedule Due**
- Jun 16 **Father's Day**
- Jun 16 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Jun 16 9:30 am Comm. Svc.
- Jun 18 9:30 am Tabitha Quilting Group
- Jun 20 7:00 pm Council Mtg.
- Jun 20 **Jun Newsletter Deadline**
- Jun 23 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Jun 23 9:30 am Worship Svc.
- Jun 23 11:00 am **Church Picnic - Pioneer Park**
- Jun 30 8:30 am Bible Study
- Jun 30 9:30 am Worship Svc



- Jun 02 Andrew Foley
- Jun 04 Barbara Ganschow, Corey Maddison
- Jun 05 Karen Lamoreaux, Laura Rich
- Jun 07 Connie Hathaway, Krista Zielke
- Jun 11 Sarah Allen
- Jun 13 Karrie Morgan
- Jun 14 Megan Andersen, Sara Chaney
- Jun 16 Caydee Eckert
- Jun 17 Jacob Andersen, Dustin Graham
- Jun 19 Randy Tate
- Jun 22 Jennifer Graham
- Jun 26 Kelly Olney
- Jun 27 Julie Wobrock
- Jun 28 Luke Wobrock
- Jun 29 Don Rowland, Kaitlin Summers
- Jun 30 Cherie Andersen



- Jun 05 Nathan & Lola Vandrey
- Jun 11 Jeffrey & Sara Chaney
- Jun 18 Earl & Alba Glasser, William & Lori Williamson
- Jun 21 Greg & Vicki Amaral
- Jun 22 Don & Catherine Rowland
- Jun 23 Jeremiah & Melanie Mayes

ELDER'S CORNER

Drawing Near to Jesus

How can we endure? Where can we find answers to all our problems? We may ask, "Where are my keys? When will my stress subside? When will I have enough provision for my life? Why is my car failing me?" Seems like our everyday life has its daunting challenges!

The problems of everyday life for Christians should not be met with "oh, me" or "oh, my" but with the understanding that we have a solution to all our life's challenges! Our God is our solution. When we wonder to ourselves how we will get through this challenge today, we remember that we are never left alone! If we stop and think about how we can do this, we are not operating in the way we've been taught. If we set out to row a boat across a lake without oars, we can unload the boat from the trailer and set it into a lake, but funny thing, we just sit there without the "power of the oars."



Right? Just like we forgot the oars, maybe we forget God in our search for answers in our lives as well. He has the power to get us through tough times just as oars power us across a lake!

Our God is an awesome God who reigns from Heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, our God is an awesome God! Sound familiar? Jesus, our Savior, by His coming to Earth and being human, understood sorrow, suffered and felt pain, was hungry, alone, misunderstood, scoffed, criticized, ignored and scourged, and ultimately died on a cross. Jesus met loneliness at the cross, betrayal at his darkest hour, and was abandoned/forsaken by His Father. Isaiah 53 gives us a summation of who Jesus is and was and how He took all our sin to the cross, what He became, how He was the coming Messiah, how He is with all of us, how He was to die, His fulfillment and all the covenants He made with His people.

What is clear in being a follower of Jesus is that He doesn't want us to tackle life on our own! He wants us to depend on Him daily! He wants us to communicate with Him daily and ask Him to help us safely jump the hurdles. Jesus calls us to "draw near." By His death and resurrection, He gave us the ability to come to Him for rest, health, daily bread, and commune with Him. We are made righteous through His blood that He shed for our sin now and forever! Jesus can be those mighty oars that power us through life and get us to the other side!

What Love this is!

Draw near to Jesus...He is waiting with open arms!

God's peace, joy, love and understanding be with you in His name! Amen/Yes! ✨

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION



MITE BOX – 1ST SUNDAY

The Mite Box will be available on June 2 outside church. Once again, you will have the opportunity of supporting many worthwhile Lutheran mission activities.



Biennial Convention – June 20-23 – Mobile, AL
 2019-2021 Mission Grants will be decided. Please contact Natashja Borchert (805-266-5985) for the list of possible projects, vote for the 5 projects you prefer, and inform Natashja of your choices.

Your brother in Christ,
 ...Tom Heuchert

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



June'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 Person: Kathy Lee (530-263-0479). ✿

CHOOSE LIFE

Care Net Pregnancy & Resource Center in Santa Maria helps unexpectedly pregnant women to recognize the humanity of the child within them and to discover the support and resources available to them for carrying their child full term and, if they choose, for keeping and raising him or her. And among the resources available are faith in Christ and a supportive faith community. **YOU CAN**

HELP! One way is by picking up a baby bottle from the church narthex or Stahnke Hall's entryway. Fill the bottle with coins, currency, or a check and return it to the basket in the church narthex anytime from now through Father's Day (June 16). May our Creator and Life-Giver bless these life-saving efforts. **Questions:** Deborah Maddison or Ruth Oliver. ✿



TALK IS CHEAP

Too many of us have a Christian vocabulary rather than a Christian experience. We think we are doing our duty when we're only talking about it.

...Charles F. Banning



June 16, 2019

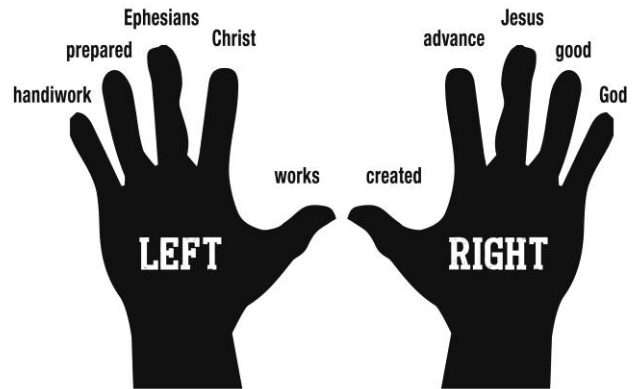
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



Handiwork to do good works

God has a special plan and purpose for each of us.

Directions: Use the finger-position clues under the blanks below to complete Ephesians 2:10, NIV.



For we are God's _____, _____ in
L pinky R thumb
 _____ to do _____,
L pointer R middle R ring L thumb
 which _____ in _____
R pinky L ring R pointer
 for us to do. _____ 2:10, NIV
L middle

Answer: handiwork, created, Christ, Jesus, good, works, God, prepared, advance, Ephesians

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**“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