



# THE SERVANT

The monthly newsletter of Servants of Christ Lutheran Church, a congregation of The North American Lutheran Church serving the Cedar Rapids area

Meeting at Robins City Hall Community Room, 265 South Second St., Robins, Iowa 52328  
Worship: 9:00 am; Fellowship & Coffee: 10:00;  
Bible Class and Sunday School: 10:15  
Ron Voss, Pastor

## \*\*\*\*\* August 2019

Dear friends in Christ,

<sup>8</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, <sup>1</sup>neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

We each have our favorite Bible passages . . . passages that especially speak to us . . . a passage that was our mother's favorite . . . passages that we personally have experienced as being "on the money" in our own lives. One of my wife's favorites is the above: Paul's words of hope and encouragement to the Christians at Rome. Over her lifetime, my wife has spent considerable time (in both professional and volunteer capacities) in facilities for the elderly: retirement communities, assisted living, nursing homes, memory care. If we are honest with ourselves, these are not always fun places to be, especially nursing home and memory care. And it's harder when those we see and visit are loved ones. Yet my wife is continually amazed and strengthened as she witnesses the "non-separation clause" in Romans 8 being lived out.

The old lady in a wheelchair. Slumped over most of each day. Kept clean and fed, but no interaction or communication on her part. Yet, when she is wheeled into a church service led by a local pastor and she hears the music ("Amazing Grace," "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," "Blessed Assurance," etc.), she lifts her head and starts singing (or at least mouthing the words)!

**NOTHING CAN SEPARATE!!**

She's 89. Resided in a nursing home for 5 years. To put it bluntly, she's a "blank." She just stares, hasn't spoken to anyone in 2 years. Her children come to visit but if there is recognition, no one is aware of it. Her oldest son dies from a heart attack. The family debates, "Do we take mom to the funeral? Will she comprehend anything? Will the crowd upset/confuse her?" It is decided she should go. Just before the service begins, the family walks with mom to the front pew of the church. The casket

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is rolled in. The service begins. There are Scripture readings, a hymn, prayers, a meditation. Mom sits with her usual blank stare. Towards the end of the service, the pastor begins and the congregation joins in with the Lord's Prayer. Suddenly, from the front pew, in a loud, clear voice—a voice that rises above the other voices—mom is praying. Praying loudly, praying confidently, never misses a word. The rest of the voices recede in volume so this “blank mom” can be heard. At the conclusion of the prayer, mom says for all to hear, “Fred is with Jesus. I am happy.” Then the blankness returns, never to lift again. Six months later, mom joins her son in glory.

My wife's father was a Lutheran pastor. He was a committed, humble man of God. He had a beautiful tenor voice. His mind was filled with memorized Scripture and hymns. He spent the last four years of his life in a nursing home, confined to a wheelchair, and held in place with a lap-buddy. Eventually, he could not remember the names of his children, couldn't remember names of the staff, couldn't remember if what he had for lunch or if he even WENT to lunch. My mother-in-law visited him each day and, as had been their practice for 50 plus years of marriage, they had a devotion together. She would read from Portals of Prayer, my father-in-law would read the Bible passage. Except he never read from the Bible. He took one look at the source—a gospel, Psalms, Ephesians, you name it—and he would look out the window and from memory, recite the passage.

**NOTHING CAN SEPARATE!!**

One of my father-in-law's favorite hymns was “My Hope is Built on Nothing Less.” It includes these words: “When all supports are washed away, Christ then is all my hope and stay.” Nothing—and I mean NOTHING, including lost health and mind—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Don't believe it? Just ask the individuals from the above stories. Kind of good news, isn't it??

Ron

**POWER** is the word that best describes the Christians in the Book of Acts. They were a dynamic people in a dynamic church . . . And what they said and did changed their world.



We continue our study on the people, the Church, and its message in the book of Acts. We will come to a greater understanding of:

- ◆ The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- ◆ How to be an effective witness for Christ.
- ◆ How to turn persecution into blessing.
- ◆ How to understand and solve Church problems.

The Holy Spirit of God is with us today, and His triumphant power is available to God's people. The invitation to you is to yield to the Spirit and its dynamic power. Join us on Sunday mornings. Learn how God used early converts to share the Good

## IOWA MISSION DISTRICT UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5-9 - Lutheran Week in Indianapolis (NOTE: Election of NALC Bishop)

September 14 - Iowa Mission District Convocation, First Lutheran, Manchester, IA

October 5 - *Stewardships of God's Influence Workshop*, First Lutheran, Manchester

### LEGACY GIFTS MATTER!

Prayerfully consider including the North American Lutheran Church and/or the Seminary in your will or estate planning. Pass on the love of Jesus to future generations.

#### ***August Mission Giving***

\$417 - The North American Lutheran Church  
General Fund



### **August Servants**

Greeter/Usher: Tami Gerdemann  
Communion Assistant:  
Gerald Retzlaff

Snacks:

\*\*August 4—Mary Collins

\*\*August 11—Judy Waugh

\*\*August 18—LaDonna Retzlaff

\*\*August 25—Brunch

Flowers: Mary Collins

## **LUTHERAN WEEK 2019 - Indianapolis, IN**

**August 5 - August 9**

Theme: ***Walking by the Spirit with the Fruit of the Spirit***

***Ventures in Youth Ministry Symposium***: August 5, 9:00 am to August 6, noon

***Women of the NALC Annual Gathering***: August 6, 9:00 am to 5:00 am

***Carl E. Braaten***: Robert D. Benne Lectures in Theology: August 6, 1:00 pm to August 7, 11:30 am

***Mission Festival & Convocation***: August 7, 1:30 pm to 9:00 pm; August 8, 8:00 am to August 9, 5:00 pm

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh . . . . The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5

## THE APOSTLES' CREED MEMORY CHALLENGE

**I Believe in God** (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19)

**The Father Almighty** (Job 1:21)

**Maker of Heaven and Earth** (Gen. 1:1)

**I Believe in Jesus Christ** (Acts 4:12)

**His Only Son, Our Lord** (Heb. 1:2)

**Born of the Virgin Mary** (Matt. 1:23)

**Suffered under Pontius Pilate** (Isaiah 53:12)

**The Third Day He Rose Again** (Rom. 4:25)

**He Ascended into Heaven** (Rom. 8:34)

**He Shall Come Again** (Matt. 25:34)

**I Believe in the Holy Spirit** (John 14:16)

**The Holy Catholic Church** (Eph. 4:4)

**The Forgiveness of Sins** (2 Cor. 5:19)

**The Resurrection of the Body** (Phil 1:23; Phil. 3:21)

**The Life Everlasting** (1 Cor. 2:9)

