

Context: Danevang Lutheran Church Newsletter August 2024

***Pondering** the theme of the Annual LCMC Texas District Gathering:

* Information from the Texas LCMC Gathering 2024, including information provided by Rev. Greg Finke with dwelling114.org

In Luke's Gospel, an expert in the law attempts to set a trap for Jesus --

Luke 10:25-28 (ESV): 25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

In response to the man's next question in verse 29, "And who is my neighbor?", Jesus tells the familiar story about the Good Samaritan.

The focus, and theme for the gathering was verse 27 (see above), where the man summarizes Deuteronomy 6:5 ("You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.") and Leviticus 19:18 ("...you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD"). We know that such fulfillment of the Law is not possible for humans, but Jesus fulfilled the Law, and bestows the fruits of that upon believers. As Believers, our journey in this world involves a transformation to "Christ-likeness" (Romans 8:29, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 3:2)

Therefore, what could be more "Christ-like", more "loving of a neighbor" than telling inquiring minds how to "... inherit eternal life"?

So the theme for our Gathering = "Love Works", Luke 10:27. -- Ponder what may keep Church activities from transforming a community:

- Thinking that God's goal for our Christian life is salvation ... read Ephesians 2:8-10 and 1 John 4 -- We were created for works of love which God prepared for us, and have a commandment to love our fellow humans. *If we are truly Christians, then we have salvation.*
- Thinking that discipleship & following Jesus = worship & study ... Matthew 4:19 says disciples are to "fish for people". *Worship and study are important preparations to do the job of a disciple, not the end goal.*
- Thinking that the Christian life is relatively boring, sedate, and scholarly ... a look at the early church as described in the Bible indicates otherwise.

U.S. Christians generally overlook & underestimate a key thing, thereby making evangelism and discipleship hard, awkward and unlikely to happen. That key thing is "Relationship"

So, if we are on this journey of "becoming more Christ-like", maybe we should consider how Jesus discipled people to get amazing evangelization results; Jesus invited disciples into a relationship, proclaimed the truth of God, mentored them as they imitated His example, and the trainees showed others how to do the same. The model at the gathering lists this as *Proclamation, Imitation, & Replication*.

So, following Jesus' example, the Church PROCLAIMS (teachings of Jesus in sermons, classes, etc.), the membership (via family and friends) models how to live out the teachings of Jesus, and mentors one-

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another as we IMITATE Jesus' examples, and become models and mentors for others interested in living out the teachings of Jesus (REPLICATE).

Some terms:

- Neighbor: Bible perspective = One who is "near", your physical neighbor at home, at church, at work, and that guy that just cut you off in traffic -- *Even the ones you do not like.*
- Love: in the passages about Loving God and Neighbor is Agape Love – It is an VERB (something we actual "do"), and is that "other-centered self-giving love" with which God Loves us. *It is not based on emotion or merit, it is a choice.*
- Salvation: The Holy Spirit does the work of convincing, converting, and believing. *Above our pay-grade – We cooperate with God's Spirit – HE does all the heavy lifting.*
- Evangelism: Introducing the Good News of God to those who do not know it. *Build relationships – your behavior can speak more profoundly than your words.*
- Discipleship: Walking with people as a model and mentor, such that, by the power of the Holy Spirit they grow in their ability to imitate the lifestyle of Jesus, living a life of fulfilling love. *No, not just the Pastor's job.*
- Multiplication: Disciple people to disciple others, so they in turn disciple others, so the redemptive movement of Jesus spreads.

One definition of insanity is "doing the same thing over and over, and expecting a different result". Today, communities remain untransformed, even when "Churches" have been there for many decades – Even churches with nicely crafted mission statements, and great members. However, in the New Testament, wherever the disciples went, love and redemption transformed communities. A quote from the presentation at the gathering "Our way for our results. Jesus' way for Jesus' results." AND "If at first you don't succeed, trying doing what Jesus told you to do the first time."

As I reflect on my experience the last year, or so, at Danevang Lutheran, we have seen fruitful results from "loving our neighbor". We have proof that it works. So, how do we become more "intentional" with this "love your neighbor"? Well, we could draft a nice mission statement, nothing wrong with that as part of an intentional plan. However, no matter the intent, the head knowledge, the spiritual insight, the preparation, without "action" there will be no fruit.

How about –

Acknowledge that Godly Love is an *intentional choice to act* out "other-centered self-giving love", even to those perceived as unlovable. Teach and mentor others: Proverbs (ESV) 17:17 "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."

Let us, not just explore and ponder (a good start), but "...Try doing what Jesus told us to do the first time." ... AND use Jesus' example about disciplining, which started with "relationship" ---

Matthew (ESV) 28:19-20

19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

God's Blessings, Chuck

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Announcements

The recent storm damaged our church buildings: At least some repairs are needed to the Hall roof, Church roof and siding on the bell tower. There is water damage to ceiling in Pastor's Office and Balcony. The Education Building shingles need to be replaced. Because of the high insurance deductible fees (example ~ \$11,500 for Education Building shingle replacement with a deductible of \$15,750), it was not fruitful to file insurance claims. We have applied for a grant, via Texas District LCMC for Lutheran Disaster Assistance which has been approved at \$20,000, with an option to apply for additional assistance (new roof for all building will cost around \$56,000)

Serving This Month:

Altar Guild – Darleen Miksik

Greeter – Juhl Miksik

Readers for Sunday Services

August 4- Chuck Keen

August 11- Maria Barnes

August 18- Linda Alderson

August 25- Ann Schaer

Learning with Fellowship

Ladies Bible Study: We resume our studies on Mondays from 9:00 – 11:00 am starting September 9, 2024. All ladies are welcome to join

Sunday School: Each Sunday, 9 am to 9:45 am in the Educational Building. Open to all adults and children before church service. Coffee will be served. We will discuss the scripture readings for the current Sunday.

50th Wedding Anniversary: Join us after service on Sunday, August 4, 2024 for some cake and punch in celebration of Velda & Chuck Keen's wedding anniversary.

Meetings

Council Meeting August 12th at 10 AM – Starting in September 2024 the Second Monday Council Meetings will start at 11AM instead of 10AM.

Pot-Luck Meal – August 25th - Last Sunday after service

Services - Sunday 10 AM.

Community Hall None

Thank You Danevang Lutheran Church!

Eddie, Betty and Tommie appreciate all the hard work that went into the fish fry benefit for our family. We cannot thank everyone enough who donated their time, money, food and everything that went into the benefit for us. Also to the many who sold and purchased the tickets that made the event a true blessing. Thank you to all and may God bless you as he has blessed us.

Betty and Eddie Vacek

Tommie Wilson

Highlights of 2024 Texas Gathering can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-yKMavGMaI8>



Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt
Director of Mission Growth



Recognize and Respond

Back in 2019, leaders here in the Texas District took a leap of faith in creating Harvest Workers, our online ministry training program. The biblical inspiration came from Matthew 9 where we read about Jesus' daily ministry: he was teaching and preaching, healing, casting out demons, forgiving sins, and calling disciples. Day after day we read about this ongoing ministry among the ordinary people he encountered wherever he went. One of these days as he went about his work, he paused and surveyed the crowd. As he looked out upon the world that he was dwelling in, I believe he saw all of the problems: the hurt, pain, brokenness, issues, division, anger, addictions, and everything else. Jesus saw all of it!

And upon surveying the world and seeing the problems, Jesus wasn't depressed, angry, or hopeless. Nor did Jesus shame or blame people. Instead, Jesus was moved with compassion and speaks these words: *"The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest."*

I don't know about you, but when I pause to look around at the world, it is easy to see just how messed up so many things are. And the truth is that life is hard and full of complex problems. In the face of the magnitude of these problems, it would be easy to think that all we can do is pray. And certainly we should! But I believe God is calling us to also recognize and respond: to be sent out as Harvest Workers. The very next thing Jesus does after he said to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers: He sends them out! The same people he just told to pray, his disciples, he sent out!

Are you a disciple of Jesus? Do you follow Jesus? Is Jesus your Lord and Savior? If so... then Jesus is calling you and me and every other follower of Jesus to not only pray for Harvest Workers... but also to BE Harvest Workers. So it is time to lace up your work boots, y'all! We have work to do... work that will never save us, but that we were saved for as Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-10.

Day by day as we live our lives in this messy world may we be like Jesus and be moved with compassion and live out the Gospel and share Jesus' love. **#LoveWorks2024**

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for LCMC Texas District and Program Director of Harvest Workers, an online ministry training program (learn more at www.harvestworkers.net). Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Please contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org.

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2nd Half of 2024 Lectionary Year Calendar -- Three-Year Series : "B" thru end of Nov., then year "C"						
Church Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Pentecost	Aug. 4 (Prop. 13)	Eleventh S. a. Pentecost	Ex. 16:2–15	Psalm 145:10– 21	Eph. 4:1–16	John 6:22–35
	Aug. 11 (Prop. 14)	Twelfth S. a. Pentecost	1 Kings 19:1–8	Psalm 34:1–8	Eph. 4:17—5:2	John 6:35–51
	Aug. 18 (Prop. 15)	Thirteenth S. a. Pentecost	Prov. 9:1–10 <i>or</i> Josh. 24:1–2a, 14–18	Psalm 34:12–22	Eph. 5:6–21	John 6:51–69
	Aug. 25 (Prop. 16)	Fourteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 29:11–19	Psalm 14	Eph. 5:22–33	Mark 7:1–13
	Sept 1. (Prop. 17)	Fifteenth S. a. Pentecost	Deut. 4:1–2, 6– 9	Psalm 119: 129–136	Eph. 6:10–20	Mark 7:14–23
	Sept. 8 (Prop. 18)	Sixteenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 35:4–7a	Psalm 146	James 2:1–10, 14–18	Mark 7:(24–30) 31–37
	Sept. 15 (Prop. 19)	Seventeenth S. a. Pentecost	Is. 50:4–10	Psalm 116:1–9	James 3:1–12	Mark 9:14–29
	Sept. 22 (Prop. 20)	Eighteenth S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 11:18–20	Psalm 54	James 3:13— 4:10	Mark 9:30–37
	Sept. 29	St. Michael and All Angels	Dan. 10:10–14; 12:1–3	Psalm 91	Rev. 12:7–12	Matt. 18:1–11 <i>or</i> Luke 10:17– 20
	<i>or</i> (Prop. 21)	Nineteenth S. a. Pentecost	Num. 11:4–6, 10–16, 24–29	Psalm 104: 27–35	James 5:(1–12) 13–20	Mark 9:38–50
	Oct. 6 (Prop. 22)	Twentieth S. a. Pentecost	Gen. 2:18–25	Psalm 128	Heb. 2:1–13 (14–18)	Mark 10:2–16
	Oct. 13 (Prop. 23)	Twenty-first S. a. Pentecost	Amos 5:6–7, 10–15	Psalm 90:12–17	Heb. 3:12–19	Mark 10:17–22
	Oct. 20 (Prop. 24)	Twenty-second S. a. Pentecost	Eccl. 5:10–20	Psalm 119:9–16	Heb. 4:1–13 (14–16)	Mark 10:23–31
REFORMA TION	Oct. 27 (<i>observed</i>)	Reformation Day (Oct. 31)	Rev. 14:6–7	Psalm 46	Rom. 3:19–28	John 8:31–36 <i>or</i> Matt. 11:12–19
	<i>or</i> (Proper 25)	Twenty-third S. a. Pentecost	Jer. 31:7–9	Psalm 126	Heb. 7:23–28	Mark 10:46–52

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Church Season	Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
ALL SAINTS' DAY	Nov. 3 (<i>observed</i>)	All Saints' Day (Nov. 1)	Rev. 7:(2–8) 9–17	Psalm 149	1 John 3:1–3	Matt. 5:1–12
	<i>or</i> (Prop. 26)	Twenty-fourth S. a. Pentecost	Deut. 6:1–9	Psalm 119:1–8	Heb. 9:11–14 (15–22)	Mark 12:28–37
	Nov. 10 (Prop. 27)	Twenty-fifth S. a. Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8–16	Psalm 146	Heb. 9:24–28	Mark 12:38–44
	Nov. 17 (Prop. 28)	Twenty-sixth S. a. Pentecost	Dan. 12:1–3	Psalm 16	Heb. 10:11–25	Mark 13:1–13
THANKSGIVING	Nov. 28	Thanksgiving Day	Deut. 8:1–10	Psalm 67	Phil. 4:6–20 <i>or</i> 1 Tim. 2:1–4	Luke 17:11–19
	Nov. 24 (Prop. 29)	Last S. of the Church Year	Is. 51:4–6	Psalm 93	Jude 20-25	Mark 13:24–37
New Church Year Starts Here (Series C)						
ADVENT 2024	Dec. 1 2024	First S. in Advent	Jer. 33:14–16	Psalm 25:1–10	1 Thess. 3:9–13	Luke 19:28–40 <i>or</i> Luke 21:25–36
	Dec. 8	Second S. in Advent	Mal. 3:1–7b	Psalm 66:1–12	Phil. 1:2–11	Luke 3:1–14 (15–20)
	Dec. 15	Third S. in Advent	Zeph. 3:14–20	Psalm 85	Phil. 4:4–7	Luke 7:18–28 (29–35)
	Dec. 22	Fourth S. in Advent	Micah 5:2–5a	Psalm 80:1–7	Heb. 10:5–10	Luke 1:39–45 (46–56)
	Dec. 24 <i>Eve</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Christmas Eve</i>)	Is. 7:10–14	Psalm 110:1–4	1 John 4:7–16	Matt. 1:18–25
CHRISTMAS 2024	Dec. 25 <i>Midnight</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord (<i>Christmas Midnight</i>)	Is. 9:2–7	Psalm 96	Titus 2:11–14	Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

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	Dec. 25 <i>Dawn</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Dawn)</i>	Is. 62:10–12	Psalm 98	Titus 3:4–7	Luke 2:(1–14) 15–20
	Dec. 25 <i>Day</i>	The Nativity of Our Lord <i>(Christmas Day)</i>	Is. 52:7–10	Psalm 2	Heb. 1:1–6 (7– 12)	John 1:1–14 (15– 18)
	Dec. 29	First S. a. Christmas	Ex. 13:1–3a, 11–15	Psalm 111	Col. 3:12–17	Luke 2:22–40
	Dec. 31	Eve of the Circ. and Name of Jesus <i>(New Year’s Eve)</i>	Is. 30:(8–14) 15–17	Psalm 90:1–12	Rom. 8:31b–39	Luke 12:35–40

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Events in August 2024

Grid Cards List Month Week Day
August 2024 Go
< Today >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Serving This Month Altar Guild, Greeter and Readers, see event discription	3
4 9:00 am: Sunday School	5	6	7 6:00 pm: Men's Group	8	9	10
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
11:00 am: Velda & Chuck 50th Anniversary - Cake and Punch						
11 9:00 am: Sunday School	12 10:00 am: Council Meeting, Monthly - Second Monday	13	14 6:00 pm: Men's Group	15	16	17
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
18 9:00 am: Sunday School	19	20	21 6:00 pm: Men's Group	22	23	24
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
25 9:00 am: Sunday School	26	27	28 6:00 pm: Men's Group	29	30	31
10:00 am: Sunday Church Service 10 A.M. (Pastor Kight)						
11:00 am: Potluck after Church Last Sunday of the Month						

Canceled event
 Church Service
 Classes
 Community Hall Booked
 Fellowship
 General
 Meeting
 Music Practice

Serving This Month
All Categories