



*We are a Christian community committed to thoughtful, creative worship,
caring for each other, those around us, and the world.*

Fish Tales

21 June 2018

Grace Notes

Romans 13:8-10

“Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”

Friends in Christ, this is the core of our life together. This is the authority on which true laws must be based. Laws unanchored in love do not carry the authority of authentic, just, godly government. Behavior toward one another that is not loving is not of God, no matter how many words attempt to cloak and defend the doer in righteousness.

Recently the thirteenth chapter of the Apostle Paul’s letter to the church in Rome was used to command blind obedience to a government policy that ripped apart families, many of whom are seeking safety and asylum as they fled violence that most of us cannot imagine. We who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ must not turn away from the cries of those children. If we ignore the impact of actions that purport to be carried out on our behalf, then we owe it those children to confess our sin, repent of our comfortable ignorance, and rise up in witness to the Gospel of that same Christ Jesus.

It is not enough that an executive order has been signed today. Listen to the cries of the children who remain separated from loving parents. Let the tears ripped from your eyes pull your heart along, too. Let your heart beat strength into your lungs, your lips, your hands, and your feet. Let your heart beat courage into your relationships. Let your security rest in Christ alone, not in legalism. Your reputation means nothing if it prevents you from confronting attitudes and behaviors that harm others.

Let your response be non-violent and strong. Let it be “firm, fair and friendly.” We should seek common ground wherever possible, but if the other continues to do harm to the vulnerable, it is incumbent upon each of us to lay down our very lives, as Jesus did, in witness to love itself.

Speak out when you hear scripture twisted and distorted in ignorance, malice, or hatred. If we fail to do that, we have to recognize the sound of the cock crowing in the courtyard, and with Peter, weep in shame.

Do we have a common purpose as Celebration Lutheran Church? Will you speak together AS Celebration Lutheran Church against these actions of the government which we participated in electing? We have declared consensus on the matter of homelessness. These children ARE homeless. Their families ARE vulnerable. “Am I my brother’s keeper?” In this case, the answer is, Yes.

-Pastor Heidi

June 24, The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Depot Arts & Community Center
611 R Avenue, Anacortes

Assisting Minister

Charlotte Spada

Readings

Job 38:1-11

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Mark 4:35-41

ELCA Presiding Bishop, Faith Leaders Issue Statement on Family Separation

CHICAGO (June 7, 2018)

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has convened ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious partners in a statement addressing concerns over a recent U.S. government policy calling for more stringent enforcement of federal immigration laws. The policy will most likely result in an increase in family separations.

The statement follows:

Recently, the Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbor, we pray for the children and families that will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.

His Eminence Archbishop Vicken Aykazian

Diocesan Legate and Director of the Ecumenical Office, Diocese of the Armenian Church of America

Mr. Azhar Azeez President

Islamic Society of North America

The Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera

Bishop of Scranton, PA ; Chair, Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs

Senior Bishop George E. Battle, Jr.

Presiding Prelate, Piedmont Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Bishop H. Kenneth Carter, Jr.

President, Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry

Presiding Bishop Episcopal Church (United States)

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister & President, United Church of Christ

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The Rev. David Guthrie
President, Provincial Elders' Conference, Moravian Church Southern Province

Mr. Glen Guyton
Executive Director , Mennonite Church USA

The Rev. Teresa Hord Owens
General Minister and President , Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Rabbi Rick Jacobs
President, Union for Reform Judaism

Mr. Anwar Khan
President, Islamic Relief USA

The Rev. Dr. Betsy Miller
President, Provincial Elders' Conference , Moravian Church Northern Province

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II
Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rabbi Jonah Pesner
Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

The Rev. Don Poest
Interim General Secretary

The Rev. Eddy Alemán
Candidate for General Secretary, Reformed Church in America

Senior Bishop Lawrence Reddick III
Presiding Bishop, The Eighth Episcopal District, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

The Rev. Phil Tom
Executive Director, International Council of Community Churches

Mr. Jim Winkler
General Secretary & President, National Council of Churches USA

Senior Bishop McKinley Young
Presiding Prelate, Third Episcopal District, African Methodist Episcopal Church

Announcements

Favorite Hymns

We have a few hymnsing worship services scheduled this year, and we'd like to know your favorite hymns! After service on Sunday mornings you'll find the green Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and blue With One Voice (WOV) on tables for your perusal. We'll have slips of paper for you to write down your favorites. Generally, on hymnsing Sundays, we just pull out these books: you call 'em, we sing 'em! If there are others that you don't see in these books (of COURSE there are others!!), we could find and print them in the bulletins for those weeks. It may be helpful to have a chance to look through the index of first lines in the back of the hymnal in advance of those Sundays, since not everyone can think of those names on the spot. There's no limit on how many you can list. If you'd like to keep that slip for your own reference, do let Pastor Heidi, Dave, or Ruthie take a picture of your list with their phone, so that we can have that list, too!

Fourth of July Party at the Parson's Home!

Well, we aren't putting a float in the Anacortes parade this year, but Dave and I would still love to hang out with our Celebration family, or anyone who doesn't get a better offer!! We'll be firing up the grills around 3:00 p.m., and will provide hot dogs, buns, the fixin's and a side dish or two. You do not have to bring anything with you, but if you do, you'll help make the gathering that much more festive. Have something you'd like to throw on the grill? Excellent! Have a few extra bottles of some snappy fermented beverage to share? Great! Came across a powerful (or powerfully funny) reading relating to Independence Day? Bring it on! We can't offer fireworks here, but by that time we might be too pooped out to party anymore....or just silly enough to descend upon someone else's home unannounced!! Bunting not required, but your own version of patriotic attire is welcomed, should you so choose. There may be some patriotic songs around the firepit as the evening goes on, honoring words we remember, and singing our hearts out with new words, too. Your RSVP to Heidi or Dave is appreciated, so that we know whether to get ready or to angle for our own invitation to YOUR party!!

Office Space Search

Hey there, buckaroos and buckarees! Peel your eyeballs and outside-the-box thinking. If you've got an idea for our next office space, let Pastor Heidi or President Tim Nelson know. We're looking for a space with visibility, accessibility, security, hospitality, and bathroom proximity. We could do with space as big as an average bedroom, but if it's bigger we could use it for more than a desk and a ministerial library. We've got an idea or two in the works, but a few have not panned out yet. "Soon, and very soon....."

Alter the Altar this Summer

Would you like to help out this summer in a simple but significant way this summer? There are a number of weeks when our usual cadre of altar-setter-uppers will be unavailable to decorate for worship, and we'd like to invite you to use your creativity and/or hospitality to prepare our space on Sunday morning. It can be as simple as using the crate of scarves, runners, and candles in our standard crate to follow a photo or pattern we can leave for you. OR, you can engage in as much forethought and creativity as you are led to use, bring in art, vases, cross, or other symbolic items to help us focus visually on Word and Sacrament. The altar table will already be set up; you'll just get to set the table! If you're interested but nervous, no problem. Pastor Heidi, Herta Kurp, Susan Wood, Rita James, Ruthie Laughlin, Judith or Boz Bosworth will be glad to walk you through the process in advance.

These are the available dates: July 15, 22, & 29; August 5, 12, 19, & 26

This is a great way to get involved for the first time, or for the first in a long time. By sharing the work load, no one burns out and we all get to share in the fun of this altar ministry.

Baptism Coming on August 5th!

Jamie and Brian Fisher brought their baby daughter to worship on Christmas Eve, along with grandparents Amy and Tom Hughes, and she slept... yes....like an angel! Don't count on that on Sunday, August 5th, when the clan gathers again during worship to celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism! Riley will be received in the life-giving waters of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and blessed with her parents to be a blessing.

Plan for Campfires at Washington Park in August!

For the past two years Pastor Heidi has set up camp at Washington Park and invited everyone to drop in for a visit, a meal, or campfire time. This year, plan on coming sometime on **Sunday or Monday, August 12 or 13**. On both of those evenings at 7:00 p.m., we'll sing our way through Holden Evening Prayer, so if you can't come on Sunday, come on Monday! She'll be breaking camp on Tuesday morning. Is it a lot of work? Yeah, but, it's worth it! There's nothing like the incense of campfire smoke infusing your clothes, your hair, your bedding with a lingering reminder of the magic and fellowship of time together by the fire.

Weekly Ministries

Quilt Ministry

Mondays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, at The Depot Community Center

Please join us. All are welcome.

Coffee & Conversation

Weekly on Wednesdays, 10:00 am, at Gere-a-Deli, Anacortes.

Please join us for friendly conversation.

All are welcome.

Centering Prayer

Weekly on Thursdays

10:30 am on the first, second, third, & fifth Thursdays of the month; 7:00 pm on the fourth Thursday

Home of Boz & Judith Bosworth.

All are welcome.