ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH – HOLLAND, MN June 2021–NEWSLETTER 6

I came across an article in a devotional book printed many years ago entitled “It All Depends on One’s Perspective” (*By the Way*, by Paul Devantier) which really still applies to our world today. When we view or read or hear something, the same event can have many different interpretations to different people. The same action or personal characteristic can be perceived in a variety of ways, depending on how one looks at it. In today’s world these perceptions trigger responses which are often not for the good of ourselves or others.

For example, when I talk about my strong convictions, I might say that I am “firm in my beliefs.” Yet, I might characterize another person with strong convictions as “obstinate.” A person with convictions opposite mine might be thought of as a “fool.” These perceptions flavor how we respond to them.

Or suppose I have reversed a decision. I might say I have “reconsidered.” Another person who has done the same thing may be characterized as someone who “can’t make up their mind.” Of still another it may be said, “He has gone back on his word.” Our perceptions of ourselves, and preconceived notions of others, often drive our words and actions in unloving ways. As we look at what happened last summer, whether they were peaceful protests or violent riots is determined by that person’s perspective.

Also, when looking at others words or actions, we often do not look favorably or think favorably about them. Most of the time we are inclined to give ourselves every benefit of the doubt, but not so inclined for others. Too often we look only for something to disagree with or take offense at. Amazingly, that’s not what God did when it came to looking at us. He could have been quite right in saying terrible things. We all fall terribly short of God’s expectations as revealed in his law. Instead, He spoke words of love, forgiveness and salvation...and in Christ Jesus, He saved us. Jesus came preaching the good news of salvation to all who would hear, living a life that guaranteed that salvation to all he met.

Imagine, what would happen if we treated others as God treats us. Imagine what blessing would result if we saw others from God’s perspective. Not judging others for their sins and short-comings, but seeing them as fellow children of God who also need to be loved and cherished. Brothers and sisters who need to hear the good news that God loves them, that He sent Jesus for them. What a changed world it would be. Pastor Petrich

**Sunday Lessons and Hymns**

**Sunday May 23rd** : Ps, 139:1-12; Ezekiel 37:1-14, **Acts 2:1-21**, John 15:26,26; 16:4b-15. **LSB** Morning Prayer **HYMNS**: “We Are the Church”, “Breath of the Living God”, #905 “Come Thou Almighty King”, #502 “Holy Spirit the Dove Sent from Heaven”, #498 “Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest”, #834 “I God, O Lord, of Heaven and Earth”, #795 “Voices Raised to You We Offer”

**Sunday May 30th** : Psalm 29, **Isaiah 6:1-8**, Acts 2:14a,22-36, John 3:1-17.  **LSB**: Matins

 **HYMNS**: Tribute to the Armed Forces, #876 “”O Blessed, Holy Trinity”, #507 “Holy, Holy, Holy”, #831 “‘How Shall They Hear,’ Who Have Not Heard”, “Father , I Adore You”, #877 “God Who Made the Earth and Heaven”, “Calypso Doxology”.

**Sunday June 6th** : Psalm 130, **Genesis 3:8-15**, 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1, Mark 3:20-35.
**LSB**: DS#1 **HYMNS**: #668 “Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You”, #572 “In the Shattered Bliss of Eden”, #561 “The Tree of Life”, DISTR: #692 “Praise to You and Adoration”, #645 “Built on the Rock …”, #922 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

**Sunday 13th** : Psalm 1, Ezekiel 17:22-24. **2 Corinthians 5:1-10**, Mark 4:26-34.
**LSB** Morning Prayer **HYMNS**: #790 “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”, #601 “All Who Believe and Are Baptized”, #720 “We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight”, #704 “Renew Me, O Eternal Light” “I Was Made a Christian”, #783 “Take My Life and Let It be”, #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”

**Sunday June 20th** :

**Songs for Sunday, May 23rd “We Are the Church”**

 REF: I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus All around the world! Yes, we’re the church together!

1. The church is not a building, The church is not a steeple, The church is not a resting place, The church is a people! REF:
2. We’re many kinds of people, With many kinds of faces, All colors and all ages, too, From all times and places. REF:
3. And when the people gather There’s singing and there’s praying, There’s laughing and there’s crying sometimes, All of it saying: REF:
4. At Pentecost some people Received the Holy Spirit And told the Good News thru the world to All who would hear it. REF:
5. I count if I am ninety Or nine or just a baby; There’s one thing I am sure about and I don’t mean maybe: REF:

**“Breath of the Living God”**

1. Breath of the living God on the waters in the beginning moving, Breath of the living God, You fill all creation with fruitful life.

Refrain: Come now and live within us, and with Your gifts enrich us: Breath of the living God, O most holy Spirit of the Lord!

1. Breath of the living God, You conceived the Son, Jesus, to be like us, Breath of the living God, so You recreate all who live in Him. Ref.
2. Breath of the Living God, You bring us to life in baptismal water, Breath of the living God, we new creatures live by Your living breath. Ref.

**Songs for May 30th** : “Father I Adore You”

1. Father, I adore You, Lay my life before You. How I love You.

2. Jesus, I adore You, Lay my life before You. How I love You.

3. Spirit, I adore You, Lay my life before You. How I love You.

“**Calypso Doxology**”

1. Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;

 Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Him Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

1. Hallelujah! Got the victory over Satan and over sin.

 Jesus Christ is alive today and He leads and guides me all the way.

**Song for June 13th  “I Was Made a Christian”**

1. I was made a Christian When my name was giv’n, One of God’s dear children And an heir of heav’n. In the name of Christian I will glory now, Evermore remember My baptismal vow.

2. I must, like a Christian, Shun all evil ways, Keep my faith in Jesus, Serve Him all my days. Called to be a Christian, I will praise the Lord, Seek for His assistance, So to keep my word.

3. All a Christian’s blessings I will claim for mine: Holy work and worship, Fellowship divine. Father, Son, and Spirit, Give me grace that I Now may live a Christian And a Christian die.