



## Concordia Lutheran Church

*"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"*

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Jesus says some pretty tough things. In fact, Jesus makes some pretty difficult comments. Sometimes, Jesus makes some VERY difficult comments. These are the "hard sayings of Jesus." Here is an example from Luke 14:

*"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple."*

This is a "hard saying"! What are we to make of such a comment? Are we really being told to "hate" our families ... even our own lives? Hearing a comment like this causes many people ... even many Christians ... to stumble. How do we come to understand Jesus' comment here?

First, we must put this comment into the proper context. Jesus is walking toward Jerusalem. He is going there for Passover. Once there, he will confront the powers of sin and death, ultimately being crucified for his challenge. Jesus is going to Jerusalem to die!

Part of this "proper context" is the dozens, probably hundreds, of people who are following him with the high hopes of seeing Jesus defeat the religious and military powers in Jerusalem, establishing the glorious on-earth kingdom of God. These people are looking for Jesus to make the world in their own image, according to their own expectations. These are folks who think God should do as they demand and desire.

Next, once we understand the context, we must look at what Jesus says. What does the word "hate" mean in this context? If we take "hate" to mean a "to have strong dislike for" someone, where we are psychologically invested in hatred, then we have missed the point Jesus is making. Remember, Jesus counsels "love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you." "Hate" must mean something else in this context.

Observe that Jesus contrasts one's family ... even your own life ... with being His disciple. The point of contrast has to do with one's allegiance and dedicated commitment, either to family, self or Jesus. In this sense, "hate" takes on the meaning of "have one take a back seat" to another. Or, we might put it this way, Jesus is requiring single-minded loyalty in discipleship to Him and His Cause. Here is a paraphrase:

*"If anyone prefers his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, more than Me, he cannot be My disciple."*

Okay, that is still a tough statement. Jesus is asking for primary allegiance to Himself. This certainly reminds us of the Great Commandment: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength." Let's also never forget what follows: "And you are to love your neighbor as yourself."

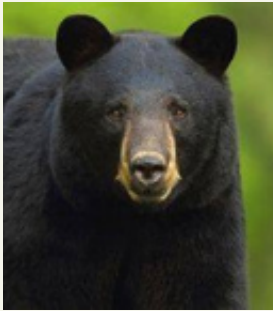
Luv ya'!  
Pastor Craig

### Happy September Birthdays

9-3 Cole Moon  
9-7 Brian Thornton  
9-14 Albert Deepe  
9-21 Raylene Olinger  
9-25 Karolyn Zuehlke  
9-29 Cindy Svendsen  
9-30 Madison Truong  
9-30 Wendy Ward

### Happy September Anniversary

9-6 Jake & Dianne Weber  
9-11 Michael & Dawn Moon  
9-20 Leon & Bette Rinck/Vandahl  
9-28 Rod & Raylene Olinger  
9-8 Doug & Mary Beth Bradfield  
9-20 Tim & Wendy McConnell  
9-27 Pastor Craig & Sheryl Henningfield  
9-29 Bert & Cindy Svendsen



Our Summer Wildlife Photo Contest is over!

Thank you to everyone who contributed this summer!!

40 PHOTOS SUBMITTED!!

Voting for your favorite will be this SUNDAY!

## Support Concordia Lutheran Church.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Bible Study Breakfast: Saturday,  
Sept 14th at 7am @ the Egg & I

Men's Night Out: Monday, Sept 23rd at  
5pm @ Dude & Dans

Women's Night Out: Monday, Sept 23rd  
at 5pm @ Aurum

Combined Service: Sunday, Sept 29th at  
10am

S.I.S. Kickoff Dinner: Monday, Sept 30th  
at 6pm @ Nancy Kounovsky's Home

*Concordia Adult/Youth Missions*

PIG ROAST FUNDRAISER

SEPT 29TH @ 12PM

FREE-WILL OFFERING