



Concordia Lutheran Church

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

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Greetings to you, dearest brothers, and sisters in the Lord!

I came across an interesting thought the other day. The comment read, "there is much similarity and overlap between ancient Roman and Greek cultural ethics and Christianity." In other words, Christian behavior and cultural behavior are similar. "Interesting," I thought, "then what makes Christianity unique?"

I would agree there seems to be a great deal of overlap between the behaviors of those who are members of the Christian Church and those who are not. In my experience, most everyone seems to act in ways that are commonly known as "nice." So, what is the difference? Are we all just supposed to be "nice" to one another and "get along"?

Later in the same article came this observation: "In all of Greek and Roman cultural ethics there was nothing like what Jesus taught." In other words, there was nothing in the broader culture that prepared anyone for the approach Jesus takes. Listen to Jesus:

"Love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

This is what no one was prepared to hear! Love my enemies! Do good to your enemies? Lend to my enemies? Be kind to the ungrateful? Too many people hear these words, thinking "great, now I must love those who want to destroy me and my way of life, and I'm supposed to share my resources with others even when they are ungrateful."

As we heard last Sunday, Jesus is not establishing the "Christian Rule Book for Life." Rather, Jesus is inviting us to "become" like our heavenly Father. This is what "sons and daughters" do, we become like our Father. This is the great joy of being a "sister and brother" to Jesus; this is the daily transformation that happens as we learn from Jesus how to live this way in our families, neighborhoods, and Valley.

What is our Father like? Jesus uses several images to help guide our thoughts and actions. Our Father is "loving," pursuing the best-life for His enemies. Our Father is "good," offering beneficial help and support to all. Our Father "lends," sharing His resources with everyone, knowing they cannot repay. Our Father is "kind," freely giving, sharing, and working with us for good purposes and outcomes. And, our Father is loving, good, lending, and kind to His enemies, the ungrateful and dysfunctional.

This is what it looks like to live as a Jesus-follower; this is the conversation the "children of the heavenly Father" share with one another as they live in an antagonistic world. This is the invitation and challenge of Jesus to us. How can we further this conversation among us to honor our Father and to bless one another?

The LORD be with you as you reflect the Father's Joy and Life to many others!

Luv ya'!

Pastor Craig

Happy July Birthdays

07/01 Bonnie Sohn

07/05 Eli Moon

07/07 Jeanne Willman

07/12 Peter Wharton

07/20 Rick Riemenschneider

07/27 Andy Hogrefe

Happy July Anniversaries

07/08 Chris & Rebecca Duryea

07/12 Brian & Jerry Thornton

SUNDAYS AT 9AM



Outdoor Service

To volunteer to help,
reply to this email



GET YOUR ASS OVER THE PASS!

COLORADO

August 6 - 7, 2021

**Happy
Independence
Day!**

The office will be closed
Monday, July 5th

2021 Summer WILDVISTA Photo Contest!

Memorial Day - Labor Day



You can submit your photo entries to: concordia@steamboatlutheran.com,
text to: 970-846-0749 or upload them to our
[Facebook page Steamboat Lutheran](#). Check out the 2019 & 2020 photo
contest slideshows on our [YouTube channel Steamboat Lutheran](#).

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH VBS REGISTRATION



WHO: FREE for all kids ages 4-11
WHEN: Monday, July 12 – Thursday, July 15
from 9am-12pm
WHERE: Concordia Lutheran Church,
755 Concordia Lane, Steamboat



Scan code or go to:
<https://vbspro.events/p/events/steamboatvbs2021>
to Register your child or to volunteer