



Concordia Lutheran Church

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

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

For many years now, as each month ends, I have taken a little time to reflect back, evaluating what I have experienced, what I got accomplished, what still needs to be done, and what are possible ways forward. This has been very helpful to me over the years.

As I look back on September of this year, I have many fond memories. Sheryl and I enjoyed our trip to and from a wedding that I officiated in southern Montana. As part of our journey, we spent two days in Grand Teton National Park, Yellowstone National Park, and Glacier National Park. Honestly, this is not enough time to absorb and experience the creational beauty of these magnificent Parks. We need to go back!

At the same time, we observed the hurried pace, bordering on frustration and anger at times, of the people who were pushing to "see the sights." Some people, probably more than we realized, just seemed angry and annoyed, speeding by us, honking the horn, in a hurry. This aligns with the recognizable rise in anger and agitation that we as a nation have experienced in the past few years. What's up, I wonder? Two thoughts for your consideration:

First, from a UC Boulder research study from July of this year that was titled *Angry Politicians make Angry Voters*. "Politicians want to get reelected, and anger is a powerful tool that they can use to make that happen," writes Carey Stapleton, PhD. "Anger is a very strong, short-term emotion that motivates people into action, but there can be much more negative implications in the long term. There's always the potential that anger can turn into rage and violence." Might this be part of the reason why rage and violence are on the rise in our nation?

Second, taken from another angle, one of the health and wellness newsletters I subscribe to recently identified medications that have these potential side effects: aggression, aggressive behavior, agitation, irritability, actions that are out of control, loss of self-control. The list includes Adderall, Advair, Ativan, Celexa, Chantix, Humira, Klonopin, Lexapro, Nexium, Paxil, Phenobarbital, Prednisone, Prilosec, Prozac, Remicade, Valium, Xanax, and Zoloft. The author notes these are "among some of the most prescribed drugs in the world," and these are "recommended to be taken long-term." Might this be a contributing factor as to why rage and violence are on the rise in our nation?

When Jesus begins teaching the disciples, the first topic he deals with is anger. Consider:

Matthew 5:21 "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother [without cause] will be liable to judgment; whoever insults [verbally abuses] his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, 'You fool!' will be liable to the garbage dump of fire."

Jesus has sharp words for anger improperly expressed. He goes on to offer two illustrations of proper ways to deal with anger and the broken relationships it causes:

Matthew 5:23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny."

These illustrations give us much to consider as we deal with the world around us. Even a short list of issues that could cause anger in us includes Afghanistan, inflation, deception, politicians, news reporting and commentators, Covid protocols, vaccinations (or not), religion, debt ... I could go on. The question that comes to me in my monthly evaluation is "knowing that Jesus is Lord, and that the New Creation has arrived on earth through the Church, what are/can we be doing to engage these issues, bringing to bear Spirituality and God's-concern for the world?" Hmmm.

Luv ya'!
Pastor Craig

Happy October Birthdays

10/06 Opal Schwarz

10/08 Charlyn Vance

10/10 Riley Oamek

10/11 Jennifer Berdine

10/12 Bill Padgett

10/16 Barb Illenberger

10/20 Deb Bruggeman

10/25 Dean Duryea

10/28 Greg Gilbertson

10/29 Ruth Moon

Happy October Anniversaries

10/01 Don & Judy Sherrod

10/12 Erik Armbrust & Rosey Idler

10/21 Paul & Deb Bruggeman

THANK YOU

To **everyone** who **serves** Concordia **faithfully!** We couldn't do it without **YOU!**

SAVE THE DATE! FALL RUMMAGE SALE
Friday, October 8th from 9am - 5pm
and Saturday, October 9th from 9am - 12pm



What is Love?
by Emma K. Age 6

Love is when you're missing some of your teeth but you're not afraid to smile because you know your friends will still love you even though some of you is missing.



We are in need of two more **Sunday school teachers**.
If you would be interested, please connect
with Jennifer Berdine: 970-846-8502.

I ♥ SUNDAY

 **SAVE THE DATES!**

Christmas Shoeboxes
Collection week is Nov 15-22

Christmas Cookie Caper Baking Dates
Starting at 10am each day

Friday, November 5th
Monday, November 8th
Tuesday, November 9th
Friday, November 12th
Monday, November 15th
Wednesday, November 17th

Christmas Bazaar
Friday, November 19th from 9am-5pm
Saturday, November 20th from 9am - 12pm



Christmas Choir

We are looking for a Christmas Choir for Christmas Eve.
Please connect with Becca Utu if you are interested
in participating: 970-846-7317 (text),
beccautu1958@gmail.com

