



# Light Memorial Presbyterian Church

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## September PATHS

### From the Pastor's Pen



Have you ever considered the question, “Why am I going to church today?”? Ever taken a bulletin from an usher, scanned the order of service and wondered, “What is **that** meant to do or say?” If you ever have wondered why we do, sing, or say “that”, we have something in common!

Whenever & wherever people gather for worship, the service has a purpose & a form. Even a silent Quaker meeting has a form. The form of worship of the earliest Christian churches centered around two poles: 1) the reading & preaching (explaining) of scripture AND 2) the covenant meal, the Lord's Supper. I know that some of you will be surprised, maybe even disappointed, that one of the traditional foci of worship is not music. Yet the question is not so much what should we include in a church's worship service, the question is how does what we include shape us?

An elderly woman, having mostly lost her hearing & all her sight, continued to request a ride to church every Sunday morning. A friend asked her why she bothered since she struggled to understand the gist of what was happening all around her. She replied, “I go to show whose side I'm on!” In a world that is home to people of faith and no faith in every sort of deity, we stand to be counted among the congregation of Jesus Christ.

Other times, we come to church in search of something. We hope for a word of encouragement, of healing, or a spark to support our sagging hope. Sometimes we come because our faith is at high tide & we are spilling over in joy & we need to celebrate what God is doing in our life. Still others come to lament, even as others come to shout or weep at injustice. In any case, we come to God—we come to church—to be supported by others, or to be a support. Then in another week or two, when things have shifted, we trade roles. This ecology of relationship, instruction, support, and encouragement is how we “build up” the church.

Others of us, in learning to recite the Shorter Catechism, affirm that the very purpose of human life is “to glorify God and enjoy God forever.” There is something about glorifying & enjoying God that requires not only a relationship between one’s self & God, as easy & hard as that might seem. Glorifying & enjoying God also requires other humans, for each and every person on the planet is in some aspect a revelation of God. The point is, Christianity isn’t a solitaire game or a private pursuit. “Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body” (1 Cor 10:17).

Truly, from a certain point of view, worship seems useless. It may be the case that people have found that worship reduces stress. It may help in forging closer ties to family, friends, & even strangers. Worship may help us to understand & value Scripture & dogma better. Worship may even be an opportunity for us to make fruitful personal or professional contacts. It may do some or none of these things. However useful worship may prove to be, or not be, the church does not gather to worship as a strategy to achieve some other useful end. We gather to wonder at this God of ours.

Worship is our meeting with the God of the universe, who has taken the trouble to call & gather us. The gathering is meant as a time of unity, for reflection, for gratitude, for praise, & even for mourning. Worship is a time & place set aside for fellowship with the risen Christ. It is not adult education. It is not therapy. It is not socializing or networking. Neither is it a rally to support programs or causes. As Marva J. Dawn, wrote in *A Royal “Waste” of Time: The Splendor of Worshiping God and Being Church for the World (1999)*, worship is, & ought to be, useless.

Nevertheless, Marva Dawn did not mean in any respect that worship is a waste of time, or that worship should be divorced from life. The consistent discipline of worship shapes a particular kind of community. The Word of grace read, proclaimed, ingested, & enacted, births graciousness in souls & a church. Learning from & praying for others can shape our awareness & posture in the world. The offertory is meant to call forth humility & generosity. Jesus’ Table, shows us that none are dominant. No one wins or loses. All of us are strong in the same nourishment of bread and cup. At his table, Jesus shows each of us our own brokenness, & our need of reconciliation, even as he models radical forgiveness & welcome. So, let us gather, wonder, eat & drink, & fellowship with Christ. Amen.

Pastor Mary Jo

“The path of those who do what is right is like the first gleam of dawn. It shines brighter and brighter until the full light of day.” Proverbs 4: 19

# THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who gave of their time and energy to help set up, serve, and clean up on Sat. for the Presbytery meeting. The meeting was a success and all help was appreciated.

Leslie, Cindy and Pastor Mary Jo



## Cabbage Burger Feed

We have received some great gifts for the raffle. Here is a list of the items.

Please invite your family and friends to attend and try their chances.

### 2019 Raffle items

1. Silver Bar

2. Lap Quilt

3. Dinner & A movie

(Sam & Louies  
& Fox Theater)

4. Walmart gift card (\$25.00)

5. Meat bundle

6. Buffalo Point gift  
card(\$25.00)

7. Sidney Floral NE door  
Hanging

8. Rood's Gift card (\$20.00)

9. Model car

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or  
6 for \$5.

Meal tickets are \$8.00 for  
6 years and up.

Single cabbage burgers are  
\$5.00 each

Price per dozen is \$55.00.

We will serve from 11:00 am to 1:30pm  
on Sunday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship  
hall. Please come and join the fun.

# Christian Education

We will have a story time for the younger children beginning Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am for about 20 minutes before worship. All young people are welcome. Miss Eileen Nightingale will meet with the children in the Narthex at the church for a story and a craft or short activity. We will continue every other Sunday through the end of the year.

Dates are: Oct. 6, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, Nov. 17, Dec. 1, Dec. 15, and Dec. 29.

Hope to see all of your young people there. C. E. committee

## PRAYER CONCERNS



Please pray for the following: Walt, Ada, Emmett, Wanda, Paul & Clarice Sheaman, Elaine & Emerson Ransom, military and families supporting them, Edwin Fischer (pre-mature baby), thankful for God's "expiration date", Paul, Carl Mach, Tom, Laura, Julia, Liz, Rick, Bruce, Duane, Don Flohr, Nancy & Paul Milan and families, Steve Carlson, Stan Sim, Stephanie Meier family, thankful for a bountiful harvest, Ron & Karen Kissler.

A little boy opened the big, old family Bible with fascination and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely, It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages.

"Momma, look what I found." the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered:

" I think it's Adam's suit!"



## Serving in September

- 4 Don Benisek
- 11 Elizabeth Gill
- 17 Jennifer Holtz
- 24 Grant Smircich
- 26 Cheryl Nelson
- 27 Tessa Janssen

**Greeters:** Randy & Leslie Richards

**Usher:** Randy Richards

**Lay Readers:**

1 & 8 Jane Easterly

15 & 22 Leslie Richards

29 Sharon Hargreaves

**Communion Servers: (Sept. 8)**

Sharon Hargreaves, Jane Easterly

Leslie Richards



## Happy Anniversary

- 3 Bud & Shirley Gillespie
- 19 Duane & Shirley Nightingale

**Church Committee:**

Ron & Cindy Payne

Duane & Shirley Nightingale

Marilyn Nightingale

Eileen Nightingale

Angie Swope

## September at a Glance

- 1 - Reg. worship (Service at SRMC 1:30pm)
- 3- P & A meeting 6:00 pm
- 8- Reg. worship, communion ( Cabbage burger feed and raffle, 11:00 - 1:30)
- 11- Robotics meeting 6:30pm
- 15- Reg. worship
- 17- Session 6:00pm
- 22- Reg. worship
- 29- Reg. worship, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Pot Luck