

Good Shepherd August Newsletter



Dear Good Shepherd Family,

Q: How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb?

A: WHAT?! CHANGE?! Lutherans don't change!

There is a saying that "the only one who likes change is a wet baby."

We all know that change is a part of life ... an inevitable and necessary part of life. Science makes wonderful new discoveries. We see progress and change in the medical field. We all like something new? New car smell. New restaurant. New carpet.

Why then do we resist change?

We tend to hold on to "the way things were" because we find comfort and control in the status quo. Change requires energy, effort and the unknown.

I will be retiring on October 1st and that will mean big changes for Good Shepherd and for me. I want to share a verse from Isaiah that helps me focus on the future and not on the past.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43:19

There is never a time when God is **not** doing something new.

When God speaks of a **making a way in the wilderness**, He is speaking of the direction that leads us through the continuing changes in our lives and He assures us of His intimate involvement in every step we take. When God is doing a new thing He gives us direction, peace and hope.

When He promises **rivers in the desert**, He is assuring us that He will refresh us even when we are not feeling His presence and things seem overwhelming. God is calling us, through His Word, to look to Him, not at our circumstances, and to focus on Christ, and not on our fears.

If we live in the past, we will never embrace the future God has in store for us.

God has a fresh start for us on October 1st. Let's anticipate Him doing something great.

And when things change we must look to Him and to the plans and purposes He has for our life and our church.

This is good news!

In Jesus' Love,

Pastor Ray



He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, - Ephesians 4:11-12

The historic position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod on the question of Calling (Call or Divine Call) workers is a theological position. God gave the Office of the Keys (Keys) to the congregation. The congregation Calls a minister to use their Keys publicly on our behalf. God has workers for our congregations and that, through the Holy Spirit, He will guide us to find this person. We extend a Call in the context of prayer for God's guidance. As people of God we recognize the limitations of our human abilities to choose ministerial candidates correctly and acknowledging the boundaries, expecting God to act and speak through the minds of His people.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. -1Peter 2:9

A Call Committee is appointed by the congregation and is charged with guiding and guarding the process of calling a minister. The Committee will use every means available to develop as clear an understanding as possible of each candidate's unique qualifications. The Committee will, eventually, make recommendations to the congregation who issues the Call.

This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. - 1Corinthians 4:1

Our governing documents does provide some guidance for Calling church worker.

1. The Congregation has the exclusive right to call ordained and/or commissioned ministers (Bylaw 5.1).
2. The Congregation will only consider candidates who profess and adhere to the confessional standard of the Congregation (Bylaw 3), who have been endorsed by the Synod, and who is a member (rostered) of Synod (Bylaw 5.1).
3. The Committee will solicit nominations from members of the Congregation and the District (Bylaw 15.1). The Committee will submit nominations made by Members to the District for information and evaluation (Bylaw 15.4).
4. After receiving information and recommendations from the District, the Committee will screen candidates to identify for the Congregation and provide

a short list of recommended qualified individuals with a biographical sketch of each (Bylaw 15.4) to the congregation (Bylaw 5.1).

Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. - Acts 20:28

The Board of Elders will need to address the week to week issues in Worship and Pastoral Care. Worship issues includes: ensuring a worship leader, preacher (Pulpit), musicians (e.g.the organist) and providing Holy Communion (Altar). Pastoral Care issues includes: visiting the sick, visiting the homebound, contacting visitors, funerals, Communion instruction, and Baptizing.



LCMS Stewardship Ministry

Define Your Life by How You Give

Winston Churchill reportedly said that “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill, our lives are defined not by what we have gotten, but by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserved for our sins. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death and hell. And so it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got for Himself us, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it also is for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. For giving softens our hearts and frees us from the grip which the worries of this world and making a living has on us. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get. That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives — our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking the question, “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor and servant to others,” to asking the question, “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But when we give, we do not have less, we do not become less; rather, we have more and become more. When we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

Deacon's Digest

This article today is a bit longer than normal I pray that you will have patience and take the time to read and digest it. If you have read some of my past columns, you will know that one of my heroes is Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor of the mid-20th century who resisted the Nazi takeover of the German government and was executed in prison during WWII. He was a true martyr. This article today is authored by the psychologist Valeria Sabater and appeared in the May issue of exploringyourmind.com. I have read several books on the life and ministry of Pastor Bonhoeffer but the existence of his Theory of Stupidity never came up -- so this is very new to me. I hope this article will give you some ideas about our Christian duty as envisioned by Pastor Bonhoeffer. Here is Professor Sabater's article in its entirety:

Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity acts as a reflection of past and present events. We all know how to identify evil, so we shouldn't hesitate in acting against it. However, in the face of ignorance, often lies defenselessness. As such, we don't attend to reason and evil tends to spread silently. Stupidity gives truth to the most unlikely ideas, ridiculous conspiracy theories, and dangerous proclamations. It frequently occurs on social media. The problem is that irrational voices are contagious. In fact, they spread and go viral in our society. And, we discover that ignorance can be actually more threatening than malice. But, how is this unique phenomenon orchestrated? You can find out here.

Against stupidity we have no defense. Neither protests nor force can touch it. Reasoning is of no use. Facts that contradict personal prejudices can simply be disbelieved -indeed, the fool can counter by criticizing them, and if they are undeniable, they can just be brushed aside as trivial exceptions."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity

There are some figures lost in the mists of time who deserve to be recovered and honored. One of them is Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Christian leader who joined the resistance movement against Nazism. Not only that, but he also rose to prominence as a result of his opposition to Hitler's anti-Semitic policies.

However, he was jailed and accused of conspiracy, after it was discovered that he'd been helping Jews flee to Switzerland. And, in 1945, he was taken to the Flossenbürg concentration camp, where he was hanged. But, his legacy remains in the form of his reflections on totalitarianism along with a timeless theory. It reminds us that ignorant people, with their passivity and poor judgment, leave the door open to disaster.

"Stupidity is a more dangerous enemy of the good than malice", Bonhoeffer wrote in a text published in the Journal of Church and State which collated many

of his thoughts. Undoubtedly, he was a brave man who bequeathed us some timeless ideas. Let's explore them.

Stupidity has a dark side.

Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity reveals that **minds without judgment and lacking in logic and the capacity for self-reflection can be more dangerous than those endowed with evil**. It was during his days in the concentration camps that this Lutheran theologian delved into the dark reality that dominated Germany at the time. He tried to describe it in his letters.

When Bonhoeffer referred to stupidity, he didn't mean the kinds of figures with limited cognitive potential. He was referring to those **who don't question what they're told and who follow orders without thinking**. This lack of judgment means they don't pay attention to other ideas.

In a way, Bonhoeffer's ideas have a certain similarity to those of the philosopher, Edmund Burke, in the 17th century. He claimed that "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph in the world is that good men do nothing".

In the case of the Second World War, as well as many other social and humanitarian crises of great magnitude, there's a particularly disturbing truth. It's the fact that, when stupidity acts as a group and herd behavior occurs, it's tremendously threatening. In fact, evil enters through the front door. Indeed, to impose itself, evil requires a **herd mentality that's governed by ignorance**.

The power of the one needs the stupidity of the other."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer on stupidity-

The problem: we tolerate stupidity more than evil.

According to Bonhoeffer's theory, we don't tend to fight stupidity in the same way we do evil. The two are really different in nature. Moreover, **we often smile at naive behavior, simplistic reasoning, and thoughtless commentary**, considering it not even worth debating.

We frequently see this kind of behavior on social media. Stupid tweets are tolerated and swarm everywhere, even though we might try not to give them any importance. Then, **suddenly, fake news goes viral, and a conspiracy theory is fueled**. Consequently, ideas with no scientific or logical basis spread uncontrollably. It happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There's another similar idea that's been analyzed for years in the field of organizations. It's known as functional stupidity. [A study conducted by the University of Uppsala \(Sweden\)](#) claims that, in many companies, employees no longer question the procedures or the prevailing rules. They simply accept them. This dynamic is a problem because whenever individuals become passive agents without reacting or reformulating what governs and surrounds them, it results in totalitarianism and coercion. **Normalizing and allowing stupid behavior to occur affects everyone, because it enables evil.**

The zombies of society and Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity Authentic 'zombies' also inhabit the social environment. These are individuals who get carried away by slogans and banners that they don't even question. In fact, the more striking, extreme, and illogical they are, the better. This is often evident in movements dominated by extreme ideologies.

Suddenly, leaders appear who provide simplistic solutions to complex problems. They're threatening and populist characters who, in a short time, achieve a large following that gives them power. Bonhoeffer's theory of stupidity warns us of how naive minds gobble up these nonsensical narratives and follow them at face value. They're like souls devoid of rational brains.

"Having thus become a mindless tool, the stupid person will also be capable of any evil – incapable of seeing that it is evil."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer-



Manners and Customs of Bible Times

The Porch

A wealthy house looked tiny from the exterior because entry was through a single, locked cedar door that was often guarded by a porter. The lock was put on the inside of the gate, so that it was necessary for the arm to be put through a hole in the door before the key could be inserted (Nehemiah 3:3; Song of Songs 5:4). The key was a means of lifting up the pegs that held the wooden bar in place and the key was therefore rather large (see Isaiah 22:22). Roman locks of a later time were much smaller and more complex.

The porter sat in a porch behind the gate and waited until he recognized the voice of the person wanting to come in. Rhoda took the place of the porter and waited until she recognized the voice of Peter – but she still would not open the door until she had told the others who it was (Acts 12:13-14). When Jesus said that he stood outside the door of the church at Laodicea and knocked, it implied that it was a wealthy church (Revelation 3:20).

Furniture

Whereas the less wealthy managed a bed, table, and chairs (2 Kings 4:10), the wealthy had proper beds piled high with cushions (1 Samuel 19:15-16; Proverbs 7:16-17). Dining tables were to be found in the homes of the wealthy. Stools, together with backed chairs (1 Kings 10:18-19), were provided to rest the legs

(Psalm 110:1). Lighting was provided by large candelabra. There was no real limit to the facilities provided in the palaces of the day, but there were fewer rich people than there are today.

Sticking my neck out to say...



8/1 Joan White
8/1 Gary Kruschke
8/2 Mary Keeler
8/2 Alice Ostrowski
8/3 Will Binkley
8/3 Ruth Hill
8/3 Inge Miller

8/10 Graham Binkley
8/11 Jim Keeler
8/13 Gary Graham
8/16 Lance Hofman
8/16 Kirsten Lienemann
8/19 Virginia Inkrote
8/19 Donna Drotleff
8/25 Ross Binkley
8/25 Bob Pruess
8/31 Peg Hille

8/5 Frank Shaw
8/5 Brenda McElroy
8/8 Dottie Steele
8/10 Diane Beck

Happy Birthday!



- 8/17 Curtis and Sherry Wiese
- 8/25 Herb and Bonnie Steeb
- 8/31 James and Beth Bier

August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	2 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study	3 6:00 PM Elder's Meeting	4 1:00 PM Bible Study	5 8:00 AM Praise Band 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study
6 Early Communion Both Services Wipe Collection 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary Noon Call Committee 6:00 PM Youth Group		8 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe	9 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study	10	11 10:00 AM Confirmation 1:00 PM Bible Study	12 8:00 AM Praise Band
13 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group		15 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe Homeschoolers	16 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study	17 6:00 PM Council Meeting	18 10:00 AM Confirmation 1:00 PM Bible Study	19 8:00 AM Praise Band All Day—Hofman Wedding Shower
20 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group		22 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe Homeschoolers	23 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study	24 5:00 PM American Heritage Girls	25 1:00 PM Bible Study	26 8:00 AM Praise Band
27 Late Communion 8:00 AM Traditional Service 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM Contemporary 6:00 PM Youth Group	28	29 7:00 PM Lifetree Cafe Homeschoolers	30 9:30 AM Quilting 10:00 AM Pastor's Midweek Bible Study	31		

Congregational Happenings



Bea Daily went home to be with the Lord July 23, 2023. A memorial service will be held at Good Shepherd on August 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM. There will be a reception afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

May her soul rest in peace after an honorable journey.

Tree Trimming Around the Grounds



Voter's Assembly



5th Sunday Breakfast





Goofy Golf





Youth Group

