

# The *Celebration!* Connection

Celebration Lutheran Church, ELCA

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## From the Pastor

*What was your favorite part of the trip?*

As you are all aware, Heather and I just returned from a two-week trip in Europe, starting with a few days in Vienna, then hopping on a ship for a cruise up the Danube and ending with about a day and a half in Prague.

We really like Vienna and find it *fairly* easy to wander around the city because of its wonderfully efficient mass transit system. As this was my third visit to the city, but the first one where I was there for more than a day, and not knowing if I'd ever have a chance to return, there were some "bucket-list" things I wanted to accomplish.

Now, as a classical music nerd (and because I know how to show a girl a good time), I wanted to visit the graves of Beethoven, Brahms, Schubert, Johann and Joseph Strauss, von Suppe, and others. Fortunately, are almost all located in one location in Vienna's Central Cemetery (never found Salieri's or Schoenberg's because it was too blooming hot to wander around looking for them!).

The next day we took the tram to find composer and conductor Gustav Mahler's grave in a little cemetery located in the suburb of Grinzing. (I told you I know how to show a girl a good time!).



Many of you have asked is “what was your favorite part of the trip?” Well, believe it or not they weren’t the bucket list items. My favorite part of the trip was the people watching. Riding the trams, you realize that whether in the US, or Vienna, or Prague, or Passau, kids are kids, married couples are married couples, young love is young love no matter where you go and no matter the language spoken. And on the ship, there were people from all over the world that we got to know – Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Slovakia, as well as throughout the United States.... You name it, we met them and found many commonalities which was wonderful!

But now we’re back home again, among this community – this family - known as Celebration Lutheran Church.

I know that church isn’t always what it should be, and church people aren’t always what they could and should be. As someone once quipped: “To live above with the saints I love, Oh, that will be glory! But to dwell below, with the saints I know – now that’s a different story!”

Sad but true. It’s like a pastor who wanted to implement a program designed to help his congregation to be friendlier to visitors. He announced that they would start this new program the following Sunday. But one man was so enthusiastic about the idea that he grabbed the hand of a lady sitting behind him and greeted her. She gave him an icy stare and told him in no uncertain terms, ‘That friendliness business doesn’t start until next week!’

Several centuries ago, in a mountain village in Europe, a wealthy nobleman wondered what legacy he should leave to his townspeople. He decided to build them a church. However, no one was permitted to see the plans or the inside of the church until it was completed.

At the grand opening, the people gathered and marveled at the beauty of their new church. Everything had been thought of and included. It was truly a masterpiece. But then, someone asked, “Wait a minute! Where are the lamps? It’s really dark in here. How will the church be lighted?” The nobleman pointed to some brackets in the walls, and then gave each family a lamp, which they were to bring with them each time they came to worship. “Each time you are here,” he said, “the place where you are seated will be lighted. When you are not here, that place will be dark. This is to remind you that whenever you fail to come to church, some part of God’s house will be dark.”

Wow! Get it? Yes, Christ came to die for the sins of the world, but he also came to found a new community. A community charged with the responsibility of delivering the message of the cross to the world. If we fail to do our part as witnesses to the light of the world, then the world will forever remain in darkness.

That is, in great part, what church is all about. You and I must do our part to see that the church is all Christ means for it to be because Jesus Christ is depending on each and every one of us, each and every Sunday morning.

Yes, travelling is absolutely wonderful, but more wonderful still, is coming home again and being with family.

See all of you, my family in the faith,  
**IN CHURCH!**

## Pastor Fogle



### Food Panty

Non-perishable food item donations are *currently* going to support the Elmwood Blessing Box in Garden City, MI.

The Elmwood Blessing Box is open 24/7, serving approximately 60 families, a day. EBB allows people to get food whenever they need it.

#### Notes from the Office

We need someone to answer phones on Monday, August 5 and Monday, August 12, 9:00am-Noon. Call or email the office if you can help.

The office will be closed Friday August 30 and Monday, September 2 for Labor Day weekend. The phone number is 734-582-4112 or email [office1c@celebration1c.com](mailto:office1c@celebration1c.com).

## **\*\* Exciting News for Our Young Learners! \*\***

We are thrilled to announce that Sunday School will be starting up again soon!

Classes will begin on the Sunday after Labor Day, which is September 8th.

We look forward to seeing all of our wonderful children back and ready to learn and grow in their faith. Mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting year ahead



### Hamilton School Kits

As of this writing, July 21, we still have many components that must be received to complete the 500 kits. Once components are collected, we will then have a build-the-kits party one Sunday after worship. Unfortunately, the school schedule for the fall has yet to be finalized, so the date of the kit build can't be nailed down. We suggest planning on staying after worship on the 25th. Watch the Sunday newsletters in August for updates.

In September, Pastor will again be requesting Christmas gift card donations for the refugee children being supported by Samaritas as we've been so generously supportive of for many years. More on this next month!



## Annual Church Picnic Extravaganza!

Get ready for a day of fun and fellowship at our

**\*\*Annual Church Picnic\*\***

**\*\*August 18th\*\***

right after the church service!

This year's theme is **\*\*watermelons\*\***,  
and we have a juicy line-up of activities planned!

Enjoy delicious grilled hot dogs and chips  
which are provided.



Dive into our **\*\*watermelon eating contest\*\***  
and test your corn hole playing skills!



Bring your favorite salad, fruit or dessert to share - A sign-up  
sheet is waiting for you in the narthex—don't miss out on this  
fantastic day!



We can't wait to see everyone there for a  
watermelon-filled celebration!

## Check Out the Face Lift!

After our guys used a real torch to get rid of all the weeds in the parking lot, a company came in on July 22 and resurfaced the whole thing! A job said to be long overdue. After the steam settled, new lines were painted to let us know where to go, and now we're in business again. Many thanks to our energetic and efficient "Property Guys" for a job well done!



Please sponsor a vase of flowers to adorn the altar. The cost is now \$25 per vase. We can have up to two bouquets each week. You may sponsor a vase in memory or celebration of a person or event.

August 4

Vase 1: Available

Vase 2: Available

August 11

Vase 1: Stew Israel

Vase 2: Available

August 18

Vase 1: Rick and Jodi Reed in memory of Rick's father, Bob Reed

Vase 2: Available

August 25

Vases 1 and 2: Barb and Ray Smith in celebration of their *50th anniversary*

WELCOME  
BACK, CHOIR 

## Rehearsals Begin!

Our choirs will begin rehearsals for the fall season on Thursday, September 5, with bells at 6 pm and singers at 7 pm. We are always happy to welcome new members, so please feel free to join us right after Labor Day. For more information, speak to Donna, the music director or any choir member.

**LIVE FROM  
WESTLAND, IT'S  
SUNDAY MORNING!**



Please consider sponsoring a week or more live-streaming for \$15 per Sunday. The live-stream broadcast may be in honor, memory, or in celebration of someone or some event. Sign-up; on the Communication Board, call or email the office ([officelc@celebrationlc.com](mailto:officelc@celebrationlc.com)), Payment can be put into an envelope in the offering plate on Sunday, or mailed directly to the church.

June and July's live streaming has been sponsored by:

August 4: Steve and Andrea Kolhoff

August 11: Diane Yagerlener

August 18: The Hardy Family

August 25: Justin and Michelle Lair

## Women's Bible Study

### *After Certainty...*

### *Compassion*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. popularized the concept of the *beloved community* as a rational model of justice and social change grounded in nonviolence and compassion. Knowing Dr. King's deep roots in the church and Christian theology, and his commitment to end racism and other forms of hatred and division, we can be assured that his Beloved Community was not a version of Bonhoeffer's naive "wish dream," but a real way to people to live together.

The *beloved-ness* of the community is where compassion comes in. Choosing compassion over certainty, as Paul also urged the church to do, does not mean denying the truth. In fact, it's the opposite: Compassion can create the conditions for learning, raising awareness and a change of mind and heart. Wielding knowledge from a position of superiority makes sense if you determined to be opponents. But if the goal is to be heard and understood, *love* is the better way.

The next woman's Bible Study is August 21st at 1pm in the Gathering Space. This study is open to all women of the church (even if you don't regularly participate in W/ELCA activities.) The Bible Study can be picked up in Laureen Preston's church mailbox.



## The Extraordinary amid the Ordinary

A violinist once performed in the New York City subway, entertaining passers-by for 45 minutes. A few tossed him cash, totaling about \$30 by the time he concluded.

Little did anyone know, Joshua Bell was one of the world's best violinists. That day, he played one of the most complex musical pieces ever written on an instrument worth \$3.5 million. Indeed, a few days earlier Bell had performed a sold-out concert in Boston, where tickets averaged \$100.

Sometimes God does extraordinary things right in the middle of our ordinary lives, yet we don't notice. You're offered an opportunity you almost pass up, thinking it's not worth your time or effort. But upon taking part, you find it leads to your life's calling. Or someone crosses your path, but overlooking their worth, you brush them aside, missing out on a blessing God had for you through them.

And what about you? Do you undervalue yourself as "nothing special," just an "ordinary" person? Look closer; think again. For an ordinary baby born long ago to an ordinary couple in an ordinary stable in an ordinary town was none other than ... God's Son! And you? Why, you are also an extraordinary child of God!



Each week on a rotating basis, we lift up in prayer individual members of the congregation.

This month we lift up:

#### **August 4**

Savanna Willis  
Christopher, Kristina, Arne, and  
Bruno Wommer  
Diane Yagerlener  
Emily, Jeff, Maxwell, Levi Yandura

#### **August 11**

Lois Zilka  
Kelley Zombirt  
Bill and Lisa Albert  
Leo and Sandy Albert

#### **August 18**

Micheal, Robin, and Steven Albert  
Jane Alder  
Michael Bierbaum  
Mike and Linda Bierbaum

#### **August 25**

Larry and Esther Bowers  
Dennis and Deborah Bramigk  
Marilyn Briegel  
Randy, Jill, Andrew, and Megan Brown

## ***Birthdays***



1 Christopher  
Kolhoff  
1 Glenda Tarr  
6 Steven Prinz  
8 Mary Mahlow  
10 Matt Dent  
14 Carole Hakala  
Jeremiah Livingston  
15 Ed Klosterhaus  
19 Carol Noonan  
23 Lori Fernyhough  
31 Chris Crile

## ***Anniversaries***

1 Bob and Janet Clisch  
4 Mike and Pat Villemure  
6 Randy and Jill Brown  
7 Ron and Kim Shollack  
9 Leo and Sandy Albert  
9 Steve and Andrea Kolhoff  
16 Bud Johnson  
& Annie Featherstone  
18 Bill and Carol Gregg  
25 Ray and Barbara Smith (50th!)  
31 Rono and Margi Danakili

