

The Grapevine

June 2016

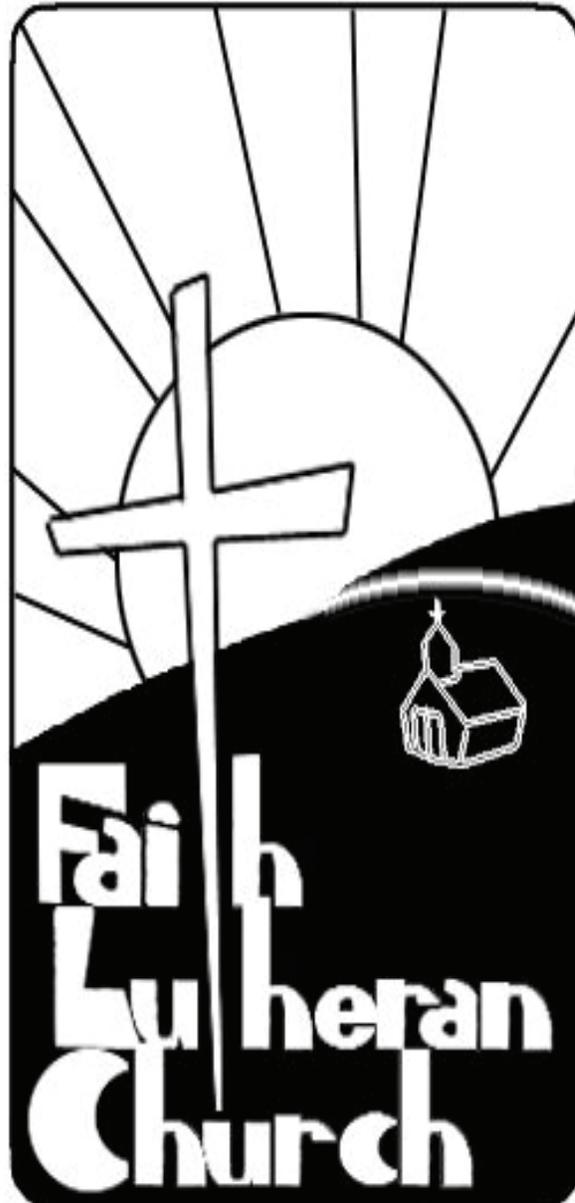
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Clippings from the Vinedresser

“As they were coming down the mountain...”
Matthew 17: 9



“Green marks the colour, and ordinary, daily life is where we find ourselves.”

We are now entering the period of the church year called Ordinary Time, or as you see it on your bulletin, the Sundays after Pentecost (I find “Ordinary Time,” well, too ordinary! The festal seasons are over. Beginning with Advent, running through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter, we celebrated: the birth of Jesus, the glory of Jesus, the suffering of Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus, the sharing of Jesus’ Spirit, and Jesus’ ascension. The altar cloth changed from blue to white to green to purple back to white with a brief flash of red for Pentecost.

Now we take a breath. Green marks the colour, and ordinary, daily life is where we find ourselves. And really, that is where most of us live life—on the plains not on the mountains. We rise each day to get to work, get the kids off to school, run around to appointments and meetings, make sure the car is fueled up and the cupboards stocked. Nothing too exciting.

When we stop to think about, though, life is never dull. We can never predict with certainty what we will encounter on any given day. When I read the paper or watch the news, I often think, five minutes before such and such an event, things were normal. Then, life changed in a flash. It happens with accidents; it happens when Mr. or Mrs. Right waltzes into our lives.

For Christians, disciples of Jesus Christ, life is never ordinary. Each and every moment is lived in the presence of Jesus. God’s Spirit dwells with us, giving us a whole different perspective on life around us and the

people we meet—a godly perspective. We see in other people, the face of God; we praise God for the beauty we experience in evening sunsets and babies’ feet; we thank God for homes, food, family; we hold up in prayer those who are struggling through life; we offer our hands and voices to the powerless; we repent over missed opportunities and sinful decisions. And much more.

During Ordinary Time we wind down our fall/spring activities and we take vacations. Sunday School, Bible Study and other activities are finished for the year. We reflect on the year that has been, jot down a few ideas for the fall, then off we go. We use this time to recharge our batteries, revive our spirits. Off to the lake, the garden, or to grandma’s house we go. We run, laugh, play, read, just sit.

Our texts throughout Ordinary Time focus on Jesus’ day-to-day life. This year we work our way through Luke, following Jesus as he makes his way to Jerusalem and his date with the cross. But that is far off. We listen to his teaching, witness his miracles, revel in his presence. It is anything but ordinary.

But as Ordinary Time passes halfway, we begin to pick up pace, Fall activities start, and the it won’t be long until Advent launches a whole new cycle of the Festal Seasons.

Here is a challenge: take a few minutes each day to focus on how extraordinary our ordinary lives are. See God in the unexpected encounters, in the flowers, in the frustrations and downturns. Thank God for the presence of the Holy Spirit each minute of each day. I bet, we’ll find that life isn’t ordinary, it’s special.



Congregational Picnic: Bring a Friend

On Sunday, June 12 at Club Lorelei, we will be having our Congregational Picnic. We gather at 10:30 a.m., for worship, then enjoy a POTLUCK lunch, followed by games and fellowship.

This year Faith Council has designated the picnic, BRING A FRIEND. So invite a friend or a neighbour to enjoy this day with us.

Other than a friend, please bring a dish for the potluck lunch, lawn chairs or blankets to sit on, and maybe some outside games to play.

See you there!

REMINDER: There will be NO worship in Augustana Hall on June 12.



Are *you* in this picture.
You could be!

Loonie Sale

Items are rolling in for our Annual Loonie Sale, which is scheduled for Sunday, June 5. There will be all manner of good things to bid on, plus lunch at a very reasonable price.

Proceeds from the sale go to support our two World Vision foster children.

FaithLife Financial is graciously supporting this event with a \$500.00 matching grant.

So come, enjoy, eat, visit, and bid.





June 2016



<p>Readers: 5: Tammy Becker 12: Picnic 19: Vivian Roth 26: Donna Jennings</p>	<p>Flowers: 5: Live Plants 12: Picnic 19: Elke Rosenau 26: Wendy Becker</p>	<p>Coffee: 5: Looonie Sale 12: Picnic 19: Arlene Jacobs 26: Gabriele Albrecht</p>	1	2 Women's Circle, 5:30 p.m., Club Lorelei	3	4
<p>5 Worship, 10:30 a.m. Looonie Sale, noon</p>	6	7 Council, 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11
<p>12 Congregation Picnic, 10:30 a.m., Club Lorelei</p>	13	14	15	16	17	18
<p>19 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	20	21	22	23	24	25 Nursery: 5: Laurie Molson Heather Grenon
<p>26 Worship, 10:30 a.m.</p>	27	28 Counters: Carol Plath Gert Rosenau	29 Communion Servers: 5: L. Morrow, C. Plath 19: D. Jennings, K. Habec	30 Communion Set-Up 5: L. Morrow, C. Plath 19: W. Becker, W. Ness	Ushers: 5: Tammy Becker, Carrie Macklin 12: Picnic 19: Ray Latour, Will Bachewich 26: Bernie and Vivian Roth	