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[Bethlehem Lutheran Church - Davey](#)

If you have ideas or items for the newsletter, please let me know. I'd be glad to put in things of importance to you and your family, to our congregation and in the community around us.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Davey, NE 68336

Encounter Christ Grow in faith Love as Christ loved Tell the Story

How uncomfortable does Jesus make you? I hope your answer is at least “a little.” Where some things are concerned, I think it should be “a lot.”

During the winter, when the weekly readings came from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, I challenged everyone to read the entire sermon (Matthew 5 - 7.) Many did. I think everyone who read it found something in it that challenged them and made them uncomfortable. There's a reason for that – Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and really all of his teachings are about life in a community. The Kingdom of God in the here and now is a community of people doing life together, God's way.

At the heart of the Kingdom of God is the command to love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Therein lies the rub. Loving other people can be hard.

That's only become more complex in our world today. Through the explosion of information and access to the entire world, we live in a global community. That makes the teachings of Jesus all the more challenging for us.

I believe Christianity in our country has made Jesus too comforting. Faith has become all about our own personal relationship with Jesus and the forgiveness and salvation he offers us as individuals. That's an aspect of faith. But it isn't all there is. The teachings of Jesus about how to live in the community called the Kingdom of God still stand, even though that community has spread globally.

The idea of Jesus as only a personal friend and savior leads people to believe that politics and faith shouldn't mix. The Kingdom of God that Jesus actually taught and announced says that because politics involves God's people, faith and politics can never be completely separated in the hearts of Jesus' followers.

Earlier this week one of the op ed columnists who appeared in the Lincoln Journal Star quoted a recent Pew Research survey about attitudes of Americans toward refugees.

Let's talk definitions for a minute. This survey isn't about the people crossing at our southern border. They are seeking asylum. And by the way, the minute an immigrant presents themselves to border agents and requests asylum, they are here legally according to US immigration law, no matter how they got here. No doubt the asylum process should have order to it...there is inherently more risk involved than in the refugee process. Nonetheless, as Christians, we simply cannot tolerate dehumanization of these people nor can we let inhumane conditions in detention centers be OK.

But this survey wasn't even about asylum – it was about the refugee resettlement program. Refugees have fled their country, lived as a refugee in some type of temporary settlement and applied to come to this country as a refugee. Other countries accept a certain number of refugees as well. They are vetted in a process that can take as long as two years.

So, to the survey. The question asked was “does the United States have a responsibility to accept refugees?”

The responses were broken down by different demographics, but the one I'm interested in is religious affiliation.

65% of Evangelical Protestants (generally the more conservative groups) said no, and only 25 % yes. They were the lowest.

Of the church affiliated, Black Protestants were the highest – 63 % said yes.

Of mainline Protestants – what we in the ELCA are – just 43% said yes...next lowest after Evangelical Protestants.

The highest? Those who had no church affiliation. 65 % of them said yes.

It makes me sad, and honestly makes me question my call to think that the majority of people in the church I serve think that we have no responsibility to take in refugees. It doesn't seem very Jesus-y to me...and it doesn't seem to fit the Kingdom of God which Jesus proclaimed. Honestly, the “unchurched” seem to me to have a better grasp on the Jesus thing where this issue is concerned.

So, what are your thoughts? I'd be interested to hear. Next year, one of our adult education sessions will focus on faith and current events. Immigration will likely be one of those current events. I'm hoping we can listen and learn from each other...and approach it with some humility, and above all love.

In Christ,

Pastor Kris

August Helpers

Lector—Theresa Lackey
Communion Assistant—Mary O'Hare
Ushers—Dave and Connor Nielsen
Cleaners—Wk 1/2—Rhonda Madsen
Wk 3/4—Peter Mills/Jerri Daugherty
Altar—Vicki Nielsen

August Calendar

August 4	10:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion
August 10-11	Youth campout at Branched Oak
August 11	10:30 am—Worship
August 18	10:30– am—Worship with Holy Communion After worship gather in the basement to de-clutter
August 25	10:30 am—Worship



Remember to bring cookies for Matt Talbot prior to the second Monday of the month.

Decluttering

The church basement is full of stuff, much of which we don't use. Prior to August 18, some of us will go through things and put much of it out for display. I hope to get them out by August 11 but for sure on August 18 we would ask everyone to stay after worship, gather downstairs and go through things. If there are things you want, take them. If there are things you think the church should keep, say so. Whatever is left that's not just trash will go to the Saunders County Medical Center rummage sale.

If you won't be there the 18th, please talk to Pastor Kris and let her know if you'd like to look at stuff another day, or if you have an opinion about something you know is down there.

Members at Home

We have several members who we don't see often because it's hard for them to get out. Here is some updated pictures and contact information.



Delores Erickson is now in assisted living at Legacy Terrace.

5700 Fremont, Apt. 1

Lincoln, NE 68507

402—467-2161



Wanda still lives on the farm with Wayne.

14000 N. 70th St

Lincoln, NE 68517

402-470-7898 (best)

Or 402-467-2058



Dee Kreiner is still living on the farm.

3636 Bluff Rd.

Davey, NE 68336

402-467-1219



Elaine Hansen

8154 Regent Dr.

Lincoln, NE 68507

402-464-8572