



June 19, 2020

Neighbors

Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10) in response to a lawyer asking the question, “who is my neighbor?” He ends this familiar story with the question, “which man was a neighbor to the injured man?” The reply, “the one who showed him mercy.”

This is a familiar story, but there is a deeper point that we overlook. The pat answer of, “everyone is my neighbor,” is born from the Jew-Samaritan dynamic. They shared a common history, but now there are differences that deeply divide the two groups. Hearing that a Samaritan could be his neighbor was a challenge to the lawyer.

If we dwell on these categories and think that everyone who is not us is our neighbor, we keep everyone at arm’s length. When everyone is our neighbor, then they need everything, which is an overwhelming prospect. It leaves us without a concrete understanding of what our neighbors need. However, it also lets us choose how we want to serve our neighbors, in the capacity and way we choose. We can say that we

loved our neighbor, when we only gave what we wanted away or served how we wanted. The specific needs of our neighbor didn't factor into our decision.

It is uncomfortable to begin with the specific needs of our neighbors. It forces us like the three men in the parable to look at our neighbor, beaten, bloodied, and dying. We understand the desire to walk by our neighbor. To show mercy, to love our neighbor as ourselves, we will have to recognize their specific needs, and possibly the ways that we cannot meet them.

For that is what the Samaritan did, he did everything within his power to help the specific needs of the man. He bandaged wounds, anointed them with oils, and when he didn't have a place for him to rest, sought out someone to care for the man. He even paid for care with a promise to reimburse for more care.

This is why the older, geography-based definition of neighbor still has value, and is a challenge to us. We have neighbors around us whose needs we can see. We have neighbors within the congregation whose needs we can see. Addressing these would require both forming new and deeper relationships within our own communities. We would also be forced to become more active in our communities to help connect neighbors with neighbors who can help.

This is what we forget about the, "who is my neighbor," question. Neighbors are part of a community. We know that the Kingdom of Heaven is something that Jesus showed us how to build, when we care for one another, as neighbors. When we show mercy and love to those around us, drawing them closer to us so that we are no longer concerned with who our neighbor is, but what kind of neighbor we are being.

Pr. Justin

SALC Communication Coordinator Position Available

The role of the Communication Coordinator is to use written words and various multimedia formats to express ideas and tell a story. In collaboration with the pastors, staff, and lay leadership of the congregation, create content that can be viewed on screen, listened to, or read that will advance the mission of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.

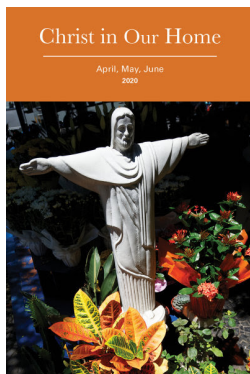
This is a part-time position - up to 20 hours per week. Please email personnel@salc-wausau.org if interested in this position and a job description will be emailed to you. ***The deadline to submit applications/resumes is 6-26-2020.***

Family Faith Formation



The Faith Formation ministry would like to offer opportunities to connect with children and families this summer in a safe and fun way and your input can help us develop some unique summer program options. The Vacation Bible School team would appreciate hearing what activities you and your family would be interested in and would love to hear your ideas! If you would like to offer feedback to help us plan the program, please fill out [this survey](#).

Christ in Our Home Devotional



Christ in Our Home quarterly devotional resource encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. The complementary email subscription will be ending on June 30. The third quarter devotional which begins July 1, is now available at church in a plastic bin outside the north (Chapel) entrance. Please stop by and pick up a copy for your family.

Face Masks Needed



As there continues to be a need for face masks both locally and globally, the quilting group is offering offering ready-to-sew kits **with elastic straps** for those interested in helping fill this need. They can be picked up and dropped off in the plastic bin located outside the north (Chapel) entrance of the church. Please call or email Linda Peterson to order kits: 715-573-4866; lindaksp@aol.com.

About

Worship

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Contact Us

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