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Lutheran Church of Our Savior

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## ELDER'S CORNER

### Adiaphora

—  
“Customs that are not necessary unto salvation.”

*Let's keep the Essential Things Essential!*

—  
You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. - Galatians 5:13

“I have the right to do anything,” you say – but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything” - but not everything is constructive. No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. - 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

**What's that title word??... Adiaphora??** Have you ever heard of it? Do you know what it means? Can you even pronounce it? Has your elder lost his mind? (Don't answer that one!) The definition the early Lutherans used referred to —“indifferent things neither commanded nor forbidden by God.” I think it is a great word to keep in the back of our minds. My working definition of this word is more in the form of a question about something we do or have in the church: “Is \_\_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank) *essential to salvation?*”

At the time of the Reformation, there were those who, like Luther, did not want to leave the Roman Catholic Church but wanted to reform it, to remove abuses, and focus the preaching and teaching on the central truth of faith: as St. Paul writes: “For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law” (Romans 3:28). There were also those who wanted to “throw the baby out with the bathwater” (one of those Idioms from our Adult Fellowship games – an unabashed plug!) and get rid of anything that looked like it was from the Roman Catholic Church.

So, *what is essential?* Whether at the time of the Reformation or in our current time, these

questions arise. *What is essential?* I also believe there is an unspoken question in that question: “Who's right?”

It is a healthy practice to ask ourselves about essential things in our worship. Or as Pastor Eckert would say, “Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing!” There are those of us who prefer certain practices like making the sign of the cross, kneeling for Communion, contemporary music, or clapping along with a hymn. We have preferences about styles of worship – traditional, contemporary, or blended. These practices, while not essential to our salvation, certainly add a lot to our devotion and worship but could lead to division in a congregation. That would be adiaphora at its worst, in a nutshell. **The non-essential becomes essential.**

As a Christian congregation, we are not just a collection of individuals, but a body – “we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5). So, in our worship, teaching, and practice, we hold firm to the essentials and exercise liberty in the non-essentials. I like this quote that is often attributed to St. Augustine:

*“In essentials, unity.*

*In non-essentials, liberty.*

*In all things, love ♥ .”*

Though the term “adiaphora” can sometimes bring heated discussion, the two extremes can be answered with true Lutheran love and joy. If someone says you must follow tradition, simply ask, “Will it gain me heaven?” That should quiet the legalism. However, if someone says, “Tradition and church custom? - those are matters of indifference!”, then say, “The Lutheran Confessions and five hundred years of Reformation practice have a bit to say on that.”

A healthy understanding of adiaphora can help us keep our priorities in the right place, as well as have the non-essentials that give LCOS our church's own personality. Then we can set our eyes on the essential work before us:

“Responding to God's love, Lutheran Church of Our Savior desires to reach more people for Christ by proclaiming Him, by growing in faith, and by caring for all people.”  
*(Our Mission Statement)*

As we enter this demanding phase of calling a new pastor, we really need to keep focused on the essentials. I pray that this summer would be a time of rest for you and a time for you to reflect on the *essentials* in your own Christian life and in God's church here at LCOS. ☼

...Respectfully submitted by Dennis Payne



- Aug 02 Merlin Meyer
- Aug 06 Caitlin Miller
- Aug 09 Emma Olney, Bill Williamson
- Aug 12 Bruce Summers
- Aug 14 Sarah Ganschow
- Aug 16 Dylan Gomez
- Aug 17 Don Benson
- Aug 18 Nathan Schofield
- Aug 19 Reese Riddiough
- Aug 21 Matthew Olney, Jane Riddiough
- Aug 23 Shirley Eckert, Jeff Sweeney, Linda Sweeney
- Aug 27 Frank Presnell
- Aug 28 Mark Andersen
- Aug 30 Paul DiModica
- Aug 31 Henry Clavin

**MOWING IN AUGUST**



- Aug 6 – Bill Williamson, Arlin Weiting
- Aug 13 - Reese Riddiough, Nathan Schofield
- Aug 20 - Art Atrops, Jim LaBelle
- Aug 27 - Mark Hathaway, Lucas Mayes, Dick Scholar



- Aug 04 Bill & Judy Moffatt
- Aug 08 Billy & Diana Brown
- Aug 12 Corey & Deborah Maddison
- Aug 17 Darrell & Marianne Heuchert
- Aug 21 Pastor Steve & Caydee Eckert
- Aug 22 Pastor Harold & Ruth Oliver



- Aug 04 7:00 pm Elders' Mtg.
- Aug 07 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Aug 07 9:30 am Comm. Svc.
- Aug 08 6:00 – 8:00 pm Men's Group
- Aug 14 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Aug 14 9:30 am Worship Svc.
- Aug 15 9:00 am August Ministry Schedule Due
- Aug 18 7:00 pm Council Mtg.
- Aug 20 9:00 am August Newsletter Deadline
- Aug 21 8:30 am SS/Bible Study
- Aug 21 9:30 am Praise/Comm. Svc.
- Aug 21 3:00 pm Adult Games & Fellowship
- Aug 28 8:30 pm SS/Bible Study
- Aug 28 9:30 am Worship Svc.

**Effective through  
 September 4, 2022  
 (1 Sunday Service Weekly)**



**8:30 AM - Sunday  
 School/Bible Study**

**9:30 AM - Communion Service  
 (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)**

**9:30 AM - Worship Service  
 (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**

## ALTAR GUILD & FLOWER SCHEDULE AUGUST



- Aug 07 – Communion Svc.  
9:30 AM – Becky Zielke  
Flowers: Dave & Debbie Wobrock in memory of Jim Osborne
- Aug 14 – Worship Svc.  
9:30 AM – Kelly Olney  
Flowers: Deborah & Corey Maddison's anniversary
- Aug 21 – Praise/Communion Svc.  
9:30 AM – Marjorie Hord  
Flowers: Shirley Eckert's birthday by Linda Sweeney
- Aug 28 - Worship Svc.  
9:30 AM – Connie Hathaway  
Flowers: Jim LaBelle

### AHEAD OF THE GAME

Don't miss "Adult Fun & Fellowship" on Sunday, August 21, at 3:00 PM in Stahnke Hall. Look forward to spending an afternoon playing creative games, winning plenty of prizes, and enjoying gastronomical goodies. Why, it could be you who goes home with bragging rights! ✨

### EXPRESSING GRATITUDE



Many thanks for the numerous cards and warm wishes I received from my LCOS family on the occasion of my July birthday.

— Dennis Bornhoft

### LET'S PAVE THE WAY

**Church Parking Lot**—Please be aware that on Wednesday, August 3, the church parking lot will undergo repair of its cracks by Toste Grading and Paving. ✨



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY – AUGUST 14 10:30 AM

- ▶ Election of Officers
- ▶ Annual Budget Approval
- ▶ Update from Elders on Call Process Status

# Puzzle!

Search for and circle all the bold words from Psalm 18:2, which reminds us where we find our strength.

The **LORD** is **MY ROCK**, my **FORTRESS** and my **DELIVERER**; my **GOD** is my rock, in whom I **TAKE REFUGE**. **HE** is my **SHIELD** and the **HORN** of my **SALVATION**, my **STRONGHOLD**.

S	T	R	O	N	G	H	O	L	D	T	S
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R	O	G	H	A	R	L	Q	R	A	Y	V
S	X	C	T	T	I	M	T	K	K	M	A
H	O	R	N	C	E	Y	R	A	E	D	T
I	G	F	V	L	O	L	K	E	N	S	I
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K	Y	U	X	O	C	N	O	O	Y	Q	S
X	H	X	A	R	K	L	R	C	N	H	Y
G	O	D	T	D	K	A	D	K	U	D	X

# GOD ROCKS!

## AUGUST 2022

### CHRISTIAN MINISTERS AT LUTHERAN CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOR

DAY	TIME	ACOLYTE	ELDERS	LESSON READER	MUSIC... CHOIRS	SOUND SYSTEM	ALTAR GUILD/ FLOWERS
7 Sunday	9:30 am Comm.		Todd Martin Dennis Payne	Floyd Olson		Chad Thorstenson	<b>Altar:</b> Becky Zielke
							<b>Flowers:</b> Dave & Debbie Wobrock in memory of Jim Osborne
14 Sunday	9:30 am	Emma Olney	Mark Hathaway	Dave Block		Karl DiModica	<b>Altar:</b> Kelly Olney
							<b>Flowers:</b> Corey & Deborah Maddison's anniversary
21 Praise Sunday	9:30 am Comm.	Ali Mayes	Art Atrops Rudy Stowell	Lucas Mayes	Praise Team	Ed Buchholz	<b>Altar:</b> Marjorie Hord
							<b>Flowers:</b> Shirley Eckert's birthday by Linda Sweeney
28 Sunday	9:30 am	Riley Olney	Tom Heuchert	Jill Murdock		Terry Murdock	<b>Altar:</b> Connie Hathaway
							<b>Flowers:</b> Jim LaBelle
<b>Please phone person* at right if you are unable to serve&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>		<b>ACOLYTES</b>  *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	<b>READERS</b>  *Todd Martin 801-3873	<b>ELDERS</b>  *Mark Hathaway 937-9675	<b>CHOIRS</b>  <u>Sanctuary Choir</u> *Diana Brown 448-1990  <u>Praise Team</u> Jane Riddiough 937-5241	<b>SOUND</b>  *Dennis Payne 934-1101	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675  <b>FLOWERS</b> Connie Hathaway 937-9675  <b>FLOWER MINISTRY</b> Randy & Crystal Shaffer (808) 772-3170

**PLEASE ARRANGE FOR NECESSARY CHANGES WITH PERSON WHO OVERSEES YOUR ASSIGNMENT;  
INFORM CHURCH OFFICE ONLY AFTER CHANGES ARE MADE TO SCHEDULE – 937-1116**

## AUGUST 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	3	4 7 PM – Elders’ Mtg.	5	6
7 8:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM – Comm. Svc.	8 6:00 – 8:00 PM – Men’s Group	9 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	10	11	12	13
14 8:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM – Worship Svc.	15 <b>August Ministry Schedule Deadline</b>	16 4:00 PM – P/S Board Mtg. 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	17	18 7 PM – Council Mtg.	19	20
21 8:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM – Praise Svc./Comm. <b>3:00 PM – Adult Fellowship</b>	22	23 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen – SH	24 <b>9 AM – August Newsletter Deadline</b>	25	26	27
28 8:30 AM – SS/Bible Study 9:30 AM – Worship Svc.	29	30 7:00 PM – CC Chordsmen - SH	31	38	29	30 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM - VBS