



FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	7	8	9	10 World Mental Health Day	11 7:00 Anglican Synod	12
13 International Day for Disaster Reduction 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Eucharist Service	14	15	16 World Food Day	17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	18	19 East Central Conference Convention
20 10:00 Trinity Song Service	21	22	23	24 Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land	25	26
27 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Morning Prayer	28	29	30	31	Notes:	



Faith Country
Shared Ministry

Faith Country Chronicle

Sept 2019



September Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God

I have been in a reflective mood as of late. Perhaps it is because I am preparing this article at the beginning of August with some holiday time behind me and fall just over the horizon of my computer screen. Perhaps it is because on July 9 I celebrated thirty years of ordained ministry.

Time has flown by. I was ordained in my home congregation. Valhalla Lutheran Church, Valhalla Centre, Alberta. Yes, a Norwegian settlement with a handful of Germans sprinkled in this farming community.

Following ordination I have been blessed to serve, together with my wife, Cathy, with and among the people of Bethany Lutheran Church, Dickson (1989-1993), Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge (1993-2002), Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton (2002-2010), as Assistant to the Bishop (beginning August 2010), and as Bishop (since January 26, 2013).

Within my time as Bishop, and certainly over the thirty years, there has been significant change, however, I continue to live by three core values which I first named while at College: servant-leadership, affirmation and involvement while seeking to engage, empower and equip the people of God.

Each year I seek to take time to reflect on this calling. Over these summer months I have been pondering, reflecting and writing about these thirty years, both the joys and the challenges.

Since 2013 I continue to return to a writing Cathy and I commissioned from Deacon Dr. Faith Nostbakken for my ordination as Bishop.

In shaping the poem, which Faith read during the Ordination, she considered the texts for the worship, the hymns selected for congregational song and ensemble singing, as well as a handful of images,

metaphors and pastoral themes which are deeply meaningful to me.

The poem is titled: Ordination

Nobody asks for drowning, certainly not the infant gently tilted head towards the font, arms and legs splayed suddenly with fear, maybe a whimper or a shrill cry as the robed one sifts through the sparkling water and touches the tiny brow, barely downy with hair, the rhythm of "The Father. . . and of the Son . . . and of the Holy Spirit"

incanted before a finely woven linen cloth dabs away the drops.

Everyone so easily forgets that dying can begin like this, the cross fingered again on the forehead at the dawn of each new day.

Nobody asks to have her feet washed either, not on Maundy Thursday even, unless her shoes are polished, her stockings free of runs and easily removed,

her toenails trimmed and filed that very morning. Maybe then she offers but can't quite face the eyes of the one who silently lifts her foot from the basin, wraps it awkwardly in a freshly laundered towel, drying the creases between each toe.

Most would rather forget how almost embarrassing it is

to be served this way by a neighbor or a friend much less the One incarnated in this sacred, tender act.

Nobody asks to be called into paradox either when the people proclaim, "You lead!" and in the same voice add, "You serve!" our meanings translated into as many tongues as join in song and blessing on this day.

Wash my feet, but don't embarrass me. Splash my head with the font's damp cross but don't let me stay in the drowning.

As you shepherd, walk beside us;
 notice how cracked our feet really are,
 how chapped our hands,
 and whenever we meet eye-to-eye,
 (especially try to meet us there)
 call us brother, sister, as we are yours,
 and remind us, so we don't forget,
 of the wondrous ache and splendour
 of love made whole first by being broken,
 made new first by dying,
 made perfect by the One whose body
 here and now we are,
 heads, hands, feet, eyes, tongues and all.

Blessings as you enter the fall season...see you at Area Gatherings.

In Christ Jesus – Shalom,
 +Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

From Another's Perspective

by Ken Barnes

John 8:15–16

15 You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. 16 And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me.

Perspective is determined by our beliefs, experiences, and life choices. Sometimes we can never see things from another's perspective because of our preconceptions.

Someone once said I have my mind made up, don't confuse me with the facts. We all judge by human standards and at least, in part, imperfectly. Admitting this to be true is the first step in seeing things from others perspective.

The basis of all truth is God's Word, yet good people do sometimes disagree about the interpretation of various things stated in the Bible. Someone once said, "In the Bible, the main things are the plain things, and the plain things are the main things." Certain truths in the Bible can never be compromised, such as the means of our salvation and the nature and the character of God. Other biblical issues such as the sovereignty of God and free will of man have been discussed for centuries in the church. You can make a biblical case for both of these seemingly contradictory theological issues. Maybe, what God has not revealed plainly, we should not try to define completely.

Augustine taught that we must have unity in the essentials of our faith. You cannot change the plain things. In the non-essentials, we can have a diversity of thought, but, according to Augustine, the freedom to disagree only works if you have love in all things. Christian unity is not about the meeting of the minds, but that of our hearts. Only then will be able to see things from another's perspective.



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~ September 2019 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Day of Prayer for Care of Creation 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	2	3	4	5 International Day of Charity	6	7
8 9:00 Hope Communion Service 11:30 St. John's Eucharist Service	9	10 1:30 Hope Worship Committee	11	12	13	14
15 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel 10:00 Trinity Song Service	16 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel	17 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel	18 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel	19 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel	20 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel	21 International Day of Peace World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel
22 World Week of Peace in Palestine and Israel 9:00 Lay Service at Hope 11:30 Lay Service at St. John's	23	24 Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land	25	26	27 Orange Shirt Day - Edmonton City Hall	28
29	30 Orange Shirt Day - Every Child Matters	Notes:				

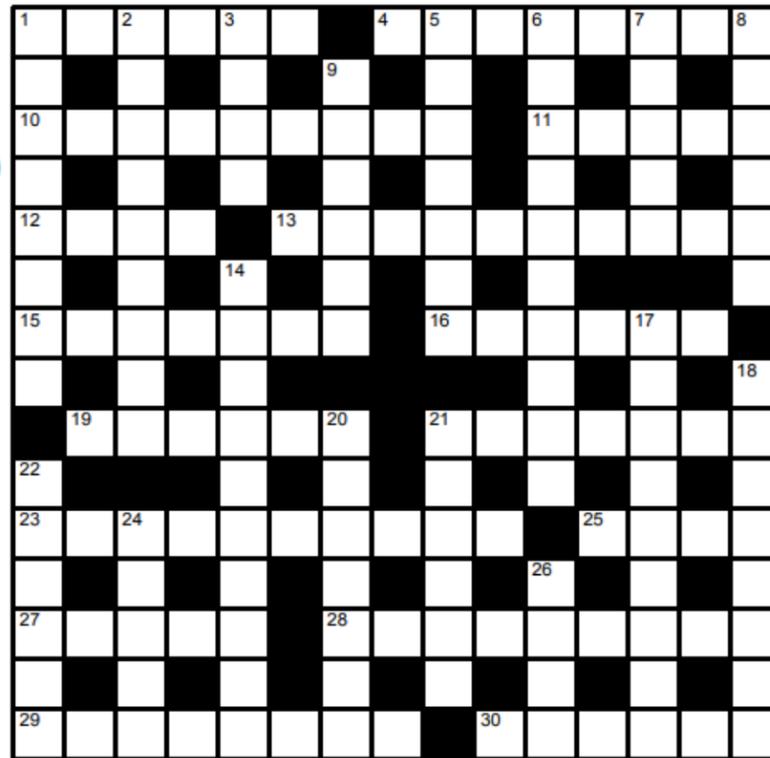
BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

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- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)