

PASTOR'S PAGE

An Intro to Ordinary Time

By Blake Flattley

God cares about our real life where we actually are. He is present in the everyday.

Every morning I wake up at 5 am. I make my way to the kitchen and put a kettle of water on to boil to make my morning cup of coffee. Most days, I make two. I read while the water boils, and then I'm off to work until my kids wake up. The rest of the day is filled with mealtimes, work, play, and various other activities that might be considered mundane or ordinary. Certainly not Instagram-worthy.

Sometimes the ordinary can feel unimpressive or perhaps not good enough. Good enough for what, I'm not sure. Occasionally, I will meet someone who has had some sort of mountaintop spiritual experience. Often the hope is that this mountaintop will be the new normal. But, as you likely know, we all come down from that mountain eventually and find ourselves again waking up to the ordinary. Yet, the ordinary is not bad. In fact, small acts are what compose our life, and that life then tells our story.

The life of the church is not dissimilar. If you attend a church that follows the liturgical calendar, a portion of the year is spent following the life of Christ (Advent to Easter), while the remainder is spent in what is often referred to as Ordinary Time. This is the period of the year that tells the story of the church, beginning in Pentecost and concluding before the beginning of Advent.

Recently, I was at a songwriter retreat where one of the retreat leaders reminded us that God is present in our actual lives, not just the lives we think we ought to have. Certainly, God is present in feasts, festivals, and celebrations. Still, he is just as present in the time spent changing old guitar strings as he is during that magic moment when we all sing the final chorus acapella together and feel the chill run down our spine.

God cares about our real life where we actually are. He is present in the everyday. Whether we feel it or not, he is present in the ordinary.

Every day when I wake up to make that coffee, I am reminded that Christ is present in ordinary acts and in ordinary means. He has again brought me safely through the night and given me my daily bread (or grounds, as it were).

I drink coffee because I enjoy it. I am grateful that it exists. It's a simple but important part of my day. Maybe it's not as surprising or interesting as Jesus grilling fish on the beach post-resurrection (John 21:1-17), but it is just as simple, just as practical, and just as necessary. So, as the lily wilts and the fanfare of Easter fades, know that God is still with you in all that life brings.

Heavenly Father, grant that we may know your presence in the ordinary and the exceptional. As we enjoy something as simple as a coffee or meal, may it make us more aware of your good gifts, pointing us evermore to the greatest gift of your Son with whom we have been buried and made alive, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Blake Flattley is an accomplished singer-songwriter and the head of 1517 Music. He holds a BA in Humanities and an MA in Theology from Concordia University, Irvine and has served as a Worship Director for churches in Southern California, Houston, New York City and the Phoenix area. Blake currently lives with his wife Tara and their three girls, Amelia, Olivia, and Willa in Southern California.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the weather is getting warmer and we get to witness the beauty of God's creation through the blooming of our flowers and trees, it's a great time to get outside and spruce up our yards for the summer. That was the case, here at Bethany, as a group of volunteers did a wonderful job sprucing up the yard around our Lord's house. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who dedicated their time over the past weekend to pull weeds, trim bushes, plant grass, and spread 12 yards of mulch around the entire property. I'd also like to thank Ryan Brooks for painting the yellow lines on the steps out front, making the steps more visible and safer for walking over. We enjoyed the beautiful weather while doing the yardwork and got to enjoy some fellowship over lunch afterwards. A great day was had by all, as you can tell by all the smiling faces in the picture below:



(Back row: Andy Fibiger, Ryan Brooks, Jerry Sabrowsky, Lynne Luebke, Kandice Brooks, Gina Fibiger, Lee Gumm, Gerry Luebke, Steve Marotz. Front row: Shua Yang, Thomas Yang, Sue Prange. Not pictured: Karl Kaeppler, Ken Thompson, Dave Prange)

And we can't forget Liz Buesing and Julie Regutis who take their time each summer to plant and care for flowers around the property. Thank you both!

I'm very grateful for the volunteers we have and can never say enough "thanks" to those who help. The Lord has definitely blessed Bethany with many talented people who so willingly give their time to keep Bethany a warm and welcoming place to worship. As you know, we are getting closer to the time of year where we need to start asking for volunteers, as those who have served on various boards are at the end of their terms. I'd like to ask you all to prayerfully consider taking one of the upcoming open positions. As they say "more hands make light work." A few notable positions that will be open are: Trustees, Elders, Sunday School Teachers, and Treasurer (which is a paid position). Please talk to Andy Fibiger or Gerry Luebke if you are interested.

Have a blessed summer and safe travels!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-01: Cindy Bartz
7-04: Cheryl Prepster
7-05: Zane Willadsen
7-08: Bob Kuehlmann
Megan Fibiger
7-10: David Taylor
7-16: Paul Havlinek



7-21: Mary Ann Fibiger
Jim Madden
7-23: Lisa Willadsen
Ann Walesh
7-29: Kya Diehl
Liz Buesing
Laura Tershner

JULY ANNIVERSARIES



7-05: Dave & Sue Prange
7-06: David & Sara Hasler
7-12: Tom & Joan Schnettler
7-28: Brian & Kristine Faucher
7-24: Steven & Diane Marotz

Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

JULY/AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS)

It is estimated that approximately ninety-eight percent of Deaf people in the United States do not attend church. This is, in part, due to the limited number of deaf churches. While the number of full-time pastors serving Deaf churches has decreased, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has seen an increase in the number of Deaf pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and lay leaders who use sign language to communicate the Gospel message. This has happened because of programs like Deaf Pah and the Deaf Institute of Theology. LDMS will engage in evangelism and Christian education training to help Deaf Persons and their families see Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and engage in stewardship and leadership training to help Deaf Persons serve Jesus Christ. To learn more, visit their website at www.deafjesus.org. Please use your Designated Offerings envelopes during the months of July and August to support this mission. Thank you for your support!



***** 7th Annual Putt Fore Love Mini Golf Outing *****

July 22 from 10am – 6pm at Harbor Pointe Mini Golf



Join us for a fun-filled day of mini golf, raffle baskets, balloon pop game, lemonade, and more!

All Proceeds benefit Love INC of Sheboygan County

CHURCH PICNIC COMMITTEE NEEDED

The tentative date for the Annual Church Picnic is Sunday, September 10. This is dependent on whether or not we have enough volunteers to help plan the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Gina in the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

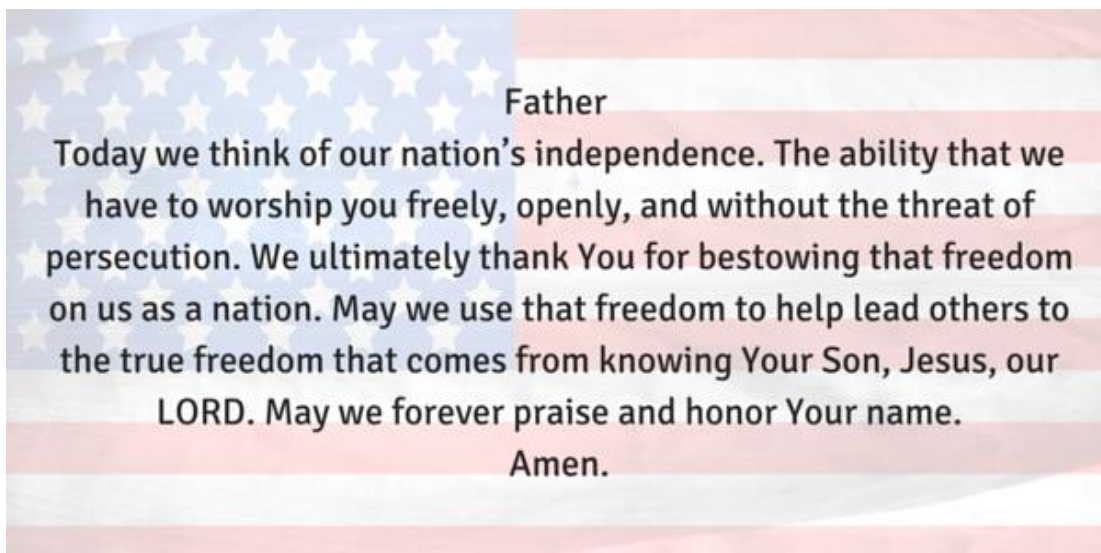


We are still looking for one or two Sunday School teachers. This could be one full-time teacher or a couple of people that would be willing to rotate and teach occasionally. Contact Gina in the office if you have any questions or if you would be willing to help. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity so we can continue our Sunday School.



OPEN HOUSE

All churches that support Lutheran High School and Neat Repeats Thrift Store are invited to an OPEN HOUSE on Sunday, July 16 from 2-4pm. Come check out the newly renovated store and do some shopping at the same time. Thank you to Bethany for your continued support!



THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JULY 2023

Sunday, July 2

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Fibiger
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Steve Perry

Sunday, July 9

10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann
Altar Guild:	Rachel Johnson & Julie Steele
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Noah Fibiger

Sunday, July 16

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Steve & Diane Marotz
Acolyte:	Katelyn Regutis
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Grace Matte

Sunday, July 23

10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Matte
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Diane Marotz
Streaming:	Thomas Yang


Sunday, July 30

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Steve & Alaric Hazen
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild:	Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader:	Kelly Paltzer
Door Locker:	Ryan Brooks
Streaming:	Austin Fibiger

JULY 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02 10am Worship w/HC	03	04  Office Closed	05	06	07	08
09 10am Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10am Worship w/HC	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10am Worship w/HC	31					