

LPC MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER

We are a family of believers, glorifying God, welcoming new members from near and far, and learning to love God and neighbor.

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"Reconciliation"

Last week, I preached on the importance of diverse people coming together. I described how diversity in nature helps to promote healthier growth and the same is true for people. Think of how broken society would be without the different gifts and talents and interests of different people in our world. We can be thankful that some people have steady hands, strong minds, and compassionate hearts and devote themselves to the healing arts. We can be thankful that some people are good with children, patient, understanding and intelligent and dedicated to teaching generation after generation of children to read, write, and do arithmetic. And we can be thankful that there are problem solvers who devote themselves to repairing what is broken, handymen and women who work behind the scenes making sure that we have basic things like food, water, and utilities, and compassionate people who reach out to people and make lives better. It takes all kinds of gifted people for a healthy sense of community.

But we know that differences are not always appreciated. Over the past year, I've been meeting with a devoted group of pastors and community leaders on breaking down barriers; particularly racial ones. Our coming together was sparked by what unfolded June 19 in Charleston last year. You may remember that a young white male entered an African American church during a Bible study and open fired on the participants, killing 9 of them. What's worse is that the perpetrator of this heinous act was a church goer.

Several pastors from Littleton and the Lake Gaston area got together following a memorial service remembering the Charleston 9 after recognizing the racial divide in our own community. With the aid of a diverse number of community members we started holding community meetings by gathering around the Word, asking questions, having in-depth conversations and even breaking bread together. On Thursday, June 16, we plan on having another memorial service remembering the anniversary of the Charleston shooting as well as remembering the names of others in the local area who lost their lives due to violence.

It is our hope that following this anniversary memorial to bring even more people together to tackle the barriers to reconciliation that exist within our communities. As part of that

endeavor, the community is being invited to a special webinar called "Imagining Another Way" being hosted on Monday, May 2 at 6:30pm at Lakeside Lutheran. Here's a description of the webinar.....

"Imagining Another Way" will offer wisdom from theology and psychology to help us overcome our blindness toward those who are different from us, so that we can more readily build harmonious relationships among diverse people."

Following the service of remembrance on June 16, we will be inviting one of the presenters of "Imagining Another Way" webinar to come and speak to our community. I hope that with the wisdom we acquire from these gatherings we can begin to promote the reconciliation of diverse people and the growth of a healthier community for all.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Kevin

"All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation."

~2 Corinthians 5:18

PRAYER LIST

~Our Church ~Helen Heinlein's Niece, Missy ~Charlotte Aycock's Brother and His
Wife ~Billie Perkinson ~John Williams' Great Niece, Allison Gordon ~Harrison
West ~Larry West ~John Acai ~Our Service Folks Around the World
~Believers Around the World

WISH LIST

~Rugs for Classrooms ~Furniture for Fellowship Hall ~Stairs from Road to Side of
Property

PSALM 23 AND NOTES FROM LYNN

A Psalm of David

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

(Jehovah keeps me. He lets me in and out of areas [pens, fields] of my life- me being one of

His sheep in His pastures [Kingdom]. ~Jehovah-Ro-i~ I look to Him for everything. He will

provide everything I need. ~Jehovah-Jireh~)

2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

(He causes me to lie down and rest in the best places to eat His spiritual food- manna- His

Word- Jesus. When I lie down I don't trample the grass which is the nourishment and so

it is tender and abundant for all the sheep to be nourished with.)

He leadeth me beside the still waters.

(I am healed and nourished following Him through life. He keeps me calm, restful, and

peaceful in this world, not turbulent. ~Jehovah-Shalom~

3 He restoreth my soul:

(He brings back. ~Jehovah-Ropheka~ He continually puts His Light back in me to renew

me.)

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

(He guides me in right ways ~Jehovah-Zidkenu~ for I am His own.)

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

(I go all the way through troubles in this world and even death into resurrection from

the troubles and death.)

I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me;

(God is perfect goodness, total power, total Almighty. Evil cannot stand beside Him, so, if

He is with me I am not afraid.)

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

(The shepherd's rod [club] is for the defense FROM enemies and his staff [crook] is for

the defense FOR the sheep. When sheep [His own] are numbered they pass under the rod.

The crook pulls the sheep out of holes [troubles] it stumbles into. My Shepherd knows

where I am all the time to help me. These two tools lead me gently through life.)

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

(He sets me up in order so I can feast while He fights [like in verse 2] those who try to

hurt me. ~Jehovah-Me Kaddishkem~ Whatever my troubles are I still am nourished

with spiritual food- the Bread of Life.)

Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

(Oil protects the sheep's head from sunburn and from lice. So I am protected from

things that would hurt and bother me with the oil my Shepherd puts on my head. The oil is

the Holy Spirit.

The sheep's water cup [supply] is running over. My living water is overflowing

in my cup.)

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house

of the Lord for ever.

(God's grace follows me throughout every day all the way forever, first in this life and

on into my future eternity. The Shepherd will be good to me and love me always and

I will live with Him in His Kingdom.)

*Titles of Jehovah and some of the above information given in side notes of my King James Version Companion Bible.

CALENDAR

MAY 2016

Birthdays: 7th- Agnes Atkins 26th- Kevin Brunk

Volunteers: Flowers- Madeline Williford Ushers & Fellowship- Madeline Williford & Lynn Lesak

1	Sun.	9:30am	Worship
3	Tues.	10:30am-noon	Pastor's Office Hours
4	Wed.	10:30am-noon	Pastor's Office Hours
7	Sat.	4:00pm	SWPC Anniversary Activities & Food
8	Sun.	10:30am	SWPC Anniversary Worship & Lunch

Mother's Day

10	Tues.	10:30am-noon	Pastor's Office Hours
11	Wed.	10:30am-noon	Pastor's Office Hours

- 15 Sun. 9:30am Worship, Guest Singer- Trina Paynter, Fellowship
- 17 Tues. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours
- 18 Wed. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office hours
- 22 Sun. 9:30am Worship
- 24 Tues. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours
- 25 Wed. 10:30am-noon Pastor's Office Hours
- 29 Sun. 9:30am Worship
- 30 Mon. Memorial Day