

Different Colors Can Go Together

Years ago I was with a neighbor, looking at a hillside full of trees. Many different types of trees were there, with a variety of leaves and needles. All kinds of different shades of green were visible, with some yellow and a little bit of red and orange mixed in. As we enjoyed the beauty of God's creation, Don remarked: "God puts all those different shades of green together and it looks great, but my wife thinks my shirt and pants need to be a matching color when we go out."

I don't know that the variety of colors of trees means it is okay to wear mismatching clothes. It does serve, however, as an example of how a diversity of colors can go together and become something beautiful.

God made many different types and colors of trees, and He made many different types and colors of people. If God wanted everybody to have the same skin color, He could have made us that way. Nothing is impossible for God. But the Lord, in His infinite wisdom and grace, chose to show His incredible creative ability. He painted the hillsides of the world with all kinds of different shades and colors of skin.

The variety of colors can be a beautiful thing, but sadly the beauty is not always appreciated. Throughout the centuries people have struggled with the temptation to think their color is the best color. Far too often people have only wanted to be around their color. That is like a forester wanting to only plant one type and shade of tree. What a boring and unhealthy forest that would be.

"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment" (Romans 12:3). Don't think people of your color are superior and more honest and hard-working than people of a different color. The outside color doesn't automatically determine what a person is like on the inside.

God's church is described in Scripture as a body with many different parts. "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. ... God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body" (I Corinthians 12:12, 18, 19). The many parts of the body look different from one another. But God has arranged them and made them that way for a reason. God doesn't want us to all look the same and be the same and do the same kind of work.

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility ... you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household" (Ephesians 2:14, 19). These days, when there is so much division, can be an opportunity for God's church to show the world that Jesus is our peace. Christ can bring diverse people together into one family and make them into something beautiful.

—Pastor Craig

Worship Services

We have been able to return to having one worship service on Sundays at 11:00 a.m. As we gather together, to comply with the COVID-19 guidelines everybody is asked to observe social distancing. Thanks to our sewing group, free masks are available on the entryway table.

We are also continuing to live stream our Sunday worship services on Facebook Live. Devotional videos are also posted on our congregation's YouTube channel. Links to both of those sites can be found on our website: bethanyfree.com.

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) June 30-July 3
9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Tuesday: Preschool & Kindergarten

Wednesday: 1st, 2nd & 3rd Graders.

Thursday: 4th & 5th Graders.

Friday: Middle School & High School Beach Trip - Meet at church 11:00a.m.

Friday: Family Movie Night - "Pilgrim's Progress" 7:00p.m.

We will do as many VBS activities as possible outside as we adhere to CDC guidelines to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Join us for Bible lessons, songs, games, crafts and more as we think about how Jesus calms the storms of life. Please invite others and pray for the plans and preparation.

Because of the COVID-19 virus our District Family Bible Camp had to be canceled this year.

**The Lutheran Ambassador Magazine
Subscription Due**

The Lutheran Ambassador is the monthly magazine of our church body Congregations. It includes devotional and Biblical teaching articles and news about the work of the AFLC.

Subscription rate for a year is \$24. Forms are available at the church if you'd like to subscribe or contact the church office.

Men's Breakfast

Men's breakfast will not be held this month. The next men's breakfast will be Sat. Aug. 1 at 8:00 a.m.

**Worship Service & Picnic
Cullaby Lake July 12 11:00 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to our annual outdoor worship service and church picnic. It will be held at Cullaby Lake, Sunday, July 12, starting at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be provided. You're welcome to bring a salad, chips, veggies or dessert to share if you'd like.

At our July 12 picnic we'll be honoring recent graduates – Devin Jackson and Eli Takalo – and praying for God's blessing on them in the days ahead.

Pastor Craig will be gone July 13-19 and speaking at the AFLC Wilderness Bible Camp in Lake Park, Minn. Pastor John Slivkoff will be sharing the message on Sunday July 19.

**Congregation Quarterly Meeting
Sunday July 26 following the worship
service.**

AFLC Annual Conference August 10-12
The AFLC Annual Conference has been moved from its planned date in June to August 10-12. It will be held at the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wis. It is a time for spiritual renewal and discussion of the work of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Coming This Month...

June 30-July 3 Vacation Bible School (VBS)

July 3 Family Movie Night

July 12 Outdoor Worship Service & Picnic

July 26 Congregation Quarterly Meeting

