



Last month I continued the ongoing talk about justice with a look at Jesus willingly taking injustice upon himself in order to establish justice. His crucifixion was unjust. But he did not take offense at it, but carried it down to Hell and left it there. I asserted that self-sacrificial love is the only way to establish real justice. Further, I made a connection between what Jesus did and what the Civil Rights Movement did, willingly accepting the hatred of others in order to make a real change. But haven't I been missing something? What about punishing the guilty? God forgives sinners, sure, but can society operate that way? Isn't it necessary that those responsible for injustice should pay some cost?

This question confounds me. My heart shouts out, "Yes! The guilty must pay some price or the thing that we call justice will only be a fake." But even as I shout, I feel a sense of wariness, as if there is a trap here. There is.

But first, the need for a price to be paid. I believe that the guilty must pay a price because that is the sign that the deed which was done was evil and that it has been recognized as such, both by society and by the guilty one. To simply move on without exacting a cost from the guilty one is to say, or at least imply, that the deed of injustice wasn't really a big deal. To stretch that a bit further, it is to say to the one who has suffered, "Get over it. Your suffering didn't matter." How can we expect anyone to move on from that without being embittered? So there must be a

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price paid in order that the victim will know that the injustice perpetrated against them has been seen and has been condemned. This is society saying, "What happened was wrong and we stand with you."

What I've just described is, I believe, a necessary part of healing, both for the guilty and for the victim. In 12 step programs, we can see this from the standpoint of the offender. Steps 8 and 9 say, "Made a list of all persons we had harmed, and became willing to make amends to them all. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others." It is recognized that the harm caused cannot be undone, but the idea is to admit the guilt and, more importantly, try to pay the cost if possible, so long as this payment doesn't cause more harm than good.

Now what about that trap? The trap is making someone other than the perpetrator unwillingly pay the price of injustice, unfairly expanding the definition of guilt so that this can be done "justly". The trap, then, has to do with who is actually guilty versus who can be made to fit the definition.

What would you call it if the police were unable to apprehend a thief, but arrested another man who was walking down the street and put him in jail, in order to appease the shopkeeper and in order that "justice might be done" – Would this be justice? Of course not. The righteous demand of the shopkeeper that the crime be punished has not been met by this action. It is a mockery of justice. It has increased the debt of injustice in that town, not decreased it. This holds true even if the man in jail cheats on his taxes. That is to say, the injustice of his arrest is not lessened even though he is indeed guilty of something else. The point is that he is not guilty of what he is accused of.

The trap is a trap because it acknowledges something important (injustice), but it then turns

around, having learned nothing, and continues the abusive behavior with a new victim.

Next month I will wrap things up with a look at current events.

Rev. Ben Worley
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(712) 541-4785 (cell phone)



**Emanuel-St John Lutheran
Church
Council Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2021**

President Brian Lantz called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Jean Matter, LaVerne Arndt, Jeff Ellerbrock, Dennis Hinrichs, Pastor Ben, Nicole Meyer and Colleen Arndt. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Colleen Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve the August minutes. Motion passed. Rhonda gave the Treasurers Report with a balance of \$25,490.16. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve Treasurers Report. Rhonda reported that a donation has been given to the church for maintenance on the St. John Cemetery. A bill was presented for the elevator maintenance and inspection from Schumacher for \$1,189.18. Motion by Rhonda Johnson, second by Jean Matter, to approve payment. Motion passed.

Old Business: Jeff Ellerbrock presented the Portico Insurance package for Pastor Ben's insurance to the council. Cost of the package is \$36,748.68. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve the Bronze A Plus with an HSA. Motion passed. Jeff reported a donation was given to the church from a bicycle rider that came through town during Ragbrai. His suggestion was to use the donation to make brochures that gives information about our church and services.

President's Report: Brian is still working on getting the lights on the outside cross repaired. Brian contacted Arlyn and Virginia Hillmer about the bench on the lawn at church. The fiberglass is in need of repair. Hillmers will remove the bench.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ben stated that services have moved to inside the church and Sunday School and Confirmation have started for the year. High School classes are started also. He reported on visitations to homebound and nursing home members of the church.

Worship and Music Committee: Jean Matter informed council they will continue with individual cups of wine and wafers for communion because of COVID. The committee is working with the Parish Ed committee to form a note that Sunday School children can give to children in the community inviting them to come to our Sunday School classes.

Parish Education Committee: Nicole Meyer reported they are looking for a Christmas program coordinator. The Sunday School Christmas program will be Dec. 19th. The committee is looking for ideas on what to purchase with memorial money given to them. A teachers meeting scheduled for next week. Sunday morning snacks for students will be pre-packaged snacks.

Outreach Committee: Colleen Arndt present, working on Confirmation which will be in October 31st.

Property Management: LaVerne Arndt reported that the cement was done at the parsonage. Kitchen flooring at the parsonage will be put in sometime in October. Parsonage lawn will be reseeded next spring where the garden area was.

Stewardship and Finances: No information.

WELCA: No information.

New Business: Date and speakers for Mission Festival was discussed. Council suggested several speakers. Jean Matter will make contact, to see if November 14th would work into schedule for them.

Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned with Lord's Prayer.



"We are not meant to be thermometers but thermostats, not just registering the temperature of our times but governing it."

--Indianapolis Christian Fellowship
Indianapolis, IN
The Newsletter Newsletter

October Birthdays

- 2) Sheila Toms
- 3) Jeff Ellerbrock
- 4) Jean Matter, Jax Purdie
- 5) Ella Adams
- 6) Karen Cerra, David Hutchens
- 8) Courtney Diersen
- 9) **Doneta Linqvist**
- 10) Theodore Albright
- 11) Donovan Kennebeck
- 12) Steven McKinney
- 13) Bruce Byriel, Cody Lanning, Cindy Souder
- 14) Michael Sage
- 15) Grant Grodahl
- 16) Nolan Huddleson, Jenna Jensen
- 17) Ron Maulsby, Rodney Rix, **David Sands**, Julie Wilson
- 19) Kristin Bailey, JoAnn Ellerbrock, Debbie Otto
- 20) Chris Souder
- 21) **Dorothy Wilson**
- 22) Mindy Riley
- 23) Amy Diersen, Barbara Hedin
- 24) **Nelma Byriel**
- 25) Daniel Kennebeck, Gary Manning, Adelaide Worley
- 27) Jake Ackerson, Sam Adams, Emily Bailey, Morgan Hillmer, Marlyn Purdie
- 28) Dennis Johnson
- 29) Brittany Garcia, Paul Toms
- 30) Earl Bartels, Matthew Gibson, Daryl Glasnapp, Kari Lantz



Oct 5, 1996 Bob & Jodi Purdie
Oct 29, 2005 Mark & Angela Edmondson



Grace Anne Henkelman
and Joseph Dennis
Wayne Schrage, Jr. were
united in marriage

Saturday, September 18, 2021 in Asheville, NC.

Congratulations, Grace and Joseph!

Ingham-Okoboji Quilt Auction Thank you

Dear generous donors to the Quilt Auction, THANK YOU!! On behalf of IOLBC, I want to offer my sincere thanks to you for your donation to our 34th annual quilt auction! The work, time, and creativity that you put into each item is truly appreciated. Thank you, for your generosity in giving to this ministry!

In total, we received about \$64,670.00 in bids and other gifts on Quilt Auction weekend! This money enables the camps to continue providing excellent youth and family programs. Thank you for your investment in the work of sharing Christ with so many campers!

The amount of your personal or group donation is enclosed. Please share the good news. Regardless of the individual amount, you were an important part of raising a tremendous amount of support for the camp. **THANK YOU!!!!**

I hope that you will again be a part of this exciting weekend in 2022. Also, please consider coming to camp for one of our retreats, summer camps, or even come and stay in our facilities on a personal retreat.

Thanks again for your great support! I wish you God's richest blessings in every way!

For all of the campers blessed because of you,
Rod Quanbeck
Executive Director
Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps

PS 8 quilts were provided from Emanuel-St. John.
Thank you to the following ladies that sent quilts:
Marlene Meyer 1, Rhonda Johnson 2,
Colleen Arndt 1, Betty Scheidegger 3
and Jo Scharn & Jan Fredericks 1

These 8 quilts raised \$1505.00 for the camp.
Awesome!



Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:
God picks you from the patch and brings you in.
(John 15:16)

Then He washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scraps out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, fear, hate and greed.

(Romans 6:6)

He carves you a new smiling face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

(Matthew 5:16)



Have you wondered where your donations to Western Iowa Synod go? A portion of your mission support provides for:

- A week of health and wellness at camp for pastors and families
- Lutheran campus ministry
- Mentoring and continues learning for new pastors
- Seminary and seminarian support training pastors for the years ahead
- Support for congregations and rostered ministers in transition
- Church of Damascus Road – prison ministry
- Young people attending the ELCA Youth Gathering 2022
- Flood, drought, disaster relief
- Global partnerships in Chile and Tanzania
- Lutheran Services in Iowa to care for foster families and mental health needs
- Food for hungry people in Western Iowa and around the world



October 2021, Leaving a Legacy

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) has responded to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service for more than 150 years. We have created a legacy of lifting up and empowering thousands of our Iowa neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

Through LSI, Iowans also have the opportunity to leave a legacy of their own. When you include LSI in your will or estate planning, you are making a lasting impact for years to come. By including LSI in your will or living trust, you are ensuring that we can continue our mission and ministry well into the future.

If you would like more information on how you can include LSI in your estate planning, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

One Backpack and a Simple Act of Kindness

The start of fall classes can be difficult for any child – especially as youth of all ages adjust back to “normal” following a year of virtual classes and Zoom meetings. But for kids who have experienced trauma, back-to-school season can bring additional stress: anxiety about meeting new people; worry that their family may not have enough grocery money for lunch every day; insecurity if they come to school without some of the fun supplies other kids have.

Thanks to donations of backpacks, crayons and pencils, glue, and more, LSI is ensuring Iowa youth have access to the school supplies they need to succeed. And because of this, kids are empowered with the ability to choose their own supplies that show off their own styles and personalities so they can feel confident as they return to classes. After having a tough day, Marisol was feeling sad and was told she and her guardian would be stopping by the LSI office for some school supplies. She wasn't in the mood for a visit but after arriving at the office, she found a bright spot in her day: her LSI worker was there to help her pick out a new backpack of her own. She was delighted after finding her favorite, and eagerly walked around the office to choose more back-to-school items she could place in her backpack. Thanks to these contributions, Marisol's day was turned around by a simple act of kindness and a new backpack.



Worship Leaders for October 2021

October 3rd

Worship Attendants: Darold and Jean Matter
Acolyte: Charlie Nattress
Reader: Jean Matter
Readings: Genesis 2:18-24 & Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Children's Sermon: Doug Bartels
Gospel: Mark 10:2-16

October 10th

Worship Attendant: Candace Booth
Acolyte: Jossa Hauptert
Reader: Laura Hejtmanek
Readings: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 & Hebrews 4:12-16
Children's Sermon: Ryan Wheelock
Gospel: Mark 10:17-31

October 17th

Worship Attendant: Scott Greene
Acolyte: Kelsie Hejtmanek
Reader: Sara Nattress
Readings: Isaiah 53:4-12 & Hebrews 5:1-10
Children's Sermon: Kari Lantz
Gospel: Mark 10:35-45

October 24th

Worship Attendant: Dennis and Peggy Dettmann
Acolyte: Reef Lankford
Reader: Sara Pibal
Readings: Jeremiah 31:7-9 & Hebrews 7:23-28
Children's Sermon: Sara Pibal
Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

October 31st

Worship Attendants: Darold and Jean Matter
Acolyte: Kellen Meyer
Reader: Colten Riley
Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Romans 3:19-28
Children's Sermon: Shelley Hauptert
Gospel: John 8:31-36

