



Acts of Faith

Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Kewanee, Illinois



June 2010

Volume 10, Issue 6

All Religions Are Not the Same

Stephen Prothero, a religion professor at Boston University, wrote an article in the *Boston Globe* newspaper recently emphasizing that—contrary to current political correctness—all religions are not the. The article is adapted from Prothero’s new book, *God is Not One: The Eight Rival Religions That Run the World—and Why Their Differences Matter*.

Here are some excerpts:

“At least since the first petals of the counterculture bloomed across Europe and the United States in the 1960s, it has been fashionable to affirm that all religions are beautiful and all are true. This claim, which reaches back to ‘All Religions Are One’ (1795) by the English poet, printmaker, and prophet William Blake, is as odd as it is intriguing. No one argues that different economic systems or political regimes are one and the same. Capitalism and socialism are so self-evidently at odds that their differences hardly bear mentioning. The same goes for democracy and monarchy. Yet scholars continue to claim that religious rivals such as Hinduism and Islam, Judaism and Christianity are, by some miracle of the imagination, both essentially the same and basically good.

This view resounds in the echo chamber of popular culture, not least on the “Oprah Winfrey Show” and in Elizabeth Gilbert’s bestseller, ‘Eat Pray Love,’ where the world’s religions are described as rivers emptying into the ocean of God. Karen Armstrong,

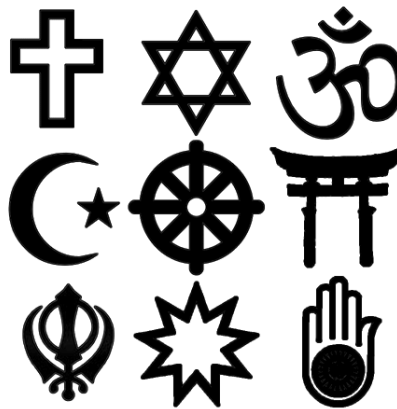
author of ‘A History of God,’ has made a career out of emphasizing the commonalities of religion while eliding [omitting or ignoring] their differences. Even the Dalai Lama, who should know better, has gotten into the act, claiming that ‘all major religious traditions carry basically the same message.’

Of course, those who claim that the world’s religions are different paths up the same mountain do not deny the undeniable fact that they differ in some particulars. Obviously, Christians do not go on pilgrimage to Mecca, and Muslims do not practice baptism. Religious paths do diverge in

dogma, rites, and institutions. To claim that all religions are basically the same, therefore, is not to deny the differences between a Buddhist who believes in no god, a Jew who believes in one God, and a Hindu who believes in many gods. It is to deny that those differences matter, however. From this perspective, whether God has a body (yes, say Mormons; no, say Muslims) or whether human beings have souls (yes, say Hindus; no, say Buddhists) is of no account

because, as Hindu teacher Swami Sivananda writes, ‘The fundamentals or essentials of all religions are the same. There is difference only in the nonessentials.’ This is a lovely sentiment but it is untrue, disrespectful, and dangerous.

But this lumping of the world’s religions into one mega-religion is not just false and condescending, it is also a threat. How can we make sense of the ongoing conflict in Kashmir if we pretend that Hinduism and Islam are one and the same? Or of the impasse in the Middle East, if we pretend that



(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

there are no fundamental disagreements between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam?

What the world's religions share is not so much a finish line as a starting point. And where they begin is with this simple observation: Something is wrong with the world."

The starting point that "something is wrong with the world" is obvious not only from the daily news reports, but also from our individual physical and emotional distresses. These distresses go all the way back to the beginning of mankind:

"And to Adam God said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." (Gen. 3:17-19).

And St. Peter explained to the unbelieving Jews that there is only one path which will free us from the dread of our problems while living and the thought of returning to the dust of the ground:

"This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And

there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12)

Only Christianity proclaims the means by which we are saved from the problems of this life, and from the fear of death. St. Paul writes in Romans 8:

"Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom. 8:34-37).

No, all religions are *not* the same. We give praise and thanks to Jesus Christ who saved us, and we desire to *share* that Good News of salvation with those of *other* religions, and of *no* religion, who so desperately need to hear it. We share this Good News with our words, as well as with our support of our congregation, our District, and Synod.

Blessings,

Pastor Fischer

Happy Anniversary

50th Anniversary!

The children of Ted and Marilyn Sturtevant are inviting friends and family to an informal celebration of their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. It will be on Sunday, June 20th, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Windmont Park Shelter House. The couple requests that gifts be omitted.

New Phone Number

Rev. & Mrs. Kenneth Wegener have a new phone number: 309-883-0766

Call List

If you wish to submit the name of an LCMS pastor to be considered for our Call List, there is a form in the church office you may fill out. All names should be submitted by June 13th.



Women of Faith

The June Women of Faith meeting will be at Hornbaker Gardens in Princeton, Tuesday, June 8th. Hornbaker Gardens is a family owned and operated nursery, specializing in perennials, located 5 miles southeast of Princeton. They have a large collections of hostas, day lilies, irises, grasses, aquatics, and other perennials; along with an excellent offering of trees and shrubs. Hornbaker Gardens draws plant enthusiasts from not only the Midwest, but from all across the country.

The Women of Faith will meet at church at 8:30 a.m. to carpool to Princeton. There will be a snack upon arrival, along with the meeting and devotion. A tour of Hornbaker's will follow. Lunch will be in Princeton, then browsing the interesting shops there.

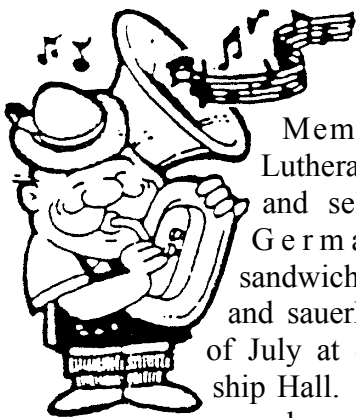
Dad's Incredible!

What makes an "incredible" father? It isn't as difficult as it might seem. Children, of course, aren't awed by the size of your paycheck, office, or retirement account. Instead, it's the simple, everyday gestures that make you a "Number 1" dad. Here are some sure-fire ways to be "incredible" in your kids' eyes:

- Play tic-tac-toe, and hide-and-seek.
- Be consistent.
- Buy ice cream cones (in moderation).
- Don't discipline in anger.
- Count stars together.
- Pray with (and for) your children.
- Hug and say "I love you" often.

June's Calendar

June 01	Greeting Card Making, 9:00 AM Adult Information Class, 7:00 PM
June 02	Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
June 4-5	CID-LWML Convention, Quincy
June 06	2nd Sunday after Pentecost
June 08	Women of Faith, 8:30 AM Thrivent Night at the Ballpark, 7:00 PM
June 09	Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
June 13	3rd Sunday after Pentecost
	Royal Oaks Worship Service, 2 PM Kewanee Care Worship Service, 3 PM
June 15	Church Directory Pictures, 2:30-9:30 PM
June 16	Church Directory Pictures, 2:30-9:30 PM Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
June 17	Elders' Meeting, 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting, 7:30 PM
June 20	4th Sunday after Pentecost Happy Father's Day!
June 23	Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM
June 24-July 1	Pastor Fischer on vacation.
June 27	5th Sunday after Pentecost
June 30	Midweek Worship Service, 7:00 PM



JULY 4th FOOD BOOTH

Members of Faith Lutheran will be cooking and selling those famous German bratwurst sandwiches, potato salad, and sauerkraut on the Fourth of July at our church Fellowship Hall. Sign up sheets will soon be available to volunteer your time and talents to this fun event. Please plan to help out.



Graduate

Congratulations to Austin Peed, who graduated from Kewanee High School. Austin will be attending college in Florida this fall.



Planet Zoom! Vacation Bible School

Planet Zoom Vacation Bible School will be held July 19-23, from 7:00-8:45 p.m. Planet Zoom is a zip, zap, zoomin' good time for kids from kindergarten through teens. There's a whole new world Planet Zoom where **little is BIG**.

Kids will meet Scout, a bee in the Planet Zoom hive, and four other bee friends who will guide them through the week. Scout and his friends will guide children through five amaz-z-zing Bible stories that will teach them to be bold bee-lievers of Jesus. Together, Scout, kids, and even leaders will learn about how:

- Jesus, our Savior, came to seek and save the lost
- Jesus, our Savior, does big things.
- Jesus, our Savior, says, "Believe!"
- Jesus, our Savior, tells us to go and tell.
- Jesus, our Savior, works through His people.



Planet Zoom shares new perspective that encourages even the littlest bee-lievers to make a big difference in God's big world. Even young children can understand the depth of Jesus' love. *So prepare yourself for a swarmin' good time!*

VBS Registration Forms are available in the church office.

Bee Bold. Bee-lieve. Be HIS.



Thrivent Night at the Ballpark

This year's Thrivent Night at the Ballpark will be Tuesday, June 8th. The Quad City River

Bandits will play the South Bend Silver Hawks. Proceeds from the game will go to Special Olympics of Illinois and Iowa. Drawing tickets will be given for donations to the River Bend Food Bank. A parade of athletes will be at 6:30 pm. The Quad City Sky Dive Team will present the U.S. flag. Game time is 7:00 pm. Fireworks will follow the game. General admission tickets are \$3.00, and are available from our Thrivent Congregational Coordinator, Otto Schwefel.

Thank You and Farewell!

My Faith Friends:

As I said to you, "goodbye" is such a cold and lonely word. I'd like for all of us to just say "farewell". I wish you to fare well as you select a new pastor—and I know from personal experience that historically you have selected the finest pastors out there—so the tradition should continue!

I wish you to fare well as you proceed from building and foundation ministry to evangelism and expansion ministry.

My work at Faith included showing you just how human a pastor's wife can be. And I did a great job at that! I know this, because you gave me the sweetest, surprise farewell imaginable.

Many, many thanks to all of you for your kind words and wonderful friendship. May you each continue to feel God's hand at work as you work in faith.

Farewell in Jesus!

Vary

Lynn Verschage
“Celebration Benefit”



On August 29th, 2009, while recovering from major surgery; Lynn Verschage (the daughter of Wendell & Doris Hier) had a blood clot in the brain which ruptured and required two brain surgeries. Since then Lynn has spent 4½ months in hospitals in Appleton and Milwaukee, and the last 4 months at Bethany Home in Waupaca, where she is still living. Last month, because of complications, she underwent open heart surgery. In the past 8 months Lynn has regained use of her right side, and relearned to swallow, speak, read and write. She is still working on being able to walk, gain movement in her left side, and completely recover her short-term memory. She will continue to need extensive care and therapy as she continues her journey to restored health.

A “Celebration Benefit” will be held Friday, June 11th, 6-9 p.m. in Waupaca, Wisconsin (E1171 County Trunk Q). The benefit will feature the Justmann Band, a brat fry, silent auction, and bake sale. The cost is \$15.00; which includes band, meal, and beverage.

If you’re unable to attend the benefit, monetary donations may be sent to:
Lynn Verschage Benefit
c/o Chase Bank
201 South Main St.
Waupaca WI 54981

A Father’s Influence

Studies show that if the mother of a family attends worship, there’s a 16 percent chance that the rest of the family will also attend. Yet, when a father attends worship, there’s a 93 percent chance that other family members will be present too. Just think, Dad, of the clout you have! Hope to see you in church!

Church Directory Pictures



Pictures will be taken for our 2010 Church Pictorial Directory this June 15th & 16th. Please plan to be available on one of those days for these important

pictures. You may sign up for times from 2:00 - 9:30 PM on either of those days. See Betty Godke to register for a time for your pictures. The pictures will be taken by Olan-Mills. There is no cost to have your family picture taken, and those who do will receive a free 8” x 10” portrait, and a free church directory.

Summer Sunday School!



Summer Sunday School is now going on and features the complete, classic “Davy and Goliath” animated TV series. The

Lutheran young man, Davy; and his talking dog, Goliath, will apply the message of the Gospel to the everyday lives of children, pre-teens, and teens.

Adults who appreciated the Davy and Goliath series years ago are invited to come and enjoy this great series again.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Kaitlyn Tudder	6/02
Ryan Tudder	6/02
Karen Adkison	6/03
Lindsey Hagaman	6/04
Kathy Peed	6/07
Kamdyn Hicks	6/08
Austin Peed	6/08
Pastor Fischer	6/12
Geraldine Helmkamp	6/12
Jeffery Heinrich	6/13
Kevin Hull	6/17
Lawrence Krahn	6/24
Glen Godke	6/28
Karen Stapel	6/29
Dorothy Baranyos	6/30
Halea Damm	6/30
GervaDean Weber	6/30

Anniversaries

Kimberly & Mark Tudder	6/03
JoAnn & Donald Behnke	6/07
Donna & Wayne Becker	6/11
Stephanie & Jay Hagaman	6/15
Carol & Otto Schwefel	6/17
Myrene & Gary Carper	6/19
Linda & Robert Jacobs	6/29

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 AM, Sunday Worship Service
Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, 10:30 A.M.

7:00 PM, Wednesday Worship Service

Rev. Robert Fischer, Pastor

309-852-2787 (Church Phone)

309-714-1181 (Cell Phone)

309-853-5394 (Home Phone)

E-mail: pastor@faithkewanee.org

Web Site: www.faitkewanee.org



Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church

620 Hepner Dr.

Kewanee, Illinois 61443

Address Correction Requested

Happy Father's Day!

"The father makes known to the children God's faithfulness."

Isaiah 38:19

June 2010 Newsletter