



Teen Scene Newsletter

Faith Lutheran Church

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



(Epiphany Lutheran Church, St. Louis MO. LCMS, Dec. 22, 2021)

Yes, it is the beginning of a new church year. Our church year begins with Advent. There are four Sundays in Advent. This year the first one is on November 27th. The other 3 will be December 4th, 11th and 18th, leading up to Christmas Day, the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus! The church colors for Advent are violet and blue. **Violet** helps us to prepare of our New Born King and is a symbol of our repentance. **Blue** is a symbol of our anticipation and the hope we have in our coming King, baby Jesus. The word Advent means “coming into”. We are coming into the season of Christmas. In Galatians 4:4 we are told “God sent His Son, born of a women”. Jesus comes into the world as both God and Man, to save us from our sins. The Gloria in Excelsis is omitted from the church liturgy or Devine service because we are in a period of waiting for The King to arrive. On Christmas we will once again rejoice singing the Gloria in Excelsis, as did the angels to the

shepherds that first Christmas “Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace goodwill toward men” Luke 2:14. You will see the Advent Wreath during this season with five candles, one of which will be lit each Sunday of Advent marking the time as we anticipate Jesus coming in the flesh! The white candle in the center is the Christ Candle lit on Christmas. We will also have Midweek Services to heighten our awareness of this special time. (“A Simple Explanation of the Church Year”, Concordia Publishing House 2020).

So be sure to come to church and experience the wonders of this special time of year!!!!

MONTHLY TOPIC
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD
GENDER AND SEXUAL IDENTITY

This is a very relevant topic in today’s society. You will be faced with this in school, you will see and hear it in your daily lives including media outlets. It can create a lot of confusion, not only on how you should or should not “identify”, but how to relate to others who use this platform or make decisions contrary to your belief or world view.

Science and the Bible agree on Male and Female

Genesis 1:27-18 tells us we are created in God’s own image and that we are created male and female. This is reinforced in Matthew 19:4-5 “He answered, “Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female.....”



(Grace Lutheran Chapel, St Louis, copyright 2020 LCMS)

Science tells us we are born with a certain number of X and Y chromosomes which identify us as either male or female. There are some rare exceptions where an individual is born with underdeveloped genitals, but in the 37.2 trillion cells in a person’s body, each person is genetically programmed as either male or female.

Gender or Sex?

Today’s world would like you to see these as different entities. Gender being how you identify yourself, and Sex as your biological distinction. This is a relatively new distinction of these words. For instance former Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg had her secretary actually replace the term “sex discrimination” with the term “gender discrimination” in legal briefs. Why? Allegedly she had become tired of seeing the number of legal briefs containing the word sex.

This question has affected many aspects of our lives. One of these issues is if a male identifies as a female (or vice versa) should he be allowed to use a women’s restroom or locker room? One legal

case on this issues was a Florida case as to whether a PE teacher should be punished for refusing to supervise a transgender female student who identified as a male in the boy's locker room. This was in an elementary school....So what do you think? Or should children as young as 10 years old be allowed to permanently change their physical gender? Well, scientifically, even those who have gender transition physical changes done or "gender reassignment surgery" still have either XX or XY chromosomes they were born with!

I doubt they would allow me to choose not to be a 70 year old women and decide to be a 20 year-old model..... Just sayingOr allow me to decide I would rather be a collie instead of a human... Gender identification makes no more logic scientifically than do these ridiculous examples.

If that isn't enough to confuse us

Now they want to change pronouns he and she to it and they....but that isn't even going far enough...they want to add a new pronoun "ZE". This is a sinful delusion just doesn't stop in an attempt to make us feel more comfortable with or to desensitize us to the world's view of these gender identity issues.

Where does this lead

Personal violence has ensued. New pronouns and terminology attempts to force those who don't agree to have to change denying their freedom of speech. And so on.

In Reality

While society today floods the media, our schools, and our communities with many different terms related to sex and gender identity and attempts to dictate how we are to respond to these identities, we, as Christians, find the TRUE REALITY in God's Word. Galatians 5:19-21 lists sexual immorality as a sin. Genesis 1:27, as noted before, says God created us in His own image....as male and female....Genesis 2 further indicates Gods roles for male and female, man and woman. Man created from the dust of the earth, life breathed into him by God's own breath, and God seeing Adam needed a "helper" for companionship and for the purpose of procreation created Eve, the first woman. Some other Scriptures that reveal God's plan are: Psalms 139:15-16, Matthew 19:4-8, Matthew 19:10-12, 1 Corinthians 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7: 6-9. I encourage you to look them up.

How to respond

- Don't over react. Individuals need to know and identify their sin, but they especially need to understand God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.
- At school teens are quick to judge those they perceive as "different". If someone comes to you about this issue, protect that information. Do not spread it around to others. Rather strongly encourage they get the support needed from parents, a pastor or other professional. Walk alongside them as they discover God's plan for them.
- At church, often, even though well intended, church members often results in more harm than good when dealing with sexuality or gender issues. We should not judge or try to

“fix” those who questioning these issues, that’s not our place. Rather pray for them as you gently and lovingly lead them to God’s plan and purpose.

Remember

- ❖ Our chief identity is given at Baptism. We are God’s children. We are heirs of heaven.
- ❖ God gave us our identity. Either male or female. Respect your identity.
- ❖ Respect the intentions of God as He describes them in His Word.
- ❖ Be obedient to God’s command. He wants us to curb our sexual desires until marriage. It is a special gift for a man and wife.
- ❖ However, remember, not all people get married. Some remain single. God’s Word also blesses those who chose to live a Godly life outside of marriage.
- ❖ When you have questions, or divisive issues arise, seek assistance of parents, pastors, counselors or other Christians. They are there for you and their advice is valuable.
- ❖ **Above all. Trust God’s Grace.** It is more than sufficient. Look to Christ daily for forgiveness. He will provide you with strength and contentment.

(“In the Image of God Gender and Sexual Identity”, Concordia Publishing House 2019)

ABOUT YOU!

We are in need of an editor for this newsletter! This would involve approximately 30-60 minutes of your time each month. It would be a leadership role that you can then list on future college, scholarship, and employment applications.

Other positions we are in need of are:

Illustrator(s): Use your talents artfully!

Contributor(s): Write an article, one or 2 paragraphs, on an issue that interests you.

These are also positions that can be utilized on college, scholarship, and employment applications.

AND don’t forget to text me (352-263-0397) regarding dates of games, recitals, or other events of interest to you so we can include them in our newsletter.

Set your clocks back an hour

Daylight savings time ends on November 6th. Set your clocks back an hour. We always “fall” backwards and “spring” forward.

Veteran’s Day

At Faith Lutheran we honor our Military and our First responders on this day for all they do to protect us and our freedoms. Veteran’s day is always November 11th. This will be recognized in our church service on November 13th. Thank you to all who serve in the United States Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Space force, and to all the first responders (police and fire departments) here in our local community who are always ready to be there for us!

Tricky Tray

November 19th 11 am to 1:30 pm is the Ladies of Faith special fundraiser. Come enjoy the fun. You can purchase tickets and try to win baskets of goodies. There will also be a bake sale. If you are interested in a service project, they would love to have help taking down tables. Contact Maxine Crogle (352-637-4749) if you can help! Note: Community service projects also look good on future applications for college, scholarships, and employment applications! Not to mention, help you to feel good about helping others as you serve the Lord!

Thanksgiving

November 24th is our national holiday of Thanksgiving. We set aside this time to reflect on all of our blessings.

There will be a service at 10:00 am followed by a Thanksgiving dinner. Sign up in the narthex or call the church office if you are interested by emailing cfaithlutheran@gmail.com or call 352-527-3325

Advent Services

There will be three mid-week worship services at Faith Lutheran during the season of Advent, beginning Wednesday, November 30th at 4:30 pm

Birthday Party for Jesus

December 19th is another opportunity for a service project. There will be a Birthday Party for Jesus for Children 4 – 12 years of age. Just let me know if you are interested in helping out with this activity. You can help the children with things such as crafts and games or even sit with the younger children during story time and songs! You can also help with set up or take down for the event. Text me at 352-263-0397 or contact the church office for more information at cfaithlutheran@gmail.com or call 352-527-3325.

Regular Worship Services

Every Saturday at 6:00 p.m.

**Every Sunday at 9:30 am
Followed by fellowship at 10:30 a.m.
and Bible Study at 11:00am**