

Dear Friends in Christ:

"The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,....

- Ephesians 4:11-

It was on June 18, 1978 that the laying on of hands conferred on me the office of ordained ministry in what was then The American Lutheran Church. A unique thing I discovered afterward was that it was June 18, 1967 that I took my vow through the Rite of Confirmation. So this day of Ordination is marked with double significance.

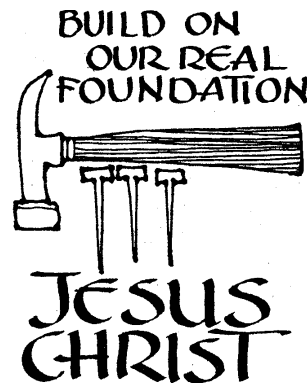
The banner which hangs outside my office, made by dear friends of mine growing up in Bloomer has on it the verse I quoted at the beginning of this month's letter. It is a verse the Apostle Paul uses to express the unity and purpose within the Body of Christ.

I want to express my appreciation and thanks, paying it forward, before you honor my 25 years in the parish. Paul reminds us that one office is not to be elevated over another but rather is set aside for a particular function or purpose. In the confessional service in the LBW the Absolution is spoken with the words, "as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore...". Notice that the Pastor here is given the authority to forgive the people, based on Jesus' words to Peter in the gospels. The power rests with Jesus Christ.

After 44 years of Ordained ministry and 25 years serving as your pastor I am still both honored and humbled by the parish setting a day for this. At the same time I am reminded of and share with you that ordained ministry is only a small dimension of the mission of the church. This is what Paul conveyed to those in Ephesus.

Notice the text says, "his gifts"; indicating that whether we are ordained or lay, apostles, prophets, evangelists or teachers it is his gift that we carry out whatever our calling. It is one of His gifts that we are engaged in ministry as Paul begins this chapter with the words, "I beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling...."

The purpose of His gifting is spelled out in the verses that follow my ordination text. Paul goes on to say that these callings whether ordained or lay are "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. "



What an awesome task this has been for me. Overwhelming at times and not without personal struggle I have found the support and encouragement of parishioners to be even more overwhelming. As I have tried to "equip the saints for the work of ministry" I have been equally equipped by those who do not have a "Rev" or "Pastor" in their name.

As we consider the church, its foundation, its mission and ministry we should never forget that the goal, whatever the gift, is to build up the body of Christ until we attain that unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Like the ordained Pastor who is chosen from out of the whole body of Christ to carry out the office of word and sacrament ministry so we are "all", as our bulletin heading indicates each week, ministers. It is just that each of us serves a different but important task in the "building up of the body of Christ". Again many thanks for sharing in this ministry with me, thanks for honoring my years of service and may God continue to empower us with gifts that will result in "the measure of the full stature of Christ. "

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Hal

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal:715-828-1112
Email: harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

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FUNERALS

Elaine Bjork- Big Elk Creek Lutheran

BAPTISM

Elizabeth Rose Stowell- Big Elk Creek

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PASTOR HAL has been invited to lead and preach at The Scandinavian Prairie Church affiliated with Our Savior’s Lutheran of Bloomer. The service is on June 05, 2022. As a result of this we want to say a big **THANK YOU** to Tony Christopherson who will be leading the worship and sharing a message at both Barum and Big Elk Creek that Sunday. There will be no Holy Communion that day but will be celebrated on the June 12th.

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Big Elk Creek has resumed their summer worship in the pavilion on Sundays now moving forward at 10:30. You are invited to join us each week as we experience the Creator present in His creation.

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 31, 2022
Barum Lutheran Church
6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation for the year 2022-2023 will be held at Barum Lutheran. Grade 8 and incoming Grade 7 students and parents should plan to attend.

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Holy Spirit, blow into my life and light my heart on fire with your creative and life-giving energy.



Day of Pentecost

June 05, 2022

John 14: 8-17

“The Advocate Comes”

The Holy Trinity

June 12, 2022

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31

“Woman Wisdom”

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 19, 2022

Isaiah 65: 1-9

“An Impatient God”

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022

1 Kings 19: 15-16,19-21

“Headed for the Hill”

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Now I think of all achievements 'tis the least
To perpetuate the species; it is done
By the insect and the serpent,
and the beast.
But the man who keeps his body, and his thought,
Worth bestowing on an offspring love-begot,
Then the highest earthly glory he has won,
When in pride a grown-up daughter or a son
Says “That’s Father.”

—from “Father,” by Ella Wheeler Wilcox
HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!