



TACT

Tact is a small 4 letter word but learning how to communicate with it can vastly improve your relationships and your skills when it comes to leading others. Webster's Dictionary defines tact as, "a keen sense of what to do or say in order to maintain good relations with others or avoid offense."

Tact is the art of making a point without an enemy

Isaac Newton

Eddie and Shannon Foster in their article "Social Communication 101: Tact and Gentleness," share the following example. "When communicating with another person, we should always strive to use great care and wisdom in what we say, how we say it and even in deciding whether to say anything at all. Gentleness, a fruit of God's Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, is directly linked to tact. Sometimes truth that hurts deeply has to be told, but gentleness is what makes the difference in these situations. How would you rather hear this specific truth delivered to you?"

Option A: "You are a slob! You always leave your junk everywhere and never clean up!"

Option B: "It bothers me how messy the house seems to get. Please help me keep it cleaned up."

The same point gets across: keep the house clean and tidy. But Option B doesn't involve insults or "always" and "never" statements. Tact and gentleness in communication keep relationships healthy and mutually respectful."

A great section of Scripture giving insight into Godly communication and tact is Ephesians 4. Verse 15 says this, "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ." The truth spoken with love is a very powerful thing, that can affect all kinds of transformation. Without love, however, the truth can hurt instead of heal; making people broken and it can cause division in our churches and homes.

I encourage you to read the rest of chapter 4 because it will flesh out a few more insights I want to share. Verse 25 tells us to be honest, but like we just mentioned speak the truth in love: that means when we speak the truth, it should always be with other's best interest in mind. Going on to verse 26 this reminds us to be current, don't wait till tomorrow to speak to what must be clarified today. Verses 29-30 then teach a part of tact is not attacking or accusing people. Corrupt speech is rotten speech, does nothing of value, and only tears others down. As God's people, when talking to other Christians and our neighbors who don't know Jesus, we are to only have edifying tactful speech.

Finally verses 31-32 say, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." We must learn how to be kind, compassionate, and forgiving by looking at Jesus for our example. He is the ultimate example of tact and gentleness, so may our communication reflect His words and actions. With all that said, I pray you can put tactful communication into practice, and as you do it, be firm, but kind, be strong, but gracious, and finally be an influence for Christ for good as you share His DESIGN with all those you tactfully talk to!

In His Love,
Pastor Matt

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LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY FEBRUARY 2019 ARTICLE



The season of Epiphany focuses on how God was made manifest in the flesh of Jesus. The church spends time hearing of the miracles, the signs and wonders, of Jesus in the world.

And this made plain to all that Jesus was who He said He was: He was the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the only-begotten Son of the Father, in the flesh. For “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14).

It is revealed for all the world to see that Jesus is God in the flesh. It is made manifest by His words and His work, by what He said and by what He did. And these belong together, for “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

Jesus is the Word and will of God in the flesh, that is, He is the walking, talking, enactment of God’s Word. It is no different for us. We are called not just to believe in God in hearts, but also to trust in God in word and deed.

As James wrote: “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:22), and again, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? ... So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. ... Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. ... For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead” (James 2:14, 17–18, 26).

Our faith is lived out in works for our neighbor. Our trust in the Word and will of God is lived out not in word only, but also in deed and in truth.

In other words, the Epiphany of the Lord creates in us an epiphany of our faith in our works of obedience to God who commanded them. By this, our faith is made manifest to the world. It is, as Luther wrote of faith:

“Faith is a divine work in us. It changes us and makes us to be born anew of God (John 1). It kills the old Adam and makes altogether different people, in heart and spirit and mind and powers, and it brings with it the Holy Spirit.

“Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly. It does not ask whether there are good works to do, but before the question rises, it has already done them, and is always at the doing of them.

“He who does not these works is a faithless man. He gropes and looks about after faith and good works and knows neither what faith is nor what good works are, though he talks and talks, with many words about faith and good works.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace, so sure and certain that a man would stake his life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God’s grace and knowledge of it makes men glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures.

“And this is the work of the Holy Spirit in faith. Hence a man is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace.

“And thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate burning and shining from fire. Beware, therefore, of your own false notions and of the idle talkers, who would be wise enough to make decisions about faith and good works, and yet are the greatest fools.” (*Preface to the Book of Romans*)

So, then, let our faith be active by God’s power in the Word through the Holy Spirit. And let then our faith be made manifest to the world by what this faith does: serving our neighbor — in church, in the family, and society — with the works of faith in time, talents, and treasures.

YES! ROCKS OR DIAMONDS by Joan Thomas



“Did you know my Grandma collects rocks?” My granddaughter asked in the innocent voice of an eight-year-old to a lady friend of mine as the three of us shared a pot of tea around my dining room table, and my friend ended her story about her husband surprising her with a new ring with a glittering, beautiful “rock” for Christmas.

“Yes. My Grandma loves rocks!” My little granddaughter said looking at my friend. She continued. “Every time Grandma and I go out we come home with a new rock.”

“How interesting,” my friend replied. She sipped her tea slowly, adjusted her glasses, and leaned forward in her chair toward my granddaughter.

“Grandma has lots of rocks. Some of her rocks are big, and others are tiny and some sparkle and shine” There was no stopping my granddaughter now. She knew she had my friend’s full attention. “Sometimes Grandma even lets me wash and polish her rocks in her kitchen sink, but I have to be careful so they don’t go down the drain.”

“Why, Joan!”, my friend said. She put down her cup of tea and turned toward me. “What a shock and surprise!” She stared at me over the top of her glasses. “I had no idea you were a diamond collector!”

“Oh! My!” I said. “I’m so sorry. What my granddaughter said is true. I do believe rocks are beautiful and unique and collect them, but I don’t think the rocks I collect are the kind of rocks you were talking about.”

Thus Ends The Rock Story

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Yes, it’s odd, but I see beauty in rocks. I love them, big ones, small ones, shiny, or dull. Not the kind of expensive rocks some folks wear for adornment, but the kind you find in your own backyard, by the roadside, or at the beach. Every rock I find is a precious symbol of our powerful God, “Our Maker of Heaven and Earth.” Yes, our Lord, “Our Rock Eternal,” is reliable, gives us security, strength, and shelter. He is our stable refuge and fortress during our hardships and tumultuous times. Rocks remind me to build my life on the solid foundation of God’s infallible Word and Wisdom and not on shifting sand, and to appreciate the uniqueness and beauty of every aspect of His creation. So, in this New Year, let’s focus on our positive resolutions and include time for prayer, Bible study, Christian fellowship, family, friends, health improvement, and going toward our God-given dreams, and to find joy in all we do and look for beauty everywhere. Yes, even in rocks!



By: Joan M. Thomas © 08/2018

THE MEYER MINUTE by Dr. Dale Meyer (President of Concordia University—St. Louis)



Over the course of the rest of the 2019 newsletters we are going to try to find different devotional resources to share with you. This month's devotion comes from Dr. Dale Meyer President of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. If you would like to read more of his devotions go to <https://themeyerminute.typepad.com/meyerminute/> This one was written on January 17 and deals with the issue of forgiveness.

“Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

We often speed through those words in church but they're worth more time, especially in the middle of the workweek. In church people are oriented toward God but during the week we face off against each other. In your family, in your work, in your neighborhood, on the Internet or highway... Our work week is filled with personal interactions and some can get intense. Of the Ten Commandments, all but the first are about some aspect of our interactions with one another. So this petition in the Lord's Prayer speaks to where we'll see sin, less in church where we act properly and more in daily life where we're real.

“Forgive us...as we forgive those...” There's more a group sense than an individual sense to this prayer, the “Our Father,” not “My Father.” Of course the individual is part of the whole, but I can pray this prayer for myself only to a point. Forgive me my trespasses but next I take forgiveness into the group, to “those” people “who trespass against us.” “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (Luke 23:34). Jesus had forgiveness for others in mind when He was dying. We should when we are living.

By that death and resurrection of Jesus, the Father is the source of forgiveness. “Our Father who art in heaven...forgive us.” As an individual sorry for my sin, I apply the word of forgiveness to myself. In our weekday, group interactions? We speak forgiveness to one another. Jesus has given His Church a special authority to forgive the sins of those who are truly sorry and not forgive when someone is impenitent (John 20:23) and this petition shows that all God's people can speak an authoritative word of forgiveness to one another. “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

Who but the Lord could pack so much into one little prayer?
Dr. Dale Meyer

AWAKEN SEATTLE

There is a prayer movement in Seattle called Awaken Seattle that is praying for 100 days over the city of Seattle. I wanted to share a bit about them, and while we are a few weeks behind, I would encourage you to catch up and be praying for the Puget Sound. Here is a bit more about what the mission and vision of this are:

Jesus still reigns and the Church is alive. In our city, Seattle, we, the Church, have suffered some losses in the last few years and, I believe, it's time to gather the church to pray for our city together as we love and serve our communities. Jesus is awakening us to a new season in Seattle!

Mission: Awaken Seattle is a prayer movement for our communities in the Greater Seattle area to be awakened to a new life in Christ.

Scripture: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Ephesians 5:14.

Vision: Our vision is to engage people and 100 churches in 100 days of prayer for our city: Seattle.

Start: Launch the Awaken Seattle Prayer on Saturday January 5th in (and) with your faith community.

Plan: Pray daily for Seattle for 100 days focusing on seven points.

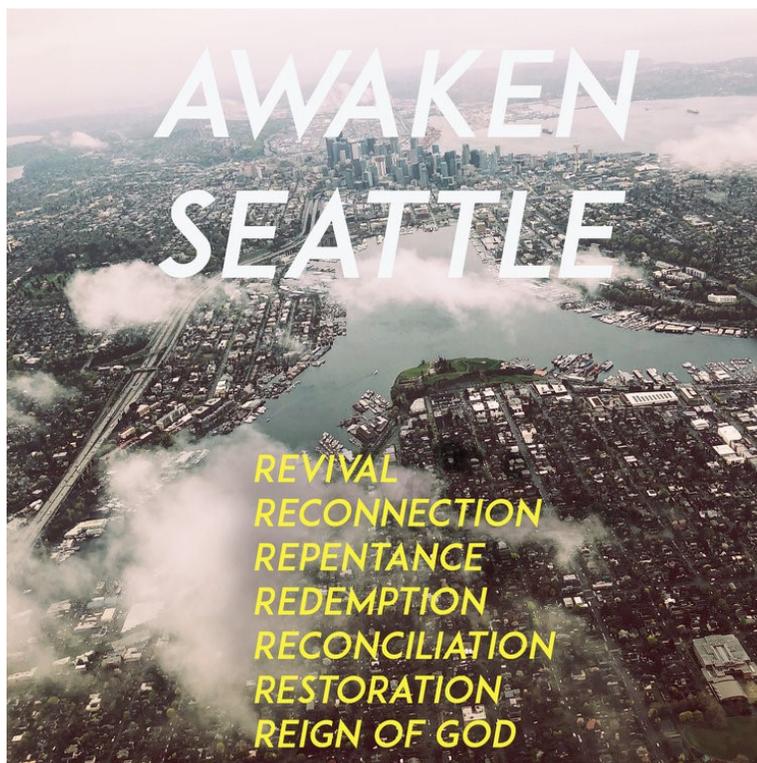
SEVEN POINTS OF PRAYER FOCUS:

1. Revival of Christians in our city
2. Reconnecting of our churches
3. Repentance for our city
4. Redemption of our city dwellers.
5. Reconciliation in our city
6. Restoration of our city
7. Reign of God over our city

Conclusion: Gather all who prayed to worship and pray on Sunday Evening April 14, 2019.
(Location and time tbd)

Their website is <http://www.awakenseattle.org/>, so you can follow along and pray! Let's join together to see the light of Christ shine and awaken Seattle and beyond!

Pastor Matt



UPCOMING EVENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND WAYS TO SERVE

Operation Batting

EXTRA helping hands are needed to cut two large rolls of batting for RLC's Quilt Ministry. We hope you'll join us in Room 200 this coming Wednesday, February 6th at 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. A variety of tasks are scheduled. Refreshments served. Come share the laughter & accomplishment to supply quilts for Lighthouse Family Ministries and Lutheran World Relief. **Please mark your calendar on 1st Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m.**

You Are Invited!

Save the date Annual Lutheran Ministry Services NW Gathering to hear updates on LMSN's Outreach ministry **February 24, 2019 - 1:30pm Pilgrim Lutheran Church 10420 SE 11th St. Bellevue 98004** (North Lot Entrance) **1:30-3:30pm**. Cake and refreshments will be served. If you have a favorite dessert to share, please do!



Also, we will reach out in service to the homeless by assembling "care packs." The packs will include: Scarves, mittens/gloves, socks, hand warmers, caps, energy bars, bottled water, Chapstick®, and Kleenex®, "A Simple Explanation of Christianity" (supplied by LMSN). The "care packs" are tried and tested outreach items. Don Sundene reports, "I gave a care pack to a homeless person the other day. She received it with tears in her eyes and said 'Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!'" We hope that we can assemble 100+ care packs. We will have some material pre-purchased, but we also hope that you can help by bringing the items noted above. Once the kits are assembled, keep one or more in your car with you. When you meet someone at the corner with a cardboard sign, you can give them a care pack to let them know of Jesus' love.

Getting to Know You



Resurrection Family: There are blank spaces on the new January-February Sign-up Sheet for hosting Sunday Morning Fellowship Time. Watch for the clipboard as you pass by the kitchen counter for a cup of tea or coffee and please add your name to it. Fresh treats can be purchased discounted at Franz Bakery Outlets on West Valley highway near Costco, Marginal Way and Fred Meyer stores. Keep it simple by bringing treats already in containers & place on the kitchen counter near the coffee pots. Fellow-treat eaters: PLEASE OPEN and UNWRAP the CONTAINERS or TRAYS. *Hosts are asked to clean the counter, tables and empty the coffee pots and water urn.* THANK YOU!

Remember Random Mites

Loose coins in your purse or pocket while shopping? Find a Mite box in the Narthex glass case & convert those coins to bills or checks to Resurrection Women's Fellowship for Trudy Osley's mailbox. 75% collected are sent for LWML WA-AK District Mission Grants and 25% for LWML National Goal Mission Grants.

Open Hands for Care Centers

Lutheran Ministry Services Northwest, in addition to bringing Jesus' love to patients in Puget Sound area hospitals, brings tangible items to care center residents throughout the greater Puget Sound Care Centers *including Wesley Homes Health Center and Judson Park Rehab in Des Moines.* **Needed are new or gently used dark or multi-colored hand towels** for Adult Clothing Protectors bringing dignity and pleasure. Please leave them by the mailboxes marked "LMSN". Thank you.

Home-Sewers do you or someone you know, want to sew the simple clothing protectors? Velcro will be supplied if more hand-towels are collected. Contact Meri Beck for a pattern beck-m@comcast.net or 206-248-2390.

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH TREASURER'S REPORT DECEMBER 2018
General Fund Opening Balance 38,048.92

Income Sources

Source	Income
Envelope Offering ^(t)	18,849.00
Loose Offering ^(t)	2,120.04
Facilities Offset	400.00
Misc Receipts	255.00
Copies	4.00
Stock Sale	-
Interest ^(t)	89.33
FCEMR - Congregation Emergency Fund	-
FMEM - Memorial Fund	-
FSOCA - Social Action Fund (Thrivent)	-
FPUB - Publications	-
FTMP - Special Funds	10.54
FYOUTH - Youth Funds	-
Total Income	21,727.91

59,776.83

From Sinking/Special Funds

From Funds	5,453.26
Total Unrealized Expenses	5,453.26

65,230.09

Expenses, Realized

Category	Expense
District_Pledge	(1,014.16)
Salaries_and_Payroll	(8,148.71)
Administration2	(377.57)
Elders_and_worship	(2,437.99)
Congregational_Education	-
InHouse_Ministries	(357.23)
General_Maintenance	(312.19)
Utilities_Church	(1,255.43)
Utilities_Parsonage	(426.02)
Uncategorized	-
From_Special_Funds	(125.86)
From_Sinking_Funds	(5,327.40)
Total Realized Expenses	(19,782.56)

45,447.53

Expenses, Unrealized

To Special Funds	(10.54)
To Sinking Funds	(3,161.25)
Total Unrealized Expenses	(3,171.79)

General Fund Ending Balance 42,275.74



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WORSHIP SERVICE COMMENTS AND TOWN HALL INFO

To help us have a successful Town Hall Meeting we as the Council want to equip the congregation with the survey comments gathered in the Fall and the questions we will discuss at the meeting on February 17th. The schedule of getting this information to you is as follows:

Worship Survey Comments

Some of you might have got these in email form already, if you haven't checked your email they were sent on Thursday, January 31st. There are also paper copies of the survey available in the magazine rack in the lobby.

Town Hall Meeting Questions

An email of the questions will be sent out on February 7th for you to look over, give thoughtful consideration to, and most of all be in prayer about. Like the comments, there will be paper copy of the questions available from the 7th onward in the magazine rack in the lobby for those who don't have email.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the council members or the church office. Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you at 9:30 am on the 17th for worship followed by the Town Hall Meeting.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Matt