

RAQUETTE LAKE CHAPEL



JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

RAQUETTE LAKE, NEW YORK

JULY SCRIPTURE – REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY YEAR A

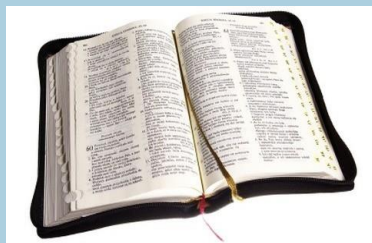
[July 5](#) – Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
58-67; Psalm 45:11-18; 2
Romans 7:15-25a; Matthew
11:16-19, 25-30

[July 12](#) – Genesis 25:19-34;
Psalm 119:1, 105-112; Romans
8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

[July 19](#) – Genesis 28:10-19a;
Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23; Romans
8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-
43

[July 26](#) – Genesis 29:15-28;
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Romans
8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-
52

*The Revised Common Lectionary
is a three-year cycle of weekly,
seasonal “lections,” or scripture
passages from the Bible.*



CHAPEL NEWS



Summer Services: With no dramatic

changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chapel members agreed we will open on its normal annual schedule, and our guest ministers have agreed to return this summer! During services we will follow the current precautionary measures: total number inside the Chapel not to exceed 33% of capacity, maintaining social distancing, and wearing masks. We will keep a contact roster for those attending and clean immediately following services.

More Chapel Improvements



Tom completed major repair to the Chapel's storm drain!

Thank you Tom!

Summer Service Schedule (Sunday, 9:30 am)

July 5 (Communion) – Rev. Vance Mortensen

July 12 – Rev. Vance Mortensen

July 19 – Rev. Vance Mortensen

July 26 – Mr. Steve Vance

August 2 (Communion) – Rev. Vance Mortensen

August 9 - Rev. Dr. Stephanie Sauvé

August 16 - Rev. Vance Mortensen

August 23 - Rev. Dennis Dewey

August 30 - Rev. Vance Mortensen

September 6 (Communion) – Rev. Vance Mortensen

THOUGHTS FROM JUNE...

Several people made comments last month, and with their permission, I'd like to share them with you.

St. Paul's Strong Words About Sin (see Romans, especially chapters 5-7)

While I was going to paraphrase, this is so well put that I quote it:

"Thanks for discussing sin, a concept largely absent from [...] sermons these days, as if judging others has become the greatest sin. Tolerance is a virtue, but to accept all behavior nonjudgmentally means to accept evil, if evil exists in the world. In my opinion, Christians must judge behavior, especially their own, all the time, hating the sin while loving the sinner."

As mentioned in one of the Sunday Blasts, Paul claims that sin is not merely doing something wrong once in awhile or forgetting to do something. Sin is a powerful force that human beings cannot fight on their own, but only with the help of God and the working of the Holy Spirit in us.

Online Worship: How Is It For You?

"Online Worship Tested Some Churches' Faith" read the headline of an article that I received. There have not been country-wide protocols for worship services, as anyone can read in the news. In New York the rules have been strict: up until about four weeks ago no gatherings over 10 were allowed, and almost without exception churches did not hold services at all.

I think the majority opinion across all Christians denominations is that "online service is not like actually going to church." For some denominations, especially those for whom communion is at the heart of worship, remote services fall completely short. Perhaps more importantly, and this cuts across all Christian denominations – and I believe all religions! – not being together with other worshipers is a lost aspect of online worship.



This Photo by Unknown Author is

A Short Sunday Blast for July 5

Instead of the Revised Common Lectionary readings for this Sunday, I will focus on Matthew 15:8-13 in a reflection I'm calling "Words are Seeds." In the short homily the theme will be about the effect words have, good and bad (sin?), and what Jesus has to say about that in the brief exchange in the Matthew selection. I will also point out several similar-sounding admonitions about our words from other traditions throughout time. These days the rhetoric we hear is pretty appalling, but I fear worse is to come.

Independence Day Prayer

God, we are thankful for those who have gone before us and sacrificed so much for us to be able to gather in freedom and without fear to worship you. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought out of many nations and languages who live and will live in our country. Amen.