

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

## **One Body**

**Pastor Hank**

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it (1 Corinthians 12:12, 27).*

This is a powerful image—the church as the body of Christ and all of us as members of the body of Christ. Paul extends his metaphor by comparing the body of Christ to the human body, pointing out that each member of the human body has a different function—and they are all necessary.

To continue with Paul's comparison: "Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?... If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body" (1 Corinthians 12:14-21).

Here is the recipe for a dynamic congregation—everyone understanding that they are a vital part of the body of Christ; everyone understanding that, without them using their gifts, the body of Christ is less than it could be; everyone understanding that everyone matters; everyone affirming and encouraging the gifts that others bring to the life of the church.

Just like we take care of our human bodies, we take care of the body of Christ; we are there for each other, caring for each other, helping each other when help is needed. As the body of Christ, together we bear Christ into the world. We bear Christ's love into the world; we bear Christ's compassion into the world; we bear Christ's mercy into the world and the world is a better place for it. As the body of Christ we forgive as we have been forgiven and we allow ourselves to be instruments of God's peace.

Prayer: Lord, may First Lutheran continue to be your body, your hands and feet, going where you would have us go and doing what you would have us do. Amen.