

UPDATE #64
6/19/2020

For more detail on the topics listed here, please watch the archived broadcast from today at www.stlorenz.org It's under the "Media" tab, "Connect Services." Broadcasts from previous dates are all archived there.

Opening Remarks

I began the broadcast by reading (and adding a few comments to) the following statement:

Recent events have shone a bright spotlight on the issue of racism in our nation. As uncomfortable as it can be for us to acknowledge that, it is important for us to do so – honestly, openly, as objectively as we can.

Until very recently, I was unaware of "Juneteenth." That was an unfortunate omission on my part. It's an important part of our shared history as citizens of the United States.

Yesterday, we spent some time looking at our St. Lorenz history. Today, let me share some history about: Juneteenth.

June 19, 1865 - In Galveston, Texas, Union army general Gordon Granger announced federal orders proclaiming that all slaves in Texas were now free.

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation issued on September 22, 1862.

13th Amendment to our Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude. It was passed by the Senate on April 8, 1864 and the House on January 31, 1865. It was ratified by the required number of states on December 6, 1865. On December 18, 1865 Secretary of State William H. Seward proclaimed its adoption.

Until I turned on the news this morning, I didn't realize that today is Juneteenth. I want to be more aware and better informed of such things. Maybe you do, too.

BTW – sometimes I decide what I'm going to wear the night before. I did that last night and chose this shirt because I haven't worn it for awhile and I kind of like it. This morning when I went to get dressed after thinking about Juneteenth a little bit, I noticed the shirt and slacks are black. A good preacher could find a lesson there.

Actually, I think the lesson is this – what we see at any given time depends a great deal on our frame of reference and our current circumstances. I'm recommending to Bible study leaders for this fall that our groups spend time on an excellent Bible study published by our Concordia Publishing House and written by a Lutheran pastor which incorporates some of his thoughts and experiences as a black man. More than once when I was reading this, my reaction was, "I never thought about it that way before."

Genesis 1 & 2

In anticipation of my message this coming weekend about what St. Paul says to husbands and wives in Ephesians 5, we spent some time on the creation account of Adam and Eve.

- When God that it was “not good,” for Adam to be alone, He meant that Adam was not complete with only the animals and even God to relate to.
- So He decided to create a helper “fit for him.”
 - “Helper” is not a derogatory term that indicates any kind of superior/inferior relationship.
 - Psalm 70:5 uses the same Hebrew word to describe God.
 - “Fit for him” has the implication of being the same as him, yet different from him. Those differences are both physical and emotional. Together, husband and wife are a complete entity.
 - God created the differences.
 - Sin distorted them.

Looking forward to our worship services. Please join us either in person or on line.