

WE HAVE CHARISMA

(1 Corinthians 12:3b-13)

Intro: We have charisma.
-You have charisma.
-I have charisma.
-Ascension Lutheran Church has charisma.

Maybe not necessarily:
-Effervescent personality.
 #Charms.
 #Motivates.
 #Inspires.
-Few have that.
 #Most of us don't.

But we have charisma.
-Greek word:
 #χάρισμα.
 *Gift.
 *Spiritual gift.
-Maybe I shouldn't say:
 #We have charisma.
 *Singular.
-Instead I should say:
 #We have charismata.
 *Plural.
 #Because God isn't stingy with the gifts.
 *You have gifts.
 *I have gifts.
 *This congregation has gifts.

Wherever the Holy Spirit blows.
-We have charisma.

I. Think About The Gifts God Has Given Us.

A. Name Three Gifts.

1. You see in yourself.
2. You see in this congregation.

B. This Is Practice For Next Month.

1. Dream Team.
 - a. Leaders of our congregational renewal process.
 - b. Ready to move us to the next step in this endeavor.
2. On a Sunday in July.
 - a. We have a couple of dates in mind.
 - b. I hope I can confirm that after our church council meeting today.
3. We want everyone to be involved.
 - a. We will have lunch after the 11:00 service.
 - b. Then we will get to work.
 - Identifying.
 - Celebrating.
 - Building on the gifts the Holy Spirit has given us.
4. Here's what we hope will happen.
 - a. We will give you:
 - Our Mission Statement.
 - #Responding to God's love, we faithfully:
 - *Welcome.
 - *Worship.
 - *Grow.
 - *Witness.
 - *Serve.
 - Our Guiding Principles.
 - #Jesus is Lord and Savior.
 - #Faith unites us.
 - #We care for church and world.
 - #Everyone is welcome.
 - b. We want you to identify the charisma (gifts).
 - You have.
 - #Talents.
 - #Passions.
 - We have in this congregation.
 - #Physical.
 - #Financial.
 - #Experience.
 - #Associations/connections.
 - We will:
 - #Put those up on a wall.
 - #Cluster them.
 - c. Then we will invite you to write three goals for this congregation.
 - How we can:
 - #Use our gifts.
 - #Accomplish God's mission.

- Our goals should be SMART.
 - #Specific (detailed).
 - #Measurable (quantified).
 - #Attainable (doable).
 - #Realistic (practical).
 - #Timely (deadlines).
- We will:
 - #Put those up on a wall.
 - #Cluster them.
- d. Then we will prioritize these goals.
 - You will have three dots.
 - #With your number on them.
 - #We will be able to tell whose dots are whose.
 - You will be able to vote for what you think:
 - #Top three goals.
 - *You are willing to work on.
 - #We don't want:
 - *Lot of goals.
 - +You think somebody else should work on.
 - #We want goals.
 - *You are willing to work on.
 - +With others.
 - We haven't really talked about how many goals we'll end up with.
 - #My own thinking.
 - *If we have three people who are committed.
 - +To working on a particular goal.
 - *We ought to find a way to bless that.
- 5. So be thinking.
 - a. About our charisma.
 - b. About God's mission.
 - c. About how we can use:
 - Our gifts.
 - Accomplish God's mission.

II. Let Me Say Some More About Charisma (Spiritual Gifts).

A. We All Have Them.

1. Problem in Corinth.

- a. There was a competitive spirit.
 - Folks who thought their gifts from the Holy Spirit.
 - #Were better than other people's gifts.

- b. That attitude was:
 - Unhealthy.
 - Unproductive.
 - Ungodly.
 - 2. We may tend to have the opposite problem.
 - a. Thinking that our gifts:
 - Not very good.
 - Not very significant.
 - Not as good as somebody else's.
 - b. That attitude is:
 - Unhealthy.
 - Unproductive.
 - Ungodly.
 - c. That's why our process invites you:
 - Not only to reflect on your own gifts.
 - But to be aware of the gifts outside of you.
 - 3. Holy Spirit gives to each of us:
 - a. Gifts of grace.
 - b. Acts of service.
 - c. Energies or passions.
 - One.
 - Holy.
 - Life-giving Spirit.

#Does this for each and every one of us.
- B. Holy Spirit Gives Us These Gifts For The Common Good.
- 1. They're not our private possession.
 - a. To ignore.
 - b. To keep to ourselves.
 - c. To use in a competitive way.
 - d. To use in a destructive way.
 - 2. They are for the common good.
 - a. For the benefit of others.
 - Community.
 - Church.
 - World.
 - b. For building up the Kingdom of God.
 - c. For accomplishing God's mission in the world.
- C. But There Is So Much That Sucks The Life Out Of Us.
- 1. If you blow up a balloon.
 - a. It takes breath.
 - b. It takes the breath out of us.

2. There is so much that can suck the breath out of us.
 - a. Other people.
 - b. Our jobs.
 - c. Our families.
 - d. Our political process.
 - e. Even the institutional church.
3. If we hang onto it.
 - a. It gets in the way:
 - Holy Spirit.
 - Our gifts.
 - God's mission.
 - b. At some point we need to let it all go.

D. Grace Of God Takes Care Of All That.

1. Enables us to let go of all the garbage that gets in the way.
 - a. That's what the Greek word for forgiveness means.
 - αφιημι.
 - #Let go of.
 - b. Put the garbage in the can.
 - Put the can on the curb.
 - Let it go.
 - c. Don't keep dragging it back into the house.
 - Let it go.
 - d. Don't put spray paint on it to make it look better.
 - Let it go.
 - e. Don't pour perfume on it to make it smell better.
 - Let it go.
 - f. Put the garbage in the can.
 - Put the can on the curb.
 - Let it go.
2. Jesus is the garbage collector.
 - a. Takes all of that garbage onto himself.
 - b. Takes all of that garbage onto the cross.
 - c. Takes all of that garbage to the grave.
 - d. Buries it.
 - That's what we do with garbage.
 - #We bury it.
 - c. So that when Jesus is raised from the dead on Easter morning.
 - Lo and behold, the garbage gets left behind.
3. Then there is room for the Spirit to blow afresh.
 - a. Into our:
 - Hearts.
 - World.
 - Church.

- b. Who can say what the Spirit will blow in?
 - Greeting card.
 - #Outside cover said:
 - *"YOU ARE THE ANSWER TO MY PRAYERS."
 - #On the inside it said:
 - *"You are not what I prayed for,"
 - *"But apparently you are the answer."
 - As we continue to Rekindle the Fire.
 - #Who knows what the Spirit will blow in?

Concl: But know this.

- We have charisma.
 - #You have gifts.
 - #I have gifts.
 - #This congregation has gifts.
- We have charisma.
 - #Water and Word.
 - #Bread and wine.
- We have charisma.
 - #Grace and peace.
 - #Faith and forgiveness.
- We have charisma.
 - #For:
 - *Loving.
 - *Serving.
 - *Healing.
 - *Blessing.
 - +World.

It's Pentecost.

- Wherever the Holy Spirit blows.
 - #We have charisma.

