

"Ice Cream"
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by Rebecca Enney

So, Gator and Barabas have been talking about Francis, the newcomer in their house. Francis is the younger brother of Uncle Floyd, and of course both Barabas and Gator live with Uncle Floyd and Frank, Barabas's birth father who lives out in CA.

Francis has a mental illness. That means his mind needs some medicines to help it to be healthy. And he should go to therapy. And he should go to a Support Group. Since Francis Heffelfinger turned up here, he has been trying to get back into those healthy habits, and Uncle Floyd is helping him.

But, sometimes, in the meantime, Francis has difficult behavior. And believe me, Barabas and Gator have noticed. There have been times they both wished they could make him leave their home, but Uncle Floyd has insisted they all work together to help Francis.

So, Francis came into the room and bumped into Barabas and stepped on Gator's tail. It's not the first time either and it feels like he does it on purpose! They both looked at each other to remind themselves to stay calm around Francis.

"Are you going to come to church with us this morning?" asked Barabas.

"Where do you go?" asked Francis. "We go to Pastor Ed's church." said Barabas.

"Does that mean you worship Pastor ED?" "No! We don't worship Pastor Ed!" said Gator. "It is Pastor Ed's LUTHERAN Church."

"Oh, so you worship Luther then?" "No, we do NOT worship Luther!"

"Then why is it called PASTOR ED'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?" asked Francis.

"Well" said Gator, "Because Pastor Ed and Pastor Glenn are our worship leaders and because we worship in a Lutheran style."

"So, the Lutherans are the only ones who have the right style I suppose," said Francis with a smirk.



Uncle Floyd had been listening from the other room and stepped in to say quietly to Francis "Francis, we have talked about this behavior. You are being confrontational."

And then Uncle Floyd said to answer the question "I reckon Lutherans have a pretty good style. We believe that we should worship ONLY CHRIST. We believe that lots of other people also worship ONLY CHRIST too, not just us."

"Yeah," said Gator, "It is kind of like ice cream, like Uncle Floyd told me once. Mostly everyone loves ice cream, just like mostly everyone loves Jesus, but some people love vanilla ice cream best and some people like chocolate best, and some like coconut almond chocolate chip best, but it is still all ice cream. So, Lutherans and Catholics and Methodists all worship ONLY CHRIST, just in different styles, ... or flavors."

"I could go for some chocolate ice cream right now!" said Francis.

"I reckon we need to get ready for church right now," suggested Uncle Floyd. "Let's get some ice cream on the way home from church," And so the four of them came to church this morning.

THE END