



Cornerstone

FEBRUARY 2021

God is Our Refuge and Strength, an Ever-Present Help in Trouble

I always remember growing up being a child brought up in church, hearing God's goodness and greatness. I always remember as well, the great things that people did to help each other. I was brought up in a pretty positive environment. People could build and help each other. My neighborhood was that way. People helped each other fix cars, build garages, raise kids, and we played together. Oh, there were troubles, there were trouble-makers, but they were not on TV, not in the movies, not in the newspaper unless they were being apprehended and being sent to prison.

I feel terrible about how people live today. We are not sure who our neighbor is. We fear the

violence of a neighbor filled with anger. We avoid downtown because of violence and crime. We hear that we cannot refer to someone as father, mother, son, daughter etc... in the U.S. Congress. Yes, that is right, they passed rules redefining who people are. You cannot refer to people that way. To them real and important relationships are irrelevant. We hear people condemning others because of rumors or because of their beliefs. We see rejection of others all the time. We criticize people behind their backs. We do not listen to the pain in each other's lives. We think Covid is dangerous! Think of how dangerous sin is.

I and maybe you believe with me that the evil one has really stirred up quite the bee's nest. We are in trouble! The call for help has been

Going out for quite a while. Maybe you have been hearing it. But now it is getting quite loud.

Along comes God who has lifted up His word as being sufficient for all our needs. His word says... "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea." Wow quite the image. If we felt the earth shake and saw the mountains fall into the sea, I think our knees would crumble. Our spirits would dry up. Our dreams would be dashed, but... there is always a but, God is our refuge and strength. He has an everlasting love for the weary, for the lost, for the hungry, and for the thirsty. He created us to live in his strength.

It is God who helps us. It is God who can lead us to good days. It is God who we turn to. It is in the word of God we stand. My neighborhood put God first, then

Continued on page 3...

A Word from Pastor Wes

Disciple:

1- A personal follower of Jesus during his life, especially one of the twelve Apostles.

The word disciple is an important word in the church. This is evident by the fact that if you look up the word in the dictionary the first definition talks about Jesus and his followers. Yet it is not just the word that should be important to us, but the act of actually being a disciple that is key in the life of a believer. Despite what the definition above says, **ALL** who enter into a relationship with Jesus are called to become his disciple. It is a call that involves a lifelong, all consuming passion for and commitment to Jesus. In other words, becoming a disciple of Jesus is not to be taken lightly, but is at the very core of our Christian life. Being a disciple has the goal of becoming more and more like the master, more and more like Jesus.

There are actually two parts to being a disciple and Jesus calls believers to both. The first, we know...to become more like Christ. Just like the disciples spending day and night for three years with Jesus, it takes time spent with Jesus and the working of the Holy Spirit for us to become more and more like him. Spending time with Jesus includes regular prayer, continual reading of the Bible, and fellowshiping with other believers. But the call of the disciples didn't end after Jesus ascended into heaven. They spent time becoming like Jesus so that they could carry out His command in Matthew 28; to go and make **(new)** disciples! Part of the call to become a disciple is to make other disciples of Jesus. This is how the church grew after the resurrection of Jesus, and it is how it still grows today. Normal, regular, everyday people telling others about what Jesus has done for them and how they can receive his gracious gift.

The thought of making disciples of others can be daunting and unnerving, but it doesn't need to be. A recent survey showed that of those who have been going to church for 10 or more years, nearly

90% of them were invited by a friend or family member. That means that the growth of the church is done by people like you talking about Christ to friends and family...people you already know and have a relationship with! This includes **friends, relatives, co-workers, and neighbors**. The reason that discipleship among this group is so successful is that you already have a common kinship, community, and interests with these people that you call friends and family. You **KNOW** them and they **KNOW** you! This is the key. Plus, it's not through our own powers of persuasion that we need to rely on. It is the power of the Gospel at work, we are merely the messengers. As Martin Luther once said, "We are all mere beggars telling other beggars where to find bread".

Jesus calls all believers to be His disciple, to become more and more like him, and to go and make disciples. Here at Christ Lutheran let us not only take the call to BE a disciple serious, but the command to **MAKE** disciples as well. After all, we can take *nothing* with us into heaven, but we may be able to go there with *someone* we know and love!

- Pastor Wes

CLW Update

CLW will hold a 2021 Planning Meeting on Saturday, February 13th at 10:30am with breakfast treats and coffee. Any questions, please contact Jean Flatten or Val Homuth.



Continued from page 1...

neighbor, then family, and then maybe ourselves. I remember how incredible it was in our neighborhood that a family could actually buy a new car, it was like a miracle. Everyone had junker cars. But the real miracle was God and neighbor were first. God is our refuge and strength.

Pastor Ron Boettner

Parsonage Updates

The parsonage upgrades for our new Pastor Wes and Anya. It was great to bring the home up to speed. Here is the list of improvements; new stainless appliances in the kitchen, new flooring in the kitchen, baths, laundry, and family room, all new light fixtures, new handles, complete painting of all the rooms, new shower, new vanities and sinks throughout the home, cleaning up of the landscaping, deep cleaning of the carpets and cabinets. It was great to see the loving service given by those who did a lot of volunteer work. Thanks! Special thank so Danielle Thomas and Nancy Wood who planned the upgrades.



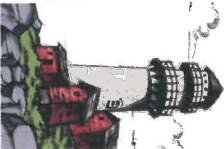
Our Offerings Come from God!

Oh, how we give thanks to God for the truck drivers, the mechanics, the nurses, the teachers, the plumbers, electricians, the cooks, the mechanics, the stockers, the servers, the carpenters, the managers, and the tailors etc...through all these talents and servants that we share together in the community and on the earth... all this God has given us! He has made each of us to be a part of the giving and receiving in the community. Sometimes it is really hard to see that it is all a gift from God. Sometimes we see things as coming from the store, or coming from money, or coming from our hard work. But God is the giver, the generous giver. He does much more than we see or notice. How good it is to know that God is the one who has made us and equips us to be helpful and useful for others.

In our offerings we support the ministry of our congregation to care for others in God's word, to support the ministries of prayer, bible study, visitation, and fellowship. We also support our Mission Partners in bring rescue help, timely urgent needs that would not otherwise come to people who are looking to God for help. For the month of February our Mission Partner is Samaritan's Purse through the Billy Graham ministry to give physical aid in water, clothes, medicine, and food to the poorest parts of the world. All good things come from God, but God asks that we would join him in his giving and pass a generous amount on to those who have needs.

As we closed the year 2020 our giving was \$272,530! This was \$2,000 more than we expected. Thank you for supporting your ministries at Christ Lutheran Church. Our focus for 2021 will be on Jesus and on how he wants us to grow more into his likeness and to care for our neighbor with radical love. We look to God as for how to serve and whom to serve, not at the balance in our savings. May God bless us so we can truly be a blessing to others. The balance in our accounts is too big, may God lead us to serve in love and in faith.

february

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 31 7:00pm Bell Choir	Feb 1 7:00pm Bell Choir	2 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood 6:00pm Vision Team	3 4:30pm Kingdom Kids 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group 7:30pm Music Practice	4 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 10:00am Music Together MM	5 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	6
7 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	8 6:30pm Prayer Team	9 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood 6:00pm Vision Team	10 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 7:30pm Music Practice	11 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	12 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	13
14 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	15 7:00pm Bell Choir	16	17 4:30pm Kingdom Kids 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 7:30pm Music Practice	18 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 7:00pm Council Meeting	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20
21 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	22 6:30pm Prayer Team	23 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood	24 5:00pm Confirmation 5:30pm Lenten Supper 6:30pm Lenten Worship Service 7:30pm Music Practice	25 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom	26 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	27
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Coffee Fellowship 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion		<div> <p>God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. PSALM 1-2a</p> </div>				