Cornerstone

JANUARY 2021

Hopeful Words from Jesus

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

The Most High Our Dwelling

Happy New Year to you! I say that with faith and grace. For we trust God to be the one who opens to each of us a new day in his grace, each and every day. It is not just because the calendar changed numbers, but because God gives us a new day. Because God has the fullness of grace for us that we can begin anew each day and learn to live in Him.

Because His grace is so wonderful, so giving, and so undeserved and it should cause us to live out of a radical devotion to God. As we begin the year 2021, we hear the Gospel of Mark, we see the pattern of what Jesus does in his ministry. He called his disciples to follow him. What does this mean for you? How do you understand this? They left their nets! What does this calling of Jesus mean to us? Why is this important?

Christ was bringing the true light into the world. It was the calling of the disciples, to bring thee light to the world! The light of God. For the past, several decades the bringing of God's light to the world has been rejected over and over by our culture and even

by Christians. We have often settled for a dim vision of Christ, a dim light, that cannot pierce the darkness. A dim light that does not truly light up our hearts. We await for someone to inspire us for a moment, to make us feel good, but does not pierce our hearts.

We maybe have come to worship but have not made God our dwelling place. We have put other gods in our hearts. We are like the ancient Romans, polytheists. We believe in many gods. We constantly are going from one thing to another. We treat all ideas and beliefs as possible. We do not discern right or wrong. We do not fight against corruption and falsehood. We do not seek to be in Him but to be on our own. Christ cried over Jerusalem! Oh, how he longed to gather them, like a hen covers her chicks. But Jerusalem would not have it.

There is only one safe dwelling place, but it takes courage to stay there, to dwell there! But oh, how good it is! When you are in the right place with God, you know it! It is also true others cannot help but see it! For far too long Christians have been lite. Hiding in the world. Jesus is amazingly in love with us. He has fulness of grace for you, and has plans for us. But he is calling us into His Light. We are to dwell in God. He is to be our heart's desire, our motivation, our life, our burden!

The dangers of life are not just a virus but being dead in our faith. Of being overrun by material things, activities, pleasure, information, and with evil and darkness. It is like a vine or a net, that slowly covers everything and covers the light. We are taught over and over not to respond to evil around us, to just turn away from it. Not good, we are called to break free from the vines, the nets, and to live in the Light. That is a battle, that is a struggle, but it is what we need to do!

May I say it, God is refining his people! God does not want a dimly lit church. God is calling us to dwell in him. To be all in. To be faithful to Him. Now our God is an amazing God. He can do it! If we will allow him.

The writer of Psalm 91 says, "Because you love me", says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him; for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

When we dwell in Him, we do not want the dim lite we want the LIGHT!

Dwell in Him, Love Him, break off the vines, and love each other!

Happy New Year! Goodness comes from God alone!

Pastor Ron

A Message from Pastor Wes

Have you ever moved? Most people have at some point in their lives. Rare are the days where a person can be born, grow up, and settle into their childhood home for their entire life. Speaking as someone who has moved not only recently but relatively frequently over the last 20 years, I can honestly say that it is not one of my preferred experiences…in other words, I'm not a fan. The packing, the lifting, blowing up your entire life for weeks on end…it can be disrupting, disorientating, and stressful. The constant moving has led me to categorize moves into 3 (completely unscientific and arbitrary) categories.

One is the move that happens for many after high school. For some that is moving off to a college, near or far. For others it is moving out of your parents' house to work, join the armed services, teach English abroad, or some other adventure. This move is important, but often is not indicative of where you are going to spend your lives. When I moved from home in small town Mayville ND to college at NDSU in Fargo ND I was thrilled to be out on my own but had no illusions that I would be living in a dorm for the rest of my life. This was a steppingstone.

Another type of move that happens after that initial "testing of the waters" phase is the settling down move. It is the place you move to when you are ready to put

January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 21 OFFICE CLOSED RONS B-DAY	2
3 9:00am Worship Service 10:20am Anchored In Christ 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	4	5 (3 Days of Prayer)	6 4:30pm Kingdom Kids 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	7 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 10:00am Music Together MM	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 9:00am Worship Service 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	11 6:30pm Prayer Team	12 12:00pm WHCC General Membership 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami	13 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Youth Group 7:30pm Music Practice	14 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 10:00am Music Together MM	15 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	16
17 Installation of Pastor 9:00am Worship Service 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	18 6:30pm Prayer Team	19	20 4:30pm Kingdom Kids 5:00pm Confirmation 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Youth Group	21 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 10:00am Music Together MM 7:00pm Council Meeting	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23
24 9:00am Worship Service 10:20am Anchored In 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	25 6:30pm Worship & Music Cmte	26 1:00pm Staff Meeting (Ron's Office) - Tami Greenwood 6:00pm Vision Team	27 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Youth Group 7:30pm Music Practice	28 9:00am Charis Women's Bible Study via Zoom 10:00am Music Together MM	29 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30am Men's Prayer Breakfast	30
31 9:00am Worship Service 10:20am Anchored In Christ 10:20am Good Life 10:30am Adult Discussion	"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." ~ JESUS Matthew 11:28-30					

Thank You

Many hands have helped to prepare the parsonage for our Assistant Pastor and his family. Some of the repairs include updating the kitchen and bathrooms, painting, replacing lower-level carpet, replacing flooring in the kitchen and dining area, cleaning carpet in living room and upstairs bedrooms.

Thank you to the following for their time and commitment:

Larry and Nancy Wood
Dale Anderson
Rich Mickschl
Derek Nieuwsma
Justin and Danielle Thomas
Greg Roiland
Reese Shanahan
Ron Boettner

Jeans Update

Paul writes in Ephesians 3 vs 20&21 that Jesus is able to do far beyond all that you ask or imagine. Jesus has heard our prayers and I am now able to end my chemo treatments. I will continue to be closely monitored. I am so grateful for all your prayers and support. Amazing things happen when we join together in prayer. Praise be to God!

Your sister in Christ

Jean Flatten

Christmas Caroling

A Message from Pastor Wes

down roots. This can be in the area you grew up in, the area you went to college in, or just the area you decided you wanted to call home for the forceable future. After Anya and I got married we decided to settle down in Fargo, ND. We figured that since we enjoyed the community, had an awesome church home, and good friends there that it was as good a place as any other to spend the next few decades of our lives. This was not to be however, which leads me to the third type of move, the move that you are called to.

In 2003, God called the Asheim family to serve in full time ministry for the first time as a youth director in southern Minnesota. This call was accompanied by a move. Later, other calls were received leading us to CLC in 2010 and even to Connecticut in 2015. Each time we were called by God to serve a move occurred. As blessed as we feel to have served every location, there is a sense of loss each time as you lose the community that you had put roots down in for the previous years.

The sense of call that we received as we followed the Lords plans is similar to the call that Abram (before he became Abraham) received from the Lord in Genesis 12. Abraham was called by God and blessed by God as the one who was to become the father of a great nation. The twelve tribes of Israel are traced back to Abraham. Jesus lineage is traced back to Abraham. But the beginning of Abram's call required a move. Abram moved from his homeland in what is now modern Iraq, to a place called Canaan, where the nation of Israel would be established. Even when Abram arrived in Canaan, he didn't have a place to put roots down. He was a nomad, roaming around the land living in tents for all his days. Yet he was faithful to the call.

Christ Lutheran has also been called. Luckily for you, he is not calling on the church to pick up and move across the continent like Abram did...at least I don't think that is His calling! No, as a church, Christ Lutheran is being called to join God in his mission, to bring God's kingdom to all near and far. There is not one Christian who is exempt from this mission. Jesus was talking to you when he said he wanted you to make disciples of all nations in Matthew 28. God has people He wants to come to know Him in Maple Plain, Independence, Orono, Delano and beyond and he is inviting Christ Lutheran to be the people that make that happen. This is the call, to join God in His mission for the world and it is a call that is for everyone who knows Christ.

Anya and I were talking the other day and realized that we have never been in the same house for two summer Olympics since we've been married (since 1998). 2020 was no different, in fact in this year of unprecedented occurrences, we added our own. From January 1 - December 31st the Asheim family called 5 different locations home! But all that moving has led us to our current call, here at Christ Lutheran, and we couldn't be more thrilled! We feel blessed to be called back to Christ Lutheran, to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. But we are most thrilled to be a part of Gods mission for Christ Lutheran, reaching beyond these walls to those that need to hear His message of salvation. This is a mission that God has ordained and that he has called EVERYONE at Christ Lutheran to be a part of. The call has been given to me and to you. It has been given to the pastors, staff, volunteers, members, and attenders of Christ Lutheran. I cannot wait to join with all of you as we follow Gods calling and to see where He leads us!

In Christ,

–Pastor Wes

Pastor Wes

Finance Update Corner

Our November financial reports shows that we had received $28, 553 in offerings. Our average per month is $23,000. Our expenses were $34,502 which included about $8,000 in computer and video equipment to go online. The church council plans to move those expenses to a motion to use our Endowment Fund A, as we had used it to buy projectors from the sanctuary.

The savings in the general fund is down to $119, 483 as we have spent around $19,000 up grading the parsonage. Our monthly Mission Partner this month is Love Inc.

Installation of Pastor Asheim

Pastor Wes Asheim will be installed as our Associate Pastor on Sunday, January 17th. Pastor Wes is called to serve in Christ's Church. Our own congregation is a part of the one true church in Christ Jesus our Lord. Pastor Greg Anderson from Inspiration Point Bible Camp will be the preacher and will share in the installation with us in Pastor Wes committing himself to be one of our pastors. Please join us for this Sunday.

Please pray for all our congregation. We are all ministers of the love of God and the Good News of Jesus. Pray that God will lead all of us and that we would be excited about what He desires to do among us. Pray for the direction and focus of our ministries as Pastor Ron, Pastor Wes, and Worship and Music Director Eric Hutchison lead us. Pray for our church council as they gather this month to elect new officers of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

CLW UPDATE

On Wednesday, January 13th at 6:30 pm Woman's Bible Study we will begin a study of the book '7 Women' by Eric Metaxas where he presents the portraits of seven remarkable, faithful women who impacted the lives of the people around them in powerful and unique ways. Each of these women - Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, Maria Skobtsova, Corrie ten Boom, Mother Teresa, and Rosa Parks - is an extraordinary example of true womanhood and courage in the face of opposition.
Discover how they changed the course of history by following God's call upon their lives! Let Jean Flatten or Val Homuth know if you would like to attend!

Charis will resume their Zoom Bible Study Thursday mornings on January 7th.

We will hold a CLW Meeting in mid-February to reveal our Prayer Partners for 2020 and do a new drawing for those who would like to participate in 2021 (you need not be in attendance to participate). If you could please email Tami sometime in January to let her know who your Prayer Partner was last year, and she will compile a list. If you have any thoughts for community outreach or local needs that we can address at our meeting let Jean or I know.

We open our hearts to God, by worshiping and hearing His word. We serve Him and worship in work, by extending our hospitality to others and sharing His word.

ALL THE WOMEN OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE MEMBERS OF CLW. YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN US, YOUR SISTERS IN CHRIST.

As we begin a new year may you be filled with the Hope and Love of Jesus Christ as we put our trust in Him! May you be blessed by His Promises of Grace, Mercy & Everlasting Life!