

While he was
blessing them,
he left them
and was taken
up into heaven.

LUKE 24:51

SATURDAY MAY 15

Black Tie Dinner

IN SUPPORT OF
MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Christ Lutheran Youth
will be hosting a black tie event on
Saturday May 15th,
at 6:30pm,
to raise funds for the families of fallen
Minnesota police officers.
This event is open to CLC church members
and their immediate family and friends.

3 course menu will be posted at a later date.

Suggested donation per plate/\$20.

Please RSVP by May 8th to:

Laura Mundahl: 612-385-4060
or
Tami Greenwood: tgreenwood@mpclc.org

Christ Lutheran Financial Update

God is truly bountiful and generous. He is rich in every way. Great in power and in mercy. God is generous beyond reason and teaches us to be generous as well. Part of our Vision of being God's church is not to see how much we have, but to see what God is calling us to be for others. At our Special Congregational meeting as we moved funds from the Endowment Fund to the general fund to pay for the online cameras and computer equipment, Paula Weis, chair of the Endowment Committee said we had \$44,000 of available funds and for us to pray and discern what would God have us do. What is God calling us to do and be with our neighbors in our local community and further away? Please pray with us, "Lord show us the path of service you have for us to walk?"

In March we had a very good month with offerings being \$31,037 and expenses were \$25,588. Our current savings in the general fund is \$130,629.



Cornerstone

MAY 2021

Jesus Turns Things Upside Down

In the ways of the world, people look up to the leader, to the top. But in the kingdom of God, Jesus lifts up the lowest, the servant. God came to earth once, in the form of a servant, to remake humans into being servants.

The way of the world is to get people to serve us. We are told or we think, "Should not a person have ambitions, be promoted, gain wealth, and not have any worries?" Is that the goal of life? What is your goal? To serve or be served?

The scriptures say, 'to whom much is given much is required.' The powerful and wealthy shall serve the weak and the poor. Jesus turns things upside down. We are under obligation in God's kingdom to serve our neighbor, to love our enemy. There is the joy of being in Christ. When the true spirit of Christ is at work in our lives we gladly serve.

Christ is calling each of us to serve His kingdom. Our Lord is reaching out into the lives of people who do not know Him and He is calling us to be his ambassadors.

Most of us pick friends because we like them and can use them. But Jesus picked the unlikeable, those with stains, and unbecoming features. It is natural to love those who love you. Jesus teaches us to love those who despise you. You may be exactly what a person needs to get over a prejudice or fear. Someone's life may be tied up in knots because they have hatred for someone like you. Only by your love for them can you set them free.

Remember, in Jesus' parable a foreigner was beaten and left for dead in a ditch. A priest and a Levite walked by on the other side of the road. But a Samaritan, stopped and cared for his bleeding wounds, took him to a good safe

care for him not counting the costs.

The Samaritan made a choice to be a friend. This is how Jesus turned the world upside down. In being a servant and loving those who are different, we can see our Father's love for us! Oh, how God loves you, and those different than us! The government and culture cannot really bring us together, but the Spirit of Christ can. Part of our Vision of being the church is that Jesus turns us upside down.

He has immeasurable joy for us and what we can be!

How much are we praying for those different than us? How is God shaping our hearts for those we may not like? God is busy doing great things. May we pray for God to do great things in us!

The Peace of Jesus be With You!

Pastor Ron Boettner

The Call To Obedience

Have you ever thought about Gods call to obedience? It's not something that is the first thing on my mind. It is also not something that comes easily to us. We like to think we are the master of our own destiny, and for someone to tell us what to do is to try and take away our personal rights and freedoms. Yet Scripture is full of exhortations for those that follow God and obey. God has no issue infringing on our perceived rights when calling people to obedience. It starts in the beginning with God's command in the Garden of Eden in Genesis 2:17, "You must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil". Here are Adam and Eve, surrounded by paradise with only one rule to obey, and we all know how that ended up...banishment, pain, and suffering for the entire human race.

God sets his standards out pretty clearly in Deuteronomy. Obedience is rewarded with blessings, and disobedience is rewarded with curses. We see this played out just before the Israelites cross into the promised land. See Deuteronomy where God is giving Moses a message for his people in chapter 28. *"If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do and will fill your storehouses with grain. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you. But if you refuse to listen to the Lord your God and do not obey all the commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come and overwhelm you. The Lord himself will send on you curses, confusion, and frustration in everything you do, until at last you are completely destroyed for doing evil and abandoning me."*

Jesus continues the theme of obedience many times while he was on earth. In fact, the last thing he says to the disciples before being taken back up into heaven in Matthew 28 is, *"Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you."* There is no question that obedience is closely tied to a right relationship with God. It doesn't matter what WE think is right, true, or fair. It matters that we obey.

Obedience to God isn't easy by any means, though. In fact, obedience can be very costly. Just look at the multitude of examples of people who suffered because of obedience. Abraham left his country, the disciples left their families, and Paul left his religion. Often times obeying God leads to intense persecution and hardship. So why did they do it? Because obedience is always worth the cost. Through obedience we are able to accomplish what God has purposed for our life and when we accomplish God's purpose in our life, we become overwhelmed with experiencing God's power and presence. What an incredible reward! If you want to experience God more in your life, obey him more fully!

On the other hand disobedience is even more costly than obedience. God does not take it lightly as we see in the Garden of Eden and in the words of Deuteronomy. Even Moses himself suffered for his disobedience in the desert by not being allowed to enter the promised land with Israel. So, while obedience may be costly, the rewards and future blessings are always worth it while disobedience will only lead to pain.

Experience the fullness that God has planned for you! Look at the commands that he has already placed in your life and obey them to the fullest! If you don't know what the commands of Jesus are, spend time reading through the Gospels and underline commands as you come across them. Through his death and resurrection Christ has already provided payment for your sins, nothing needs to be done to earn it. Instead receive even MORE blessings on top of salvation that God wants to give to you and WILL give to you as you obey his commands.

~Pastor Wes



Confirmation Day and the Day of Pentecost!

Sunday, May 23rd

When Christ prayed for his followers just before his crucifixion, he prayed for God to give us the comforter, the guide, the presence of God in our lives. He prayed that the Holy Spirit would dwell with us. To dwell means to stay, to be reliable, and accessible. Fifty days after the resurrection, ten days after His ascension into heaven, God sent the Holy Spirit to the followers of Jesus.

Christ gives us the Holy Spirit to be our strength and encourager in our lives of faith and service to God. We are not alone, orphaned or forgotten. We have been given the Holy Spirit.

This year on Pentecost, you may wear red if you like. We will also be confirming five of our youth. Callie Anderson, Gavin Pettit, Alaina Pettit, Peter Weis, and Ray Weis. They have been meeting for the last three years on Wednesday evenings in confirmation and youth group growing and learning about their faith. They are currently writing their faith papers on questions they have about faith and life. They will share their faith papers with their families on Sunday May 16th and will share their faith and affirm their Holy Baptism on Sunday May 23rd. Please support them in their lives

CLW Updates

Wednesday evening Women's Bible Study for May is a four-week study called "Footnotes" by Julie Lyles Carr. Major Lessons from Minor Bible Characters. Bible Study is from 6:30-7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Monday morning Quilters are back in action. Feel free to stop in and say hi and see what beautiful quilts they are creating. Coffee and "goodies" are served at 10:00... New quilters are always welcome—no experience necessary!!

Pictured below is the alter that was purchased for the chapel at Haven Homes with funds from CLW. On the front of the alter is engraved, "This Do in Remembrance of Me". There will be a plaque mounted on the alter designating this as a gift from CLW. The alter is scheduled to be in the chapel by the end of May.



Your Sisters in Christ,

Jean Flatten, Val Homuth, Mona Hawkinson, Bonita Heilman