

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES, ON
THE 5TH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Thursday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor: Pastor Todd Hoeffs (289-362-0113) sr.pastor@christlutheransc.ca
Parish Assistant: Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager: Karen McCumber business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary: Pat Kimpel secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook: Lisa Gall www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email: chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw

COVER ART: *The Lego Snowflake print which resembles the Jerusalem cross (plus sign cross with the 4 Gospels) was created by long time SOUL member Wendy.*

Prayer: O God, our loving Father, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit You plant the gifts of Your love into the hearts of Your faithful people. Grant to Your servants soundness of mind and body, so that they may love You with their whole strength and with their whole heart do these things that are pleasing in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: Luke 12: 22-33 Wed.: Jer. 5: 20-24 Friday: Rom. 7: 14-25a
Tuesday: Jer. 8: 4-7 Thurs: Acts 28: 1-6 Saturday: Hos. 2: 20-23

Musicians: Mayumi Munoz

Reader: Don Fretz

EVENTS THIS WEEK:

Today: 9:00 – 9:50 a.m. – Sunday School, Coffee Hour
10:00 a.m. – Worship - Followed by Lunch and Voter's Meeting
Monday: 7:30 p.m. – Choir
Tuesday: 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. – Precious Moments
9:30 – 1:30 p.m. – Niagara-Hamilton Circuit meeting here at Christ
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. – Church Council
Thursday: 10:00 -11:30 a.m. – SOUL
Friday: 5:30 p.m. – Murder Mysteries Dinner



YOU ARE INVITED!! Every Sunday!!
Hope to see you downstairs
for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.
(during Sunday School & CHAT)
Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats,
please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

SUNDAY SCHOOL: In Sunday School today Jesus reminds His listeners not to worry about things they cannot control. The birds of the air and the flowers in the field serve as examples of God's continuing care for His creation. We have no need for worry or anxiousness because God provides and cares for us. Our Bible Verse: **"God cares for you."** 1 Peter 5: 7

VOTERS MEETING: Today! following a light lunch after the Worship Service.

THE "NIAGARA-HAMILTON CIRCUIT MEETING" will be held at Christ Lutheran Church on Tuesday from 9:30 am — 1:30 pm.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!!!!!! Calling all youth, confirmands & friends: **February 11th** we are planning a fun afternoon of competition, problem-solving and an all-around unique experience at **"ACTIVATE."**

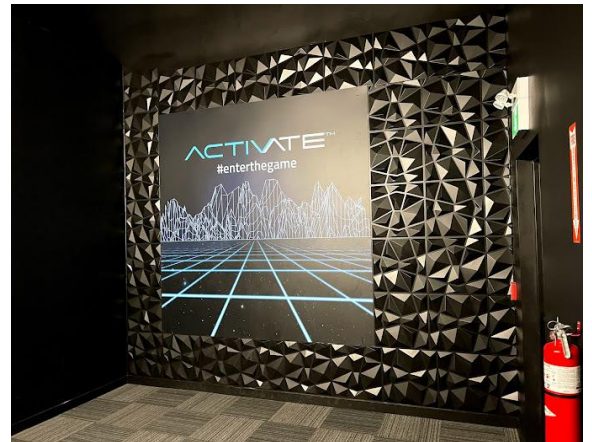
Take a look at this video to see what it's all about!

<https://youtu.be/LV4hfG5eGXU?si=Q6vjF8rRESdZmC1w>

Cost is just \$25/ person thanks to the **Parish Ed Committee.**

Simply register by the end of this month by using the link here: <https://bxzq0rfovsd.typeform.com/to/Hf6hRNYU>

Hope you can join us!



YOU GOTTA HAVE HEART THIS LENT! Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days of journeying with Jesus to the cross & empty grave. **February 14**, Valentine's Day is the starting date this year. A Holy Communion Service with the imposition of ashes will be offered at **7:00 pm**, with a homily by Pastor Todd on 1 Corinthians 13, *"What's Love Got To Do, Got To Do With It ?!?"*



FAMILY NIGHT

UNO & SUPPER

Singing & Devotions

Saturday, February 24, 4:00 p.m.

The Parish Ed Committee will provide a meal of TACOS and Drinks
Please bring a dessert OR munchies to share!!

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10 we hope you will join us!

PLEASE SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

THE SEMINARY CALL SERVICE: Saturday, May 25, 3:00 pm at Christ Lutheran Church.

12th Regular Convention of Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada: July 11-14, 2024, at the Four Points by Sheraton in London, ON.

The convention theme is based on Psalm 149:1 'Sing to the Lord a new song'

Keynote Speaker will be Deb Burma who is a Christian author and LWML seminar leader. Special Interest Speakers will also tell of their cross-cultural ministry with the use of singing and music. The mites gathered throughout the past three years provided such great blessings to people around the world, from local support for a Bethlehem Walk in BC to International support of deaconesses in Nicaragua and Cambodia. Rev. Mark Smith will bring news of the work that is happening through those missions. Mission Grants for the next triennium will be voted on.

If you would be interested in attending, either in person or online, speak to Lorraine Kaija.

Registration forms will be available in the coming months. You can also check out the LWML web site lutheranwomen.ca

WE WELCOME OUR NEW SEMINARY FIELDWORKER: Rev. Noel Richard, ordained pastor from the Lutheran Church in India earning a Master of Theological Studies at our Seminary. He served in India 6 years and through our Synod wide colloquy program will become a pastor in Lutheran Church Canada.

Last Sunday Attendance: Attn: Jan 28, 2024 — 10 a.m. – 101

<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or - (--)</u>
Current		2,130.70	18,663.11	
LCC Missions		147.00	1,068.50	
Property Improvement:		197.00	513.50	

LWML/Mary Martha: We were very pleased at our recent January meeting to disperse money from our very successful 2023 Christmas Bazaar. The following are donations that we have made using those funds:

- \$1500 - S.O.U.L.
- \$1000 – CLTS
- \$1500 - Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- \$500 - Lutheran Bible Translators
- \$1200 – Nicaragua Feeding Program
- \$500 - L.A.M.P.
- \$1000 - Ukraine (through LCC)
- \$3500 - Refugee Assistance
- \$100 - L.A.M.P. Northern VBS Mission
- \$550 - Red Cross Wildfire Relief
- \$300 - Niagara Mobile Closet
- \$200 - Out of the Cold
- 54 “Warm Feet Kits”
- 300 cloth bags for Start Me Up Niagara

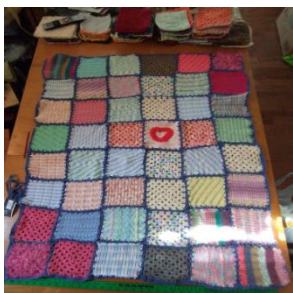
We also collect monthly at our monthly meetings to support:

- Haiti Lutheran Mission Society
- Nicaragua Feeding Program
- Our adopted Seminary Student
- Mites (which are sent to LWML-Canada towards all the wonderful Mission projects voted on at our Conventions.)

We also now plan to start a Bursary Fund, to assist anyone from our congregation who would like to attend a Convention, but needs help financially to do so.

You can see the large number of people and organizations that we are helping through our donations, both in our own community here and in Mission work around the world. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR LWML/Mary Martha Society. We feel very blessed to have our congregation help and contribute in so many ways. May the Lord continue to bless our shared ministry together.

SURVEY: CHRISTMAS EVE Service TIMES: The Worship Committee is investigating optimal times for Christmas Eve services. Our 10 pm service attendance numbers are not what we historically have seen. Please participate in a quick survey at the back of the church February 4, 11 & 18th. Look at the chart on the bulletin board at the back of the church; get 1 sticky dot and place it on the time slot you and your family would prefer to attend Christmas Eve services. One per person. If you have any questions or wish to email your choice, please speak to or email either Judy Slingerland or Kathy Kuhl



Granny Squares still needed: This is an ongoing project we will gratefully accept more completed 6 inch knitted or crocheted Granny Squares in any pattern or colour. We would also appreciate any yarn that you may have, leftover yarn or full balls of yarn. In the narthex there is a white cube with yarn and hooks that you are welcome to take (or donate). There is another basket for completed squares. It has been about 6 months that we have been able to show Christ's love in our Caring Squares blankets. (23 blankets to date!) Thank you for donating yarn or completed squares as we continue with this project! Praise

God! If you have any questions, call Lorraine at 905 964 5837)

TECHNOLOGY ENTHUSIASTS – The Worship Committee is seeking individuals who would be interested in learning how to operate the recording equipment used for our worship services. Training will be provided. Should you have any questions or require more information please speak to either Tom Kuhl, Theresa Mason or Pastor Todd.

TAPESTRY is an **LWML-C Publication** available to anyone. For 2024 it will publish (3) three times a year with the possibility of a digital issue in the summer. The cost for a paper copy is \$18 for the 24/25 subscription year. Deadline for renewal has been moved up to March 15 this year. Please contact Wendy Hyatt for more information or to start or renew your paper subscription. A sample issue is available.

USED STAMPS: Start saving and collecting your used stamps now! They will be gathered at the LWML-C Convention and donated to a charity who will in turn use them to purchase spiritual resources like Bibles.

MORNING PRAISE

Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Services
The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

FIRST HYMN: *“Songs of Thankfulness & Praise”*

**Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David’s stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil’s might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee know and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

Words: Christopher Wordsworth, 1862, public domain; Melody: St. George’s Windsor
<https://www.godsongs.net/2012/08/songs-of-thankfulness-and-praise.html>

SPOKEN MORNING PRAISE SCRIPTURE RESPONSES:

Open up my lips O LORD!

And my mouth will sing praises to Your Name!

Come quickly to Help me, O Lord

And be speedy to keep me away from harm.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was then, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Christ!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Give glory to our God, our Light and our Life!

O Come, let us worship Him!

PSALM

1 **Sing out, sing out, all voices, shout to the Rock Who saves!**
With thanks, bow down before Him, Come near and praise the Lord
For He, our King has blest us; from mountain top and hill-side,
The heights and depths He fashioned, and we be - long to Him.

**Bow down, in faith, before Him, for He has made us all!
As sheep of the Great Shepherd, He feeds us as we go.
All praise to God the Father, All praise to God the Son,
And praise to God, the Spirit, Eternal Three in One!**

(Hymn version of Psalm 96; Tune: "Stand Up! Stand Up for Jesus!" LSB # 660)

PSALM 147:1-11: spoken responsively [International Children's version]

Praise the Lord! It is good to sing praises to our God.

It is good and pleasant to praise him.

The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem.

He brings back the scattered Israelites who were taken captive.

He heals the broken-hearted.

He bandages their wounds.

He counts the stars and names each one.

Our Lord is great and very powerful.

There is no limit to what he knows.

The Lord defends those who are not proud.

But he throws the wicked to the ground.

Sing praises to the Lord. Praise our God with harps.

He fills the sky with clouds. He sends rain to the earth.

He makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives food to cattle and to the little birds that call.

He is not pleased by the strength of a horse or the power of a human.

The Lord is pleased with those who fear him,

with those who trust his love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

O Lord, hear my prayer;

And let my concerns come before You.

Almighty God, You know that we are placed in the midst of such great dangers that we cannot stand upright because of our human frailty. Make us whole in mind and body. Support us in all danger and carry us through all temptations. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 40:21-31*

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God'? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *1 Corinthians 6:19-23*

[St. Paul writes:] If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe betide me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, so that I might by any means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE: "Seek Ye First"

**Seek ye—first, the—King-dom of God; and His right-eous-ness—
And all these things shall be added un-to you; All-le-lu, All-le-lu---ia.**

Words: Karen Leffery, © 1972 Maranatha Publishers www. Hymnary.org

The Holy Gospel: St. Mark 1:29-39

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Mark, the 1st chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

As soon as Jesus and some of the disciples left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.' And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL HYMN: "I Want To Walk As A Child Of The Light" Kathleen Thomerson © 1970



1. I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to
2. I want to see — the bright-ness of God, I want to
3. I'm look - ing for — the com - ing of Christ, I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my
fol - low Je - sus. When we have run — with pa - tience the



world, the star of my life — is Je - sus. In Him there
 path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 race, we shall know the joy — of Je - sus.



is no dark-ness at all, the night and the day — are both a -



-like; The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of



God, shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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MESSAGE



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es—Sing the
 2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing—Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
 great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor—Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
 shat - ters—Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is
 hal - ted; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the



sole - ly Might - y and ho - ly— Oh, sing the
 hun - gry; Emp - ty, the wealth - y— Oh, sing the



great - ness of God the Lord! His ten - der mer - cy Shall rest se -
 great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the to - ken All that was



cure - ly On all who fear Him, Love and re -
 spo - ken To A - br'am's off - spring God is ful -



vere Him—Oh, sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
 fill - ing—Oh, sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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THE OFFERING is received.

THE PRAYERS

Called together to follow Jesus Christ, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. Call your people, Great God, to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have ignored or coddled sin and may we rise anew filled with Your Spirit;

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the starry night. Sustain the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters. Bless us with seasonable weather and safe journeying.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Instruct the authorities in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire citizens and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to unseen hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way *especially we remember...[names added here..]* and give them all peace, hope and a measure of your Heavenly grace.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your Word and help us reflect the Good News of Jesus Christ, that we are generous with those in need of help. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbours.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Our Lord says that He is making all things new. Make us new by Your grace so that we may become like You. Continue to lead us in all things that come our way so that we may grow in the faith You have given. According to the Father's will, let us look for opportunities to be your instruments of peace in the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O Gracious God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified & risen for the life of the world. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: ***"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name..."***

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER:

I thank You, Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger. And I pray that You would keep me this day, also, from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen.

CLOSING GREETING & BLESSING:

Let us praise the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit + be with you all. **Amen.**

LAST HYMN:

"All Things Are Yours"

[Tune: Ride On In Majesty]

All things are yours! We make that true
when we return our gifts to you.
And so we give, and so we share,
in Christ's strong name expressing care.

"Give out of love," your Word commands.
We are your head, your heart, your hands.
Your Word you underscore with deeds
by using us to answer needs.

O what a joy to give and then,
out of compassion, give again.
You have no needs. Though that be true,
the gifts we share are giv'n for you.

All things are yours! We make that true
when we return our gifts to you.
And as we give, and as we share,
May Jesus' cross express such care.

*Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech -- <https://www.hopepublishing.com/find-hymns-hw/hw4130.aspx>
Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company: Winchester New Melody*

REV. TODD HOEFFS

The 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
February 4, 2024

When my wife and I just got married, one of her family's close friends gave us a small plastic canvas cross stitch. It read: "Support wildlife; Have children"! [LOL] I learned that firsthand as a 20-year-old senior university student. I spent the summer at a camp about 20 minutes outside of Woodstock New York. I was art Director and camp counsellor for three months.

In charge of a cabin of 12 -- nine year-old boys from New York City. Talk about supporting wildlife! [LOL] I figured, before I getting into a long-term career of teaching, I should see how I could handle this. I made sure they ate, slept, bathed, dressed, kept safe and didn't drive me totally nuts. I have to One thing that remained with me to this day: if you are consistent, and your boundaries are tempered with love and appreciation for who these kids—they will follow you anywhere. And that was very true. They proved to be fantastic kids. Consistency.

So important in all aspects of life. No means no. Yes means yes. God doesn't play games, neither should we. The law is clear. Our bodies are not our own. We belong to God.

We have been bought with the price of Jesus' Blood. And we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

My body is a temple of the holy spirit: Ancient and crumbling LOL Seriously, our bodies are temples of the Holy spirit. He goes with us everywhere we go. Jesus isn't just by our side, He lives within. If He's only by our side, that means we're still kinda on our own at times.

We are not. Never alone. Once baptized and given faith, you belong to God.

He has made you His own. Every thought, conversation, action, inaction, idea, dream,

Is with Jesus in you, for good or for bad. This is why we live by grace. We rely on mercy.

God is consistent. He never breaks His Word, He never leaves us alone. With the Spirit living in us, we are consistent. We love God as we love others. It's that simple. It's not about you, it's not about me, it's about Jesus. No bragging or boasting. If we proclaim the gospel, we are obligated. We have to proclaim in all the time. Live it, believe it, enjoy it. How you use your body reveals what you believe. God knows this far better than we do, and he's made abundant provision for our shortfalls. Each time we reflect, reframe and repent — each day, even each hour — Jesus' once for all death on a cross cleanses us from all that harms us.

Because His cross is proven perfect by the Easter resurrection, We grow and learn and transform and become more and more about the Gospel. The Gospel is the heart and soul of the church. Only the good news of God's love in Christ saves. This is an obligation – closer to Apostle Paul's Greek word choice, This is the calling of every pastor as overseer of the faith.

And this includes everyone who calls themselves Christian. This means the Gospel leads.

This is good news for Apostle Paul and for all of us. He is a former Pharisee, very zealous for the traditions of his fathers. He had been convinced Christianity remained a threat needing extermination. This belief compelled him and guiding his every move. Starting out as a fighter, a killer even, of Stephen the Deacon to name one, But then he got blinded by Jesus and taken captive; not by anger, but by *love*, which gave him new sight, new vision. St. Paul became the Lord's missionary with apostolic authority, because Jesus captured him. He shares the Gospel driven by love. If he doesn't, we'd all be missing out on the love of Christ and love for our fellow humans. The ministry of the church is not about being right, Or having the last word, Or the guardians of doctrine, But care and concern for those Whom our Lord has saved. Concern and care for people is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the holy work ethic of Jesus' Kingdom. When we are transformed into His likeness, Our legalist, selfish tendencies to assert our rights is thrown out.

Our problem arises when we go off and try to find the selfish ego God has thrown away.

We like it, we know it, we idolize it. Because its OURS. And that's the problem with it.

Our egos and feelings are as stained with sin as they are cleansed with Jesus' BLOOD.

What we have of our own doesn't work. It's broken. It's warped. It's an old rusty car with flat tires. God gives us a royal treatment, Gives us a name, an identity, a garment of faith, an entire life of forgiveness, Grace, hope, peace, and Heaven. *We are no longer slaves to ourselves. We are no longer slaves to old ways, old attitudes, old hurts, So why hang onto them. Jesus takes them all, Nails them to the cross in His punctured, bleeding hands,*

And makes you new again. And when you're new, you are different. You live for others, you live for outreach, you live for the sake of the Gospel. In fact, the world around you begins to look different to you. Your vision is new. Everyone you see is worthy of the same Gospel that hugs you in God's love. You are valued, and so is everyone else. We are compelled, driven, overcome with love making sure all people join you at the Heavenly Table in God's Kingdom. Love is always about the building up of the other.

This is why the church is not about leading on personal preferences, rights,

or legalism, fear, bargaining or family history--- The Gospel of the forgiveness of sins for *everyone is that precious*. The Gospel is cared for as sacred and to be spread all around. This gives the church a true, welcoming, consistent message.

A consistent message of love so many are craving. The message of Jesus never changes; How we show it, or share it, or convey it does change. We become all things to all people FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL. Last week I took my car to the Central garage for brake servicing. In walking back to the church, I encountered 4 different people coming down

the street. A street person who needed a cup of 7/11 coffee. An elderly lady walking her elderly dog who just needed a quick conversation. A friend I know from the Fitzgerald community. And a young man holding a large cardboard sign that read:

"Christ the King is coming again". Yes He is! Amen brother. All things to all people for the sake of the Gospel. So other temple bodies will follow Jesus where He goes with us.

Amen.

God's Creation



- BEGINNING
- FRUITFUL
- ANIMALS
- BLESSED
- CREATED
- HEAVENS
- FEMALE
- PLANTS
- BIRDS
- EARTH
- IMAGE
- LIGHT
- NIGHT
- STARS
- WATER
- FISH
- LAND
- MOON
- GOD
- MAN
- SKY
- SUN

B U W W I P F R U I T F U L Q D R
F E M A L E T Z B O T Q W P A E F
F Y O O A D R C K I A N L A M T R
I M Y R C L I G H T R A B F T A L
J Z T R B X I E H X N D I J G E T
T H C C T N A I P T O C S T Z R R
S T H R R V B E S O J D H Y P C D
R U Y X E M E A K F N H S K M L Q
A A O N C L G V F J O U I D G O D
T F S C O S I M I W O J F E N Y C
S A W S T J N E A W M T M S D T X
J V N S N N N G I N D C R S X F U
N T Q I I S I A V F S U N E J Z Y
R J S G M J N M E V E L Z L V L A
L L H S I A G I D H X A W B S X P
D T Z A K K L N V W M N Q Z R W J
Z H N Q B Y J S B K X D M E K X X

FAMILY NIGHT UNO & SUPPER

Whether you are a family of 1 or 10
we hope you will join us!

Saturday, February 24th, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

For:



(UNO is a fun game enjoyed by ages 3-103)

The Main Meal of TACOS and Drinks will be provided!



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Please bring a dessert OR munchies to share!!



Singing & Devotion



SIGN UP SHEET IN NARTHEX

******We really, really want you to come******