



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

MAY 2019

Birthdays

May 9 Robert Beed
May 12 Fern Zechmann
May 15 Linda Cyboron
Louise Skoglund
May 17 Brad Beed
May 24 Marsha Burke
May 26 Margaret Svitak

Anniversaries

May 19 Jerry & Brenda Beaudette
May 20 Don & Mary Ann Knee
May 25 Brian & Michelle Anderson

NEW ADDRESS:

Mona Jean Roberts, **room 109**
Heritage of Bel Air, 1203 N.13th St., Norfolk

PASTORAL ACTS

Diane Schrader funeral (April 10)
Dorothy Schiermeier funeral (April 23)

New Members Received

On Sunday, April 28, during our worship service the following family units were welcomed into the mission, ministry, and fellowship of Christ the Servant Lutheran. Please take the time to introduce yourselves to them and make them feel welcome into our family. Pastor Steve will have pictures of them in the sanctuary and more information to place in your church directory.

Jerry and Brenda Beaudette
Vern and Tama Krause (Angie and Phoebe)
Jon and Kandace Stineman (Anna, Alison)
Andy and Carmen Wolfe (Austin, Ethan)

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PLEASE NOTE: As reported at our congregational meeting, Christ the Servant now has two checking accounts: General and Designated. Separate checks will be required when giving to more than one fund via your offering envelopes. Designated funds are: Emergency, Disaster Relief, Good Samaritan, Holiday Boutique, Memorials, Missions/Growth, Special Projects/Kitchen, and Worship.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are looking for two teams of two to count offerings once a month; training will be provided. Please contact the church office.

BEAUTIFUL CAT needs a new home due to allergies. Affectionate, litter-box trained, front declawed and neutered, this handsome guy will make someone a great companion! Contact Deb Olson, 360-4364.

My Letter to the Congregation

“Disciplemaking – “The Priority”

At our semi-annual congregational meeting, I shared with you my priority in the coming year – “disciplemaking.” For the past fourteen weeks I have been taking an online continuing education course by Verge Network entitled “Disciplemaking Blueprint.” Verge Network is an online resource where pastors across the nation are able to hear the leading voices on a variety of training sessions without having to travel and attend conferences and seminars in person. The network is called “verge” as a way of sharing what God is on the verge of doing in our midst. Pastors are able to listen to other pastors and discern where the Spirit of God is working, especially in America. I had already sensed that discipleship was a priority in my ministry and as I have listened to all these sessions, it is very clear that God is calling the church in America to return to its most important calling – to make disciples of Jesus Christ who then will make disciples who will make disciples. In essence, to return to the early church in Acts as it sought to fulfill the Great Commission in Matthew 28. Over other years and centuries the church has become an institution of membership instead of a place where disciples are truly being made with the ongoing call to make more disciples who make more disciples of Jesus Christ (followers).

So how do we go about becoming a congregation whose top priority is to make disciples? We begin first with the question: why should disciplemaking be our top priority as a congregation? Until we are convinced it is THE top priority, it will never become the top priority in our congregation. Thus the first module I watched was simply entitled “The Priority of Effective Disciplemaking.” (Future newsletter topics on disciplemaking will be: the heart of, the barriers to, the “what” of, the habits of, the process of, and the “how” of effective disciplemaking.) Module One began with these words:

“Effective disciplemaking involved the critical task of becoming more like Jesus, the Founder. It is about embodiment of Jesus and all that He stands for. Jesus movements that change the world are at core, disciple-making systems. At every level of the organization, and in every stage of life, it features significantly. When dealing with discipleship, the capacity to generate authentic followers of Jesus, we are dealing with a crucial factor that will in the end determine the quality of the whole—if we fail in effective disciplemaking then we are guaranteed to fail in everything else. It is such a critical task that Jesus focused more energy on it. For the follower of Jesus, discipleship is not the first step in a promising career, but the fulfillment of their destiny to be conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29).”

One of the first steps in effective disciplemaking starts with making it your priority. Effective disciplemakers understand that discipleship . . .

Is the central task of the church – *being* the church entails a number of things but first among them is to make disciples (this is reflected in the life and ministry of Jesus.)

Was Jesus’ priority – Jesus was teacher, healer, and friend to many, but the primary focus of His ministry was the spiritual health and development of the twelve disciples (this was His plan for the growth of His church).

Is the call of the church – our call as disciples of Jesus is to go and make disciples who make disciples (a call to go and do but discipleship is also *being* the church).

Equals being the church – effective disciplemakers understand that discipleship is what it means to follow Jesus (are obedient in what God has called and *commanded* us to do).

Jesus commanded us to do it – (the Great Commission is not simply good advice for making disciples, it is a command to go and do).

Here are some of the quotes from leadership pastors across America are saying about disciplemaking:

“It does not happen through long, long monologues. It happens through dialogue.”

“It is the fundamental task of the church . . . But the problem is that most of us don't know how to make disciples, and that's a shame.”

“It's really the only thing Jesus told us to do. He did not say, 'Get big buildings, and have fantastic programs, and have the best band and music, and be the most engaging, charismatic and compelling speaker.' None of those sayings are inherently wrong, but when they become the end game, then they become idolatry, and we worship the form, rather than the God who sent us on this mission. And so if we are not making disciples, I would go as far as to say you are not a church . . . and to make disciples can happen in many different ways and in many different forms.”

“I think we make them Christian before we make them disciples . . . we sort of got it backwards, and it's hard to train people when you've already confirmed them into something they're not.”

On the Great Commission – “He saved his most important statement for his last word, so obviously, it has to be the principal task for our lives.”

“It's the church actually helping people find their destiny and then equipping them to make a difference in the world . . . they should listen to their voice and what God's done in their life and help them define their destiny and then customize their development based on their learning style, not just some academic approach.”

“We have a lack of laborers in the harvest because we have a lack of discipleship to producing those laborers . . . attractional ministry has failed when you just try to do things to attract people . . . People are only going to grow so much in its attractional style. People actually have to be invested in other people's lives, because that is where we see maturity.”

“My life started to change and evolve in a holistic sense, when people began to disciple and pour into me.”

“It can't be an add-on to the church. It can't be a little subset of it.”

These are just a sample of the comments that were shared by several pastors under these various titles:

Why There Is No Plan B
Why Disciplemaking Is So Strategic
How Disciplemaking Was Jesus' Priority
Why Jesus' Command to Make Disciples Is Key
Why Disciplemaking Is What Jesus Told Us to Do
Why Disciplemaking Is Living the Life of Jesus
Why Disciplemaking Is What It Means to Follow Jesus
Why We Get More of Jesus in Disciplemaking
Disciplemaking Should Be the Principle Task of Our Lives
Why Disciplemaking Is the Main Purpose of the Church
Disciplemaking Is Important Because the Harvest Is Plentiful
Disciplemaking Is the Key to the Transformation of the World
Disciplemaking Is More Important Than Church Planting
Disciplemaking Changes Lives
Disciplemaking Is How God Will Cover the Earth with His Glory
Why Not Making Disciples Is a Serious Offense to Jesus
Disciplemaking Fulfills the Eternal Plan of God
Disciplemaking Is What Jesus Modeled and Mandated

I pray these comments and titles will begin a stirring within your soul as the Spirit of God is moving across America calling the churches to make disciplemaking the top priority in their mission and ministry. Next month I will share the HEART of Effective Disciplemaking.

Seeking to grow as His follower,

Paster Steve

Sunday Worship – Sundays of Easter

The month of May continues the season of Easter for 50 days until the Day of Pentecost on June 9. We continue to hear lessons from John's gospel explaining who this Jesus is for us as we seek to live faithful lives as His children. It is a wonderful time of year with great celebrations with family. Bring your family to worship and give thanks to God for His loving presence in our world.

May 5 – (John 21:1-19) **3rd Sunday of Easter** (contemporary worship)
Jesus appears to the disciples Joe Rystrom preaching

May 12 – (John 10:22-30) **4th Sunday of Easter** (traditional worship)
Jesus promises life to His sheep Mother's Day

May 19 – (John 13:31-35) **5th Sunday of Easter** (contemporary worship)
Love one another High School Graduation weekend

May 26 – (John 14:23-29) **6th Sunday of Easter** (Service of the Word begins)
The Father will send the Holy Spirit Memorial Day weekend

June 2 – (John 17:20-26) **7th Sunday of Easter** (contemporary worship)
Christ's prayer for His disciples

June 9 – (John 14:8-17) **Pentecost Sunday**
The Spirit of truth Affirmation of Baptism Sunday (Confirmation)

Joe Rystrom Weekend

May 4-5

Former member of Christ the Servant and longtime evangelist, teacher, and director of YWAM (Youth With A Mission) in southeast Asia (especially in Hong Kong), Joe Rystrom will be with us the weekend of May 4-5. Joe returns yearly to visit his family who live in Stromsburg. He often comes to visit us and we are asking him to bring us a special teaching on Saturday night, proclaim the message on Sunday morning, and meet with our youth on Sunday with a noon meal. Joe will visit with us after worship during our fellowship time. Things have changed in China as the government has been persecuting the Christian church and expelling many Americans from China. He will give us an update on the current situation and give us specific ways to pray for the church in China.

Joe has a wealth of knowledge and experience in mission work, listening to the voice of God, and a teaching wisdom which can benefit us all. We are praying and discerning what teaching God wants to bring to us as Joe is in our midst. Joe could be compared to the apostle Paul who often visited congregations he had founded for encouragement and instruction. Here is Joe's tentative schedule:

Saturday – 6 PM potluck meal followed by a 90-minute teaching time at 7 PM.

Sunday – Message at worship (10 AM); Sharing during fellowship time; noon meal with youth with sharing time.

Christ the Servant Council Meeting
April 15, 2019, 6:30 pm

Present: Steve Jessen, Pastor Steve Lund, Al Boelman, Warren Bennett, Richard Hillrichs, Emily Svitak, Doug Witte, Deb Olson; Visitor to Address Kitchen Fund: Joan Falke

Absent: Jan Puls, Steve Freese, Steve Morton

Approval of Agenda Items

Al Boelman would like to add a request from the missions and ministry team. Warren would like to talk about carpet cleaning in the fellowship hall. Doug moved to approve the agenda with the added items. Warren seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Al Boelman would like to address how financial reports are given in minutes, to reduce confusion about amounts in accounts.

Doug moved to approve the minutes, acknowledging that the minutes have been corrected and will be sent out. Richard seconded. Motion carried.

Kitchen Report (Joan Falke)

Steve Jessen relayed to Joan that council discussed how to proceed forward with kitchen remodel funds. Now that funds have been put into church accounts, the plan/hope is to create a committee that can move forward with plans so that there is a goal to reach instead of open ended plan. Joan shared/gave a report. No further action was taken at this time.

Financial Report

Greg sent a financial report as of March 2019. Greg was able to meet with someone to help with entering the budget into QuickBooks.

Steve Jessen stated that monthly giving has not reached the budgeted \$14,000 yet.

Prior to meeting, Steve Morton sent a Designated Funds Proposal Explanation to council members. Doug moved to table this proposal. Al seconded. Motion carried. A special meeting will tentatively be held on April 23rd at 6:30pm. Steve Jessen will call those who are absent to make them aware of this meeting.

Doug gave a report on the endowment account. Doug suggested that moneys that were put into the endowment account from the general fund in 2012 would be transferred back to the general account. The rest of the moneys that are in the endowment account that were given as memorials, would be put into the memorial account to be used as such. This would help eliminate the endowment account and use the money as it was purposed to begin with. This suggestion will be tabled for more discussion until the special meeting on April 23rd.

Pastor's Report

The mayor's prayer breakfast has been moved to April 24th. Pastor Steve got a table of ten, and he opened the invitation to council members.

Pastor Matt's old office has been made into a banner room. Banners have been purchased and will be used during Holy Week and beyond.

A new sound board has been purchased through memorial given from Mary Lund's mother's estate. This will allow new possibilities for sound booth.

Susan Thompson and her family hope to be here in May for the dedication of the sanctuary project.

(continued)

Pastor Steve hopes there is a possibility of a summer trip for the youth to Kentucky to Noah's Ark museum.

Confirmation Sunday is coming up June 9th (Pentecost). Three students will be writing their faith papers in preparation.

Congregational Meeting (April 28th) will have reports from different teams/committees.

Disciplemaking: Steve hopes that what he has learned from these sources can start to be implemented.

Joe Rystrom will be coming the first weekend in May. There will be times of teaching, potluck, and time with him.

Day camp will be June 23-27.

Old Business

It was suggested that the congregation is informed at the semi-annual meeting of the movement of kitchen funds into church accounts as well as the hope to create a committee and move forward with it.

Semi-Annual Meeting (April 28th)

Written reports from teams/committees will be presented. (These can be sent to Kathy.)

Elections will take place for VP and two council members.

New Business

Al Boelman shared a letter that he received from Linda Cyboron about the request to use money in the designated mission fund to gift Joe Rystrom when he is here. Due to the committee having yet to meet about getting funds/accounts in order, it was agreed upon that a special offering would be taken for Joe. It was also suggested that some of these funds would be given to flood relief. Decision on this will also be tabled until accounts are in order.

Warren presented the suggestion of cleaning the carpet in the fellowship hall. Doug moved to wait until after day camp to do so. Al Boelman seconded. Motion carried.

Al Boelman moved to adjourn the meeting. Warren Bennett seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Witte closed with prayer.

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Stewardship Thought

Giving is an important part of being a Christian. There are many reasons to give, and the following will help people understand the importance of giving:

Giving demonstrates our faith and obedience. Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will obey what I command"* (John 14:15). In 1 Corinthians 16:2 we read, *"On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income."* God's Word is clear that we are expected to give on a regular basis in accordance with our blessings. Through faith, God strengthens us so we can give generously.

Christ the Servant Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting
April 28, 2019, 11:30 am

Present: 51 Voting Members

Steve Jessen mentioned the printed reports that were given in the mailboxes prior to meeting.

Steve Jessen opened the meeting. Pastor Steve shared a devotion from Oswald Chamber's "My Utmost for His Highest". The devotion touched on getting to know God for who He is, not only for what we receive from Him.

Pastor Steve shared his report. Points touched on were:

- the movement from two boards to ONE congregational council
- the movement of finances/bookkeeping to in house
- the Teen Mom Daycare was closed at the beginning of the year
- the council has read through the book "Who Broke My Church" – hope in more to come
- Pastor Steve has been a part of trainings in Disciple-making – hope in more to come
- Pastor would hope to develop a disciple-making ministry team (focused in two areas of youth and adult), helping to answer:
 - How am I hearing God's call upon my life?
 - How am I growing?
 - How am I serving and investing in others?

Steve Jessen mentioned the reports that were dispersed to members. He encouraged members to read the reports and share any questions they may have.

Steve Jessen shared a report from the council. Points shared were:

- the closing of the Teen Mom Daycare
 - we started operating under a new constitution
 - new banners were ordered and are being used
 - the congregation's books/finances have been brought back in house
 - In February the council had a retreat to discuss the future of the congregation. The book "Who Broke My Church?" was used for discussion, and will continue to be discussed/used.
 - A special council meeting was held on April 24 in order to get the accounts/finances in order.
- Steve Jessen shared a report of the actions taken by the council.

Steve Jessen touched on the kitchen remodel funds/process. The funds have been moved into our designated account. The council would like to move forward in the process by appointing a committee in order to discuss and decide what would like to be done to the kitchen. The goal is to create a plan with costs in order to have a goal that is being aimed towards. Then the plan/proposal will be brought before the congregation for voting and action.

Elections:

The vice president and two council member positions are opening. Ballots were handed out and new council members were voted on.

Votes were counted: the incoming vice president: Bob Lutz; the new council members: Warren Bennett and Mike Finkral

Brian Anderson shared about the new sound board that was given through a gift given from Mary Lund's mom's estate. It has been installed and is now being used!

Al Boelman moved to adjourn the meeting. Connie Atkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Jessen closed with prayer.

May 2019

*Pastor out of office on Friday
Office hours 8:30-4:30 Mon-Thur,
Fri 8:30-12:30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ----- Pastor Steve on vacation -----	2 9:00 Quilting 6:30 MOPS steering	3 5:30 Girl Scouts	4 JOE RYSTROM WEEKEND Potluck 6 p.m., teaching 7-8:30
5 Easter 3 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 worship (C) w/Joe Rystrom Fellowship 12:00 Joe meets with youth	6	7	8	9 9:00 Agape Circle	10	11
12 Easter 4 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 worship (T) Potluck Youth group HAPPY MOTHERS DAY!	13 5pm Hospitality 7pm Ultreya	14 4:30 Stewardship	15 6:30 Youth group	16 6:45 MOPS	17 5:30 Girl Scouts	18 Bless and Be Blessed rummage sale
19 Easter 5 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 worship (C) Fellowship Mission & Ministry	20 6:30 council meet- ing	21 7pm Kitchen fund- raiser	22	23	24	25
26 Easter 6 9:00 Sunday school 10:00 worship (T) Fellowship Youth group	27 MEMORIAL DAY (office closed) 6pm Ultreya	28	29	30	31	

Worship: T = traditional; C = contemporary
Paraments: (w) = white; (g) = green

Membership Care Team: Mary Lund, Marilyn Woolard
Altar Guild: Linda Cyboron, Sharon Koeppel (communion bread)

Deadline for newsletter articles is the 3rd Friday of the month.