

PASTOR'S NOTES

You've seen it all over - on bumper stickers, necklaces, coffee cups, t-shirts. "WWJD?" "What Would Jesus Do?" It is a good question to ask, especially when faced with a difficult or puzzling situation. A good question to ask as we seek to live a life that's faithful to the one we call Lord.

Another good question. "HCYKWJWDIYDKWHD?" Doesn't exactly roll off the tongue or fit on a t-shirt, but still an excellent, basic question. "How Can You Know What Jesus Would Do If You Don't Know What He Did?"

Lutherans proclaim "Sola Scriptura," "Scripture Alone," but when you come down to it, we don't know what is in the Scriptures. Confirmation was so long ago (and we slept through most of it) and we haven't set foot in a Sunday school room or Bible study since. (Is this the example we want to set for our confirmands to follow?) We don't know what "the Bible tells me so," what this book we call the "source and norm for faith and life" says, and so it is no wonder we are confused and feeling adrift when it comes to knowing what to do and where to turn.

We fool ourselves and insult the Author of life when we think that posting the Ten Commandments in a classroom is what is needed to address the ills of our society. A cartoon in the "New Yorker" had a man holding the Ten Commandments facing a robber with his hand to his face saying, "Oh, yeah. Sorry. Never mind." This proposal is nothing more than a placebo so we feel like we've done something when in reality it demands nothing of us at all.

This month we will focus on the faith practice of study and rededicate ourselves to being "people of the Book." As we study Scripture we learn not only the way God was present in Biblical times, but also how God is present in our time. In the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau, Hannah and Eli, Peter and Paul, Lydia and Dorcas we hear our story and see God active in our lives. As we see God for who God is, so too do we see ourselves for who we truly are - precious children of God, called to take up our cross and follow in Christ's footsteps.

This month our opportunities for Faith Formation are in full swing. Continuing the Conversation, a time to talk about the Bible readings for the day and the sermon based on those readings, resumes October 17

following worship on the beach (approximately 9:00am) at Kaylani's Coffee Shop. Sunday school for children through 6th grade takes place in the Fireside Room during the 10:30 worship service. Confirmation for teens is Mondays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Tuesday Morning Bible Study is from 10:00 to 11:00 also in the Fireside Room. The Women's group meets at 1:00 on the second Thursday of the month. And nothing would make me happier than a request for an additional Bible study opportunity.

Those whose faith is able to weather the storms of life are those whose roots are sunk deeply in Scripture. Churches that are growing and thriving are those whose members make Bible Study a priority. This fall let us all engage in discovering anew what Jesus did, so that we can do likewise and indeed be known as those who follow this crucified and risen Lord.

Shalom,
Pastor Kim

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER

Martin Luther in writing about public worship said this: "Let everything be done so that the Word may have free course instead of the prattling and rattling that has been the rule up to now. We can spare everything except the Word. Again, we profit nothing as much as by the Word. For the whole Scripture shows that the Word should have free course among Christians. And in Luke 10:42, Christ himself says, "One thing is needful," i.e., that Mary sit at the feet of Christ and hear his word daily. This is the best part to chose and it shall not be taken away forever. It is the eternal Word. Everything else must pass away, no matter how much care and trouble it may give Martha. God help us achieve this."

The Word is to have primacy not only in our worship service but also in our lives. Through the liturgy, hymns and music, prayers, lessons, sermon and Holy Communion the Word of God comes alive and fills our hearts. As fall continues and our calendars get even busier, "remember the Sabbath day, and keep is holy." Make hearing and learning the Word a priority in your hectic life for it is the one thing needful.

On Reformation Day, October 31, we celebrate our heritage and the power of the Word to reform and make new as we welcome new members into this congregation.

NEW MEMBERS

Christ Lutheran will receive new members on Reformation Day, October 31, during worship. Class for those wishing to join will be held on October 17 from 4:00 to 5:00 in the Fireside Room. Questions? Give Pastor Kim a call.

ASSISTING MINISTERS

Training for those who wish to help with the prayers and readings at 8:00 worship on the beach will take place on the beach following worship on October 3. See Pastor Kim for details.

(for nurturing lifestyles...)

+Marcia Bunge in 'Best Practices' for Faith Formation" includes a summation based on Scripture and Christian tradition of parental practices and responsibilities for nurturing the moral and spiritual lives of children:

1. Reading and discussing the Bible with children
2. Worshipping with a community
3. Introducing children to good examples
4. Participating in service projects and teaching financial responsibility
5. Singing together
6. Cultivating a reverence for creation
7. Education and vocational discernment
8. Giving attitudes toward the body
9. Listening to and learning from children
10. Recognizing the limits of parental authority

FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

For children...

-Sunday School each Sunday during the 10:30 worship service

For youth...

-Confirmation Class on Mondays from 6:00 to 7:00pm in the Fireside Room.

For adults...

-Continuing the Conversation returns October 17 following 8:00 worship. We meet at Kaylani's Coffee shop for discussion around the

texts for the morning.

-Tuesday Morning Bible Study from 10:00 to 11:00. Check calendar for schedule.

-Women of the ELCA Bible Study on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00. Check schedule for locations.