

Trinity Tidings

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January 5, 2023 News

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New Bible Study

After some discussion, our Thursday morning Bible Study group has decided to shift from Ecclesiastes to a study on the Letter to the Philippians. In this letter Paul writes words of encouragement to a church that we can still use today. Come join us when able Thursday mornings at 9 am starting Thursday, January 12th.

January 2023

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday, January 8 - *Nametag Sunday*

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Monday, January 9

- Ruth Circle 7 PM

Tuesday, January 10

- Support & Service 5:30 PM
- Financial Resources 6:30 PM
- Worship Committee 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 11

- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 12

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM
- Dartball at home

Friday, January 13

Saturday, January 14

Sunday, January 15

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.

Annual Reports available
Sunday, January 15.

Budget Meeting on Sunday,
January 22 after worship.

Annual Meeting on Sunday,
January 29 after worship.

PRAISES & Prayers



Email or call
With your request.

Healing:

- Family of Azim - Covid
- Ruth Kuehl -sister-in-law of Amy Kuehl, health issues
- Sue Holtz - friend of Amy Kuehl, medical issues
- Cindy Wolford - recovering from surgery
- Rick Roesler - son-in-law of June Steinberg, upcoming surgeries
- Suzie Seehaver - mother of Amy Van Drael, recovering from surgery
- Patti Natzke - recovering from surgery
- Carrie Doughty - illness
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Carole Ebert - cancer
- Larry Leatz - friend of Tom & Sue Luba, cancer
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Bonnie Wegner - cancer
- Tina Bartelt - cancer
- Kathy Feeney Rueckert - friend of Sue Luba, medical issues
- Helen Massey - health concerns
- Jackie Janke - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer
- Ginger Massey - relative of Helen Massey
- Sam Ives - health issues

Those in the military:

- Shane Borree
- SSGT Zachary Abel

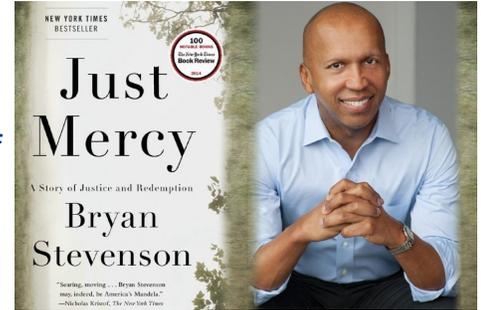
Need something to do on those cold winter nights? The church library is sponsoring a book discussion based on Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson.

"This is the story of Walter McMillian, a young man sentenced to die for a notorious murder he didn't commit. The case drew Stevenson into a tangle of conspiracy, political machination and legal brinkmanship- and transformed his understanding of mercy and justice forever."

We will be meeting on the following Tuesdays at 6:30 to discuss this book- Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb.21 and Feb. 28.

Please sign up at the information center so that we can make sure we have enough copies of the study guide. All are welcome. Please consider grabbing a copy of Just Mercy and joining us.

Questions-Contact Kathryn Moser if you need additional information.



January FREE Community Meal



Dawn Hess is serving grilled hot dogs and brats to the New London community on **Wednesday, January 25, from 5 to 6 pm.**

Donations needed for the January meal are:

- Healthy snacks (e.g. apple sauce, raisins, craisins, fruit cups, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- Cookies (packaged or homemade)
- PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

Please place donations in the bin outside of the doors in front of the church offices.

January Joy of Giving - Good Samaritan Fund

This ministry provides funds for people living within our community, administered by Pastor Chuck, and usually in the form of scrip cards that can be used for food or gas.

Examples of how it has been used in the past are a needed meal for a family or a tank of gas for a job interview.

Prayerfully consider this opportunity to help a neighbor in need.



Good Samaritan
Fund



First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

- ¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ²He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
- ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
- ⁵Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

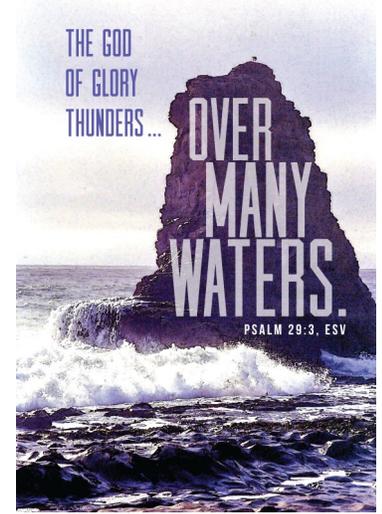
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,



- ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.
- ⁸I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
- ⁹See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

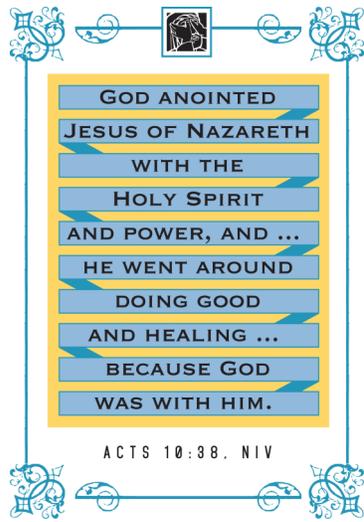
Psalm 29

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.
- ¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.



Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.



³⁴Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout

Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him.

¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."



The Baptism of our Lord

A man named Milt Rood worked for years and years in Spokane as a car salesman. He was also very active with the Union Gospel Mission work with juvenile delinquents. Week by week he'd patiently teach the Word and pray with young boys in trouble. One week Milt went into the Hospital for exploratory surgery. The doctors found he was full of cancer. They sewed him up again and sent him home. He died within a week. After the funeral, one person remarked, "It's interesting that at the funeral no one ever asked how many cars he had sold!" All that was talked about was the work he had done with the kids.

What really matters is relationships. We live in a culture, however, that thrives on "success."

We are judged by our achievements, jobs, and by numbers we produce.

For instance, people often judge themselves by how many "friends" they have on Facebook, or how many "likes" they have for their posts.

Churches judge ourselves by our numbers: attendance, views on YouTube etc. Numbers have their place but is this how God judges us?

Human beings judge one another all the time on numbers and amount of money and toys we have.

If you do not have much you can be looked down upon.

We are defined often by our accomplishments as either a "winner" or a "loser."

However, what I have learned is that this is not how God defines us.

As Mother Teresa once said, "God has called us not to be successful, but to be faithful."

John the Baptist is a perfect example of this.

He drew large crowds but knew he was not called to be successful.
He was called to prepare the way for Jesus.
He was humble.
When Jesus comes to be baptized by him, John thinks it should be the other way around.
And he is right.
John's baptism was about repentance and cleansing from sin.
The Jewish culture had many cleansing rituals, and John's baptism was in that tradition.
Jesus, however, was sinless; had no need to repent.
No wonder John objected at first.
Jesus, however, says "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness."
What is Jesus saying here? The first words out of his mouth in Matthew?
What is righteousness?
He is not merely talking about moral uprightness.
He is talking about relationship with God.
Jesus is telling John that he is being baptized to identify with humanity and restore our broken relationship with God.
He is the mediator between God and humanity.
God always desired relationship with his people.
Righteousness was about trusting in God.
For example, look at Abraham: he "believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness."
He was not a perfect person by any means but he trusted in God.
Jesus is reiterating this in telling John to trust in God.
Jesus is then identified as the Son of God after his baptism.
"This is my beloved Son" God the Father says.
The spirit comes down as a dove.
All three persons of the Trinity are present here.
Humanity cannot save itself, but Jesus has now come to bridge the gap between humanity and God.
We on our own can never be "righteous" enough for God, but God in Christ does the work for us.
Jesus' mission as it turns out certainly could not be defined as "successful" by worldly standards.
We all know what eventually happened: he died on a cross, as a common criminal, abandoned by most of his closest followers.
He did this to restore relationship between

God and humanity.
Our value or self-worth is not dependent upon what WE achieve.
It is dependent upon what Christ has done for us in his life, death, and resurrection.
It is living out a relationship with God in our own relationships.
I use this word a lot but this is ultimately what our faith is about.
It is all about Jesus and his love.
We are made righteous by our faith, our trust in him.
We live this out in our love for one another.
Keep loving.
We may not always see great results by worldly standards, but God calls us to be faithful.
In our baptisms we are joined to Christ.
Our identity is in him.
Following Jesus may not always make us successful.
But loving God and one another is what really matters. Amen

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Stella Dunday, Bryan Willner

Lector

Ruth Rex

Communion Assistant

David Newton

Slides

Dawn Haag

Livestream

Tom Vigil

Altar Guild

