

FROM PASTOR JAY – “The Sent Ones” from Luke 10 to Royal

In Jesus’ day, the Lord spent time with his disciples, and there were a bunch of them. Stacks of them. At times they were crowded around the Christ, waiting for a chance to see, talk with and touch the man. Eager to witness another miracle or hear a fresh concept. Once heard or seen, that event became part of who they were. They went to share the “good news,” the “Gospel”, whenever and wherever they were able.

Luke, in his gospel, reflects on how the disciples spent time with Jesus, watched his miracles, heard his messages, saw the opposition thrown at Him and as with many did, came to trust in him as Lord. In Luke 9:57 Jesus is specific on what would be the cost of following Him. And then in Luke 10 he sends 72 of his followers out, two by two, to go and visit and prepare the places where he himself was soon to go.

In 10:17, they all return, “with joy”, and share with him, and among themselves what happened on their time on their own as they had shared with townspeople in Jesus’ Name. Amazing stuff! Life changing.

Sound familiar? It should be. It is a model for how Jesus wants each of us to likewise share what we know about Him. Each of us is to be a carbon copy of how those earliest disciples responded in obedience.

Paul describes himself as- “a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle...” Rom 1:1, “servant” is his title, and “apostle” is the role that has been given to carry out. The word “apostle” means “one who is sent.”

As a boy I often was sent by my elders to fetch nails for him on the job site, so I did. I was to feed the animals at chore time, so I was compliant, not only for what I was told but it became increasingly clear that the animals depended on my obedience. In completing my task, I was his “go-fer,” as all of us have been at various times in life. It is in the obedience to the directive that we learned our assignments and become “response-enabled” for future careers. We learn how to apply it to our own lives.

from pastor jay (cont.)

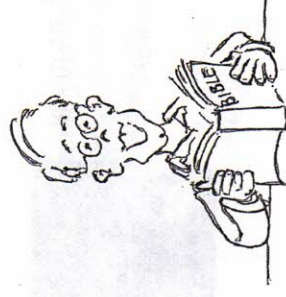
Most of us have had Sunday School lessons, learned Bible stories, heard a message that rings a bell causing us to think in new ways. What have we done with what God has gifted to us? What can we do with that fresh idea that the Spirit has poured into us? Use it, allow it to make a difference in the problems of our own lives. We can act like those 72 disciples who went out to tell others: share it with others so they can prepare for the Day when Jesus comes to Royal, to our doors, to our hearts.

Application- Do we want the Church to grow? To increase in understanding? Do we want the Word of God to dwell richly in the lives of others? That is why we exist as the Body of Christ, to share Jesus with as many people as we can. In these Times our nation is being increasingly challenged to turn our backs on a Biblical worldview and gaze upon patterns and lifestyles that snub biblical Christianity. It is the person of Jesus that we follow. To do what is necessary it takes a lot of people to share with a lot of people, and that is why we are all called to the Harvest, but the workers are few. Luke 10:2

(Key: In the Luke 10 passage, Jesus sent the 72 out, they went out two-by-two. Those pairs were with someone they felt comfortable with, and they all “knew” Jesus. They were to share any deep-seated convictions of their own hearts. “You can’t share what you don’t know.” Each one of those 72 had experienced Jesus and as they spoke of Him further questions begat yet more inquiries about Jesus. They were not there to discuss farming, politics, or baseball. It is the Spirit that ultimately guides our discussion.)

*Blessings to you
as we prepare for Planting,
so that the Harvest may follow.*

Pastor Jay





Palm Sunday is April 2.
Worship begins at 9:45 a.m.
with Procession of Palms.

From Luke 19 – ...going up to Jerusalem ...
*Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them,
“Go to the village ahead of you,
and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there,
which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.
If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’
tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ... They brought it to Jesus,
threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.
As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. ...
The whole crowd of disciples began joyfully
to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:
“Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!”
“Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” ...*

Maundy Thursday is April 6.
Worship with Holy Communion
begins at 7:00.



From Luke 22 – ... *Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,
“Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.” ...
When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. ...*

Good Friday is April 7.
Worship begins at 7:00 and includes the altar stripping.

From Luke 22 and 23 – ... *Jesus asked him,
“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”
... Then seizing him, they led him away
and took him into the house of the high priest.
Peter followed at a distance. ...*



*Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him:
“Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”
... Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ...
So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?” ...
“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied. ...
With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man!
Release Barabbas to us!” ...*

*But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” ...
Two other men, both criminals,
were also led out with him to be executed. ...
And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.
Jesus called out with a loud voice,
“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”
When he had said this, he breathed his last.*

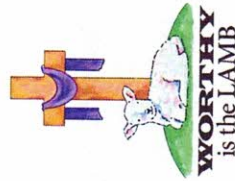
*The centurion, seeing what had happened, praised God and said,
“Surely this was a righteous man.” ...
Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council,
a good and upright man, ... Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body.
Then he took it down, wrapped it in linen cloth
and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock,
one in which no one had yet been laid. ...*



Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 8,
at 7:24 pm (sunset)
at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Flatville.

Easter Sunday is April 9.

A Sunrise Worship begins at 6:30 a.m. with the
procession of altar furnishings and Holy Communion,
followed by breakfast.
Sunday School is at 8:30 a.m.
Festival Worship with Holy Communion
begins at 9:45 a.m.



From Luke 24 –

*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning,
the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.
They found the stone rolled away from the tomb,
but when they entered,
they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ...
“Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here; he has risen! ...*

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES



1. Council met on Monday, March 20, at 7:00.
Pastor Jay led Bible Study on Matthew 5:16
– Let Your Light So Shine.
2. The monthly designated benevolence for April is Local Benevolences, Easter Offerings will be for Country Health Care and Rehab.
3. Property – Estimates are being collected for parking lots, and concrete work. Landscaping is in the works for the NE area of the church.
4. Easter Egg Hunt is planned for Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 here at the church.
5. Kids will be singing and waving palms for Palm Sunday.
6. An Easter Breakfast will be held between the services on Easter morning. Congregation members being asked to sign up to bring casseroles/pastries.
7. Next council meeting is Monday, April 17, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.



OFFICIAL ACTS

On March 5, Holy Communion was celebrated for the first time for ten of our fifth and sixth-grade youth: Jeremiah Bohlen, Johnathan Gossett, Madison Huls, Blake Lackey, Benjamin Loschen, Devin Loschen, Blair Mathis, Lincoln Meier, Brady Ramm, and Emma Whitlow. Pray that throughout their lives these youth continue to come to the Lord's Table and cherish its meaning of Jesus' sacrifice for us.



Welcome to the Lord's Table of grace and forgiveness!



PARISH ED / YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School – Sundays at 8:30 a.m.

Confirmation Classes – Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Following the Lent/Holy Week schedule, students will return to the normal class schedule on Wednesday April 12 at Prince of Peace.



Easter Egg Hunt will be held for kids up to grade 6 on Saturday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m. here at the church. Please meet in the basement before the hunt begins.



Sunday School Students will sing and wave palms on Palm Sunday, April 2nd.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS

Thank you for the cards, notes, acts of kindness, and comforting words at the death of my mother, Wilma Sherman. It is a blessing to be part of a caring fellowship of believers in Jesus.

Deanna Osterbur

St. John's Lutheran Members,

We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the gift card to Walmart that you gave us! It will be put to very good use in helping us.

God Bless You All,
Ron and Wanda Halvorson,
Venice, FL



DESIGNATED BENEVOLENCE



During the month of **April**, the designated benevolence is for **Local Benevolences** to help those in need. **Lent offerings** are designated for NALC Seminars. **Easter offerings** are designated for Country Health Care and Rehab, Gifford. Please use the center portion of the offering envelopes for your gifts.

The Hunger – Stewardship Committee would like to highlight the organizations we are donating to with our monthly benevolences. For the month of April, the three Local Benevolences the committees have chosen to contribute to are: Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, Jesus Is the Way Prison Ministry, and Seek and Find Ministry. Below is information about what these organizations offer to the community. Please consider donating to help those in our communities.

DAILY BREAD SOUP KITCHEN is unique in that it runs entirely on volunteer labor. We pay NO salaries. We have no administrator, no paid fund-raiser, no paid bookkeeper, and no paid secretary. Volunteers do all those jobs. Because of this volunteer labor, we currently are able to do what we do (which is serve 153,000 meals a year to the hungry of Champaign-Urbana) on a budget of approximately \$13,000 a month. We are able to serve 200+ guests a hot meal and give them a sack meal for dinner, for \$100 a day in food costs. (We have other expenses such as cleaning, garbage, utilities, insurance, etc.) And we raise that money entirely through local donations and a few local grants. Many of you donate to DBSK, and it's your donations and the donations of many others that keep us going month after month.

Many people think of Champaign-Urbana as a sophisticated and affluent community and are unaware of the number of our neighbors who struggle with issues of food insecurity and hunger. According to the Eastern Illinois Foodbank, the poverty rate for Champaign County is 23.4%, third highest in the state of Illinois. There are many hungry men, women, and children in Champaign-Urbana whom we see every day.

Please join us in our effort to ensure that Daily Bread Soup Kitchen prospers in our new, permanent home.

designated benevolence (cont.)

JESUS IS THE WAY PRISON MINISTRY'S mission is to go into jails and prisons sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with inmates. Upon their release we desire to help them with housing, food, clothing, spiritual guidance and counseling, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, job skills training, and job placement, thus enabling them to become productive and responsible citizens.

SEEK AND FIND helps people live with dignity and personal responsibility by making it possible for people to affordably care for themselves and others.

Our goal is to accomplish this in the following ways.

- *by providing instruction in resume writing and assistance in online job applications.
- *by accepting donations of items and making them available at a very nice price.
- *by praying for and with people and helping to meet-a-need when we can.
- *by helping people to manage money God's way with finance classes.
- *by teaching a job skills program to help people in the workplace.



Birthdays Celebrations in April (members 80+ years):

Marvin Duitsman celebrates his 88th birthday on the 5th.
Mary Lou Ackerman celebrates her 92nd birthday on the 7th.
Bonnie Bohlen celebrates her 84th birthday on the 9th.
Marvin Osterbur celebrates his 85th birthday on the 23rd.

Wedding Anniversaries in April (members 50+ years):

John and Donna Thompson celebrate 58 years on the 24th.

*Remember all of them in your prayers,
and with birthday and anniversary greetings.*