

April 2024 News & Updates



From the Pastor's Pen

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

“and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”” (Luke 24:46–49)

Jesus appears to His disciples, who were still doubting, and after saying “Peace be with you.” He addresses His beloved brothers. He shows them His hands and His feet, then to address their still disbelieving hearts, Jesus eats broiled fish with them. Then He opens their minds so that they can understand the Scriptures relating to His death and resurrection.

Imagine, being in that room that night. The doors were locked out of fear of the Jews (that is those who arrested and crucified Jesus), and immediately, Jesus appears in their midst. Not a spirit or ghost but living in His resurrected flesh and blood. Whoa!

After their fears subside and they calm down, Jesus makes them Apostles. The difference between a disciple and apostle is that the disciple is the student, learning and growing in the faith of Christ. The word “Apostle” means one who is sent. He/she is sent to proclaim the glorious good news of Christ, and what His innocent life, death and resurrection mean for a lost and dying world. The Apostle, is still a disciple, continuing to learn and grow in the faith of Christ.

We are all disciples and apostles. We continue to learn and grow in our faith of Jesus and at the same time, we are His witnesses to the ends of the earth. We have been given a precious message of God’s forgiveness in Christ.

That night, Jesus promises the disciples that they would receive the ‘promise of the Father’ but they had to wait. It would be 50 days after this promise, but God delivered. During the feast of Pentecost, the Father delivered His promise of the Holy Spirit. This empowered them to proclaim this great news about Jesus to all nations.

You are a recipient of that. Somewhere down the line of your ancestors, they heard the gospel for the first time, they believed and now, you believe as well in that precious work of Christ.

Keep up the good work. As you tell your next generation and generations after them of all that Christ Jesus has done for you, God will raise more and more believers in Jesus to fill His banquet hall for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb in His eternal kingdom.

May God continue to grant you His Holy Spirit that keeps us in the faith and enables and emboldens us to be His witnesses in our world today!

--Pastor



From the Deacon's Desk

BIBLICAL TRUTHS

1 Samuel 1-16

SAMUEL

The first chapter is about Elkanah an Ephraimite and his two wives Hannah and Peninnah. Peninnah had many children, but Hannah was barren. Hannah poured out her heart to the Lord, vowing that if she could have a son, that child would be dedicated to the Lord. When the priest at Shiloh, Eli, heard her story he answered, “go in peace and may the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to Him” (1 Sam 1:18a). “In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called him Samuel, for she said, I have asked for him from the Lord” (1 Sam 1:20). Hannah kept her son until she had weaned him. Going to the temple with the proper sacrifices and offerings, Hannah dedicated her son to the Lord her God.

In chapter 2 Eli rebukes his sons for their many crimes against the temple, the worst of which was removing the Ark of the Covenant. The Lord rejects Eli’s household, upsetting the priestly lineage.

In chapter 3, Samuel, being an understudy of Eli, hears his name called and runs to Eli saying “Here I am, you called me?” But Eli had not called so he sent Samuel back to bed. It wasn’t until the third time that Eli realized it was the Lord, the God of Israel, calling Samuel. Eli instructs Samuel to stay where he was sleeping by the altar and answer “Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening.” The Lord gave Samuel a vision of the destruction of the house of Eli.

In chapter 4 the Philistines capture the ark and defeat Israel’s army. When Eli hears the news that his two sons died in battle and that the ark was captured, he fell over backwards, broke his neck, and died.

Samuel was a Nazarite meaning he was never to have wine or strong drink nor eat a dried or fresh grape. He was not to cut his hair or be in the presence of a dead person. He was a judge for Israel for forty years, a prophet and high priest. He was a leader of his people Israel calling them back to the one true God, telling them they must get rid of all false gods. Samuel always prayed to God before doing anything. When the people came and demanded a king, Samuel went to the Lord his God in prayer, again showcasing his dedication to the Lord.

Although his life was hard and troublesome, and the people continued to cause him great pain by following their sinful flesh, he never turned his back on God.

In chapter 8 Israel demands a King so they could be like other nations. Samuel warns the people against it but in the end grants Israel's request. As high priest, Samuel appoints Saul from the tribe of Benjamin. He is proclaimed the first king of Israel at Mizpah at the end of chapter 10. At the beginning of chapter 16 David is anointed king from the tribe of Judah.

What can we learn from Hannah and Samuel? God's promises are forever.

Bible Trivia Question: March answer – Isaiah

Bible Trivia Question: April question – Of whom did Jesus say, "Here is a true Israelite in whom there is no guile"?

In Christ,
Deacon Nick DeRose



From the Trustee's Bench

Overhead light was repaired in the Fellowship Hall

Repair of the bulletin board sign out front of church. Rewiring due to burned wiring inside of sign.

That's all folks!

April Fools! Other projects have been completed, landscape cleaned, weeds removed etc.

Have a Blessed month!

Trustee's
Dennis Coburn



From the Kitchen

A big THANK YOU to all who continue to donate cookies, coffee, and money. Very much appreciated!

Also a big Thank You to all that helped with the funeral dinner. It was very much appreciated!

HAPPY EASTER!

Jean



Stewardship News

Whose Is It Anyway?

If you have ever bought or sold a house, you are acquainted with the concept of a "title search." Before you can sell your house, and before anyone else will feel comfortable putting down the money to buy it, you have to prove that you really own it. So a title company looks through the public records to ensure that you bought it from the person who really owned it, who bought it from the person who really owned it before that, all the way back to the earliest records of your state, including when your state was only a territory or colony of England.

Peak into a preschool classroom during playtime and you'll see a simplified version of this. A child starts playing with a ball, but another child says, "That's mine: I had it first."

You can't understand the Seventh Commandment without understanding this concept of ownership or title. As the Small Catechism puts it:

You shall not steal. What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

Your neighbor's possessions are his: you don't have a right to take them. And likewise, your possessions are yours. Ownership and property rights are foundational to any functioning society.

But there is something deeper to know about ownership, and that is the question of who has the title and ownership to you? Paul says, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

If you yourself are owned by God, then of course everything that you own, you really only possess by God's leave: all of it, at bottom, belongs to Him since you belong to Him. For you were bought with the blood of Christ.

This notion is the foundation of all Christian stewardship. It all belongs to God. It should all be used for things that bring honor to His name, blessings to our neighbors and the extension of His kingdom.

Elders

By Member's Last Name:

A-E: Rick Ferrell 760-694-3309
F-K: Joe Yancho 760-617-1580
L-R: Mark Amer 602-619-2232
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April Birthdays

Eva Reyes 2
James Lewis 5
Kathy Benzow 7
Sylvia Knapp 7
Mary Ann Beck 8
Diane Drinkwine 10
Jamie Hanley 16
Lynda Porter 16
Sheryl Truslow 25
Martin Holtgreffe 30

April Anniversaries

Bill & Jan Blanton 4/16/1977
Curtis & Cyndy Todd 4/27/1982
Bruce & Shirley Benson 4/3/2018

