



August, 2021

# The Harvest

## The Decisions that Love Makes

I admire those who can write well and whose words can stir hearts – not to emotions only, but to action. I find writing difficult, not in the mechanics but in the content. What you write should be worth reading; otherwise, why write it? It should be uplifting yet challenging.

The Canadian philosopher, Marshall McLuhan, argued just the opposite. He held that it was not the content, but the medium, which was the important factor. It wasn't so much what you said, but how you delivered it! So I posed a question to myself: What would his theory bring to an understanding of love, and what is the medium through which people learn the meaning of love?

Our cultural media conveys through its different outlets a concept that love is that squishy reality that builds alternate realities of happiness ever after. And to a very large degree I think the Church, as a medium of the Word, has bought into that notion, a notion that doesn't quite jive with Jesus' notion of 'take up the cross and follow me'.

Jesus' teaching on love is difficult; it is challenging, but it is at its center transformative: If you love your life and seek to preserve it in this world, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for my sake, you will keep it forever. The medium that Jesus used to show that truth was his passion and death. The medium for the proof of what he promised was his resurrection! Jesus lived the message of love – and gave his life for that message – and lives forever. Jesus was the real thing: love of Other - God and neighbor. Contrast that with our modern medium of the meaning of love: me, myself, and I.

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## To Connect to Christ Church via Zoom

<https://christlockport.info/>

Compline – Wednesday 7:00 pm  
Zoom Coffee Hour – Sunday 12:30  
Sunday Service Options  
Donate with PayPal

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Food Drive

The next 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Food Drive will be August 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm. Our Outreach Committee continues to fill the Blessing Boxes around Lockport. The need is still great as we strive to help our hungry neighbors.

This month our greatest needs are canned veggies and fruits, pasta (boxed) and pasta sauce. Thanks for helping our neighbors.

## Warm Up for Winter – Calling All Knitters and Crocheters

Again this year the Outreach Committee will be collecting hats, scarves, mittens and gloves. Please start knitting (or crocheting) now. We also need purchased hats, scarves, mittens and gloves to help our neighbors stay warm during the winter ahead.



## Outreach – Thanks

Our Outreach Committee does a lot of work to assist our neighbors in need – it is a constant, ongoing job. Thank you so much to the Outreach Committee.

Soren Kierkegaard, a Danish philosopher, wrote that when the Church adopts the trappings of Christianity – ONLY – it becomes Christendom: an institution or body without a soul, without the Spirit. When we lose the true understanding of love, we become a hollow imitation of human and divine life. Living the Gospel challenge of love is hard work because true love puts demands upon us.

Our gospel readings in the month of August have Jesus talking about being the bread of life. Over, and over, Jesus tries to point out that ‘unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will not have life within you’. And, ‘I am the living bread of life come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever’.

If we seek to live in God’s love, we will be drawn to Jesus and become his followers, meaning we will seek to live as he lived, doing what he did; lifting up the poor and the marginalized, welcoming the stranger, visiting the sick, preaching the Good News. We will ‘preach’ through the medium of our lives because ‘actions speak louder than words’.

If you want something you have never had, you must do something you have never done.

There are difficult days ahead. We are at a crossroad as a country and as a church. How we fare will depend on the choices we make for the common good and social justice, in other words for the Good News and the Reign of God. **You see, we always make decisions that match our love.**

Blessings,  
*Fr. Thomas*

## What Makes You Come Alive?

The renowned preacher and theologian, Howard Thurman, is credited with this quote: “Don’t ask what the world needs. **Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it.** Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”

During my recent Discernment Process as part of my formation for ordination as a Deacon, I was asked these questions: “**What is your passion?**” “What gets you out of bed in the morning?”

Mary Oliver, in her poem “The Summer Day”, asks “Doesn’t everything die at last, and too soon? **Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?**”

Our passions are gifts given to us by God’s grace. They are meant to be shared. What are your gifts and how might you share them? How may we, as a faith community, combine our individual gifts to bring to life the passion of “Christ Church” to share with those outside our church doors? Please dig deep, give some time, thought, and prayer to this question. Be courageous! Share your thoughts with your families, friends and especially the members of your faith community. When we may once again assemble for conversation

indoors, we'll be ready to begin the conversation about our individual and collective gifts and how we will use those to build the Kingdom of God. "Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

"They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life." – 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Peace,  
Robin Kozlowski  
Aspirant for Ordination to the Diaconate

## Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD)

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;  
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
- Isaiah 43:2

Isaiah encourages us to "be not afraid". God is with us through floods and fires. The hurricane and wildfire seasons are upon us sooner than expected this year. People have already suffered greatly due to these disasters. Episcopal Relief & Development is in need of donations to build up its US Disaster Relief Fund so that it may respond quickly with life-giving assistance where it is most needed. God is with those in need through **our** generosity. If you are able, please consider a donation to ERD.

### To donate online:

[www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) (Click on "Donate Now" and scroll down to "US Disaster Fund")

### Or send a check payable to:

Episcopal Relief & Development  
PO Box 7058  
Merrifield, VA 22116-7058  
(Indicate that the donation is for "US Disaster Fund")

### Or call 1-855-312-4325

Please continue to pray for all those impacted by hurricanes, floods, tornados and fires around the world, for first responders, and for church communities and civic groups that are reaching out to care for others.

Thank you for your generosity,  
Robin Kozlowski  
ERD Congregational Ministry Partner

**Sunday Services**  
**8:00 am & 10:00 am**



## Birthdays

1	Lisa DeWaters
3	Beth Cook
	Laurie Monaco
7	Wally Goodman
8	Chris Lukas
	Spenser Lupo
12	Sue Heschke
	Lynn Jackson
15	Dan Buchanan
	Clair Watkins
17	Lisa Michaelsen
18	Judy Pauley
19	Patti Few
	Heather Theurer
21	Andrew DeYoung
22	Mary Taylor
23	Sue Miller
25	Dave DeYoung
26	Joan Watkins
28	Victor Betts
29	Carter Buchanan

## Anniversaries

2	Phil & Lin Faust
4	Ron & Joan Winter
9	Tom Ralabate & Fr. Thomas Mitchell
12	Rick & Lisa DeWaters
13	John & Sue Heschke
17	John Taylor & Mary Brennan-Taylor
18	Jim & Brenda Glaser
24	Bob & Diane Nelson



### Christ Episcopal Church

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<https://www.christlockport.org/>

[www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY](https://www.facebook.com/CECLockportNY)

Office Hours: 9-3:00 Sun - Wed

## Parish Life Dinner

**Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

**Sunset Grill in Wilson**

**Sign up or call the office (433-9229) by August 1<sup>st</sup>**

It has been a long time since we gathered for a meal and to enjoy the company of our Parish Family. Hope you can join us and catch up with those you haven't seen in a long time.

## Men of Christ Church

**Sept 1<sup>st</sup> -- 6:00 pm -- Lock 34**

I would also like to invite the Men of Christ Church to a night out at Lock 34 Main St. I have been asked to organize this event so I ask you let me know if you would like to attend. The date is September 1, 6:00, come have a good time everyone has been cooped up for over a year and I'm sure you have some interesting stories. We can also determine the future of the Club.

Thanks, David DeYoung.

(716)531-5893 leave a message or text

## Save Christ Church

From our Finance Committee: In the second quarter our income was \$20,812.54 more than our expenses. This sounds great until you realize two things:

1. For most of the second quarter we really weren't using the building – heat was set to 55 degrees, and we had minimal electrical use – we were very careful during shut-down. Now the office is open, NA is meeting here each week, coffee hour is in the Parish Hall, and we are using the building – it means more electricity for air conditioning, computers & lights now and heat very soon.
2. It is also important to note that about \$20,000 of our income this quarter was from investments and an IRS Employee Retention Credit (ERC, part of the government's CARES Act). The investment income is reinvested, and the ERC was one-time. Our regular income just met our barebones expenses – we cannot keep going this way.

Our Stewardship Campaign will be called **“Save Christ Church”**. We must move forward to secure our sustainable future. Reports to the congregation will not be sugar coated. They will be straightforward with the positive happenings and the desperate need of “Our Church”. We are asking every member to use your God given talents to help save and grow Christ Church. We all have God given talents. Some of us know what they are, and others need to do a little searching to find them. Bring them forward and take part in reaching out to individuals – ask them to become a part of our congregation and to grow our Church Family, volunteer your talents to help save dollars on items needing our attention within “Our Church”, join a committee, and reach a little deeper into your pockets when you receive your pledge card. Christ Church has so much to offer our community, let's invite them in to join us. We are not a closed membership organization. This is what God has asked all of us to do: Love one another and grow together in our faith.