



# CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## May 2017 Volume 46 No. 5

### **FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:**

In the gospel of John, following the resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and greets them with the simple greeting, "Peace be with you!". In fact, in John 20:21 he repeats it a second time to the same group. That wasn't a simple greeting for Jesus, it was a part of the mission that he came to fulfill.

In John 14:27 Jesus had told them, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

The disciples, who's world had just been turned upside down with the death of Jesus, now find themselves overjoyed to see Him and hear His voice again. And the first thing Jesus speaks to them are words of comfort and peace.

For all of us life has its times of disappointment and hurt, times when we don't understand the direction that we are going. Those are the times in which peace seems elusive. What we need to remember at those times is that the peace that Jesus offers is not based on our circumstances but rather on our relationship to Him. Thomas demonstrated this struggle to us when he refused to believe that Jesus was alive until he saw it personally. To this Jesus replied, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

It is easy for us to fall into the trap of relying on what we see to dictate how we feel. However, if we believe that Jesus loves us and is in control, our peace is available to us now as we place our trust in His faithfulness! "Peace be with YOU!"

### **UPDATE ON OUR STUDY GROUPS**

We are once again suspending the meeting of our Care Groups to offer different opportunities for topical Bible study. The study groups will meet every other week on a night that has been decided by the group. This session will last from May through July. The topics of the studies were selected from ideas that were submitted from you, the congregation.

You are welcome to participate in as many studies as you like and we encourage everyone to take part in at least one study. They are as follows:

**Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage** is a study intentionally designed to attract men to addressing the issues of relationships using a very humorous presentation (women will enjoy it too). No marriage relationship will flourish without work, but who says that the work can't be fun too! Whether you have recently gotten married or have been married for many years, investing a little time and effort in your relationship will definitely pay off. Join us as we "laugh our way to a better marriage". **1st meeting is Tuesday May 2nd 6:30pm-8:00pm**

**The Torah Study** is a yearlong study that uses the scheduled scriptures from the Torah Readings as a guide. You are welcome to jump in and join them on Tuesday evenings at 7pm as well as Sunday mornings.

**Miracles and the Supernatural in Our Daily Lives** is a study of how to access and recognize God's power available to us in our everyday lives. **1st meeting is Wednesday April 26th 6:30pm-8:00pm and next meeting is May 10th.**

## **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER ”**

The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of America’s heritage and is as relevant and critical today as it was at the first call by our Continental Congress in 1775. Established in public law by a joint resolution of Congress, signed by President Truman in 1952, then amended to designate the day under the 100th Congress and President Reagan in 1988, it states that:

*“The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals.”*

In Romans 13, the Apostle Paul exhorts us to “Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”

Not only are we exhorted to submit in recognition of God’s sovereignty, but we are encouraged and exhorted to pray! “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.” It is both our spiritual responsibility according to God’s Word and it is also our civic duty as a citizen or resident of this great nation to respond when we are called upon by our leaders. During times of war, we have rallied millions to defend our nation against a physical threat, how much more should we rise up to defend her against a spiritual one – the unseen enemy who seeks to ‘steal, kill, and destroy all that God has established and all those that follow Him.

As our nation struggles with foreign and domestic threats, economic insecurity, cultural tensions, and continual challenges to basic constitutional rights, citizens of the United States are preparing to heed the call by our elected leaders to rise to the occasion and exercise one of their most precious freedoms – the right to gather, turn to God, and pray. Will you respond to the call? Will you pray for America? We will gather for prayer on Thursday May 4th at our regularly scheduled prayer time, 6:45pm. Hope to see you there! But whether you can make it or not, we hope that you will be praying for our country regularly!

## **TAKE CARE OF GOD’S HOUSE!**

The prophet Haggai was given from God a hard message to deliver to the people. His message had to do with the amount of time that they had spent taking care of their houses but having neglected the care of God’s house.

“Then the word of the Lord came through the prophet Haggai: “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

Thanks, in large part to the efforts of Bill Peter, Christ Church is not in ruin! It is actually in pretty good shape, however there is work that still needs to be done, and we all need to recognize our own responsibility to share in caring for God’s house.

On Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup> we will be having a church work day! There are a lot of tasks that need to be completed and the more of us who help the easier the work becomes. Would you please help? We will be working from 8am until noon. Coffee and donuts will be provided to help get us kick started. Come for all or part of the work time and let’s make God’s house a place that HE can be proud of!

### **WOMENS DAY AT GULL LAKE**

The women's day of encouragement is Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017. "Keeping it all together" is the topic with guest speaker Pam Farrel and musician Heather Bays. The cost will be \$20 per person and that includes morning coffee and pastries starting at 8am and the program and lunch from 9am-3pm. We will stop for dinner on our way back to church which is not included in the \$20 fee. We will depart from church at 6:30am and return around 7pm. Any questions please see Debbie Boyle.

### **MENS SOFTBALL**

Our season has begun! We always appreciate the support of anyone who is willing to come out and cheer us on. The games are played at Capitol/Handy Park or Claude Allison Park. The schedule of games is printed on our calendar, all games are on Friday. Hope to see you out there!

### **BAIR LAKE MEN'S RETREAT**

Our men will be away at the Men's Retreat this weekend, April 28-30. We pray for God's blessing on all who attend and that He will reveal Himself in new ways as our good good Father. Please pray for a move of God in the lives of all who attend!

### **MAKER FUN FACTORY – VBS**

This year's theme for our VBS is "Maker Fun Factory" – Created by God, built for a purpose! Imagine a world where curious kids become hands-on inventors who discover they're lovingly crafted by God.

We are already looking forward to July 24-28 when we will open our doors to the children of our community and share the good news of Jesus' love for them! So, mark your calendars and plan to be part of the team. More information will follow!

### **NURSERY NEEDS**

We are still in need of someone or someone's to take the lead in caring for our nursery. Our youngest members deserve a first-class environment to be cared for in. Would you consider helping with this responsibility? For more details on what is needed see Barb Christopherson.

### **THE FORGOTTEN WAY**

Our next Sunday School lessons will begin on May 7<sup>th</sup> with a study based on a devotional that I've read called the Forgotten Way, by Ted Dekker. It was a devotion that enlightened my understanding of my experience here on this earth, and reminded me of the spiritual entitlements and responsibilities of being a son or daughter of God. It has taken my spiritual life to another level that can only bless you as well, if you come out and experience the devotion. I consider it to be in the top five books that I've read in the past twenty-five years. It is a life changer! I encourage all to come and be enlightened.

Pastor Rod