

Message from Pastor

February 2019

“Jesus, priceless treasure, Fount of purest pleasure,

Truest friend to me,

Ah, how long in anguish Shall my Spirit languish,

Yearning, Lord, for Thee?

Thou art mine, O Lamb divine! I will suffer naught to hide Thee;

Naught I ask beside Thee.” (Johann Franck, 1618-77; LSB 743).

Jeff Bezos is said to be the richest man in the world with an estimated net worth of 138 billion dollars. Of course, he hasn't always been the world's richest man nor will he remain the richest man forever. His wealth is largely determined by the value of his company, Amazon. Just as his company revolutionized the way people shop another company could come in and disrupt the market or the world could suffer an economic depression, or the U. S. dollar could lose all its value. All these situations are perfectly possible. What is quite certain is that Mr. Bezos will die, unless Christ Jesus comes first, and then his many billions won't be worth anything to him.

All this is to say that true wealth isn't measured in dollars, not even billions of dollars. Money cannot buy inner peace, or true love. Money cannot purchase the forgiveness of sins or eternal life. Money, eschatologically and spiritually speaking is quite worthless.

Yet, we all have a priceless treasure worthy much more than many billions or even trillions of dollars. It is truly the only priceless treasure, Jesus Christ. Jesus gives us the forgiveness of sins, so that we can stand before God without shame. Jesus defeats Satan and hell and even death for us. Whether you are rich or poor (monetarily speaking), if you have Jesus, you are rich beyond your dreams.

Sadly, however, many people exchange Christ Jesus for the paltry treasures of this world. This is because of our shortsighted human nature. Don't let Satan blind you! Christ Jesus is a priceless treasure, who is useful to you. St. Paul says, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) Paul wrote that in prison. Jesus alone gives you comfort in distress, in the face of temptation, sin, persecution, anguish, poverty, even death. No one else can send Satan flying, calm your conscience, and give you peace when dying other than Jesus.

So, find pleasure in Jesus, your true treasure. He is the treasure you will not lose when you die. Come and receive this great treasure where he offers himself in the Gospel through word and sacrament. May this priceless treasure dwell in your heart until you stand with him at the Resurrection of the Dead.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

LWML ~ Trinity Lutheran, Ottumwa ~ Minutes

From Monday, December 3, 2018

- LWML met at Bubba Q's Restaurant at 6pm for a Christmas gathering and a short meeting.
- Those present: Katelyn Brown, Mary Brown, Sylvia Brown, Brown, Trudy Hallgren, Evelyn Kline, Annette Raebel, Michelle Roach, Sara Roach, Sherrie Roberts, Kim Tanner, Janis Wetterich, and Judy Workman.
- President Janis Wetterich opened by reading about the history of the Christmas carol, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel".
- Old Business:
  - Janis read the minutes from the last meeting. Judy Workman made a motion to be approved as read. Kim Tanner 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
  - Financial Report--Brenda Lewis: No Report
  - LWML (District/National)--Annette Raebel: National Convention is coming up in June 2019.
  - Shut Ins--LeaAnn Mercer: No Report.
  - Kitchen--Judy Workman: If anything is needed, please mark on the list in the kitchen and/or call Judy (641-682-3977) to let her know.
  - "Non-Fundraiser"--We raised \$655 and would like to say "Thank You" to all who made a contribution! After some discussion, Judy Workman made a motion to send \$65 to LWML (District) for our "Mite" offering, \$500 to the church's general fund, and \$90 to the Altar Guild for the Flower Fund. Sherrie Roberts 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
- New Business:
  - Election of Officers--Starting Today, December 3, 2018. The following passed unanimously.
    - President: Janis Wetterich
    - Vice President: Kim Tanner
    - Treasurer: Annette Raebel
    - Secretary: (open)
    - Shut Ins: Lea Ann Mercer
    - Kitchen: Judy Workman
  - Note: We still need a secretary, so if anyone would like to fill the opening, please speak to any one of the other officers. (For now, the other officers will fill in.)
- Upcoming Events:
  - February 24, 2018 at 5pm -- Game Night at the church
  - Quarterly Meetings -- 1st Monday of the month (September will be the 2nd Monday)
    - March 2018 at 6pm -- Regular meeting (Watch the bulletin for location)
    - June 2018 at 6pm -- Regular meeting (Watch the bulletin for location)
    - September 2018 at 6pm -- Regular meeting (Watch the bulletin for location)
    - December 2018 at 6pm -- Regular meeting (Watch the bulletin for location)
  - *We would like to extend a warm welcome to any and/or all of our meetings! Please think about joining us!!*
- Meeting was adjourned.
- We said the common table prayer together and enjoyed fellowship and our meals at Bubba Q's.
- After all were finished eating, Katelyn Brown gave a "Beauty Presentation" and showed some tips for applying makeup. Thank you Katelyn!

Respectfully Submitted by Annette Raebel, Treasurer

Trinity Lutheran's Family Game Night ~~~ On Sunday, February 24th, there will be another "Family Game Night". We will gather downstairs at church at 5pm. Please bring your favorite game to play with others, as well as a snack to share. Let's all join together for some fun and laughs, along with some food and great fellowship!