



CHRIST CHURCH NEWSLETTER

June 2017 Volume 46 No. 6

FROM A PASTOR'S DESK:

We recently decided to support our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who are being persecuted for their faith. We are so blessed to be able to freely express our faith and love for Jesus openly and without fear for our safety or lives. But this is not true of others who must make very difficult decisions when they decide to declare themselves followers of Christ, some putting their livelihoods at risk and sometimes even the lives of themselves and their loved ones.

More and more we are hearing news reports of Christians being targeted by terrorists simply because of their faith. These reports should remind us to pray for our brothers and sisters and their families, but they should also challenge us regarding our own decision to follow Jesus. For example, "How confident would we be that we would follow Jesus if it really cost us something?"

In Hebrew 11:25 the writer tells us regarding Moses that, "He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time." Who would choose discomfort, ill treatment, injustice and pain? Certainly no one who has his eyes focused on this world. This world offers too many treasures and Moses could have had them all: pleasure, wealth, ease, prestige, and honor. But he identified with God's people, even though it cost him his place of privilege.

The writer of Hebrews goes on to encourage us to think of Jesus the same way: Hebrews 12:2-3, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

As we take up our partnership with "Voice of the Martyrs" and support the ministry that they provide to the persecuted church, let us be encouraged to boldly proclaim our faith and remember to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters. Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and not on all that this world has to offer for we are members of a bigger kingdom led by Jesus and offering a relationship with our King through the work of the cross!

SUCCESSFUL WORK DAYS!!

We would like to praise God for the work that was completed at both our spring church work day and the Phoenix Park clean up! Thank you for all of you who took the time out of your busy spring schedules to serve the Lord at these events! Our church building is in great shape and the property looks fantastic. In fact, just last week one of our neighbors stopped by and thanked Bill Peter for keeping the place looking so good!

It is only right that God's house should be an inviting place to the community and appear as though the people who worship here care about HIS property. We all know that a large part of the credit for this goes to Bill for the time and energy that he spends and we are really thankful for him! But all of us have responsibility for sharing in its' care. That is why it was fun to see Nick and Lori's grandson, Carson, here helping at age 5 and Lew here raking leaves at age 94. There you go, examples of training up a child in the way he should go, and encouraging us by example at age 94! Good job all!

MEN'S SOFTBALL

Our season is in full swing! We have worked out some of the aches and pains that come with the start of each year and now we are ready to win some games! We would love to have you come out and cheer us on, and please remember to pray for us as we represent Jesus on the softball diamond! The times and locations of our games are listed on the calendar.

KEEPING IT ALL TOGETHER!

This is the theme of this year's women's retreat at Gull Lake on Wednesday, June 7th. If you are registered to attend please remember that:

1. The vehicles will be **leaving** from church on Wednesday at **6:30am**. Please plan to arrive early so that you don't miss your ride. Don't expect the group to wait for you!!!
2. The group will be stopping for dinner on the route home. This expense is not included in the cost of the event.

We are looking forward to how God will bless you and equip you to "keep it all together!" If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Boyle.

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.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH'S CORNER

Summer is just around the corner. That means that the Wednesday Night Summer Activity are almost here. Students going into kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to attend. The events will be from 6pm until 8pm. There will be food provided, so come hungry! Contact Miss Stephanie or the church if a ride is needed.

June 21st Big Board Game Night
July 12th Carnival Night
August 2nd Scavenger Hunt Night
August 16th Messy Game Night

CREATED BY GOD, BUILT FOR A PURPOSE!

This is the theme of this year's Vacation Bible School which is entitled "MAKER FUNFACTORY!" The children will be taught that God made them for a purpose! He loves them, offers to them salvation, and has a purpose already planned for their lives! What a great message to impart to children at such a young age!

The kids will use hands on inventions to understand that they too were lovingly crafted by their creator with a purpose that only they can fulfill. Hopefully you already have your calendar marked for the week of July 24-28 and are praying about where the Lord would use you to build His kingdom!

BLESSINGS FOR BRIGHTMOOR TRANSFORMED!

For the past 3 years we have had the opportunity to take our Saturday food distribution and prayer ministry to the heart of the Brightmoor community. Christian Faith Ministries, located on Fenkel near Burt road invited us to use their parking lot to set up our tent, bring out our food, and promote our event. It was a great partnership and many families were blessed by our efforts.

This year, however, we have felt the Lord lead us to bless the community by organizing our Saturday Outreach participants to go into the community and provide service projects. As in the past, we will identify an area that we would like to clean up and meet there. We will spend the morning working followed by a hot dog lunch and distribution of food.

It has been a few years since we provided this type of service for the community, but when we did it was a huge blessing to all involved. I hope that you will consider joining us as we take the love of Jesus into the community! The dates are still needing to be confirmed but we are considering July 15th and September 16th. Mark your calendars.

STUDY GROUPS

We have begun our topical study groups in place of our usual care group meetings. The groups will meet at church two weeks out of the month on days that will be decided by the group. The topics that are offered are: “Miracles and The Supernatural in Our Daily Lives”, and “Laughing Your Way to a Better Marriage”. The meeting times are posted on the church calendar and in the weekly bulletins.