

“The Living Stone”

“When the Going Gets Tough... The Lord’s Word Keeps Us Going!” by P. Jim

“When the going gets tough, the tough get going!” How long can you go for? I would like to substitute a phrase in this well-known verse that in my opinion is better. “When the going gets tough, the Lord’s Word keeps us going! Without out Jesus, the Living Word, the tough won’t go for very long! In a few weeks we will have the text in our readings from Isaiah 40:29-31. **“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”** What did that last section say? **“Even,... young men stumble and fall, “but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.”** The Lord’s Word is our Hope that keeps us going!

We need hope in January 2021. This month has been just as interesting as all last year to say the least. With everything that has happened in Washington D.C. what can one think, but more hopelessness! However, I think not! I want to give you something to give thanks for and to hope for. It is the precious living Word or Living Stone of God! The Blessing of Jesus! The Living Word! Listen to what the Lord speaks to us in scripture from 1 Peter, **“To God’s elect, strangers in the world...as you come to Him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to Him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says, ‘See I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.’**

Dear friends, **I urge you as aliens and strangers in the world,** to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. **Show proper respect to everyone; Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king. To this you were called because Christ suffered for you,** leaving you an example that you should **follow in His steps. When they hurled insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats.** Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. **He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness by His wounds you have been healed.** Finally, all of you, **live in harmony with one another;** be sympathetic, **love** as brothers, **be compassionate** and **humble.** Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this **you were called** so that you may inherit a blessing. But even **if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. ‘Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.’ (Is. 8:12) Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.**

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Lent



Feb. 17

ASH WEDNESDAY

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy."

Text: Luke 4:16-21

Feb. 24

MIDWEEK LENT 2

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Preach Good News to the poor."

Text: Luke 12:32-34

March 3

MIDWEEK LENT 3

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Heal the Broken Hearted."

Text: Matthew 27: 45-50

March 10

MIDWEEK LENT 4

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Preach Deliverance to Captives."

Text: Luke 22:24-34

March 17

MIDWEEK LENT 5

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Recover Sight of the Blind"

Text: Matthew 9:27-31

March 24

MIDWEEK LENT 6

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Free the Bruised"

Text: Matthew 12:9-21

April 1

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Theme: "The Spirit Anointed Christ for Mercy" (Maundy Thursday)

Text: Luke 22:14-20

April 2

GOOD FRIDAY

Theme: The Spirit Anointed Christ ... to Proclaim the Jubilee (Good Friday)

Text: Heb. 4:14-16; 5:7-9; Passion Readings: Is. 52:13-53:3; John 19:17-42, Ps. 22:1, 7-8, 14-18; Is. 53:4-12

SUNDAYS OF FEBRUARY

February 7, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Theme: The Lord's understanding no one can fathom. Soaring in Faith from the Lord.

Text: Isaiah 40:29-31

February 14, 2021

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Theme: Through the transfiguration, God trains our eyes to see the Past, Present and Future as His!

Text: Mark 9:2-9

February 21, 2021

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: Faith Tested; Giving Up One You Love – Abraham and Isaac

Text: Genesis 22:1-18

February 28, 2021

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: Faith Tested: Faith in Promises of a Future Family – Abraham and Sarah

Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

March 7, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: Faith Tested: Worship God Above All Things

Text: Exodus 20:1-26

February 17, 2021

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
7:00PM**



Lenten Supper

As a tradition here at Holy Cross we will gather together for a Lenten meal each Wednesday before the service. Although it may look a little different than before with a server and prepackaged food, it is sure to be delicious. Please plan to join us in fellowship at 6:00pm starting on Ash Wednesday February 17th.



Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 AM

Traditional Worship

At Church &

On Zoom

10:00 AM

Christian Education Hour

10:15-10:45

Drive Up Communion

Wednesday

7:00 PM

Midweek Lenten Service

Starting February 17

Dinner @ 6:00 PM

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But **do this with gentleness and respect**, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander...**but live according to God in regard to the Spirit.** The end of all things is near. **Therefore, be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray.** Above all, **love each other deeply**, because love covers over a multitude of sins. **Offer hospitality** to one another **without grumbling.** Each one should **use whatever gift** he has received **to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.** **If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God.** **If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.**" This Hope, this Living Word and Living Stone is Christ, who is your strength for every moment of every day! Please read all of 1 Peter today or this week with a loved one and maybe someone at your work so that you can share the hope that you have from the Stone that is precious! Jesus! (Note: 1 Peter was written close to the time before Peter and other's were persecuted and martyred ('67-68 AD) in Rome. Paul had already been martyred (approx.66-67 AD) in Rome and Peter, it is said he continued with John Mark, Paul's Evangelism work with those in Rome).



The Lutheran Hour



The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

February 7

"Stories Around the Table"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Dr. Michael Zeigler shares a story about people who had more in common than they thought.
(Mark 6-8)

February 14

"Shines and Saves"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Cody Cooper
Jesus surpasses all expectations as we see Him revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration.
(Mark 9:2-13)

February 21

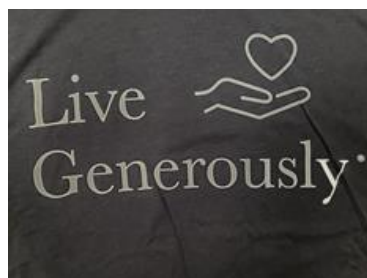
"Do You See Anything?"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The world wields power with blunt force, but God hides His power in suffering, weakness, and humility.
(Mark)

February 28

"Where a Kid Can Be a Kid"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
An impossible situation need not be a hopeless one.
(Mark 10)



PRAY & PLAY EVENT WINTER FUN! SUNDAY, February 21



Sledding/Snowman
Building/Snowball Battle/
Snow Shoeing!
First,... PREPARE!

Are you prepared for winter fun in the outdoors? How do you prepare? What items do you need for safety and being smart outside in the cold temperatures? How did you gain this knowledge? Think about it and bring your list of being prepared to share and discuss and everything you need to have fun and be ready for this special Sunday Pray & Play event. * I challenge you to invite, and then bring, a friend along for winter fun at church during the SS time. (Big "kids at heart" are encouraged to participate as well!)



COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE

Kicked off on Youth Sunday January 31st, the food drive continues until February 14th. Please bring nonperishable food items to church. You may also donate cash or check (payable to Holy Cross Memo Food Drive). All money collected will be to purchase fresh produce to be donated immediately. If you have any questions or would like a contactless pick up, please call the church office.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE – FEBRUARY 2021

“I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: “But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving” (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It’s not so much that we stop giving, but we don’t put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is sure sign that our faith and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God’s Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service. Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

Youth Sunday “I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3



Lector Ally Wagner



Youth Zoom Meetings-Faces by Eric Brown



6 Youth and 4 adults brought Bonnie Nowak’s play to life.

Thank you to Ally, Morgan, Dylan, Daniel, Colin & Evan for reminding us that salvation is free to us because Jesus died on the cross and rose again for our salvation. Let us spread “Kindness like Confetti because of what Christ did for us!



A STRANGE TIME FOR AMERICA: RELIGION & POLITICS SWITCH PLACES BY REV. FREDRIC HINZ

Friends in Christ,

But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:25-28, ESV

For months, even years now, it has been clear that American culture is in a state of flux. The indicators of this new state are many, including the following:

- A recent election so contentious as to call into question the peaceful transfer of political power
- Months of widespread social disorder, which at least in some quarters is now seen as acceptable
- Numerous instances in which basic constitutional rights (religious liberty, free speech and association, etc.) and bedrock legal principles (innocent until proven guilty, equal justice under the law, etc.) are being openly called into question and often ignored with impunity

Indeed, so many and so profound are these cultural distortions that many citizens, for the first time in their lives, are genuinely concerned that the foundation on which our

republic rests may not have sufficient integrity and resilience to withstand whatever cultural shock wave comes next. Is there enough common ground among the various societal factions to allow for the kind of civil conversation required to restore harmony and stability? Many Christians, including pastors and teachers of the Church, find themselves at a loss to explain what's happening and how best to apply the counsel of God's Word in this new and disconcerting situation.

To those of you who resonate with my cultural description above, I would like to recommend Joshua Mitchell's new book, *American Awakening: Identity Politics and Other Afflictions of Our Time*. This book not only brings to bear important political and sociological understandings but also significant theological and biblical insights as it seeks to shed light on what can only be described as the strange inversion of politics and religion in the United States in recent years. In contrast to many cultural commentators who contend that our cultural fevers stem from the fact that "many Americans have lost their religion," Mitchell contends that Americans haven't so much lost their religion as "relocated [it] to the realm of politics."

It's Mitchell's observation that with respect to basic concepts like sin and forgiveness, guilt and innocence, "religion and politics have traded places." Using the religious concept of the Divine Scapegoat as a metaphor, Mitchell brings a level of clarity that I think

both clergy and laity will find helpful and reassuring. This is especially true in that he ends his analysis by encouraging Christians to be Christians. He reassures us that the best thing for us to do in these unsettling times is simply to go on being the Church, unapologetically preaching and teaching the fundamental Christian doctrines.

Of course, our primary motivation in preaching and teaching is always to advance the eternal salvation of souls. Nevertheless, it is no small thing that such faithful preaching and teaching also help to provide the "cultural ballast" necessary to keep the ship of state from foundering. Such public Christian engagement is an important way of showing that love for our neighbor to which we were called by our baptism into Christ.

God's blessings to you as you interact with your friends and neighbors concerning public matters on behalf of the Gospel.

In Christ,

Rev. Fredric Hinz

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