



FOCUSED OUTREACH

Worship Folder for August 9, 2020

Christ Lutheran Church

32962 Vickers St, NE

Cambridge, MN

www.christcambridge.com

Find us on Facebook @ Christ Lutheran Church – Cambridge, MN

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church

Information to help you stay connected and get involved!

CHURCH INFORMATION

Pastor	Sam Biebert	Church Office	763.689.5333
Contact Information	ChristCambridgePastor@gmail.com 701.471.0341 (cell)	Webpage	www.christcambridge.com

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST | AUGUST 3 — AUGUST 9

SUNDAY	9:00am	Worship
SATURDAY	9:00am	<i>Back to School Safely</i> Children's Event

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! We would like to welcome new members Troy and Tabitha Trebesch and their son Tristian. May we be a blessing to you and you to us as we serve you with the living word and alongside you in sharing that word with this community. Welcome!

How can you help? Please consider volunteering for our "Back to School Safely" event on **August 15** from 9-11am. You can sign up using the email sign up which was sent out last Sunday or you can let Pastor or Cliss know. Thank you!

Canvassing Today! We will be canvassing today from 3-4pm and will be getting food from Chapala following. Please arrive at 2:50 so we can get organized before we go out. Thank you!

Back to some Normalcy Just a reminder that service opportunities for cleaning, ushering and money counting have resumed. Please let us know if you are signed up but are not able to resume. Thank you!

Challenge Week #6 We have all been blessed with different gifts. While some of us are more outgoing than others, try to step out of your comfort zone this week, if only in a small way. Here are some suggestions:

- Make a list of the things you "treasure" in your life. Ask yourself how those things can save you or offer you lasting joy. Repent of the sin of misplaced priorities and ask that God would give you renewed joy and focus in the treasure of his word.
- You have been given a treasure so great that you can share it with others and the amount you have is still not diminished! Ask God for courage and wisdom to share this treasure with others.
- Pick up one of Pastor Biebert's business cards. Make it your goal to share even just one with someone this week. (Cashier, post it on a public billboard, waiter or waitress, friend or neighbor)



welcome

"Here am I. Send me!"
Isaiah 6:8

Ushers: Shawn M., Tom, Barry **Counters:** Barry, Brian M.
Cleaners: Dan & Tammy H., Michael G.

MEDITATION ON THE MINISTRY OF THE KEYS

Opening Hymn – “Blessed Jesus, At Your Word” (Christian Worship #221 v.1-2, 4)

(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism)

In the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness,

We lie and do not live by the truth.

If we claim to be without sin,

We deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Confession of Sin

Father, I have sinned against you and am no longer worthy to be called your child. Yet in mercy you sacrificed your only Son to purge away my guilt. For his sake O God, be merciful to me a sinner, and in the joy of your Holy Spirit let me serve you all my days.

Silence for personal examination and confession.

Absolution

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. Upon this, your confession, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

What would you have asked for? If anything in the world could be yours, what would be your request? God only gave one man the choice between unlimited riches and spiritual wealth. Can you imagine facing his dilemma? What should I pick, temporal blessings or eternal ones? What should I value, the things of this world or the things of God? How well Solomon expressed the words of our Prayer for today, to ask according to God's will. We marvel at his faith in choosing great wisdom over great riches—especially since we so often fail in the pitifully small choices we make! It's not for all the riches in the world that we turn down spiritual wealth, but for paltry over---time hours, or a little extra in the check book that we shaved off our offering. For such small things we are willing to trade away opportunities for true spiritual wealth. Look at Solomon and see an example of what God means by spiritual wealth. He doesn't mean we need to live as mendicant monks; he doesn't ask us to forgo all earthly treasure. He just doesn't want us to value them more than the pearl of great price.

First Lesson: 1 Kings 3:5-12

⁵The LORD appeared to Solomon in Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." ⁶Solomon said, "You have shown great mercy and faithfulness to your servant, my father David, just as he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward you. You have shown this great mercy and faithfulness to him and have given him a son who is seated on his throne to this very day. ⁷O LORD my God, now you have made your servant king in the place of my father David, but I am a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And I, your servant, am among your people whom you have chosen, a great people, who cannot be counted or numbered because they are so many. ⁹Now give to your servant a perceptive heart to judge your people, to distinguish between good and evil, for who is able to judge this great people of yours?"

¹⁰In the eyes of the LORD, Solomon's request was good. ¹¹So God said to him, "Because you have asked for this, and you have not asked for a long life, nor have you asked for riches, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but you have asked for discernment to reach just verdicts, ¹²therefore I will act according to your words. Yes, I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you before you, nor will anyone like you rise up after you.

Paul explains the spiritual wealth that belongs to every Christian. Like the man who found treasure buried in the field, we brought no merit or worth to our calling. Rather, we were chosen. The surprising grace of God found us and gave us the ultimate treasure: predestined, called, justified, and glorified.

Second Lesson: Romans 8:28-30

²⁸We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose, ²⁹because those God foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he would be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those he predestined, he also called. Those he called, he also justified. And those he justified, he also glorified.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:44-52

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, “Did you understand all these things?” They answered him, “Yes.”

⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things.”

Sermon on Matthew 13:44-52

Theme: “Know The Worth Of Your Treasure!”

[Click Here For Message](#)

[Click Here For Children's Message](#)

Theme: “Know the Worth Of Your Treasure”

8-9-2020

Each day, your faculty here at Christ, get together for a devotion. This past week, one of those devotions struck me, especially since I had my mind on our lesson for today from Matthew 13. It was talking about the promise of God regarding his word, specifically, his promise that his word will last forever. It laid out just how often his word has been assaulted from that very first sin up until the present day. It has had countless enemies, it has continuously been rejected, but it has never gone away. From the days leading up to the flood when it was just Noah and his family, to the time of the judges when the nation of Israel was constantly turning elsewhere, to the time of King Josiah when God’s Law was rediscovered, to the time of exile to the time of the Roman persecution of Christians to the time of the Reformation to the present day, there have been hundreds of millions of billions of enemies who have tried to rid this world of God’s Word. And yet, it has prevailed. It continues to be held and studied, it continues to be preached and shared, it continues to be a source of strength and real hope for our certain future with our Savior Jesus in heaven. And, this is yours! This is the tool God used to work faith in your heart! This is the tool you continue to have, and so readily in so many different platforms, at your disposal!

But this precious treasure continues to come under attack. This treasure is continually thought to be nothing more than a dusty old book or some wordy legend, or some outdated words by some mere humans about their made-up God. And all too often, we fail to speak up. All too often, we can be ashamed of it and would

rather not bring it up or think we need to spruce it up a bit or leave some of it out, so people don't get mad. All too often, we find so many other things which seem to be worth so much more of our time and energy than the eternal love of some Jesus who allegedly died on the cross to win us a life with him in this place known as heaven. We have much to repent of when our thoughts and actions head down this path.

But that is also the beauty of this treasure! Despite whom we are and how we so often act, it is a message that gives the constant assurance of sins forgiven! It is a message that points us again and again to the finished work of Jesus on behalf of us for the forgiveness of every single one of our sins. This is the message we are gathered around today. And as we gather around it to continue our look at focused outreach may we be encouraged to see once more the worth of our treasure, this precious pearl God has placed into us jars of clay, and may we be emboldened to go forward with our outreach efforts because what God has given us is too precious to keep to ourselves. Let's listen to Matthew 13 once more:

⁴⁴ "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid again. In his joy, he goes away and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one very valuable pearl, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. ⁴⁸ When the net was filled, they pulled it onto the shore. They sat down and gathered the good fish into containers, but threw the bad ones away. ⁴⁹ That is how it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous who are among them. ⁵⁰ And they will throw the wicked into the fiery furnace where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ⁵¹ Jesus said to them, "Did you understand all these things?" They answered him, "Yes." ⁵² He said to them, "Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things."

Imagine, for a moment, you have lost everything. You lost your house, your vehicles, your possessions are repossessed, and your bank accounts are sucked dry. Additionally, you are judged and declared guilty of a crime and are sentenced to a life in prison. You have nothing, absolutely nothing to your name. Your possessions are gone. Your reputation is gone. Your family has disowned you out of shame. Everything about who you are and who you were is gone. But as you are sitting in your cell with nothing other than a loathsome hatred for yourself, your status, your situation and all the people who should have or could have helped you but didn't, the buzzer sounds, your cell door opens and you are told you are free to go. But you are not just free, additionally, you have been given a home, far more beautiful than the one you owned previously, you are given not just a steady source of income but riches beyond your imagination, and you are going to be surrounded by people who knew nothing of your low spot, people who love and respect you, people who will always have your best interest in mind and will always put you above themselves. Would you consider that to be a treasure worth having, a treasure worth placing the entirety of your focus on?

It is obviously not even a question. Of course, that would be true. But that is all fantasy, it is just the outline to some book in the fiction section somewhere, right?

I wonder if that is how we view parables like this one sometimes. As just this idea of a false reality. We hear about the person who discovers a hidden treasure in a field and then goes and sells all he has just to buy it, quite literally putting everything on the line for it and we say "Well of course, he found a treasure. Who wouldn't do that? It makes perfect sense. I wish I could be so fortunate!" We hear about the dealer of fine pearls who finds THE pearl. The one he had been knowingly or unknowingly searching and hoping for his whole life. So, he puts everything in his possession on the line to get it. Of course.

Then we hear about Jesus. The very son of God who breathed the entirety of his life for you, for us. The one who took on, in his own body, all of our sin and drank the cup of our punishment down to the dregs for us, the one who emptied the blood in his body so that we would live and would be seen as righteous in God's sight. We hear of how he crushed the enemy of death so that we would be assured of his work on our behalf was complete and accepted by the Father and what is more, we can have the certainty knowing the one who is for us holds the reigns to death itself. He controls it and will use it to bring us to him and give us eternal riches at his right hand, a mansion for all eternity and freedom from sin, guilt and disease. And it is sort of like the wind coming out of our sails and we walk away saying "Well that is pretty nice of him but boy, it would be nice to find a hidden treasure wouldn't it?"

It can be easy to look past Jesus, while at the same time saying "I understand his worth." The disciples heard this parable and they said they said, "Yes, we understand this." But then they ran at the sight of a mob coming for Jesus and they denied even the knowledge of him when asked. It took the day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the lightbulb of understanding to flicker on and for them to realize just how rich they were.

So also today, Jesus' words are needed. They are needed for us to know the worth of the treasure we possess right now because we can also echo the words of the disciples. We can say "Yes! We understand!" and then go and live as though our life here on earth is the most important. But today, Jesus gives us encouragement to know the worth of our treasure. It is the most precious thing we have, and all else we have been given could go away in the blink of an eye but if we still had that, well we would have everything we ever hoped for. It is a treasure that will never grow dull or become old to our eyes. It is a treasure that will never fade with time, it will always be exciting, it will always retain its value. This is what Jesus tells us at the very end of our lesson, **"Therefore every expert in the law who has been trained as a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his treasure both new things and old things."**

Brothers and Sisters, this is the treasure Jesus gives to you. Through this treasure you are forgiven, I am forgiven for the times we tried to sell it to seek other things or for the times we have re-buried it because we would rather have a different treasure. But the best part is, this is the treasure we have been blessed to reveal to others. The best part is this treasure is happiness, it is life, it is worth everything we sacrifice to keep and to share! May we always know its value both for ourselves and for others. May the old aspects of it always glimmer in our eyes and may the constant newness of it ever amaze. Finally, may it focus our outreach so that others may come to hear this pearl of great worth. Amen.

Now may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep us through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Offering: (Though we are not meeting together at this time please do not forget the opportunity to give back what is rightfully God's with respect to what he has given us. Offerings can be mailed or dropped off at church. You can also make use of online giving through the giveplus app or by going to the church's website (www.christcambridge.com) and selecting the "Donate" tab under "About" in the site menu.)

New Member Welcome!

Prayer:

Lord, like Solomon of old, we stand in awe of all that you have done for us. You have made us kings that we might rule with you. You have enriched us spiritually by forgiving our sins and by opening our hearts and minds to understand the treasures of your Word. You have glorified us by adopting us to be your children. You have blessed us richly in the supply you have given us for our bodies and lives so that we lack no good thing. For this, we offer our humble thanks and praise for your goodness which we have not deserved. Use your history in the Word and the fulfillment of your promises to us to increase our faith that you will in all things work for the good of us who love you.

Lord, that last thought is one with which we sometimes struggle. We can sometimes find ourselves questioning the choices your children make, choices that are contrary to your expressed will and Word. Their courses of action – and too many times our own – grieve us, yet your pledge remains sure: You will use all situations and circumstances for the good of those whom you love. Cause us to hold firmly to what you have said and let us see the fulfillment of what you have spoken. Do not let our sinful flesh twist your promise into a pretext or permission to do that which is contrary to your will, putting you to the test. May we rather be your obedient children.

Bless the nation in which we live. Use these times that are difficult for many to carry out your will in the world. Be with our leaders that they may live righteously and govern wisely.

Private Petitions

O Holy Spirit, you intercede for us when we find ourselves unable to put our thoughts into words. Sanctify that which is in our hearts and minds and keep us confident that our petitions are acceptable and accepted through the One who has taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Children's Message

BLESSING:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Closing Hymn: "Take My Life and Let It Be" Christian Worship #469