



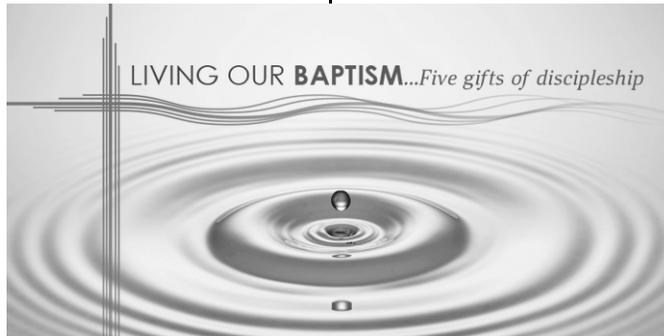
Dear Friends in Christ:

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:27-28)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers...Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. (Acts 2:42, 46-47)

...their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saint and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us...(II Corinthians 8:2-5 NRSV)

Living in community as God's faithful people is a gift of love, and an invitation to serve in mission. We are chosen not for position or privilege, but to live as faithful witnesses to the Good News of Jesus Christ. In our baptism we were made children of God and members of the body of Christ, the church. God's message of hope and reconciliation strengthens us in our faith walk. Our life in Christian community supports us as we experience the joys and struggles of life. In our walk we are encouraged to equally embrace all differences and celebrate the diversity of gifts that can strengthen us. Embracing all differences and celebrating diversity is difficult to do in a society and culture that this divisive and aims to only further drive a wedge between those who are of a different race, ethnicity, gender and religious expression.



The texts quoted at the beginning of the page once again demand that we take seriously, what has in my later years been an emphasis, that we read the scriptures and not read into them our own personal agendas and opinions. To curb and cure the toxic environment that has become the atmosphere of our nation those who look to the bible need to read it for what it says not what one can read into it.

When Paul said, “for all of you are one in Christ Jesus” that is what he meant. This is not uniformity but unity. The baptized share a oneness in Christ that transcends

LIVE Among God's Faithful People

At the beginning of Acts the people had all things in common, “devoted themselves to the apostle’s teaching and fellowship, to breaking of bread and prayers. This is living among God’s faithful people. This is community! They also spent “much time”, that is regular time in the temple i.e. worship and did so with glad and generous hearts. The end result was “having the goodwill of all the people”. Surely this sounds utopian you may respond. Perhaps it does, but it is both the mandate and the call of the person who wears the title

Christian. How is that looking on you?

As we live among God’s faithful people we:

- Read and study God’s word
- Celebrate His presence in worship
- Receive His blessings and return a portion
- Live a new life by caring and encouraging others
- Pray daily and often for each other all people
- Renew our baptism by making the sign of the cross.

Allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct you as you live among God’s faithful people

Ponder with,

Pastor Hal



CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal.....715-828-1112
Email.....harkihear@gmail.com
If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.



Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 02, 2020
Matthew 5: 1-12
"All Those Blesseds"

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 09, 2020
Matthew 5: 13-20
"Season and Shine"

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany
February 16, 2020
Matthew 5: 21-37
"Radical Requirements"

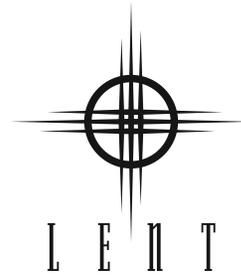
Transfiguration of our Lord
February 23, 2020
Matthew 17: 1-9
"Here Comes that Voice Again"

Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020
Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21
"No Show"

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FEBRUARY 26, 2020
Big Elk Creek Lutheran
7:00 p.m.
Worship with Holy Communion
Imposition of Ashes



2020 Lenten Series

Let All of Me Kneel before God's Holy Name

This Lenten series focuses on our bodily worship of the Triune God. When we come to worship, we are to engage all of our bodies in the art and act of worship -- our heads and our hands, our knees and our arms, our lips and our eyes, our ears and our flesh. Biblical worship is not a disembodied activity, but an embodied reality. It is in part based on the theme verse from Psalm 103, which famously begins: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name."

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Love-ly superlatives

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement.

—St. Augustine