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# From the Pastor's Desk on Newness in Christ

"<sup>17</sup> Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup> Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

So that in him, might become the righteousness of God... this word righteousness bears so much weight and it is worth exploring what this "righteousness of God" means.

The dictionary definition of righteous is "(of a person or conduct) morally right or justifiable; virtuous." Right off the bat we can already see issues. "Morally right or justifiable." Whose decision is it to declare a person or action just? Is the action justified or unjustified depending on who is doing said action? Whose moral compass are we using to judge the morality of others? Our own?

The long and short of it is that as long as we continue to seek and strive for righteousness according to ourselves, we will never find it, we will never be satisfied, and we certainly will never be free.

Then Paul comes in with this statement: "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his

appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." Through Christ, you have been made righteous before God. Through Christ, this righteousness has been given to you. This is the freeing word that is found at the end of the Lenten season. Like a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow, there lies the Cross of Christ. Instead of riches, we comes to a place where all of our sins, all of our attempts at our own righteousness, are laid. Instead of gold, we are given eternal life, salvation, and forgiveness in God's name now and forever.

As we wrap up this season of lent, drawing ever nearer to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb of Easter morning, know that Christ has reconciled you to God. He has made the plea on your behalf. In His name, may you have new life each and everyday.

This is most certainly true.

Pastor Maxwell Whitehead



April 2024



# **April Calendar**



# Wednesday, April 03

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

## Sunday, April 07

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Communion)

11:30 AM Council Mtg

### Monday, April 8

2:00 PM Circle Group

# Wednesday, April 10

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

### Thursday, April 11

5:00 PM Cookies Just Because

### Sunday, April 14

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Traditional)

### Wednesday, April 17

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

### Sunday, April 21

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Communion)

### Wednesday, April 24

2:00 PM Bible Study
3:45 PM Jr. VCIS
5:30 PM Confirmation
7:00 PM VCIS

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## Sunday, April 28

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Contemporary)



# April Worship Helpers



## April 7

### April 21

#### April 14

### April 27



# April Helpers

# Cleaners Mar 31 - Apr13

Pam Ludens Sarah Ludens, Lynne Elcoc Kari Novak Tammy Sorensen

### Cleaners April 14 - 27

Annet Kropuenske Karen Larsen Beth Mellem Melissa Johnson

# Cleaners April 28 - May 11

Amie Larsen Mindy Spangler Linda Larsen Ellie Whitehead

# Kari Novak

Kelly Sorensen Gayle & Rita Westergard

Krisit & Mark Johnson

April 2024

# **APRIL SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**April 7**: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31 **April 14**: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2, John 20:19-31 **April 21**: Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18 **April 28**: Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

It has been decided to revive a circle group at Spring Valley. This was a practice we had in the past where we would gather together for fellowship and to grow in God's Word. The first meeting is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Monday, April 8th at the church.

Everyone is welcome to attend and dessert will be served! Join us as we grow in our faith with our Lord!





Wednesday, May 01

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 05

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Communion)

11:30 AM Council Mtg

Wednesday, May 08

2:00 PM Bible Study 3:45 PM Jr. VCIS 5:30 PM Confirmation

7:00 PM VCIS

Sunday, May 12

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30AM Worship Service (Traditional)



Thank You Volunteers! You are very appreciated! "12 For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." 1 Cor 12:12





Please submit all articles and information on time. Thank you!

April 2024

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Spring Valley Ladies will hold a "Cookies Just Because" event on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 or whenever you can make it.

The cookies will be distributed out into the community.

If you want to participate, please contact Linda Larsen.





- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Lotion
- Body Wash
- Sauces -

  - Worcestershire
  - ◆ BBQ.
  - \* Ketchup
- Canned Goods
- Toaster Pastries
- Cereal Bars

- Granola Bars
- Cooking Oil
- Mayo
- Salad Dressings
- Spices
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Pastas
- Rice (not instant)
- Ramen noodles

We have a freezer for cold storage items as well (meats, cheeses, etc).

