

March

The Joyful Noise

“Asking for Greater things”

¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

John 14:12-14 (NIV)



I remember a day when I was sitting on the front sidewalk outside of where I lived in Page Manor. I was about three plus years old. With a crescent wrench in my hand, I was taking the training wheels off of my bicycle. The freedom of zooming around without the restriction of the training wheels was beckoning me.

Yet the comfort of the training wheels would be gone. Nothing to lean on anymore. I had to balance. Training wheels set aside in the grass now. Straddle the bike. Put a foot on pedal. Push... and off I went. Such fun! Smile stretching across my face. New exhilaration was flowing into me as the wind from riding was blowing through my hair.

Now a question: When did I learn to ride a bike? Answer: When I rode a bike.

One can regularly read the Word of God. One can become well education and comprehend the intricate nuances of the Holy Scriptures. One can memorize passages. And yet one can be full of knowledge and be without faith.

Like riding a bicycle, which you learn by doing, the same is true with Christian Faith. "I Believe" is like straddling that bicycle and pushing off to ride. For faith is **Faith** when it is active and in applied in action. That is what the Word of God teaches as recorded by James:

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.

James 2:17-18 (NIV)

We are ASKING the Lord for GREATER THINGS. We are asking for the Living God to do wonders in us and through us. To prepare for this powerful moving of God in answer to our prayer, we will have devotions and prayer on the second Tuesday of the month beginning at 7:00 P.M. After waiting on the Lord in devotion and prayer, we will get into our action teams at 7:30 P.M. to put into action the things the Lord is calling us to do. At 8:00 P.M. the council of Faith in Christ will meet.

Everyone is invited to the devotion and prayer time. For our ministry must flow from Faith in God. There will be opportunities for all to get involved in action teams.

It was a little scary taking off my bike's training wheels. Some bumps and bruises are a part of the territory as I experienced in riding my bike. But the thrill of the adventure to come was worth the risk. Joining an action team may seem a little unnerving for you. But the adventure of Faith that will come your way as you serve the Lord will be transforming and wonderful.

So when invited to share in the ministry of an action team, be ready to say "Yes, I would love to serve my Lord with you."

In worship and AWE!

Pastor Jeff

Prayer Moment:

Penitential Prayer of St. Ambrose of Milan

O Lord, who hast mercy upon all,
take away from me my sins,
and mercifully kindle in me
the fire of thy Holy Spirit.
Take away from me the heart of stone,
and give me a heart of flesh,
a heart to love and adore Thee,
a heart to delight in Thee,
to follow and enjoy Thee, for Christ's sake, Amen

St. Ambrose of Milan (AD 339-397)

Ash Wednesday Worship Service March 5th 7:00 P.M.

On Ash Wednesday, March 5th, you may notice people going about their business wearing what may look like dark smudges on their foreheads. Those smudges are ashes, in the shape of a cross, which mark the beginning of Lent, the Christian season that precedes Easter.

The church calendar begins each new year with the Season of Christmas, followed by the season of Epiphany which is followed by the Season of Lent. The season of Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 13th.

On Ash Wednesday we will worship at 7:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated, along with the ancient rite of

the Imposition of Ashes. These ashes, produced by burning the palm branches from our past Palm Sunday, are “imposed in the shape of a cross upon the forehead of each worshiper.” As the imposition takes place, the sobering words **“Remember that you are ashes and to ashes you shall return”** are spoken, reminding us of our mortality and limited lifetime here on earth.

Beginning Thursday March 13th, our Lenten midweek worship services will be held each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. following our usual Lenten Soup Suppers which will begin at 6:15 p.m. You are encouraged to take advantage of these worship times, gathering for a moment of “peace” and reflection of the greatness of God’s enduring grace for us during these busy times.

Thursday’s during Lent

During Lent we will be focusing on Missionaries and how they put their faith into action. The Gospel of Jesus compelled them to proclaim the Good News to a lost and heathen world. They knew by experience the power of the Word of God to transform lives. They burned in their hearts with compassion for the lost and willingly endured much difficulty, sacrificing all, and completely abandoning their lives into the care of Almighty God. And guess what, God did wonders in response to their faith.

Our foundational verses are Luke 18:28 - 30:

²⁸ Peter said to him, **“We have left all we had to follow you!”**

²⁹ **“I tell you the truth,”** Jesus said to them, **“no one who has left home or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God ³⁰ will fail to receive many times as much in this age and, in the age to come, eternal life.”**

Bring a Friend and both be Inspired towards a deeper walk with Jesus and an enlarged faith in the Power of God.

Walking in the Word – Tuesday Night Bible Study will meet March 18th, 25th beginning at 7 p.m.

Elijah is on the scene. Great wonders from God are being wrought. Chariots of Fire and Elisha will be appearing. Exciting things are found in the Word of God.

Come and share in this faith deepening time together with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We concluded by 8:15 p.m.

Children’s Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

Come and enjoy time together in the House of the Lord. Through Bible reading, songs, memory verses, and crafts children will be disciplined in the Faith.

Children’s Sunday School will be exploring **Who Jesus Is** this year. We will be studying the names of Jesus from A-Z. We will learn about Jesus’ character and power by exploring His titles and adjectives. Join us in learning about Jesus the Creator, Healer, and Teacher and MUCH, MUCH, MORE!

Heather Lee looks forward to each week teaching and discipling the children of Faith in Christ.

Remember Children’s Choir is included in this time each week.



Walking in the Word



Sunday School

40 days of Lent

**begins with Ash Wednesday
Service March 5th at 7:00 p.m.**



You may be wondering, "Why 40 days? What's so special about that time frame?" The Bible is clear that God considers 40 days to be a spiritually significant time period. **Whenever God wanted to prepare someone for His purposes, he took 40 days:**

- ◆ **Noah's** life was transformed by 40 days of rain.
- ◆ **Moses** was transformed by 40 days on Mt. Sinai.
- ◆ The **spies** were transformed by 40 days in the Promised Land.
- ◆ **David** was transformed by Goliath's 40-day challenge.
- ◆ **Elijah** was transformed when God gave him 40 days of strength from a single meal.
- ◆ The entire city of **Ninevah** was transformed when God gave them 40 days to change.
- ◆ **Jesus** was empowered by 40 days in the wilderness.
- ◆ The **disciples** were transformed by 40 days with Jesus after His resurrection.

Reflections on John 14: 12

Pastor Jeff recently introduced our congregation's vision for 2014 - "Asking for Greater Things". This comes from John 14: 12 where Jesus says "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

I remember this as a challenging verse from my childhood. I wondered how it would be possible for me to do things even half as great as Jesus, much less greater things. By this point in John's gospel Jesus had changed water into wine, healed a royal official's son, fed the five-thousand, walked on water, and, oh yes, raised Lazarus from the dead. How could he now say to his disciples that they will do even greater things than these?

My difficulty with this verse stemmed from my focus on "what" Jesus had done, rather than on "why" Jesus did it. I only saw the miracles of Jesus at face value and did not consider what Jesus was really accomplishing through his miracles.

After changing the water into wine, John tells us in chapter 2, verse 11 that, "He (Jesus) thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him." This miracle served a purpose for the wedding party but it served a deeper purpose for the new disciples of Jesus. Changing water into wine helped to grow the faith of these men.

The healing of the royal official's son gave him a few more years of life here on earth but it gave an eternity of life for his family. John tells us in chapter 4, verse 53 "So he (the royal official) and all his household believed." The real miracle was not the physical healing of a boy but the spiritual healing of his whole family.

The feeding of the five-thousand is the only miracle of Jesus's ministry that is recorded in all four of the gospels. It must

have made a tremendous impact on those who witnessed it. The lasting result was not full bellies but faith. John tells us in chapter 6, verse 14 that “After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who has come into the world.”

After walking on the water, Matthew records the reaction of the disciples in chapter 14, verse 33 as “Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Even before going to Bethany to raise Lazarus, Jesus tells his disciples in John 11: 14-15 “So then he (Jesus) told them (the disciples) plainly, ‘Lazarus is dead, and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe.’” After Jesus raises Lazarus, John records the reaction of many in chapter 11, verse 45 as “Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him.” This act of Jesus had a temporary effect on Lazarus but an eternal effect on those who witnessed it. Like all of the other miracles of Jesus, it served to grow the faith of individuals.

Over time I came to realize that indeed I could be involved in “greater things than these” because Jesus went back to the Father. Because Jesus returned to heaven, he sent the Holy Spirit to live in me. Because of the work of the Holy Spirit in me, I could be involved in growing the faith of others. Brennan Miller (one of the teenagers in our TWIGS ministry) and I were recently teaching John 14 to a group of children. When we came to verse 12 I asked the children what I could possibly do that would be “greater” than the miracles of Jesus. I then asked Brennan where he would be spending eternity. He confidently responded that he would live with Jesus forever in heaven in part because of the fact that I helped grow his faith.

How we show our faith in Jesus is not as important as if we have faith in Jesus. How we share our faith with others is not

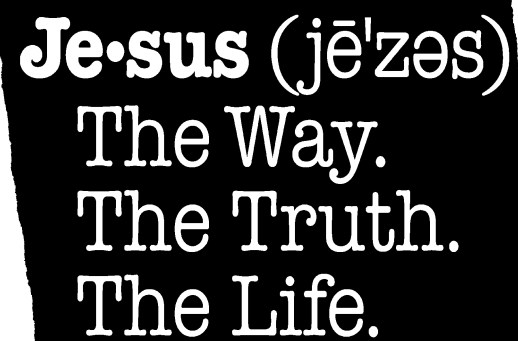
as important as if we share our faith with others. There is no greater thing that we can do than to lead someone else to Jesus Christ. This is what Jesus did in his ministry. This is what we, through the Holy Spirit, can do in our ministry.

Jesus said: “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

My prayer is that you will seek “greater things” in 2014.

God bless you,

David Hare



Je•sus (jē'zəs)
The Way.
The Truth.
The Life.



Loyal Followers of Christ - (LFC)

Will meet in Perkins Restaurant on Friday, March 7th at 12 Noon.

Sewing & Service Circle

Will meet in the church on Thursday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m.

Ruth Circle

Currently not meeting.

Women of Today

Will meet for their regular meeting on Monday, March 17th at 3:00 in the church.

Coming Up

April 6	Parish Nurse Sunday
April 12	Scout Training @ FIC
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy-Thursdays Worship
April 18	Good Friday Worship
April 20	Easter Sunday
	7:30 - Early Worship Service
	9:00 - Breakfast
	9:45 - Easter Egg Hunt
	10:15 - Late Worship Service
April 25-27	TNT to Lutheran Memorial Camp
April 27	Food Pantry Sunday
May 4	Parish Nurse Sunday
May 4	Pass out baby bottles for Blessings in a Bottle
May 10	TNT Rehearsal
May 11	TNT Easter Celebration Service & Luncheon
May 24	Private party - fellowship hall
May 25	Food Pantry Sunday
June 1	Parish Nurse Sunday
June 3	Feed IHN's Guests
June 21	Ice Cream Sunday
June 22	Food Pantry Sunday
June 22`	Return Baby Bottles to church
July 6	Parish Nurse Sunday
July 7	Day Camp Begins
July 14	Teens to Luther Rock Camp, Tennessee
July 27	Food Pantry Sunday
July 29	Feed IHN's Guests