

Another Word March 19, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Well, sitting here and looking at the calendar, I see it is the first day of spring. Now if the weather would just catch up. And this Sunday is Palm Sunday! My prayer is that our journey through Lent has brought you closer to God through our Savior, Jesus the Christ.

Please remember that our Maundy Thursday Service is March 28 at 7pm. If you need a ride just leave a message at the office.

On Good Friday, March 29, the Community Worship Service of the last words of Jesus from the cross will be presented once again at Trinity Lutheran on Center Street. I have the honor of reading Luke 23:44-49 and offering prayers for the people. The service begins at noon and ends at 3pm. You may come and leave as your schedule allows.

Our services for the next 3 weeks:

March 24- Palm Sunday. Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29. Our serving Elder is Matt Henderson. Mark 11:1-11. The Triumphal Entry- A Sermon Without Words.

March 31- Easter Sunday. Isaiah 25: 6-9. Our serving Elder is Todd Whitmer. John 20: 1-18. He has Risen! I saw Him!

April 7- Psalm 133. Our serving Elder is Alan Girard. John 20: 19-31. My Lord and My God.

As we go to prayer, let us remember the families of Dick Gordon and Dick Scott, Jamie Reynold's father, Lyle and Jeannie Easterday, Shannon, and Bill Schaefer.

O Holy Father, we call You with voices of praise. The love You lavish on us is so much more than we deserve, but we welcome and accept it

gladly. When we call out to You, You listen and answer our needs. By following Your word, we walk with truth and justice. We hold up to You all who are suffering from the loss of a loved one or the loss of health. Please guide them, comfort them, and give them peace. May we all feel Your presence, embrace Your love, and then share them with our neighbors. We hold these words high as a symbol of our love to You; in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### Competition!

As a sales rep, one of my standing rules was that I would only set up customers based on the number of people who lived in any particular town. For example, Ashland with the population of 25,000 could support 2, possibly 3 accounts. That way, there would be enough potential business for each in any given area. Competition is good, but I didn't want to create hostile rivalries.

I also promoted the idea that each of my customers should know about and respect the other. Why? Simple. What if you had a large job to install but discovered that a two-dollar part was missing? Everything would be put on hold and your client would be disappointed. Maybe the store across town has the part you need and could help you out. But only if you were on speaking terms with them. And then, would you be willing to help them out if they needed something you may have? Good clean competition is one thing, helping someone in need is even better.

I can hear a few of you saying, "Ok Rich, thanks for the lesson in running an honorable business! Now what?"

There is a brief story in the book of Luke that speaks of good vs. bad competition. John and the other disciples were walking down the road and saw a man driving out demons in the name of Jesus. So, they tried to stop him. In fact, in John's words he says, "...we tried to stop him

because he is not one of us.” Jesus responds by saying, “Do not stop him, for whoever is not against you is for you.” (Luke 9:49-50.)

Note the words, “...he is not one of us.” Sounds like they are really full of themselves. What they were ultimately saying was, “We have exclusive rights on saving others.” In other words, they didn’t want any competition. Jesus sets them straight by telling them that anyone working for the good of others is on our side, and we should not hinder them but to help and support them whenever it’s needed.

We should never let competition and possibly even jealousy to ever get in the way of helping others and doing good in the world. In fact, I hope as my little story above illustrates, we need to get to know and then understand those around us, so we can team up and work together for the Glory of God.

In His Peace,

*Rich*