

Pastor's Message

There was a devotion that came across my computer screen the other day. It spoke of doing greater things than Jesus Himself had done (John 14:12). The author of that devotion stated that he didn't think that he had done greater works than Jesus. He further stated that he did not think he had even accomplished works of equal caliber to what Jesus did. I had to consider, have I done works equal to or greater than Jesus' works?

The devotion continued to consider something besides more power. Why? Because when we consider a lack of power we consider there is a lack of faith. And lack of faith is usually a default in us. We don't have the faith. So we pray for more faith. Pray for more faith to accomplish greater works. No greater works so we feel guilty because we don't accomplish more works and we pray for more faith so that we can have more faith and we feel more guilty because we feel we didn't accomplish any greater works. And on and on the cycle goes and where it stops nobody knows.

Does any of the above sound familiar? The author of that devotion doesn't believe it is a lack of faith or anything of that nature at all. He thinks where the problem lies is in the lack of love.

"Hmmmhhh!!" I thought, "That might be my problem as well."

Why might it be this 'lack of love' that this devotion suggested as the culprit for some of us not doing greater acts than Jesus himself did?

Jesus states over and over again that love (true, godly, agape sort of love) is the core of what God desires to impart to us. If we are disciples of Jesus then we love one another (John 13:35). And greater love has no man than this, that he will lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13). Paul states this very succinctly in 1 Corinthians 13. Lots and lots of

things are going to pass away. But there is one thing that will last forever...love. Paul even states that love is the fulfillment of the law (Romans 13:10)

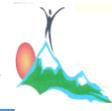
If love is the missing power for us to do greater works than Jesus, then what does this 'love' look like? What does this 'love' mean? What is this 'love'?

The translation of the Greek word "agape" that is most often used is things like: affection - charity - benevolence - brotherly love - God's love for all people. Wouldn't I have more power and be able to accomplish greater works than Jesus, if I truly had God's love for all people? My problem isn't more faith. My problem is that I haven't received (or accepted) the full measure of God's love for me. If I had, then I would be more genuinely loving toward others. And I think that is the greater works...being fully loved and being fully loving.

This all sounds fine and dandy - almost academic - doesn't it? But what am I to do about truly experiencing and living daily in the experience of being fully loved by God and then having that translate into me being love to others? After all, some days I feel loved completely and other days I don't. Some days I am loving and other days I'm not.

Okay, I've backed myself into a corner. And the paint isn't dry yet. So I'm going to go back to the only place I know to go back to. I'm going back to Jesus. ***"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."*** (John 3:16,17)

God's great demonstration of love toward me was that he saved me when I put my faith in His Son Jesus. The love is there but it can only be tapped into through faith. Without faith it is impossible to



please God. And it pleases God that I receive His love for me. It further pleases God when I give out of this love to others. I do believe that God's greater works is to receive and give this love away to others. That is the greater gift. That is the greatest gift.

Thanks for rambling with me through this. And I hope and pray that you and I and all Christ followers can grow in our being able to do greater things than Jesus. I want to receive more of His love and then I want to give more of His love. This is my prayer.

A Friend in Christ,

Pastor Vern

Mans M's

We only have two more meetings this Spring. The first will be on June 7th and the next on June 21st. On the 7th we want to finish our study on prayer and on the 21st we will share how our study on prayer has helped us.. Also on the 21st we will enjoy our annual picnic!!

Both of these meetings will be held at 10 am at the home of Joan Ball.

See you there!

Administrative Board

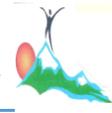
The Official Board met on May 15, 2017. The Financial Secretary reported that we are on track for the year to date. We need approximately \$6500 per month to pay all the bills. The treasurer's report was approved, with all bills paid for the month. The clerk's report was also read and approved.

The Spiritual Board is hard at work and there are plans in process for upcoming events. We will welcome our missionaries, the Benitez family, on Father's Day weekend. They will be staying with Steve & Jean Whalen and will be speaking at church. There will be a pulled pork dinner following the Sunday service that day and all are invited to attend. There are also plans in the works for a Revival to be held in the summer. More news on that at a later date.

Christian Ed. reported that June 11th is Children's Sunday. The Adult Class is asked to provide cookies and punch. Graduation Sunday invitations were sent to the school for distribution to the high school seniors. We are hoping that many will attend.

JUNE 11th...That is the Sunday that we begin our summer hours. The service will be held at 10 a.m. and there will be no Sunday School during the summer.

The pastor has been very busy, as usual. Maundy Thursday there was a soup supper and foot washing service at the Parish House, and Sunrise Service was held at Highland Forest and well attended. The After School program has ended for the year and closing ceremonies were held at the church the last Tuesday of May. Vern did a phone interview with Family Life Radio on April 6th. This was aired over the radio and also was on Family Life's



website. He worked at the Food Pantry, made several home visits and officiated at three funerals.

The Ladies Breakfast went well and was a good time of fellowship for the 75 ladies who attended. The men prepared the breakfast and cleanup.

There will be a Day of Worship again this year, on July 15th.

Discussion was held pertaining to ways of growing our church spiritually. We are trying to plan ahead and will be making a place available in the church for parishoners' ideas for events, studies and ideas.

We talked about having a Veterans Day Dinner for local vets and their families on Veterans Day in the fall. It would be free for all vets and their families.

Vern will be away June 5,6,7&8th and also June 28th through July 5th

. We will have a fill-in minister for those Sundays.

Next meeting is June 5th. Bonnie Zeigler

A Special Thank You

Nancy and Bonnie want to thank all of the ladies who attended our Ladies Breakfast, and to all who helped set up and clean up afterwards. A special thank you to the men who treated us to a delicious array of foods and coffee. We want to thank our speakers, our lovely soloist, Sharon Beesmer, and our pianist, Dorothy Arnold. It was a special time of sharing and being with our friends and sharing God's word. We look forward to next year's gathering. This was our sixth year.....hooray!!!

Christian Education~June 2017

Christian Ed is preparing for their Children's Sunday program June 11th at 10 am. ALL ARE WELCOME!!

Please come and join us to see what an awesome group of kids we have.

Don't forget Vacation Bible School, July 23-27th. The program is called "Serengeti" and will be held in Truxton. They are collecting 5 cent recycleables to support buying a farm. More information to follow.

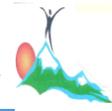
Thank you for your continued support of the Christian Education program. We could not do it without all of you.

Maurine

Spiritual Board

It is the goal of the Spiritual Comittee to provide spiritual guidance to the church and it's members. This committee is made up of those people who in past years would have been on the Diaconate, Chistian Education, Missions, Pastoral Relations and the newly formed Music committee.

Shelly Schneeberger



To the 2017 Graduates

Go Confidently

Faith frees us from
the fear of the future Hebrews 11:1-3

In the Direction

**Faith is the response to what God wants done
and is initiating in and through our lives**

Hebrews 11 " 40

Of Your Dreams

Faith is an expression to please God.

To honor and glorify Him.

Hebrews 11 : 6

Psalm 78:4

We will tell the next generation the
praiseworthy deeds of the Lord,
His power and the wonders He has done.

Buying a Farm

Julie Knowlton is a member of the pastoral team at Celebration Community Church of Lincklaen. She went on a mission trip to Uganda, Africa and visited a Christian School and orphanage. The Lord has laid on her heart to help the school establish a farm in order to provide for the needs of the school and the orphanage. This will help the people help themselves so this is a hand up not a hand out. Would you be willing to consider a missions gift to help "buy a farm"? You can find out more about the project by visiting Celebration Community Church of Lincklaen's facebook page. Julie will be visiting June 11 at the United Church of DeRuyter's church service to answer any questions.

I have invited Julie Knowlton to June 11 church service to talk about buying a farm. Janet Furlough

Mission Report~May 2017

We are looking forward to a visit from our Wycliffe missionaries, Caryn, Carlos and daughter Rachelle Benitez, the weekend of June 17th-19th. They are on leave from their position in Southeast Asia and will be sharing with us at an informal dinner Sat, June 17th and also at Sunday Service on the 18th. Please come and join us as they share their newest mission field, experiences and challenges with us that weekend.

Please continue to keep missionaries Rick and Betsy Chiesa in your prayers as they face the many changes that the Wycliffe organization is undergoing as well as Betsy's elderly mother's health issues.

Please remember our Mission Hot Dog/ WF Bake Sale at the Parish House on Memorial Day, May 29th, starting at 10:00am during and after the Parade. Baked goods in small amounts gladly accepted.

At last count donations of laundry detergent totaled 174 of our hoped for 200 challenge. Thank you to everyone who donated these highly sought after items to help keep our DeRuyter area in clean clothes!! Jean Whalen

Calendar of Events for June

Sunday Worship begins @ 10 am, starting June 11th

June 4 - 11 am - Communion

June 11 - 10 am - Children's Sunday

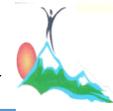
June 18 - 10 am - Father's Day / Benitez w/ us

June 25 - Graduation Sunday

9:30 am - blessing between the two
Churches

June 1 - Thurs. - Spiritual Bd. meeting @ PH

June 4 is last SS classes till fall for all ages



June 5 - Mon. Admin. Bd. @ 7 pm
June 10 & 24 - Men's Group @ 8 am
Each Tues. @ 7 am - prayer
Each Wed. @ 6:30 pm (book stdy / prayer)

July Calendar

July 2 - Sun 10 am - Communion
July 9
July 16
July 23
July 30

Tues. 7 am - Prayer
Wed. 6:30 pm - book study / Prayer

July 8 - 6:30 July 15 - 1 - 5 - Day of Worship @
Town Hall Gazebo

August Calendar

Aug 6 - Sun 10 am - Communion
Aug 13 - 10:30 am - Fair Worship Service
Aug 20 - 10 am
Aug 27

Birthdays & Anniversaries for June

June 1~~John Young
June 2~~Luke Sautter
June 4~~Harry Ludke
June 5~~Bobby & Denise Cuddeback
June 9~~Sam & Shirley Fuller
June 12~~Laura Centolella
June 13~Jamie Graham
June 12~Fred & Rosemary Lawrence
June 14 ~Steve & Jean Whalen
June 15~Martha Genereux
June 17~Denise Cuddeback
June 19~Dave & Joan Ball
June 25~Teri Burdick
June 27~Dave Ball
June 28Ginny Moore
June 28~RJ Brown
June 29~Bob & Dot Brock
June 30~Sue Young

At Wit's End

At their wit's end, they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he brings them out" (Ps. 107:27, 28).

Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner,"
Christian, with troubled brow?
Are you thinking of what is before you,
And all you are bearing now?
Does all the world seem against you,
And you in the battle alone?
Remember--at "Wit's End Corner"
Is just where God's power is shown.
Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner,"
Blinded with wearying pain,
Feeling you cannot endure it,
You cannot bear the strain,
Bruised through the constant suffering,
Dizzy, and dazed, and numb?
Remember--at "Wit's End Corner"
Is where Jesus loves to come.
Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner"?
Your work before you spread,
All lying begun, unfinished,
And pressing on heart and head,
Longing for strength to do it,
Stretching out trembling hands?
Remember--at. "Wit's End Corner"
The Burden-bearer stands.
Are you standing at "Wit's End Corner"?
Then you're just in the very spot
To learn the wondrous resources
Of Him who faileth not:
No doubt to a brighter pathway
Your footsteps will soon be moved,
But only at "Wit's End Corner"
Is the "God who is able" proved.
--Antoinette Wilson

Do not get discouraged; it may be the last key in the bunch that opens the door.

--Stansifer