



Northland Reformed

Monthly

Vol. 2 – February 2018

How Christ Loves His Church

The Church is precious to the Lord Jesus Christ. He gave Himself for her, humbly submitting to a life of suffering which ended in the pain and shame of the cross. The Church is His bride, whom He has betrothed and will return to take to Himself at the great Marriage



Supper of the Lamb, to live with her for all eternity. The Church is His body, which He has raised to new life and nourishes with his own Spirit and Word, causing it to grow and flourish, even in a world which is often a hostile environment. Christ loves the Church so much that he came to redeem her and will return to glorify her, presenting her as a bride without spot, blemish or wrinkle. But how does Christ love His Church now, in that time between His first and second coming? In other words, how is Christ presently loving His Church?

One of the primary ways in which Christ is presently loving His church is through His people. In John 13:1-17, Jesus humbled Himself and washed His disciples' feet, showing an example of His love for His people. He then instructed His disciples to do just as He had done. The disciples were to be the means by which Christ would continue to show His love for the Church. Believers are therefore a means by which Christ is loving His Church.

Pastor Paul Tripp refers to Christians as “instruments in the Redeemer’s hands” and that is a fitting description. Just as a skillful doctor uses surgical instruments to care for his patients, so also the great Physician uses His people as instruments to care for His body. Think of the great honor and privilege you have, that Almighty God,

who, without the use of any means created all things, has determined to use you as the means of accomplishing the care and love of His most precious possession, His Church.

This also involves a great responsibility to make yourself available. You cannot be used if you are not present. Just as medicine which is left on the pharmacy shelf is no good to the sick person in the home, or a surgical tool in the cabinet is no good to the patient, you will be of no good use to anyone if you are not present with them. God will still accomplish all His holy will, but you will miss out on being used as an instrument in His hands.

We must understand that being a member of the church is not about us. It is not about what we enjoy, what we receive, or what we think we need. It is about ministering to one another in the midst of a hostile world bent on destroying our faith. We desperately need each other.

In our day there is a temptation to treat the church as a commodity, to use when we feel we need it, but to disregard it when we are doing okay. Thus, you may attend the prayer meeting when you really need prayer, but when life is going well, you feel no need. You may desire to speak with the elders or the pastor when you are sick or struggling with a particular sin, but when you are self-assured physically and spiritually you might not have the time.

This fails to recognize two things. First, it assumes that you know what you need when you need it. One of the greatest errors we can fall into is thinking that we know what we need and when we need it. Only God knows the specifics and the timing of your need, and He has planned to meet it through His Church. Second, it assumes that others don't need you! This is unbiblical thinking. Paul, writing to the Corinthian church, teaches that the "eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.'" To think this way is presumptive and dangerous, because you need others and others need you!

The Church is precious to Christ, and if His Spirit dwells in you, His Church will be precious to you. Is the Church precious to you? I do not mean the building or the activities, but the people. Are you making yourself available to minister to others according to their needs, and are you willing to receive the ministry that you desperately need? May we all grow together in our love for God and for one another.

By Rev. Christopher Campbell

Congregational News

Annual Meeting

Our 2018 annual meeting was held on Sunday, January 14. In spite of the snowy weather we had enough voting members to establish a quorum. Annual reports included the pastor's report, Ladies Auxiliary report, Ladies Bible Study report, Sunday School report and the Treasurer's report. Four motions were brought to the floor and were approved as follows:

1. Elect Jay Liesveld as Elder for a term of 3 years – Approved by ballot vote
2. Elect Matt Fisher as Deacon for a term of 3 years – Approved by ballot vote
3. Elect Mark Griess as Deacon for a term of 3 years – Approved by ballot vote
4. Approve the 2018 budget as presented – Approved by floor vote.



Trevor Brown Navy Graduation

Trevor Brown, son of Ray and Tanya Brown, graduated from Navy Basic Training on January 26th. Trevor graduated with high marks and will now spend the next several months in specialized training school before being deployed to his duty station.

Leary Baby Shower

The ladies celebrated the upcoming birth of Brian and Cassie Leary's little boy with a baby shower on January 28th.



Cody Cook Homecoming

Cody Cook arrived home to his wife and children on January 27th. Cody has been deployed in Kuwait for the past year.



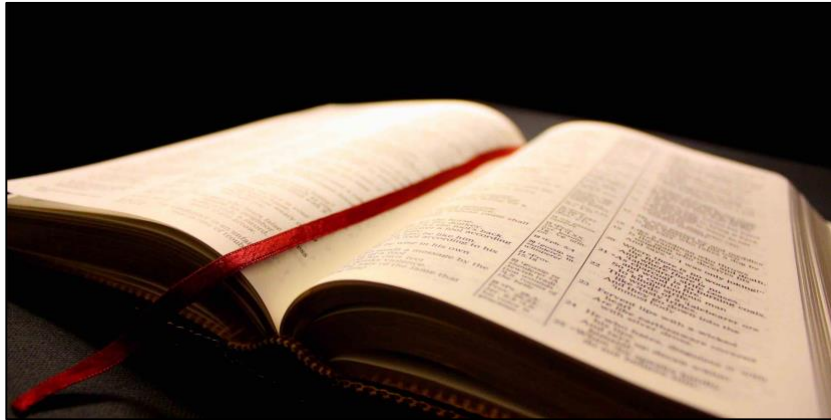
February Schedule

REGULAR MEETINGS

- Sunday Worship | Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 | 9:30AM & 5:00PM | We will continue our sermon series on the book of Galatians in the morning, and the book of Hosea in the evening.
- Sunday School | Feb 4, 11, 18, 25 | 11:15AM
- Men's Study Group | Feb 10, 24 | 7:00AM | The Men's Study Group, led by Gary Duffey, will continue to study the book *Devoted to God* by Sinclair Ferguson.
- Catechism Class | Feb 7, 14, 21, 28 | 4:30PM
- Friday Night Fellowship Group | Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 | Join us for a meal and lesson as we continue to work through John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Consistory Meeting | Feb 6 | 6:30PM
- Fellowship Night | Feb 25 | After the evening service we will join with one another and share a meal. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a dish to share!
- Prayer Meeting | Feb 21 | 6:15PM | Join us as we share a meal and a time of prayer.
- Reception for Cody Cook | Feb 4 | After the morning service, we will welcome Cody Cook back from his deployment to Kuwait with a time of fellowship and light snacks. If you so desire, bring a card for Cody.
- Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) | Feb 6, 13, 20, 27 | 6:30PM | Bible Study Fellowship meets at the church, with groups for both men and women. The current study is on the book of Romans.



Scripture Memorization

February 4	1 Corinthians 1:18
February 11	Psalm 37:3-4
February 18	Psalm 37:5-6
February 25	Psalm 37:23-24