

Another Word October 1, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Two weeks ago, I spoke of the signs of fall. Today we enter October. The true signs of this month are corn stalks, gourds, piles of colored leaves, and pumpkins...lots and lots of pumpkins. And of course, everything from coffee to ice cream will now be flavored with pumpkin spice. (I think it must be a federal law) In fact, I even saw a box of communion wafers that were pumpkin spice flavored! Actually, it was a joke, but I'm sure someone somewhere out there is thinking... "hmmm, not a bad idea." Trust me, it would truly be a bad idea!

This Sunday, Brian is bringing his choir to offer special music for our worship. These are always such beautiful and touching services. Please come out, and bring along a friend to see and hear God's love presented through the voices of these wonderful students. A meal will also be provided for them as a thanks for sharing their talents with us.

Dick Reich will still be accepting donations for Crop Walk this Sunday. He will be in the gathering area before and after our service to accept your offering.

This Sunday is also World Communion Sunday. A special day for all believers around the world to come together to worship, and to remember!

It was quite a beginning day for LifeWise! We had well over 100 students and everything went fairly smoothly. Only 10 meals were needed. But more Importantly, there were smiling faces everywhere, and a desire to learn about Jesus! What an

opportunity and ministry we are allowed to participate and partner with!

The leadership team and Elders have called for a special congregational meeting immediately following worship on Oct. 13. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

As we go to God in prayer, please remember those listed on our prayer chain and all those in each of our hearts.

O Holy and gracious God. We gather together as one to offer ourselves in praise to You. May we always conform our hearts and minds to Your will, and welcome with joy the renewing gift of the Holy Spirit. Please hear our prayers for those we love. Give them peace, comfort, and hope through the resurrection and life of Jesus. We dedicate our lives and all that we are to Your Glory. May we continue to work tirelessly spreading Your word and Your love to a broken and needing world. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen.

For those who were not with us last Sunday, I was speaking about how so many now do not believe in what the Old Testament says to us. That the stories and books are just ramblings and not from God. My argument is essentially that every prophet starts off with, "God said to me, or God instructed me to say." And even the first 5 books of the Old Testament were placed into Moses by God, "and he (Moses) wrote down everything the Lord had said." Exodus 24:4. Seems God is involved quite extensively in what many say is an obsolete book.

However, I think the best argument for the validity of the Old Testament is that Jesus used its scriptures for all His teachings

and even parables. Note, the New Testament writings weren't even started until around AD 55 to 60, 25 years after Jesus ascension.

And speaking of the ascension. Just before Jesus left, He prepared the disciples for the tasks that were now to be placed before them. He first said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms." Then He opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures. Luke 24:44-45. To understand the "Old Testament" scriptures.

He then outlined their mission. He said that repentance and forgiveness was to be preached to the world, starting with Jerusalem, and then they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as promised by His Father. Luke 24:47 and 49. All that was also foretold within the Old Testament.

The word of God is real, true, and revealed not only in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament as well. And it is amazing how the one directs and supports the other. This book, our Bible, is God's wonderful gift to all humanity. I pray you feel the same as me, and will read His word and search for His guidance every chance you get.

In His Peace

*Rich*