

Another Word November 9, 2021

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Wow!! What an amazing turnout last Saturday. 26 of you came and raked leaves, trimmed bushes, washed windows, (ate donuts) and generally readied our property for the coming winter season. There were many compliments on Sunday as to how nice it all looked. A big thank you goes to the trustees and all who came out to lend a hand.

There will be a quick Leadership meeting this coming Sunday (The 14th) at 9:50 to finalize the slate of officers for 2022. These meetings are always opened to anyone wishing to attend.

This may be a bit early, but mark your calendars to attend our congregational meeting, Sunday December 5th immediately after worship. We will be voting on our 2022 budget and list of officers.

Our "Thinking of you" cards will be delivered to Crystal Care this week.

Our next Bible study, "Because of Bethlehem," by Max Lucado, will begin Tuesday November 30th. This is a 4 week study ending on December 21st. There will be two sessions, one at 10:30 am and one at 6pm. The signup sheet and books are in the gathering area.

For our Advent offering this year, we will be collecting snacks and one cup meals for "The Lord's Pantry" in West Salem. Because of their current need, we have decided to start collecting now through the end of December. Pastor Mike and his team are helping 300 children in the area by supplying backpacks, one cup meals, single serving boxes or packs of cereal, and individual snack packs of cookies and crackers. There is a

selection of items on a table in the gathering area as ideas for what is needed. Mike and his staff are very grateful for our willingness to help.

Our Scriptures for this Sunday are: 1 Samuel 2: 1-10, and Mark 13: 1-8, “Signs, signs, everywhere are signs.” Ellie Wells is our Elder.

Please continue to keep Karen and Stewart Light, Linda Gardner’s brother in-law, and my nephew Chase in your prayers.

May we pray.

O Most Holy and gracious God, You and You alone are worthy of our love, worship, and praise. We raise our voices as one in thanks and adoration for Your gifts of love, guidance, and salvation. You are so generous in Your giving, even to the giving of Your one and only Son. We live in troubled times. We ask for strength and resolve to live through Your will, while reaching out to our neighbors with love, compassion, and understanding. Be with and protect those who tirelessly serve as our protectors and care givers. May we live lives that always please and Honor You. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen

A couple of weeks ago, a very important “word” appeared in our Scripture and it jogged my memory about an incident that happened with two cities during the Civil War.

The Confederate Army was on the move, invading the North. When they came to Hagerstown, Maryland, the General threatened to burn the city unless they paid a ransom of \$20,000, quite a large sum of money at the time. A local businessman rallied the people and they collected the sum, and the army bypassed them and moved further north. The next city they came to was Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The same demand was made, but they said no. Chambersburg was burned to the ground. It was the only Northern city to be burned during the war.

The important word referred to above is “Ransom.” Ransom is the price you have to pay in order to be set free. If it goes unpaid, then you pay the penalty. It is also the same with our personal lives. Because we are sinners, we all face a terrible penalty. Paul writes of it in his letter to the Church in Rome: “The wages of sin is death.” (Rom 6:23.) No amount of money, influence, or power can ever be used as a ransom to save us from self-destruction.

There is only one ransom that can save us, and it is spelled out in Mark 10:45. Jesus said, “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a **ransom** for many.” The price that sets us free has already been paid; paid for by The Son of God.

But how do we claim this ransom? There is only one thing that we can do. We must believe, and place our total trust and all our hope in Jesus. The moment we do, our pending penalty is marked “paid in full,” and we are released and set free.

Hagerstown accepted a gift and was set free. On the other hand, Chambersburg refused and was destroyed. That also becomes our choice. The ransom has already been paid by Jesus on the cross. Accepting this gift is the difference between our destruction or going free.

In His Peace,

Rich