Messenger April 2023

When He had received this drink, Jesus said, “It Is Finished”. With that, He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit.

 With this one selfless act our Lord and Savior saved us all. I say selfless because Jesus gave up His life in order to save our lives. Throughout time, we have heard of people who died rather than denounce our Lord God. But Jesus died in order that we might be received in heaven when our earthly life is finished.

In reflecting on this I am brought to wonder what are we doing for God? Do we give up as much as we could, or maybe take on a little more than we have been? Jesus came to minister to God’s people; to teach them (us) and to heal, to feed the masses and to raise from the dead. What can we possibly do a little bit more of in order to grow God’s family? Can we give a little more in order to pay our rent so that we don’t have to dip into the savings account? That would help keep our doors open longer. Can we invite someone to come and worship with us and therefore grow our numbers? What about going and visiting each other even though we might not know the person very well? What a chance to grow friendships. What about inviting our friends to come to our mid week Lenten services? Perhaps they are not familiar with what Lent is all about. A great number of people know that there is something called Easter, but they think that is time for the Easter Bunny and egg hunts and candy. It is inherent upon us to help people to know the true meaning of Easter, and how Awesome our Lord is.

 We are a loving family at Christ Lutheran Church and no Pastor could be more proud than I am of this wonderful family that I belong to. Even I have to sometimes kick myself and say “alright John get up and get moving, don’t start getting lazy, I am here to do God’s work- not my own sinful desires.

 I truly am proud of all of the family of Christ Lutheran Church and I am so excited to let God work through me. I am only the vessel that God uses. We have great things to do for our Lord, and if we will only keep in mind that when Christ said “It Is Finished” for us it should mean “It Is Time for Us to Stand Up For the Lord and Get Started.” Jesus paid for our sins, what are we going to do with this new life?

Let us also remember the members of our family who have been called home to be with their Father this past year. They will be truly missed but always with us. Let us look out for and help those who can no longer attend church or are out sick. They all need us very much. Reach out and provide a loving wrap around their shoulders, let them know that they are not alone.

 God’s Peace and Blessings be with each of you this Easter season.

 Your Servant in Christ Pastor John