



The Reporter

January 2022

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Volume 20, Issue 01

“Stop Being Troubled”

by Pastor Proeber

During the most crucial time of his ministry, Jesus offers a most comforting assurance. In the Upper Room prior to his death, Jesus offered words of encouragement to his disciples. He knew how they were going to be tested. He understood the temptations they would endure. He realized without his reassurance, they would fall from faith.

Chapters thirteen through seventeen of the Gospel of John are wonderful reminders of Jesus’ great concern for his disciples. The most significant portion of this discourse is where Jesus says:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me, so that you may also be where I am”
(John 14:1-3).

While the disciples didn’t immediately comprehend the significance of this promise, they did come to cherish and rely on it later. Through historical records of the early Church, we know that many of the disciples endured persecution and death for the sake of the Gospel. Only John died of natural causes, but he was in exile. Every step of the way, they were not troubled because they knew what Jesus had promised them. They believed God the Father and his word. They believed Jesus and his promise. This afforded them the peace to endure even death as martyrs. They had this confidence because they knew death would not be the end. It would simply be the beginning of eternal life in heaven.

Nothing has changed for us in the 21st Century. We live in critical times. We are confronted by crucial decisions. We often find ourselves in conflict. Our hearts are troubled. They are also burdened and weary. So, how should we understand the words spoken by our Savior? Even more important, do they still apply to us?

A good place to start would be to listen to what Jesus is actually saying. We know what troubles are, because we experience them regularly. Yet our understanding of trouble is not exactly what Jesus explains. The Greek word means “to stir up, or agitate.” You could picture a quiet pool without a ripple on it. Then, imagine a large rock being thrown into it. The first thing you would see is the huge splash. The water is disturbed. What follows are the ripples emanating from where the rock landed. They spread to the shore, then they return from where they originated. This

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is the disturbance or trouble which Jesus explains. It is not just the initial shock, but it is the continuing affect of the ripples returning and hitting us again and again.

I believe all of us have experienced this kind of trouble. A rock has dropped in the middle of our tranquility and upset it. The sad part is, we never seem to find the peace we lost in the first place. When we endure these troubling and perplexing times, Jesus says, "Stop giving into them. Stop letting your hearts be troubled!"

If it were only that easy! We try to resist the urge of being upset, perplexed, or troubled, but our best efforts tend to fail. So, we yearn for peace, but never really achieve it. This is when we need to remember where our Lord directs us. It is to him, and to what his Father promises.

Our Lord and Savior has prepared a place of incomparable peace for us. It is a private room, or mansion, where we can find the tranquility we could never find in this life. It is a place prepared especially for each of us, a place where we will be face to face in the presence of our Lord.

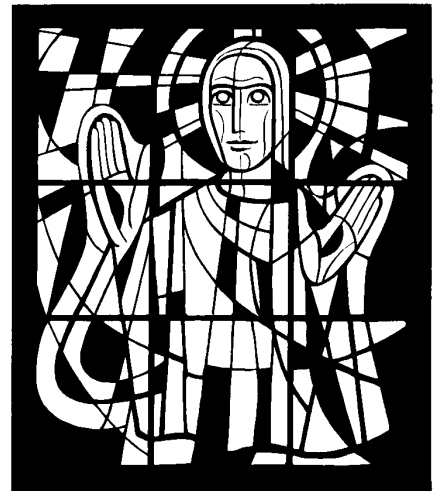
It almost sounds too good to be true. Yet, it is! Our confidence, namely our reason to believe, comes because Jesus said, "he has prepared that place for us." He does this individually and specifically for each of us. The other reason why we can be so confident is that he gave up his life so we could receive this place of peace.

Let's face it, the reason we are troubled is that we continuously throw rocks of sin, disobedience and rebellion into the tranquil pool of our life. Peace is shattered and the ripples continue to disrupt. By ourselves we can not escape the consequences of our sin. Nor can we escape the condemnation God places on that sin, and on us.

This is why we need to cherish the words and work of our Savior. Through his faithfulness, our sin is forgiven. Condemnation is removed. Peace is restored. This is why we can put to rest all the things that trouble and perplex us. Now, compare what Jesus has done with everything this world offers. Absolutely nothing can match the peace he established and has given us through faith.

As a result, we can look at 2022 from a completely different perspective. Of course, there are going to be problems. There will be confusing and perplexing times. There will even be times where the anxiety of life will cause all sorts of unrest and ripples. Still, in the middle of these turbulent and chaotic times, there is peace. That peace is given to us by a Savior who has claimed us as his own, who has made us his own through his precious, redeeming work, and who keeps us as his own until we receive the place he has prepared for us.

Make no mistake, all this is ours, just as it was the disciples'. We can believe God the Father. We can believe Jesus our Savior. A place is prepared for us. We are the Lord's in life and in death. For this reason, we do not have to let our hearts be troubled.



Christmas Decoration

by Al Todd



A small group of volunteers gathered in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 12 at 3:30 P.M. to set up Christmas decorations. This year, unlike previous years, we began with a chili potluck dinner and then decorated the church. After the decorations were finished we returned to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy desserts.

As in previous years, we retrieved all the Christmas decorations from the attic above the east and west sacristies and the storage building. Then we laid out the ladders and tables needed to put together and install the decorations. These included the Christmas tree and all the ornaments, the garlands on the east and west side of the Nave and on the organ pipe platform at the back of the Nave, and the wreaths on the rafters and on the pillars at the entrance to the church. In addition, a second Christmas tree was set up in the Fellowship Hall.

The decorating was completed in a couple of hours. After the empty boxes were returned to the attic and the storage building, the church was vacuumed and cleaned and all the lighting checked and tested.

It was a very enjoyable event and we thank all those who showed up to help out and bring food and beverages.

There was no caroling this year due to government imposed Covid-19 restrictions. We really missed visiting Wood Glen hall and a couple of other venues to bring Christian music to the residents.

Please plan to join us next year for this event which beautifies the church for the Christmas services in December.





“**A** farmer
went
out to sow his seed.”

Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach Committee will meet January 11th at 7:00 pm to firm up plans for the new year. Events will include worship services, special gatherings, dinners, movies, activities for families, and educational opportunities. All are designed and planned to give each of us an opportunity to invite friends, family members, and neighbors to come to know us, and finally to come to know our Savior, Jesus Christ.

A tentative list for the year is provided to the right. More specifics will be coming in subsequent newsletters and in the Sunday worship folder. Additions are gladly welcomed.

Prayerfully consider how you can promote these activities with the people you know, encourage those who organize them, and most important, participate in them.

2022 Tentative Events include:

- The month of February is open.
- Midweek Lenten worship will begin March 2nd. The Wednesday evening services will be in person and live-streamed starting at 7:00 pm
- Palm Sunday is April 10th and begins our Holy Week observance.
- Maundy Thursday is April 14th with a 7:00 pm service to remember the gift of our Savior's love.
- Good Friday is April 15th with a 7:00 pm service which marks our Savior's faithfulness and sacrifice.
- Easter Sunday is April 17th with the traditional brunch following the service.
- July 4th offers a patriotic movie, a tri-tip barbeque, fireworks and desserts.
- August will be the Beach, Bike & Barbeque at Goleta Beach
- A Fall Festival is planned for October. This will include pumpkin carving, face painting, a chili and pie recipe contest, and more. The date is to be scheduled.
- On October 23rd we will commemorate the Reformation with a pot-luck dinner and movie.
- November 20th is the pre-Thanksgiving pot-luck and fellowship evening.
- November 24th is the Thanksgiving Day worship service.
- December 18th is scheduled for church decorating, the chili dinner and caroling.
- December 24th is Christmas Eve worship and fellowship beginning at 7:00 pm.
- December 25th is Christmas Day worship and fellowship beginning at 9:30 am.

Television in Church?

Just in time for our Christmas worship services a television was installed in the fellowship hall. It provides a direct feed from the streaming camera, so it offers both the visual and audio portions of the service. The reason why it was installed was primarily two-fold. It offers parents who may be struggling with their children a place to go and still be part of the service. It also offers people who may be uncomfortable with being in a larger group to still be part of the service. A third option is for watching videos as part of a Bible Study. We thank the Lord for the generous donation which made all this possible.

Notes & News

Handbell Choir

After regular practices and playing for our Advent and Christmas worship services, the ringers will take a couple of weeks off from practice. In January, the 7:00 pm practices will resume in the fellowship hall.

We thank all those who gave of their time and efforts to be part of this unique ministry of music.

If you are interested in ringing in the New Year, please give prayerful consideration to participating in this special area of service to the Lord and Our Redeemer.

Please speak to Debbie following one of our Sunday worship services.

Choir

For the past year and one half, the choir has not met for practices. Hopefully, we will be able to restart at the end of January. The practices would be at their regular time, on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm. God-willing, songs will be prepared for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

Sunday Morning Bible Class

As always there is a regularly scheduled class after the worship service. For the last several months the class has considered one of the appointed Sunday lessons. This has provided extra devotional material for the week.

If you have not attended in 2021, make it your plan to attend in 2022. Each lesson is designed to be covered in one Sunday session, so if you miss a Sunday or two for travel, you will not miss out on a continuing study.

Also in the works for 2022 are some classes on sharing the Gospel while answering critics. Certainly we cannot address every possibility, but the class will provide some useful helps. More information will come as we get into the New Year.



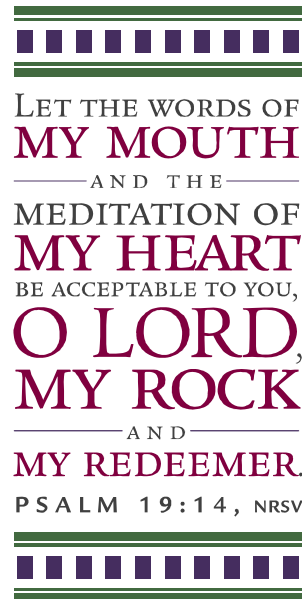
Wednesday Evening Bible Study

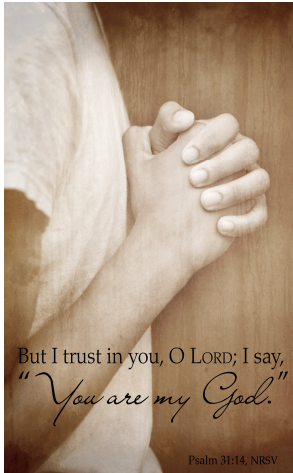
After a brief break for Advent and Christmas, we will begin a new study for the next several weeks. It will be on the "divine call." This is the process our Synod and congregation uses to call a pastor to serve. While most of us are familiar with the basic concept of the call, there are some nuances we haven't had to consider for 21 years. The study will be based on a presentation created by the Conference of District Presidents. There will be additional material offered by Pastor who has conducted numerous call meetings in other congregations as a Circuit Pastor.

Sunday School for Children

The Sunday School continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month. It was a joy to hear the children sing for Christmas Eve. There will be another opportunity for them to sing at Easter.

If you have any questions regarding our Sunday School, please speak to Sonja Todd.





Reporters Wanted

Book review? Personal Story of Faith?
Event report? Potluck-gathering? Party? Field Trip?

Half-page to three pages
Reviewed for scriptural consistency
Due by 25th of month to appear in next issue

Email to Pastor Proeber (pastor.orlcsb@gmail.com)

A simple and rewarding way to serve!

Thanks to Alan Todd for his article in this month's *Reporter*. With a new year there is again the invitation to provide material for the *Reporter*. Throughout the past twenty volumes and years, articles authored by members have made every issue more interesting. If you have an idea, and you are not sure whether to act on it, please don't hesitate to speak to Pastor Proeber for advice. Thanks!

Meetings for January

Church Council	Tuesday, January 4 th at 7:00 pm
Committees	Tuesday, January 4 th at 8:00 pm
Outreach Committee	Tuesday, January 11 th at 7:00 pm
Voters Meeting	Sunday, January 16 th after the Worship Service

Please see the following pages for the proposed Ministry Plan and Budget for 2022. If you have any questions, please speak to Al Todd.

Also, if you have a question regarding a specific area of ministry, please contact a member of the appropriate Board. He will be happy to help.

January Birthdays



We rejoice in the many blessings God has given the members of our family of faith. May the Lord continue to bless them richly.

- 3rd - Linda W.
- 5th - Marrissa H.
Jessica D.
- 11th - David C.
- 14th - Carolyn H.
- 16th - Lucas S.
Jim E.
- 21st - Tiera S.
- 24th - Nicole K.

ORLC Budget Work Paper - 2022										NOTES
	Jan - Dec 21	Budget	\$ Over / Under Budget	% of Budget	2022 Budget	% of 2021 Full Year Actual				
Adult Education Expenses	129	50	79	258%	60	-138%				
Subscriptions/Publication	667	700	-33	95%	800	19%				
Youth Education	63				75					
Total Education Expenses	796	750	46	106%	935	19%				
Fellowship (Elders)										
Beach, Bike and BBQ	131	75	56	175%	75	-75%				
July 4 Expenses	0	75	-75	0%	75					
Kitchen Supplies	153	250	-97	61%	250	39%				
Misc Fellowship Expenses	0	50	-50	0%	50					
Total Fellowship (Elders)	284	450	-166	63%	450	37%				
Pastor Expenses (Elders/Trustees)										
Guest Pastor	547	300	247	182%	500	-16%				
Pastor's Health Ins.	14,868	14,868	0	100%	15,000	1%				
Pastor's Car Allowance	1,500	1,500	0	100%	1,500	0%				
Pastor's Conf Exp	0	150	-150	0%	150					
Pastor's Dental Insurance	915	915	0	100%	915	0%				
Pastor's Pension	4,528	4,528	0	100%	4,530	0%				
Pastor's Salary	80,000	80,000	0	100%	82,642	3%				
Total Pastor Expenses (Elders/Trustees)	102,358	102,261	97	100%	105,237	3%				
Synod Missions (Elders)	14,017	14,300	-283	98%	15,000	7%				
Worship Expenses (Elders)										
Communion Supplies	41	50	-9	82%	50	18%				
Handbell Music/Supplies	115	150	-35	77%	150	23%				
Misc Worship Expenses	50	300	-250	17%	150	33%				
Service Folders	15	100	-85	15%	50	35%				
Total Worship Expenses (Elders)	221	600	-379	37%	400	30%				
Total Expense	143,783	142,547	1,236	101%	151,666	6%				
Net Ordinary Income	-5,256	453	-5,709	-1,160%	0					

2022 Ministry Plan and Budget - Annual Meeting, January 16, 2022