

JULY 2014						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 Property 7:00 Cong Care	2 6:30 Worship Team	3 12:00 Men's Lunch	4 <i>Church office will be closed</i>	5
6 9:00 Worship 5:00 Prayer	7	8 4:30 Women's Ministries	9 6:30 Worship Team	10 12:00 Men's Lunch	11 6:15am Men's Group	12 6:00 Men's Ministry Leaders 7:30 Next Man Up
Youth leave July 5th to attend Challenge Youth Conference in Kansas City & return July 11th						
13 8:00 Missions 9:00 Worship 5:00 Prayer	14 6:30 Outreach	15 6:30 Elder Board Meeting	16 6:30 Worship Team	17 12:00 Men's Lunch	18 6:15am Men's Group	19
20 9:00 Worship 5:00 Prayer	21	22 6:30 Adult Discipleship	23 6:30 Worship Team	24 12:00 Men's Lunch	25 6:15am Men's Group	26
27 9:00 Worship 5:00 Prayer	28	29	30 6:30 Worship Team	31 12:00 Men's Lunch		

Christ Community Church
2200 4th Street NE - Waseca, MN 56093

Christ Community Church Mission Statement
As a local body of believers, we will seek to glorify God in worship, in evangelizing the unsaved and in teaching Christians to obey everything Christ commanded. To that end, prayer will be our foremost task, Scripture will be our authority, God's Holy Spirit will be our source of power and love will be our motivation.

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July, 2014

Cornerstone

A heart for God and you

Volume 12, Issue 7

I've Been Thinking about . . . Our Desire
By Pastor Chris

“All people seek happiness. This is without exception. Whatever different means they employ, they all tend to this end. . . . And yet, after such a great number of years, no one without faith has reached the point to which all continually look. . . . What is it, then, that this desire and this inability proclaim to us, but that there was once in man a true happiness of which there now remain to him only the mark and empty trace, which he in vain tries to fill from all his surroundings?”¹ So writes the seventeenth-century apologist Blaise Pascal.

Could it be that our desire for happiness is the distant misty memory of a time when humankind was truly happy? Could our longing for happiness be the memory of our first parents' joy in Eden—memory expressed as desire in the collective consciousness of our human family?

In surveying the various earthly means by which people attempt to satisfy our common craving for happiness, Pascal concludes, “But these are all inadequate, because the infinite abyss can be filled only by an infinite and immutable object, that is to say, only by God Himself.”² There is in every human soul an “infinite abyss,” a God-shaped hole, which can be filled only by the Infinite One Himself.

In our prideful proclivity to be autonomous from God, we attempt to fill that God-shaped hole with things other than Him. They are always too shallow, they never truly satisfy, yet we settle for them, and in so doing show our passions to be not too strong, but too weak. “We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”³

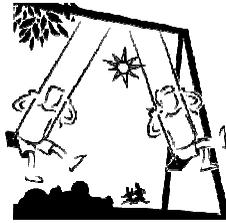
Let us not settle for being far too easily pleased. Let us fill our soul's infinite abyss, our search for happiness, our longing for joy, in God alone.

Continued inside

Women's Ministries

Save the date for:
"Home Sweet Home"
Women's Retreat
at Camp Victory
October 10 & 11
More details to come!!

MAKS in the Park



July 1 & 15
Loon Lake Park
10:00 am
Bring a picnic lunch

Questions: Stacy Dufault 461-6236



DISCIPLE MAKING PATHWAY LIVED OUT



This past week I was blessed by seeing an excellent example of our Disciple Making Pathway (DMP) being lived out. By now most of you know well our DMP: *"Developing people who live God's love by loving God with all we are, loving one another as Christ has loved us, and loving our neighbor as ourselves."*

Because of the extreme rain the past couple weeks, many of us were able to love one another in special ways. Last Thursday through Sunday, June 19-22, many people helped Earl & Barb Bosshardt. Thursday Barb called and said they had to start sandbagging their home because Lake Sakatah was rising rapidly and their home was in danger of flooding. I can't say how many people came, but there must have been close to a dozen, some had even taken time off from their job to come help. It was a great blessing to see people of all ages, children to elderly adults, working together to help protect Barb & Earl's home. Some people were holding bags while others shoveled sand in. Others were tying bags while others were transporting them via wheelbarrow (younger children were pulling bags in a wagon) to locations where others were building a dike around the home. Travis & Heather Bowman deserve a special word of thanks for the lead they provided in helping!

From Thursday through Sunday many others volunteered time to help in the effort. I can honestly say the joy of working together to help Earl & Barb was extremely rewarding! I believe this experience was a wonderful example of living out our DMP and God's command to love one another.

There are sooo... many ways of loving others as Christ has loved us! Let's keep our eyes and ears open so we become increasingly obedient to this command from God. I know a rich blessing is in store as we do!

Even more significant, spiritually there are hundreds of people around us everyday whose lives are in danger of being destroyed by the influence of sin and Satan's relentless attacks. What an honor it is to all join together to rescue people from the lures of this world by lovingly sharing with them the life saving message of Jesus Christ! May God's grace enable us to effectively live out our Disciple Making Pathway!

Pastor Howard

Maybe you have a brief story of being loved that you feel God would want you to share with others? If so, write it up and submit it to the church office by the 20th of the month.

Continued from front I've Been Thinking about . . . Our Desire

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek Him in His temple.
—Psalm 27:4

Our longing for happiness is our desire for God. Let us satisfy our desire for God *in* God—through Christ. For Christ provides the living water that satisfies our soul's thirst for God, and Christ is the living bread that satisfies our soul's hunger for God (Jn 4:10; 7:37-39; 6:35). It is by worship that we satisfy our desire for God and sate our hunger for happiness, for by worship we enter the Presence of God, where our soul is satisfied as with the richest of foods (Ps 63:1-5). The satisfaction of our longing for happiness in God through Christ is not selfish, but is God-exalting, for "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in him."⁴

"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."⁵ So writes the twentieth-century apologist C. S. Lewis. Could it be that our desire for happiness is our longing for heaven—the fullness of the Presence of God?

1. Blaise Pascal, *Pensées*, 7.425.
2. Ibid.
3. C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1965), 1-2.
4. John Piper, *Desiring God* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 2003), 10.
5. C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity* (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2001), 136-137.