

September 2016

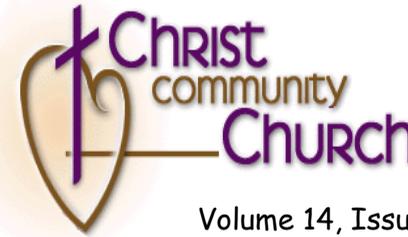
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 12:00 Men's Lunch 6:30 Worship Team 7:00 Elder Bd	2 6:15am Men's Grp	3
4 8:30 Adult SS 9:30 Worship 11:00 College 5:00 Prayer	5 HOLIDAY Office Closed 7:00 Pray N Go	6 7:00 Congregational Care 7:00 Property	7 5:45 AWANA 6:30 20.20	8 12:00 Men's Lunch 6:30 Worship Team 7:00 Women's Bible Study	9 6:15am Men's Grp 7:30 Club 180	10
11 9:00 S School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	12 9:30 Women's bible study 6:30 Outreach 7:00 Pray N Go	13 5:00 Women's Ministry	14 5:45 AWANA 7:00 20.20	15 12:00 Men's Lunch 6:30 Worship Team 7:00 Elder Bd 7:00 Women's Bible Study	16 6:15am Men's Grp 7:30 Club 180	17
18 9:00 S School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	19 9:30 Women's bible study 7:00 Pray N Go	20	21 5:45 AWANA 7:00 20.20	22 12:00 Men's Lunch 6:30 Worship Team 6:30 Adult Discipleship 7:00 Women's Bible Study	23 6:15am Men's Grp 7:30 Club 180	24
25 9:00 S School 10:15 Worship 5:00 Prayer	26 9:30 Women's bible study 7:00 Pray N Go	27	28 5:45 AWANA 7:00 20.20	29 12:00 Men's Lunch 6:30 Worship Team 7:00 Women's Bible Study	30 6:15am Men's Grp 7:30 Club 180	

Christ Community Church Disciple-making Pathway

Developing people who live God's love by:

Loving God - Loving one another - Loving our neighbors

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September 2016

Cornerstone

A heart for God and you

Volume 14, Issue 09

"I've Been Thinking about . . . Suffering"

by Pastor Chris

Young parents lose their seven-year-old daughter to leukemia. A single mom struggles to stay afloat financially. An elderly man spends his days and nights in lonely loneliness, with no visitors, every day a limbo between yesterday's emptiness and tomorrow's void. A college student with bipolar disorder cries out to God, "Why did you make me this way?!"

Our common brokenness in a fallen world brings a measure of suffering to every life. Is a light of meaning cocooned in the darkness of affliction?

Why?

Faith

The God who allows evil and suffering has himself borne more evil and endured more suffering than anyone else. He has dispensed upon himself the greatest measure of affliction ever suffered. On the cross, the world's only righteous Person has borne evil's most egregious injustice. At the Place of the Skull, his physical sufferings are excruciating enough: hammered nails striking fiery pain sparking throughout his body; splintery wood piercing shredded flesh on his whipped back as he moves himself up and down against the rough timber to breathe; cramps sweeping through his muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain; crushing agony deep in his chest as his pericardium fills with serum and compresses his heart, while his tortured lungs frantically gasp tiny gulps of air. But even more excruciating are his spiritual sufferings as God the Son bears divine wrath against our sin in our place to rescue us from that wrath: the ineffable agony of the lake of fire raging in his soul, the sulfurous smoke blinding the eyes of his heart so that he can no longer see his Father—"My God, my God, *why* have you forsaken me?!"

There is a divine mystery to suffering, hidden in the inscrutable counsels of God, beyond the reach of human probing. So we trust the Man of Sorrows to steward our

Continued inside

“I’ve Been Thinking about . . . Suffering” continued...

afflictions to fulfill a divine purpose, which is often shrouded from us. And we must entrust that purpose to him. Suffering hurls us into faith in the Sufferer of sufferers.

Hope

The human heart is easily wooed by the world’s allures. Earth exerts its gravity not only on our bodies but also on our souls. We are so pulled by earth’s shiny baubles before us that we forget God’s bejeweled City awaiting us. This world’s offerings are present and seen, and thus seized, while heaven’s promises are future and unseen, and hence neglected. We are thereby seduced to set our hearts on the earth that is here rather than the heaven that is there. Our minds, taken captive by temporal pleasures now, become forgetful of eternal glories in the by-and-by. Were we to remain blissful and painless in this earthly estate, we would lapse into spiritual amnesia. We would forget God.

Afflictions in this world sever us from attachments to this world. Christ followers who endure the decline of old age and the debilitation of disease fervently express a yearning for Home. Prosperity numbs us to forget God (Deut 8:10-18), while affliction impregnates our heart with longing for God (Ps 119:67, 71-72). Prosperity is harder than affliction. For prosperity attaches us to pleasures that one day will leave us, while affliction binds us to eternal joys.

So it is that “suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope” (Rom 5:3-4). The fruit of suffering is hope—hope in all God’s promises of awaiting glories, eternal glories to which present sufferings are not worthy to be compared. Suffering begets hope.

Love

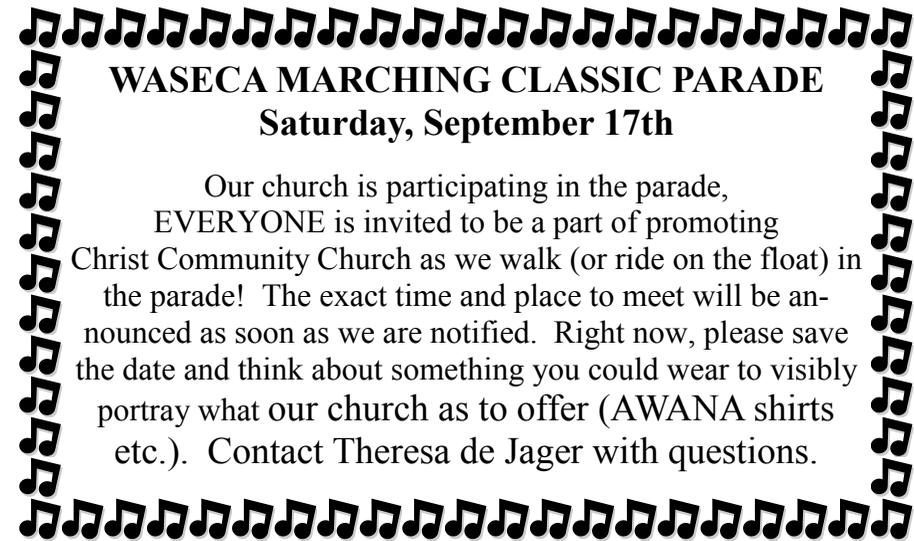
Our suffering escorts us into the comfort of others. “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Cor 1:3-4). A cancer survivor can best comfort a cancer patient. Who better to comfort grieving parents than other bereaved parents? The comforted who comfort others fulfill Christ’s law of love (Rom 12:15b). Suffering paves avenues of love.

These, then, are the benedictions of suffering: faith, hope and love. So it is that the question “why?” is overwhelmed by the question “who?” Who meets us in our suffering to fill us with faith, help us with hope, and lavish us with love? From the darkness of affliction the One who is never obligated to explain his ways stretches out his nail-pierced hand. Take hold of that.

WOMEN’S MINISTRIES BIBLE STUDY - SEAMLESS

A 7 week DVD Bible Study presented by Angie Smith. *Seamless* covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture.

Monday, September 12th, 9:30-11:30 am & Thursday, September 8th, 7-8:30 pm
Registration forms at the Info Booth; \$15 (includes study book); childcare - Monday's class



WASECA MARCHING CLASSIC PARADE

Saturday, September 17th

Our church is participating in the parade, EVERYONE is invited to be a part of promoting Christ Community Church as we walk (or ride on the float) in the parade! The exact time and place to meet will be announced as soon as we are notified. Right now, please save the date and think about something you could wear to visibly portray what our church has to offer (AWANA shirts etc.). Contact Theresa de Jager with questions.

Pray N’ Go

Pray for Waseca, the US & the world.

Monday’s,
7 to 7:15 pm

Goblirsch’s Home
819 3rd Ave NE
Waseca, MN

September 7th, 2016 KICK-OFF!!



AWANA from 5:45 pm-7:30 pm

AND

KICK-OFF for 20.20 at 6:30 pm!

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

September 9, 2016 KICK-OFF!!

Fridays at 7:30—9:30 pm for 7th/8th graders

Fridays at 9:30 –11:30 pm for 9-12th graders



2016 Women’s Retreat!!

October 7 & 8

“A Story of Faith” with guest speaker **Gina Krause**
Camp Victory, Zumbro Falls, MN

PRECEPTS BIBLE STUDY

GENESIS-Part 5

Starts October 17, 2016

Registration closes on
October 2, 2016