



September 11, 2020

Making Marks As We Go

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.
—Isaiah 43:19*

A hike on Rib Mountain this evening had me wondering about those who shaped the trails that are at the top. From the first people who lived there to those who worked the quarry, to those who stop by to recreate and rest and renew.

While many people walk the road, I really appreciate the trails through the woods. What I like best about those trails is that you have to be grounded and in the moment when you walk them - aware of where you are and what's beneath your feet. When that happens, it seems my brain empties of worries and I don't get focused on how much hiking "up" is in my future or the distance that is left to go.

Those paths are there because many people have walked them, including the first to do so. Whoever she or he is – whoever they are – their paths have made way for

many to experience an encounter with God in the trees, and the wind, the rocks, the view of the river valleys, and the sunshine.

When I think of life these days, I think of you and what it must be like to be marking a new path.

["A trailblazer](#) is the first person known to do something, whether it's marking a new path through the woods or discovering a cure for cancer. A literal trailblazer *blazes*, or marks, trails in the wilderness. She does this by making marks or signs on trees and rocks at regular distances along a trail in order to help other hikers find their way. Figurative trailblazers can also be called *pioneers* or *groundbreakers*. These are innovators who make strides in fields like science, medicine, or education."

You are starting the school year partially or fully virtually; you are going to the doctor thirty minutes earlier. You are creating new protocols, finding new patterns, and blazing a trail so that you can find a way through this time – and hopefully, because of you, so can others.

This week we are blazing a trail into the tradition of communion in person offered on Sunday in the church parking lot or through the live stream. It feels like uncharted territory – to share the body and blood of Christ with you from so far away – even from six feet away. And yet, we are not so far away from each other. It feels like new ground to be among the first followers of Jesus who have created one body through the wonder of the lifeboat we share in the livestream.

While sitting with his friends: loyal friends like Peter, complex friends like Thomas, and hurtful friends like Judas – Jesus took a loaf of bread, broke and blessed it and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat – this is my body that is given for you." Staring them in the eye he then passed the cup, as each sipped from the same glass and tasted the same sweetness.

While it seems the theological implications behind communing "together apart" need to be worked out, while my own sense of what is right and sacred is in the midst of the choppy seas seems to adjust from day to day, while we wait to see what this feels like – I wonder if this act of communion might also be counted as trailblazing. This I know: it is brave. This I know: Jesus Christ promises to be with us in this meal – bringing to you the gifts of life, healing, and wholeness. This I know: God will never leave you to face your struggles alone.

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Jenn +

Open Office Hours to Resume

The church office will resume regular hours, Monday through Friday **8:30 am-4:30pm** as the staff resumes working regularly from the church offices. Visitors to the church office are asked to enter by the bell tower at the south east entrance.

From the Archives: September 1991

“From the Pastor’s Desk” - Pastor John

Ok... in all honesty, what can you teach a kid in Sunday school, anyway? Well, the difference between working with children and adults is the difference between helping tender plants take root and pruning mature plants. If we are to be rooted and growing, then we must attend to the rooting process.

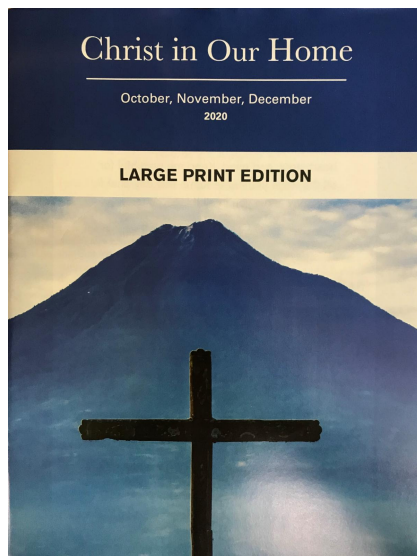
Really, most of what I know of God and the church I learned many years ago in Mr. Boyack’s Sunday school class. So, what did I learn? I learned that God is good, and God is great. I learned that God sees the little sparrow fall, and if God so loves the little sparrow, I know God loves me too. I learned that I could stop in the middle of a walk and thank God, personally, for pretty flowers. I learned that I could stop and thank God before I eat—even when eating snacks and drinking grape drink.

And there’s more, I learned that “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” I learned that the church is not a building—the church is the people. And I learned that I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together.

And another thing...I learned that some things hurt a lot and need my tears. I learned that adults can’t answer every question but wish they could. I learned that I really didn’t need all my questions answered but did need someone to listen to them sincerely.

And to wrap it up, I learned that not everyone has enough blankets or enough food or enough love. I learned that as I give, they shall receive. And I learned that God’s people come in all sorts of shapes, sizes, and colors...and that’s good because God likes variety. I learned that “they will know we are Christians by our love.”

So, what can you teach a little kid anyway? If we taught a little kid everything I just listed, the worlds would be a nicer place to live, homes would be happier places to share, and God would have a lot less to do when it comes to picking up after the messes we make.



Christ in Our Home Devotional-4th Quarter Now Available

Christ in Our Home quarterly devotional resource encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary. ***The fourth quarter devotional (October-November-December) is now available at church in a plastic bin outside the north (Chapel) entrance. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.***

Who is My Neighbor? How You Can Help the Warming Center

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus says you can love your neighbor by helping those beaten and left by the roadside. This could be someone "beaten" by COVID-19 and in need of a few groceries for a couple weeks. It could also be someone "beaten" by addiction, mental or physical health problems, family disfunction, COVID-related job loss, or other major issues that have left them on the streets.

The Wausau Warming Center helps the homeless by providing a warm, safe place to sleep from **November 1 through April 30**. It relies heavily on volunteers. For the past few years, Saint Andrew has staffed the warming center on Friday evenings (6pm-9pm) and provided the evening meal. If you volunteered for this, there would be five or six other Saint Andrew volunteers with you.

If you feel called to help but Friday evenings don't work in your schedule, contact Ruth Poutanen to discuss other options which include meal preparation, meal delivery, supply delivery, evenings or overnights, and laundry.

The director is working with city officials to find a location for this year that will be suitable for COVID-19 conditions where occupants can be social distanced. Once this location is found, volunteers will be needed to help move and set up the new location.

To keep the warming house going, donations are necessary. These donations include Midsized backpacks, jeans, winter coats, gloves, boots, long underwear, regular underwear, hand warmers, toe warmers, thermal socks, Kwik Trip gift cards for supplies for the warming center, granola bars, bottled water, coffee, individual serving hot chocolate packages, and cash. Clothing does not need to be new, but it does need to be in good, functional condition.

If you have questions or can help in any way, contact Ruth Poutanen at repoutanen@aol.com or (715)409-0674.

Plan to Gather Weekly

Update: 9/11/2020

For now, Saint Andrew remains in Phase One of the Plan to Gather. As soon as there is a consistent downward trend, we will move forward to Phase Two.

SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 9/9/2020

| Date | Burden # | Trajectory | SALC Status |
|------|----------|------------|-------------|
| 8/19 | 83.1 | No change | Phase One |
| 8/26 | 59 | No change | Phase One |
| 9/2 | 53 | No change | Phase One |
| 9/9 | 63.1 | No change | Phase One |

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