

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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November 2006

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CHRIST OUR KING? REALLY?

The painting portrayed here is by the late-19th century Russian artist, Nikolai Ge (1831-1894). It is entitled, "What is Truth? (Christ and Pilate)."

Ge was part of the Artists' Cooperative Society that was formed in 1870 to express a growing discontent with the constraints imposed by the traditionally conservative Imperial Academy of Arts. As a way of breaking from tradition, the "Thirteen Contestants," to which Ge belonged, formed a travelling art show that allowed their work to be shown to a wider audience. This innovation earned them the name *Peredvizhniki*, or the Wanderers.

In addition to their progressive outreach to their audience, the *Peredvizhniki* were also progressive in their artistic style. And this change can be seen most clearly in their portrayal of Jesus.

In our March 2006 meditation we featured Ivan Kramskoi's "The Temptation of Christ." Kramskoi, too, was one of the founding "Wanderers." Rather than portray the traditionally powerful Son of God, Kramskoi's tempted Jesus was exhausted and ashen from his ordeal. Like Kramskoi, Ge portrays Jesus before Pilate as physically and psychologically exhausted and powerless. This portrayal offended many and under pressure from the Church it was removed from the travelling exhibition.

Sunday, November 26, is celebrated in our Church as "Christ the King Sunday." The Gospel reading is from John 18 and portrays the arrested Jesus' encounter with Pilate. During their encounter, Pilate asks Jesus, "Are you the King of

the Jews?" When Jesus responds that his kingdom is not of this world, we read:

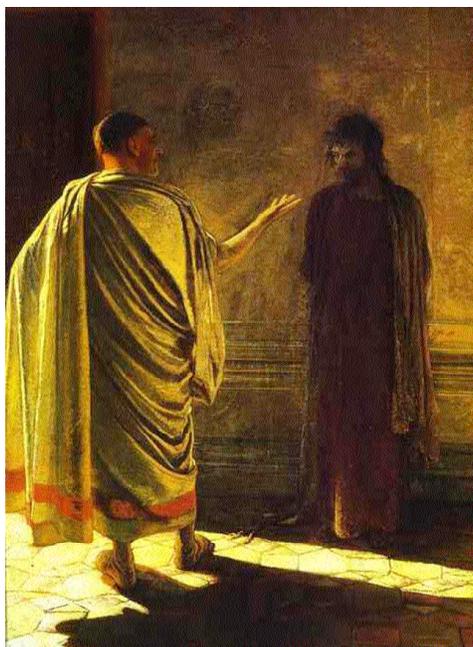
If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." Pilate asked him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Here our lesson ends. The next question asked by Pilate to Jesus is "What is Truth?" To which there is but silence.

What does it mean to claim Jesus as King? Historians will tell you that it was this assertion that eventually served as the charge Rome used to justify Jesus' execution. Claiming Jesus as king would have been considered an act of sedition, punishable by death..

If Jesus was a king, what *kind* of king was he? Ge's painting captures

well the contrast between the powerful, well-dressed, and demanding Pilate and the haggard, weak and mute Jesus. Pilate stands in the light, Jesus in the shadows. One represents the established political order and maintains control through the manipulation of power, especially the power to kill. The other, Jesus, represented . . . well . . . the political nobodies, the powerless, the marginalized. And he *proved* his authority by becoming weak and marginalized and "obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross." (Phil. 2:8)



Nikolai Ge "What is Truth (Christ and Pilate)"; 1890

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When we proclaim Christ as our King, we confess an allegiance that rejects a culture that glorifies death and violence or justifies its use as an acceptable means to our personal ends. We reject a world that measures the value of a human life in terms of material or political success. When Jesus is our sovereign Lord, we not only become the objects of his love, but we become subject to his law—to love others as he loved us. And the reward, the gift that is ours through obedient faith? A life that is nothing less than eternal.

Hugh R. B. Haffner



FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

What made you want to come and be a part of St. Paul's Church? Many were born into the family, so to speak. Others may have come here because it was geographically convenient. But I suspect that a large number of our members started attending worship at St. Paul's because someone invited you.

In a survey of hundreds of church members across numerous denominations throughout this country, it was found that nearly 90% of people who have come to faith and who participate in the church were first invited. 90%! The problem is that Lutheran's aren't all that comfortable inviting people to worship.

On Sunday, November 19, St. Paul's will be celebrating "Friendship Sunday." Friendship Sunday is when all the members of this congregation will be given the opportunity to invite a friend to worship. While you certainly don't need to wait until then to invite someone, on Friendship Sunday there will be a special emphasis, some special things planned,

and a fun reception following the late service.

Most important will be what takes place between now and November 19. Over the next few weeks we will be inviting you to send us (Steve Harz, to be exact) names of people you would like *us* to invite to Friendship Sunday. (Of course you are more than welcome to invite them yourself, but our idea is to supplement that invitation with a formal one of our own.) You are invited to submit your names (we are hoping for three per person!) in writing to Steve by putting them in his mail box at Church (found at the end of the nook where the coat racks are), or by emailing them to him at scharz21@yahoo.com.

If you would like more information, or have any questions or concerns, please talk with Steve Harz or Pastor Hugh any time.



REPORT FROM THE OUTREACH FAIR

Thank you to all who made this year's Outreach Fair such a huge success! As of Sunday, October 15, the Outreach Fair raised \$4,464.92!!! With Thrivent Financial for Lutheran's matching the funds up to \$2,900 we will be able to give to our various charities a total of \$7,364.94 (plus anything else that comes in)!

FINANCIAL REPORT

At the October Council meeting it was reported that our year-to-date **giving** is very far behind where we need to be. Here are the facts:

Giving needed through September: \$118,775

Received through September: \$110,169

We are *behind* by: \$8,605

If you are behind in your pledge, please try your best to bring your giving up to date. We need everyone's help to finish the year strong. Thanks.



The recent chill in the air has reminded us that summer is over and it is time once again to think of our Angel Tree program. 45 tags will be on the tree, and a suggested value limit is \$15-20 for each gift.

In the past year, we had difficulty locating some of these gifts to buy. We will try to be more specific with more "general" items.

The gifts are to be returned to the Church unwrapped and with the tag attached to the gift by Dec. 10th. Our tree will be set up by Nov. 19th.

It's a boy William Perry
8 lbs., 2 oz., 22"
born Sept. 20, 2006



Parents: Matthew and Julie Perry
New Address: 168 Ridgewood Drive, Rocky Hill, CT 06067

William joins big sister Marina At home. Congratulations to all!!

A new great grand daughter for Adeline Witzke named Jillian Adeline born in September. Congratulations to Adeline and family.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church of Ocean Springs, MS has sent a wonderful thank-you note acknowledging our donation of \$3,000 to Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief. It is on the bulletin board near the office.



Birthdays
This Month

Happy November Birthday

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Hazel Leibenguth | 21 Gary King |
| 4 Chris Hans | 22 Heidi Sawrun |
| 5 Cathy Evans | 26 Hugh Haffenreffer |
| 6 George Olson | Suzanne McDonald |
| 9 Carol Ann Hopkins | 29 James Anderson, Jr. |
| 13 Mario DeBlois | 30 Ellie Bengtson |

Hear Ye – Hear Ye !!!

To all the loyal ushers of yester years – to all the newly incoming ushers and especially to the young people who ushered so beautifully last year NOW is your chance to come forth again and sign up for 2007. The ushers chart will be displayed early in November in Fellowship Hall. So here's your chance to choose a month that will be convenient for you to serve. It is a great opportunity for Dad with son or daughter or husband and wife to work together – to stand up and be counted. Who will be first to sign up for this coming year?????



Louise Lostocco

November 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study, 10:30AM Bible Study, 6PM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM	2 Morn Grp. 10-2PM	3 AA, 10AM	4 AA, 7:30PM
5 All Saint's Sunday Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM SCS9AM, Adt. Disc. 9:15AM Choir, 9:45AM	6	7 Outreach, 7PM OA, 7:30PM	8 Bible Study, 10:30AM Bible Study, 6PM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM	9 Morn Grp. 10-2PM Scouts, 7-9PM, PE upstairs	10 AA, 10AM	11 Hymn Sing and Pot-Luck, 5PM AA, 7:30PM
12 Holy Comm 8 & 10:30AM* *Baptism-Lian Hope Dunn SCS9AM, Adt. Disc. 9:15AM Choir, 9:45AM	13 Scouts, 6-9PM, PE downstairs	14 Worship & Music, 7:30PM OA, 7:30PM	15 Bible Study, 10:30AM Bible Study, 6PM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM Epistle deadline	16 Men's Breakfast @ Denny's, 7:30AM Morn Grp. 10-2PM	17 AA, 10AM	18 AA, 7:30PM
19 Friendship Sunday Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM SCS9AM, Adt. Disc. 9:15AM Choir, 9:45AM	20	21 OA, 7:30PM	22 Bible Study, 10:30AM Bible Study, 6PM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 AA, 10AM	25 AA, 7:30PM
26 Holy Comm. 8 & 10:30AM SCS9AM, Adt. Disc. 9:15AM Choir, 9:45AM	27	28 Par. Admin., 6:30PM Ch. Council, 7:30PM OA, 7:30PM	29 Bible Study, 10:30AM Bible Study, 6PM Choir, 7:30PM AA, 7PM	30 Morn Grp. 10-2PM		

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER

ACOLYTES: Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Nov 5 - Jay Viola
- 12 - Joshua Marzano
- 19 - Katie Grottke
- 26 - Erica DeBlois
- Dec 3 - Jamie Piscitello

ALTAR GUILD: Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Nov 5 - Patty Bengtson, Bernice Noeker
- 12 - Helen Peterson, Mary Susla
- 19 - Judy Lundin, Mary Procyk
- 26 - Carol Farley, Harriett ,Fritsch
- Dec 3 - Jennie Dotts, Betty Lamo

ASSISTING MINISTERS: Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

- Nov 5 - Patty Bengtson 8AM, Jim Newmark 10:30AM
- 12 - Art Bruce 8AM, Jerry Vaillancourt 10:30AM
- 19 - Kathie Daly 8AM, Mary Procyk 10:30AM
- 26 - Mark Bierbaum 8AM, Steve Harz 10:30AM
- Dec 3 - Sallyann Wolf 8AM, Mike Coyle 10:30AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Nov 5 - Dick Agne
- 12 - Lillian Doerschler
- 19 - Judy Gerken
- 26 - Joan Kratzer
- Dec 3 - Carole Hughes

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: Kathy Coyle, Coordinator, 529-5983

Month of November: Kathie Daly, Carol Bruce

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS: Helen Peterson, Coordinator, 666-4340

- Nov 5 - Debbie and Amanda Viola
- 12 - Kathy and Mike Coyle
- 19 - Sallyann and Penrose Wolf
- 26 - Ellie and Charles Bengtson
- Dec 3 - Stacey and Randy Lehoux

FINANCE: Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Nov 5 - Lois Woy
- 12 - Jerry and Sally Edison
- 19 - Harriett Fritsch
- 26 - Betty Lamo
- Dec 3 - Cindy Seip

LECTORS: Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Nov 5 - Winnie Sawrun
- 12 - Dave Bayek
- 19 - Judy Gerken
- 26 - Patty Bengtson
- Dec 3 - Lillian Doerschler

NURSERY: Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Nov 5 - Josh and Amanda Viola
- 12 - Stephanie Lohmann, Michelle Champagne
- 19 - Russ Correll
- 26 - Josh and Amanda Viola
- Dec 3 - Crystal Brozynski, Roxie DeBlois

TAPING OF SUNDAY SERVICE: Crystal Brozynski, Coordinator, 828-5306

Month of November: Alex Cheyney

USHERS: Penrose Wolf, Coordinator, 8:00AM (529-9537)

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM (529-3079)

Month of Nov - Brian and Sue Beckwith 8:00AM

Mark Olson, Russ Bengtson 10:30AM



Thank you **Brian Beckwith** and assistant for refurbishing our Fellowship Hall and entry doors—they look great!!



Happy Thanksgiving—Nov. 23

Saint Paul's Epistle

*SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
371 Wolcott Hill Road
Wethersfield, CT 06109
www.stpaulswethersfield.org*

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SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHURCH SCHEDULE

- Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
- Sunday Church School: 9:00 a.m.
- Adult Study Class: 9:00 a.m.

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, PastorOffice: (860) 529-5397
 Cell Pnone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org

Council PresidentBrian Beckwith
 Treasurer.....Russell Correll
 Financial Sect'y.....Mary Procyk
 Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney
 Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Ruppard
 Office SecretaryMarianne Doolittle

REMINDERS:

- Nov. 11 Hymn Sing and Pot Luck, 5PM**
- 19 Friendship Sunday**
- 23 Thanksgiving Day**
- Dec 3 New Hymnals Dedicated**

November 2006