

and will always be you; to save you for life in our heavenly Father's loving embrace. The Passion of Christ – rescuing people from the jaws of hell, at the price of his very own life, that they may be living life with him, today, tomorrow, always in Father's love and affection.

What are you passionate about?

It might be stamp collecting. Guess what will happen as you pursue that passion, you'll encounter other people with the same passion. You'll have a unique platform to speak of the hope you have, of the joy Jesus brings, of the life you share with Jesus. You'll have the opportunity to pray for these people, speaking to Jesus for them, inviting the Spirit's presence into their lives. Through this passion you'll be authentic, real to them,

which will open the door to share Jesus, that person you're passionate about.

Hymns are nice. Songs are fun. Church architecture can be amazing. I'm passionate about Jesus; knowing him intimately, talking with him daily, joining him on his journey seeking and saving the lost.

I'm sure Jesus didn't give his life on the cross so that I can fight about hymns verses songs, while a flood of people lose their eternity.

What's our destination? What's our 'Promised Land'? Is it a Sunday morning ritual or life lived in our heavenly Father's loving embrace, together with Jesus, enjoying the smile of his face?

As we reflect on this pandemic, I pray

we invite Jesus to speak to us, giving us his passion for people. I invite Jesus to send the Spirit and place on our hearts a burning desire to seek and save the lost. His burning desire.

Jesus, I want to go on this journey with you, even though I'm unsure of the next step. Lead me this week to a person to share you with, giving me the words and actions that will speak to their hearts of you. Jesus lead us to be focused on seeking and saving the lost, to know you, to trust you, to live in you. To daily be walking and talking with you, knowing your love and affection for them, living it out into everything they do, to everyone they meet, quite naturally.

19 July 2020  
**WHAT'S OUR DESTINATION**  
Hebrews 11:8-10



After reading Hebrews 11:8-10, I felt like Abraham: "He went without knowing where he was going." (Hebrews 11:8) Has this pandemic left you feeling a bit that way, especially regarding church?

I feel God at work, but where is he leading. He's lead us out of the building, where to now? Why did he have us leave the building, along with our rituals? I feel God is leading us somewhere new, without us knowing where, but he's inviting trust, inviting us to follow him.

Over this time my readings lead me to listen to two of the Old Testament prophets. In Amos I read; "I hate all your show of pretence – the hypocrisy of your religious festivals and solemn assemblies. I will not accept your burnt offering and grain offerings. I won't even

notice all your choice peace offerings. Away with your noisy hymns of praise! I will not listen to the music of your harps. Instead, I want to see a mighty flood of justice an endless river of righteous living." (Amos 5:21-24)

These words jumped out at me. What was God trying to say to me?

Then I was reading the prophet Isaiah. "What makes you think I want all your sacrifices?" says the Lord." (We've always done it that way!) "I am sick of your burnt offerings ... I get no pleasure from the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. When you come to worship me, who asked you to parade through my courts with all your ceremony? (That's what I was taught.) Stop bringing me your meaningless gifts; the incense of your offerings disgusts

me!... I want no more of your pious meetings." (Isaiah 1:11-13)

Just after reading Amos, these words from Isaiah leapt out at me. What was God trying to say to me?

It was God who had originated the worship and sacrifices in the Old Testament temple. Now he was calling it to stop; why?

In Amos I ran across this recurring theme: five times a plague is mentioned and God laments; "but still you would not return to me." (Amos 4:6,8,9,10,11) "Now this is what the LORD says to the family of Israel: 'Come back to me and live!'" (Amos 5:4)

I don't think we have dived deep into idolatry like those people, but just maybe we have wandered astray. Time and time again God has used a pandemic, which is a

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## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
Pastor: Tim 0427326553



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

plague by another name, to get his people's attention. To warn them. To call them back to himself.

Could it be that Jesus is seeking to get my attention, our attention. Through the pandemic the doors to the building were closed. Which certainly reminded me that the doors to the church; that's Jesus' community of faith, weren't closed.

Was I starting to put too much emphasis on a building, on hymns, liturgy, and our customs, missing the point of it all? After all we don't worship those things, do we!

While these thoughts were whirling through my head I was also hearing messages about Jesus second coming. That's the end of the world as we know it; judgement day.

One commentator really caught my attention as he listed signs of the end times, which we're called to look out for. He gave a list of these signs and then pointed

to present day technology which could enable those signs to come true, right now

No need to wait for a cashless economy, the technology is being used today. The mark of the beast, which would be needed to buy and sell, such a mark is being rolled out today; the quantum tattoo. A

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### Anyone interested in Life?

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digital tattoo, which people what you to get once you're vaccinated for Covid-19. There's no need to wait, these signs of the end time are available, NOW! It just needs someone who looks like a saviour to come and implement them. It is all available, TODAY!

What's Jesus call to his community of faith?

What's going to happen when Jesus returns?

When Jesus returns will we join him

singing some old favourite hymns? NO!

It will be 'Judgement Day'. This reminds me of the seriousness and importance of what Jesus is calling us to join him in. The words of the risen Jesus as recorded by John ring in my ears; "Jesus said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me,

so I am sending you.' Then he breathed on them and said 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'" (John 20:21-23)

Did you hear that; As God the Father sent Jesus, Jesus is sending you. Sending you to rescue people who are in a life or death struggle. We're not playing games.

We're not invited to sing nice little songs. We hold people's lives in our hands; this is of ultimate seriousness.

You hold the lives of the people you love in your hands; will you invite them to a

nice ritual, or into the living presence of their loving heavenly Father.

What do you think Jesus would have us do, would have you do?

What a season of opportunity we have been presented with. Panic, fear, worry, uncertainty, it's everywhere. People are looking for hope, for life. Do you know where they might find it?

Of course you do; you know Jesus. You can share that

wonderful living, breathing person with them. They too can come to know him. Know him intimately, entering that wonderful relationship of love and affection he has created though the cross, were we live in a conversational atmosphere with Jesus, living out his supernatural love, naturally.

The best way to be ready for Jesus return is to be talking with him today.

But how can you talk with someone you

don't know? You know Jesus. You talk with Jesus, daily. You live in his presence; remember you and I are now the temple. We are where Jesus makes his name known.

Jesus isn't in the building. He never was; he lives in you, in us. He has empowered us to love one another as we are loved by him.

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### Refused to Repent!

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That's the new command; it means we have the power and authority to do what Jesus does; to love for we are loved by Jesus.

Is this pandemic, this plague, Jesus wanting to get our focus clearly on the main agenda; people. People are loved by God, through the Son, in the Spirit. People are forgiven, cleansed and brought into an intimate relationship of love and affection with Father. Jesus comes to live person to person with his people.

Jesus focus is clearly to seek and save people; people who are lost, fearful, confused, dying. Jesus gave his life for people, so that they might have life; life lived to the full in him.

What do you think; does Jesus want us to put our emphasis in going back to our rituals and customs pre pandemic, or to be single focused in joining him in seeking and saving the lost, destroying the work of the enemy? Which of those options do you see Jesus passionate about?

What are you passionate about? Just this week I started reading a book titled; "The Journey of Desire". The last chapter I read asked just that question; 'What's your passion'. What has Jesus laid on your heart?

I know Jesus passion; it hasn't changed. Jesus passion, lived out in his birth, life, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension has always