

# A Battle for the Ages

by Rev. Lance Armstrong O'Donnell, Senior Pastor  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 14B)  
12 August, A.D. 2018  
1 Kgs 19.1-8; Eph 4.17-5.2; Jn 6.35-51

## Introduction

“The Benefits of the Long Term Pastorate”:

1. Long term pastorate helps you to get to know your people;
2. You get to know the community;
3. Enables pastors to have time to develop as pastors;
4. Tend to forget disappointments and focus more on positives;
5. Long term pastors enjoy generational changes in the church;
6. Long-term perspective on things;
7. Long-term pastors will have to go through battles.

(by Rev. Mike Knox, from a recent pastors' conference)

Growing in love for one another...

Elijah, and gearing up for the battle...

Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

What may be “the spiritual battle of our time”?

CCT: Christ calls us to worship, to \_\_\_\_\_ His love, that we may learn to live from His love and have true life.

## **For All the Saints**

Remembering some saints who battled well...

Worship was their \_\_\_\_\_, but it was habit based on a promise...

## **Worship as Promise**

John 6:35–40 (ESV)

<sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. . . <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

Who is Jesus Christ? Why is this important *for you*?

What does Christ bring to us in worship?

Matthew 18:20 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

Romans 10:17 (ESV)

<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

# LIFE TOGETHER

## Bible Study Opportunity



Service and Servanthood:  
What Piece of the Puzzle  
are YOU?

Wednesday Nights  
Sept 5 – Oct 31  
6:15 pm – 7:15 pm  
Room 219

Led by Kurt and Cheryl Oelsner

We are all parts of one body; called to be servants for Christ. But what does that mean, exactly? In this study, we will dig into Scripture while looking at the best role model of servanthood - Jesus - to answer questions such as:

- What is service?
- What is being a servant?
- Why should we serve?
- How should we serve?
- Who should we serve?



In addition, we will explore practical ways to practice service and servanthood in our lives.

All you need for this study is your Bible and your willingness to participate.

<b>Fiscal Year 2017/18</b>		
<b>Operating Statement Summary</b>		
ending June 30, 2018		
Detailed financials are available at the office		
<u>Church</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<i>Income</i>	\$841,462	\$799,214
<i>Expense</i>	\$688,835	\$684,862
<i>Net Income</i>	\$152,627	\$114,352
<u>School</u>		
<i>Income</i>	\$992,841	\$942,848
<i>Expense</i>	\$1,140,978	\$1,130,180
<i>Net Income</i>	(\$148,137)	(\$187,332)
<b><u>Total</u></b>		
<b>Income</b>	<b>\$1,834,303</b>	<b>\$1,742,062</b>
<b>Expense</b>	<b>\$1,829,813</b>	<b>\$1,815,042</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$4,490</b>	<b>(\$72,980)</b>

1 Corinthians 11; Matthew 26

. . . “This is my body, which is for you...” . . . “This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you, for the forgiveness of sins. . .”

Why is worship the epicenter of the Church’s life and of the Christian life?

### **A Warning about Neglect**

Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

How does Paul’s admonition in Ephesians 4:17–24 apply to worship?

<sup>17</sup> Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup> They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup> They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. <sup>20</sup> But that is not the way you learned Christ! — <sup>21</sup> assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup> and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

## **Conclusion: A Battle for the Ages**

Regarding the importance of worship, what is The LORD calling us to?

What is Christ's promise regarding the Church (Mt 16.18)?

What does Christ *not* promise regarding the Church?

Who are the others calling to us to take up the battle and praying for us?

What do we always need to move forward?

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