

St John Church of Christ

December 29, 2019

Order of Worship

Worship Leader: Richard

Gathering Song: No. 56 Lord, We Praise You

Welcome: Tom

Scripture Reading: Darrel Bauer

1 Peter 1:13-25

Songs

No. 448 The Greatest Commands

No. 449 Thy Word

No. 514 Redeemed

No. 731 Take Time to Be Holy

Prayer: Jerry

Song No. 18 Faithful Love

Communion: Tom

assisted by

Fred, Joe, Ben

Scripture Reading: John

Joshua 4:19-24

Songs

Song: My God is So Big

(Parker to lead)

Song: Lord's Army (Kolton to Lead)

Lesson: Lost!

Luke 2:41 - 52

Song No. 915 Trust and Obey (1st verse)

Prayer: Gary

(CCLI #244012t9)



Lip-Synch Christianity

My third-grade teacher was a frustrated music major. All year long, she tried to turn us into a children's chorus. The pressure was on. If you wanted good grades, you had to sing well, smile, and learn the steps to her choreography. Since I grew up in the church, singing was easy. Without my front teeth, smiling was a bit more challenging, but I never could get the dance steps down.

Be that as it may, I found myself standing with the chorus as Mrs. French was making her final selections of the members for her choir. I was sweating bullets! She conducted with both hands, mouthing the words, and listening to us. When she found someone who didn't quite fit in, she would look at them, grimace and then jerk her head. You were out and had to sit at your desk with the other rejects. I sang with all

my heart. "Buffalo girls won't you come out tonight, come out tonight come out tonight!" (What is a "buffalo girl" anyway?)

Then she was looking at me! My stomach was turning flip-flops. I couldn't escape her gaze. Suddenly I came upon a brilliant plan. Instead of taking a chance on singing the wrong note, I just wouldn't sing at all! I could mouth the words and pretend to sing. It was brilliant. I was lip-synching before lip-synching was cool! Now I was truly smiling, but Mrs. French cocked her ear and then looked directly at me. I was busted. She jerked her head, and I took my seat. The shame, the guilt was overwhelming. Never again would I sing with the chorus.

It reminds me of a story Jesus told about three men who were

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entrusted with sums of money. The first two invested their trust wisely and made a profit for their master, but the third man was so afraid, he didn't even deposit the money in the bank to draw a tiny amount of interest.

Have you ever let fear keep you from trying? How many Christians are content to simply "lip-synch" their faith by putting their time in sitting on something called a "pew" rather than boldly participating in the greatest adventure of their life?

The New Year is upon us: a New Year with new opportunities. This is the time! This is the year! Stop lip-synching your faith and start to sing!



More About Us

Meeting Times

- **Sundays**
 - ◇ Leisure Homestead 9:30 A.M.
 - ◇ Bible Study for All Ages 10:00 A.M.
 - ◇ Worship 11:00 A.M.
- **Our regular Wednesday programs will resume on January 8TH.**
- **Wednesdays**
 - ◇ Community Bible Study 2:00 P.M.
 - ◇ Dinner & Devo 6:30 P.M.
 - ◇ Bible Classes 7:15 P.M.
- **Every Other Monday**
 - ◇ Ladies' Bible Class 7:00

News and Notes

Wednesday Bible Studies

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Wednesdays this year, we are adjourning our regular programs for the next two weeks. Start making plans to be with us as we resume on January 8, 2020. Happy New Year!

Grand Parents Again!

Congratulations to Terry and Joy Sallee on the birth of their new grandson, Deacon Barry Sallee. He was born on Christmas day at 10:27 P.M. and weighed in at 6 LBS, 14 OZS. Deacon was 20 inches tall.

More from Martin Luther

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."

"God made man out of nothing, and as long as we are nothing, He can make something out of us."

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

"How soon 'not now' becomes 'never'!"

"Strange, though I am saved from sin, I am not saved from sinning."

"This is the most dangerous trial of all, when there is no trial and everything goes well; for then a man is tempted to forget God, to become too bold and to misuse times of prosperity."

FAMILY FRIENDLY WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY

We are inviting the children to remain with us throughout the entire worship service this morning.

On months with five Sundays, we are reserving the fifth Sunday for an intergenerational worship service. Two of our young men will be leading songs this morning and the lesson will be appropriate for all ages.

Children's Bible Hour will resume next week.

For Your Prayers

Happy holidays everyone. There is so much to be thankful for!

Let's remember those who are traveling, and those who are by themselves at this festive time of year. It is also a sad time for many who have lost loved ones during this season in prior years. Let's pray for them - and, perhaps, try to reach out and share our love.



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<https://stjohnchurchofchrist.org>

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Do you have a news item, prayer request, or event to share with us? Call John McKeel (619) 313-7997.