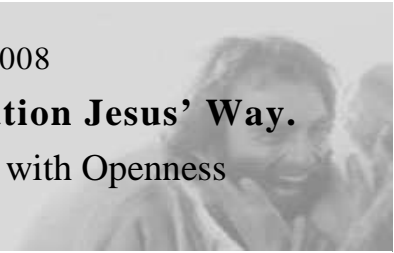


with you about our doubts and together work it out, not letting doubt grow into doubtful action. Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit, help us always to talk with you from the heart, being open and honest living a strong, robust, intimate relationship with you. Amen.

30 March 2008

## The Art of Communication Jesus' Way.

### Communication Starts with Openness



“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to PRAYER.” Acts 2:42

The disciples were devoted to prayer. What is prayer? Jesus has invited us to share his life with him. One key way we share life is through conversation. If you were to ask me; what is prayer, I’d start there. It’s conversation with God.

But as a Christian we don’t stop there, after all everything that calls itself a religion claims to pray to a ‘god’.

As a Christian I don’t pray to a stranger, but one who has revealed his heart and soul to me. In the bible we see God revealing his heart and soul. In Jesus we

see God getting personal with us. We know him on a first name basis.

In Jesus we are known by God in such a close intimate way. It’s not two strangers exchanging pleasantries, but two people who know each other sharing from the heart.

In Jesus I know God’s heart beats for me. Jesus didn’t die on the cross to keep us at arm’s length. The curtain in the temple was torn in two precisely that we might get up close and personal with God, through Jesus.

Jesus has created a wonderful new relationship of love for us to live with him, and part of any relationship is communication.

Friends sharing with each other from the heart, sharing openly with each other, because they trust each other with their lives.

Jesus invites you to share openly, from the heart with him. He can be trusted. After all he has given his life for you, he’s not going to dump on you now. Jesus didn’t suffer the agony of the cross just to change his mind, but that we might know, deep in our souls that he can be trusted. He’s risked being open with us. He risked rejection, ridicule, being let down by his friends, being treated unfairly, so that we might know his limitless love for us. So we might be confident in talking to him about anything, and not playing religious games with him, but talking heart to heart.

## Christ Church Lutheran

Worship Times - 9.00am & 10.45am  
 Pastor: Tim 0427326553  
 Edmund 0429041957



Reaching Out with the Love of Jesus that All my Know, Worship & Grow in Christ

<p>Any in-depth communication starts with people being open with each other. We can be open with Jesus, he's proven to be trustworthy.</p>	<p>courage to risk their lives and lived a deeper fuller life. They actually started a movement that changed the world, as they risked telling other people about what was on their heart.</p>	<p>I love the fact that Jesus doesn't come to create fear but to give us the love and courage we need to defeat any fear. Jesus comes and says; "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me I am sending you." (John 20:21)</p>	<p>What a beautiful way to live; risking being open in a loving relationship, with nothing to fear. That is precisely the type of communication Jesus has with us, and through that he also seeks to liberate all our other relationships, so that they are no longer fear based, but based on his love, mercy, grace, peace.</p>	<p>What does Jesus do? "Peace be with you! ... Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'" (John 20:27) Jesus answers Thomas' doubt.</p>	<p>had it right or not, rather than letting doubt grow into action.</p>
<p>But being open with others doesn't come easily. In the Gospel reading for today there were at least three inhibitors to openness that were mentioned.</p>	<p>What locked doors do you have, keeping people out, so that you</p>	<p>Jesus replaces fear with confidence in him and a purpose for living that is greater than any fear.</p>	<p>The third inhibitor to building an open relationship is suppressed doubts. Thomas was</p>	<p>If Thomas didn't</p>	<p>So take your doubts to Jesus trusting him more than your doubts. Every relationship has doubts, deal with them openly.</p>
<p>The first one I picked up was that the disciples were behind closed doors. They had locked themselves away so that they might feel safe. That's the opposite of being open, isn't it?</p>	<p><b>The disciples were devoted to prayer</b></p>	<p>Fear only cripples and robs us of life, leaving us</p>	<p>thinking what I would have been thinking – dead people don't come to life, don't take me for a fool. Then Jesus was there standing in front of Thomas.</p>	<p><b>Jesus invites you to pray</b></p>	<p>Jesus invites you to pray; "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13,14)</p>
<p>That's why I like the fact that Jesus came and stood among them and said; 'Peace be with you'. Jesus came into that locked room and changed those people so that they had the courage to open those doors. They had the</p>	<p>can feel safe? Today invite Jesus to come into those locked rooms with his peace to set you free.</p>	<p>disconnected from building healthy relationships with other people. What fears are tempting you to give up on other people? What fears are tempting you to label other people as unworthy, so that you shut down? Fears only rob us of the communication Jesus seeks. Communication that is based on love that we can risk being open.</p>	<p>What could have Jesus said to Thomas? He could have lectured Thomas on how stubborn he was. He could have made an example of Thomas to the others. He could have kicked Thomas out for doubting, but he doesn't.</p>	<p>verbalise his doubt, then just maybe Jesus wouldn't have had the opportunity to address those doubts. And doubts left unresolved have a habit of not going away but of attracting a few other mates.</p>	<p>Accept Jesus' invitation and be open with him as he has been with us.</p>
	<p>The second inhibitor was the disciples' fear. Fear is a great killer of openness. We won't share with those we fear, with those we think will hurt us, or betray us. Fear cripples any form of openness. Fear destroys communication.</p>			<p>Doubt of course is one of the devil's key weapons. To Eve he asked; 'Did God really say...' I wonder what would have happened if Eve had prayed to God and asked him if she</p>	<p>Let us pray. Jesus thankyou that we can talk with you in prayer because you have opened the way through your death and resurrection. Thankyou that right now you are open to hear us. Come in and open our closed doors. Come and let your perfect love free us from all fears. Come that we might be honest</p>