

you already own a bible. Emotionally – there’s a big risk, but oh so much to gain. Spiritually even more to risk, but eternal life to gain for someone else.

As we step out in faith following Jesus, going and making disciples, denying ourselves, doing it Jesus’ way, what a great reward there is for our investment. As people are born into the Father’s family, receiving life, eternal life.

Is it worth it? Jesus said yes, your worth it and gave his life for you. Yes, having you as my

brother and my sister is worth giving my life for.

Challenge five; to be part of a multiplying community.

Let us pray.

Jesus thank you for coming and giving your life that we might have life. Thank you that we are filled with your life giving DNA. Free us from all that would stop us from letting the life you have given us from finding expression in a multiplying community. Jesus save us from being

elephants, may we be your rabbits. Amen.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus’ disciples multiplying disciples

25 March 2012

## BEING PART OF A MULTIPLYING COMMUNITY Challenge Number 5

Over the season of Lent I focused on our fivefold challenge. First to pray for the world, this is to be an impetus for us to pray, to talk more and more with our Heavenly Father. Not just about what we want but about what he is doing and how we can be part of his hopes and dreams for the future.

The second challenge for this year is to read through the entire bible in a year. Actually the challenge isn’t to mindlessly read, but to meditate, to let the Holy Spirit speak to us as we read through God’s clear words, as we read through the Bible.

The third challenge was to put our money, our resources to work for our Heavenly Father’s hopes and dreams. To

invest in his kingdom. One idea to meet this challenge is to partner with an overseas church community, maybe like an orphanage; sponsoring them, helping them meet their physical needs using our physical resources.

Last week was our fourth challenge for this year, and that was to go in person. Which is precisely how God works. Jesus came in person, to build a personal relationship with us. Jesus sent the person of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost because his goal is to live this personal relationship he has created person to person. How can we go in person? How can we be Jesus personal presence? In life we need to go in person.

Today we have challenge number five. Our fifth challenge for this year is to be part of a multiplying community.

That is part of what Jesus says today in our Gospel reading: “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.” (John 12:24)

Jesus chose to die so that he could produce many seeds. So that he could give life to many, many, many more children for his Father. Jesus came personally, investing all he had so that there could be an explosion of life. A multiplication effect. Jesus doesn’t want to be the only one of his brothers and sisters in heaven, enjoying life

together in the Father's love. Jesus chose to give his life so that through his death he could birth a wonderful new family.

Have you ever noticed how families grow through multiplication?

The churches DNA means we are a multiplying community. We are birthed to give birth. We are called to be disciples who are empowered to grow disciples. Disciples who know Jesus, so that they too can grow disciples.

One interesting aspect of creation is that God placed in it the ability to reproduce.

Does anyone know why the rabbit is such a pest? One of the reasons is that it can reproduce itself through multiplication. When you have two rabbits they quickly become many rabbits.

Because of the effect of multiplication you don't need many. If two rabbits had four rabbits, and those four rabbits paired off and each had four rabbits, who paired off and each had four rabbits, how many rabbits would you have?

Assuming none of the

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### The Churches DNA- Multiplying Community

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rabbits had died you'd have thirty. What would happen in the next generation? You'd more than double the original population. Growth through multiplication is dynamic.

Of course if you had two elephants by the end of the year what would you have? Two elephants. One possibly pregnant.

Have you ever wondered why the

rabbit is an Easter symbol and not the elephant?

The Father wants his family multiplying as fast as rabbits and not laboriously adding one at a time like elephants.

Jesus created us to be a multiplying

community, that's why each of us has the potential to give birth. Any Christian could give birth to another Christian.

Any disciple of Jesus can give birth to another disciple of Jesus. We're potentially more dynamic than rabbits, they need two, where any of Jesus' brothers and sisters can give birth to another family member.

As we share about Jesus. As we tell the story of Jesus, and witness to our part of that story the Holy Spirit is able to work. He is able to work on people's hearts and souls so they too come into a living, vibrant,

loving relationship with Jesus. The Holy Spirit is able to unite them with Jesus giving birth to a new member of Jesus' family.

Today Jesus reminds me that for this multiplication to happen I need to die! I need to die to myself. I need to invest myself in building the Father's kingdom and not my own. I need to die to what I want in preference to what the Father wants. I need to die

to my comfort and ease seeking to invest all I have in the Father's hopes and dreams that many other people can be re-born as' his children, chosen and marked by his love, delight of his life'. (Matthew 3:17 Message)

While I'm still trying to build my own world, I'm stifling Jesus'. And the world I build won't have the ability to create life. No matter how good, or wonderful

it won't have the ability to create life, and it will one day end in death.

Wonderfully Jesus has invited us to be part of his world. To join with him in building his world. And Jesus' world has the ability to create life. In fact it will result in a wonderful explosion of life when

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### Be Jesus' Rabbits!

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Jesus returns. Eternal life lived with the Father, celebrating his love, living person to person, discovering the joys of living life as the Father's children.

What an interesting choice. Do I build my own world – which will end in death – or do I build Jesus' world – which gives life, eternal life. I certainly know what I want for my children; life, eternal life.

How can we in a practical way give expression to the life giving DNA Jesus has birthed us with?

You could simply meet regularly with another person to pray for each other and to share what you've been hearing as you've read through the bible. You and another asking Jesus who you could invite to be part of this community of Jesus' love.

You could join or start a group which meets in each other's home. And pray for each other, share what Jesus has been saying to you through his word. Explore his word together, and see who Jesus is asking you to invite to be part of this community, where you are seeking to give expression to Jesus' loving character.

How much would either of these options cost? Financially – very minimal, or nothing if