

on for his passion burns for you; and his passion can ignite yours. Ignite your passion with a fire that won't go out.

So I love that invitation of Jesus; "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends." (Rev. 3:20)

Did you hear Jesus saying; 'I will', not, 'I might', or 'possibly if you're good enough'. No Jesus promise is to love us from the heart. He's there ready, willing and able. But as with any relationship of love it needs to be a two way thing. Jesus will respond, just ask him in. Just invite him into whatever you're

doing, thinking, dreaming, planning, desiring. Daily invite Jesus in. Invite Jesus to send the Spirit and then enjoy the day together; enjoy each other's company and let love grow.

As with any relationship it's not a one off event; it's a daily invitation. If you're going to live off someone saying; 'I love you', once, the passion is sure to dry up.

That's not Jesus. He's there everyday, passionate about you. Pouring out the Spirit, so you can live in that passion, so you can live out that passion, everyday.

That's the nature of relationship.

Today I invite you to let other things wait and make some time to share with Jesus, from the heart, just the two of you. Share your deepest thoughts, hopes, dreams, passions, desires, and invite the Spirit to share Jesus' thoughts, hopes, dreams, passions, desires. After all that is his passion; loving you to the depth of his being.

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## Christ Church Lutheran

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



Jesus' disciples multiplying disciples

1 September 2019

## THE PASSIONATE CHURCH

Hebrews 13:1-8



Over the month of September we'll be looking at the theme; The Passionate Church.

Is that what you first think of when you hear the word 'church'; a passionate group of people? People willing to live and die for each other? A community of people whose passion for life flows directly from God's passion; the God, who in Jesus gave his life for us.

God's stated goal isn't to first of all change our bad habits or our intellect but to give us a new heart. I invite you today to look up the word heart in the bible and see what you find.

The prophet Ezekiel wrote: "When the people return to their

homeland, they will remove every trace of their vile images and detestable idols. And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit with them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart... I, the Sovereign LORD, have spoken!" (Ezek. 11:19,20)

King David prayed: "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10)

Paul wrote in his letter to the community of faith in the town of Corinth: "Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This 'letter' is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not

on tablets of stone, but on human hearts." (2 Cor. 3:3)

God's goal is to change our heart to beat in rhythm with his heart; our hearts beating to the rhythms of grace. God's goal is to change our heart; the very source of who we are and what motivates our lives.

So God speaking through the prophet Jeremiah says: "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts..." (Jer. 31:33)

That reminds me of Jesus' words John recorded in the book Revelation. Jesus speaking to his church, that's us, said: "You don't love me or each other as you did at first! Look how far you have

<p>fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first.” (Rev. 2:4,5) “I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other!... I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference. Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as</p>	<p>harder, to be more loving. Is that what it sounds like to you; try harder at being more loving?</p> <p>I think that’s the way the devil would want us to hear it, because then where does the emphasis lie? It lies on me. Me being more loving. Does the church focus on</p>	<p>The community of faith in Ephesus, for whatever reason, had lost it’s focus on Jesus. They’d wander of and lost living that intimate bond that Jesus created.</p> <p>If I want to get my first love back; do I try harder or do I</p>	<p>longer. In other words; spend time with Jesus, sharing with each other from the heart.</p> <p>To Jesus you’re not some passing fad. Jesus is passionate about you. Jesus has laid his life on the line because he is passionate about you. Here is where our first love is found, in Jesus, allowing him to pour out his heart to us, over us, in us, through us.</p>	<p>How well does that work in a relationship; you can wait till I’ve got time to spare. In other words, this is more important than you, I’ll squeeze you in when I can. If that is how you were treated would you call it love?</p> <p>I know I get busy; I’ve</p>	<p>Jesus invites us to come in prayer to him at any time and any place, and he not only listens but has promised to act.</p> <p>I don’t know about you but running the universe could be a busy job, but Jesus never puts us off. He always listens. He always acts. It’s his passion. You can build your life on that; in fact that’s what Jesus wants. That’s why he sent the Spirit</p>
<p>friends.” (3:15,16,19, 20)</p> <p>Without a shadow of doubt we’re to be a passionate community. Without a shadow of doubt we’re to live from the heart. So Jesus implores the community of faith in Ephesus to find it’s first love; be passionate.</p> <p>Here lies a subtle trap if we’re not careful. I could hear Jesus’ words as a call for me to try</p>	<p>me? Does the church focus on you? What is the heart of the church; this community of faith?</p> <p>Jesus; that wonderful person, born our brother, lived a life of love intimately with Father, died to save us, raised that we might live new life with him. Jesus, the one who is returning that we might live in his kingdom. What is the heart of the church, the community of faith, it’s Jesus.</p>	<p>he saw him doing. Jesus sought intimacy of relationship with his Father. Nothing was more important.</p> <p>Jesus’ passion is that we grow to be more and more like him; living with nothing more important than a relationship of intimacy with Father, through the Son, Jesus, living it out with the Spirit.</p> <p>You could say the goal isn’t to try harder, but to talk</p>	<p>This phrase from Jesus caught my attention; “So be diligent and turn from your indifference.” (Rev. 3:19) I know ‘indifference’ is a killer of relationship; but it can so easily creep in. Other things can seem more important, I get busy – with important stuff – and indifference creeps in. All of a sudden it can wait till I’ve got the time to spare.</p>	<p>Jesus’ passion is...</p> <p>got a sermon to write, people to visit, a study to prepare, my day gets crowded out and it seems there just isn’t enough time in the day to do what I feel is needed. Guess who gets neglected? You could describe it as indifference. Indifference creeps in, other things are more important.</p> <p>Is that how you feel Jesus treats you? Squeezes you in when he’s got some spare time. Hardly!</p>	<p>to be with us all the time.</p> <p>With the Spirit there is never an engaged signal. The Spirit never says things like; ‘Whatever!’ The Spirit’s passion is to embrace you in Father’s love, the very love that Father and Son share is personally extended to you in the person of the Spirit.</p> <p>Jesus dying on the cross is not indifference. He is the one you can rely</p>