

# Sunrise Christian Church

## November 2017's Family Newsletter

Called by God to Love Him with all that we are and all that we have, to Learn to be like Jesus, and to Lead others to the saving knowledge of the Cross of Christ.

### Blessed by God



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ- **Ephesians 1:3, NIV.**

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And-

*He makes the sun rise on both good and bad people. And he sends rain for the ones who do right and for the ones who do wrong-* **Matthew 5:45, CEV**

### What is Jesus' wish list for you?

- 1) That you might come to know him as the Christ, the Son of God ("If you really know me, you will know my Father as well"- Jn. 14:7).
- 2) That by knowing Him as Christ, you would you would have life eternal (Everyone who believes may have eternal life- Jn. 3:16).
- 3) That you would be with Him forever (My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am- Jn. 14:2).
- 4) That you would have a new and enjoyable life here and now (The water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life- Jn. 4:14).
- 5) That we be included in God's kingdom (No one comes to the Father except through me- Jn. 14:6).
- 6) Jesus simply wants to be the Shepherd of our heart (I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep- Jn. 10:11).
- 7) Thus, He will carry our burdens for us (He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart- Isaiah 40:11).

### Not Catholic, not Protestant:

Recently, I was asked if Sunrise Christian Church is a Protestant church. A Protestant church is one that broke away from the Catholic Church because of its excesses, thus "protesting" it.

These churches are normally known as mainline churches- Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican (Episcopal in the USA) are the main ones since they originally came from the Catholic church.

Yet with these we probably could add the Methodists as they branched off from the Anglican church. And from the Methodist denomination a host of others as well.

Yet there are other denominations that pre-date the Catholic Church; the Orthodox Churches, for example.

The Christian Churches, of which Sunrise Christian Church is one, plus the Churches of Christ and the Disciples of Christ, all came out of a movement that had no single leader, yet had the same goal of trying to live out what was found in the New Testament. In a sense, they simply wanted to re-invent themselves to be what the Bible is calling Christians to be. Therefore, in a very real way, it was not a break from another denomination but rather the start of something new, which was as old as the first churches.

The early Christians and Disciples, as they like to call themselves, had a motto that is still appropriate yet today: "We are Christians only, but not the only Christians."

Another feature of the Christian Church is our high regard for the Bible: "Where the Scripture speaks, we speak; where the Scriptures are silent, we are silent."

The weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper, baptism for remission of sins and reception of the Holy Spirit, and an elder-lead congregation are other identifying features of the Christian Church;

that, plus a willingness to fellowship with any who claim Jesus as Lord.

### Words, words and more words

Through the use of words, we communicate important and complicated thoughts. Civilization is built and things get done because of words.

Yes, some things, love for example, can be communicated by a simple touch; but for anything more than this you need words.

So, it's through the spoken word that the message of Christ is shared. Yes, pictures can help, but words can help even more- especially when they are combined with love!

The early church went everywhere sharing the gospel message of hope. The book of Acts tells us that there was a time when a great persecution broke out against the church (Acts 8). And what did the church do? The Bible says that those scattered "preached the word wherever they went" (Acts 8:4).

This agrees with what was written to the church in Rome: "How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news'" - Romans 10:14-16, ESV.

Now is the time to put your words to use for the kingdom of God and the well-being of those around you who do not have a saving relationship with Christ. Remember, though many have heard about him, not many know him. To know and be known is what is important.

So, 1) Learn to share your "God story"- everyone has a unique story as to how they came to faith in Christ; keeping it short but to the

point. 2) Share that coming to Christ is a turning away from the past. We must leave the old to pick up the new. 3) They will need to know the steps of faith- Trust in Christ as Lord and Savior, Repentance from sins, and immersion into Christ's powerful name. Young or old, all must do this. 4) The other is that a person should not, cannot be a lone Christian. We all need a circle of friends and acquaintances to spur us on, and the church is God's idea for doing this. It is also the place to learn to serve others, since God's kingdom is about others (Eph. 4:12-13).

Words, words and more words. Whatever it takes, for however long it takes- make your words count!

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### Events:



One Sunday in a Midwest City, a young child was "acting up" during the morning worship hour. The parents did their best to maintain some sense of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the little fellow up and walked sternly up the aisle on his way out.

Just before reaching the safety of the foyer, the little one called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

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A church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of its most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with them for many years and for every one of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list, "Let Someone Else do it." Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; "Someone Else can work with that group."

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in the church. So whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! They wondered what they are going to do now.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

Thus, when you're asked to help this year, just remember -- we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.