

# The Disciple

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

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## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Considering the drastic changes in our world since this pandemic began, I have had to ask God for a new vision for our church. Building community in small groups and large groups has been such an important focus and passion of mine that this kind of change is hard.

However, God is faithful and all wise. I believe He has given me a new vision for this year. That vision could be conceptualized in three words: attract, engage and grow.

### **Attract:**

How we attract people to the gospel in a COVID-19 culture needs a fresh approach. An approach that includes a strong online presence. We welcome sinners, like it says on the front of our bulletin. We are recipients of grace through Jesus Christ and so we want to show that grace to others and meet them where they are at whether it is online or face-to-face.

### **Engage:**

Whether someone is worshipping while sitting in a pew or on their couch, we want them to know they are part of our family. Just because we can't see them doesn't mean they don't matter. They are not invisible to us. Finding ways to engage with them will be a challenge, but can make all the difference in the world. We must find new ways to share the gospel, not just by broadcasting, but by finding ways that show we care.



I trust in you,  
LORD;

I say, "You are  
my God."

My times are  
in your hands

Psalms 31: 14 -15



**Grow:**

Making disciples isn't just a part of our mission statement, it is the Great Commission given to us directly from our Lord Jesus Christ. Disciple means learner. We learn from Jesus to be like Jesus. He uses the scriptures, solo study, group study, Sunday school and sermons that we may be transformed by renewing our minds (Rom. 12:1-2). Maybe a Zoom small group isn't for you. Let's figure out together how to reach more people through the mediums available to us to enable people to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

When I think of how quickly our lives were changed by this pandemic. I am amazed at and thankful for how quickly and wisely our leaders responded. Additionally, I am so thankful for the way our faithful volunteers have persevered through this, though they have already been volunteering for so many years. I am also thankful for the new volunteers who have "stepped up".

So, as we continue in this new world, let us be thankful that God's love is immeasurable. It reaches to the Heavens and His faithfulness reaches to the skies (Psalm 36). I'm not saying it is going to be easy, in fact for many of you it has been difficult- very difficult. You're not alone. And by your example you inspire us to always find something to be thankful for. You matter and your prayers matter. Clearly, you are God's children and He listens to your prayers. Through all of this, may the Holy Spirit enable us to live in God's strength and help us to be thankful to our God for He does work out all things for good to those who love Him (Rom. 8:28). And may we, from this day until our last, use our lives for His glory and our mouths to praise His holy Name.

It continues to be an honor to be your pastor. Dana and I send our love to you.

Sincerely, Vincent

*Create in me a*  
**clean heart,**



*God,*  
**and renew a**  
**right spirit**  
*within me.*

*Psalms 51:10, ESV*



**facebook**

Sunday

Mornings

LIVE

On Facebook

Each Sunday morning you can view the 11:00 am Worship Service as it is happening LIVE on Facebook. Simply login to your Facebook account and go to the Louisa Christian Church page.

You can still view the service anytime by following the link on our website, **LouisaChristianChurch.org**.

Each week's sermon is posted under Worship Resources along with the worship handouts and the newsletter.

An excerpt from Toni Morrison's *Paradise*,  
formatted as a poem for your reading pleasure...

Love is divine only and difficult always.  
If you think it is easy you are a fool.  
If you think it is natural you are blind.  
It is a learned application  
without reason or motive  
except that it is God.  
You do not deserve love  
regardless of the suffering you have endured.  
You do not deserve love because somebody did you wrong.  
You do not deserve love just because you want it.  
You can only earn — by practice  
and careful contemplations —  
the right to express it and you have to learn how to accept it.  
Which is to say you have to earn God.  
You have to practice God.  
You have to think God-carefully.  
And if you are a good and diligent student  
you may secure the right to show love.  
Love is not a gift.  
It is a diploma.

Toni Morrison



Would you like to have a little extra spiritual encouragement in the middle of the week? Join Pastor Klüg on Facebook live on Wednesday evenings in March starting at 7:30 PM.



## A NOTE OF



Thank you my dear church for your love, prayers and cards. Thank you for the wonderful home made meals. And on top of it all, I received a Valentines day card from the youth and it really blessed me. I love my church family, I love my pastor and Dana and I miss you all. I give praise and thanksgiving to our great God through this difficult time.

*Love, Mary Louisa and Bernie*

## Announcements

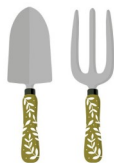
Did you know you can join either of our Bible studies from the comfort of your home or face-to-face? We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM and Thursdays at 7:00 PM. F Contact Pastor Klüg for more info.

- The Food ministry continues to meet needs. If you would like to receive a meal, please contact Penny Best or Pastor Klüg.
- If you are visiting with us via Facebook Live or Youtube, please sign a visitor card by texting Pastor Klüg your name and favorite way to be contacted.
- If you would like to be on the Prayer list please contact Pat Purcell at [pat@jspurcell.com](mailto:pat@jspurcell.com) or Pastor Klüg. As names are listed in our bulletin, please contact her to remove names/requests as well.

# Lenten Activities

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17, 2021) and continues until Easter Sunday.

These are illustrated cards for some thought provoking activities during Lent. The Cards for Sunday outlines a simple candlelight service, including a Lenten confession, words from scripture, a bite-sized meditation, and a little blessing; and the other cards feature simple, engaging practices to try as we travel the road to the empty tomb. Each newsletter will give sets of cards until Easter.



## WEEK TWO PRACTICE

Make your yard (or a nearby abandoned lot) more beautiful by planting a few packages of hearty seeds that will bloom this summer. Try cosmos, zinnias, forget-me-nots – or whatever your favorites are! After you plant your seeds, raise your hands in blessing and pray, "Loving God, please make the earth laugh with even more flowers. Amen."



## WEEK TWO PRACTICE

### "DIG DEEPER" TEA CEREMONY QUESTIONS:

Make a pot of tea, invite your beloveds to sit at a table or on the floor in a circle, and ask everyone these questions:

- What's your favorite item of clothing?
- When have you had to be brave or courageous? What happened? What did you do?
- What do you like or think is special about your family? Name at least three things!

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

LIGHT: 8 Tealights + Christ Candle

CONFESS: God of new life, here's the truth: too often, we're angry when we shouldn't be, and not angry enough when we should be. Give us your passion and gentleness – and the wisdom to know the difference. Amen.

EXTINGUISH: 4 Tealights

READ: John 2:13-22

MEDITATE: After Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had said; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

BLESS: May God bless you and keep you! May the radiant face of God shine upon you as you see and name both the injustices and blessings of this broken, beautiful world. Amen.



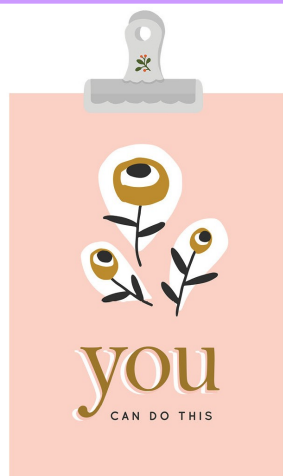
## WEEK THREE PRACTICE

Do you ever look around the world and feel angry? Anger is an important emotion, and can often call our attention to injustice. Do you ever look around the world and feel blessed? As a family, make two pairs of homemade goggles (or just decorate old sunglasses) and take turns putting them on to "see" both injustices and blessings alike.

## WEEK THREE PRACTICE

### THINGS TO REMEMBER THIS LENT:

- It's okay to make mistakes
- It's okay to have bad days
- It's okay start again
- It's okay to be awesome



## WEEK THREE PRACTICE

### "DIG DEEPER" TEA CEREMONY QUESTIONS:

Make a pot of tea, invite your beloveds to sit at a table or on the floor in a circle, and ask everyone these questions:

- If you could change one thing in the world, what would you change?
- What's the biggest way you've changed over the years?
- The disciples remembered and believed in Jesus' teachings all the more after his death and resurrection. Have you ever lost someone you loved? If so, what's one thing you remember them telling you before they died?