

From Father Nik

Jesus said: To what shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another: 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon.' The Son of Man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.

~Luke 7:31-35

Speaking to the crowd, Jesus reflects on the response of this generation to John the Baptist and to himself. 'This generation,' refers to what other books of scripture often call, 'the world.' These are the people and institutions under the reign and sway of the fallen powers and principalities. These are the people so bound to and blinded by sin that they resist the love and will God. In their sin, they say to John, "We piped to you, but you would not dance!" Still, they aren't utterly lost since God has given the Law. But the Law can only reveal the power of sin by highlighting transgressions, so they say to Jesus, "We wailed, but you did not weep!" This generation judges John's asceticism as demon possession and Jesus' conviviality as immorality.

This generation, Jesus says, are like children playing a no-win game and yelling at one another for not playing right. But wisdom, on the other hand, is justified by her children. That is, the righteousness of wisdom is testified to by those who are counted as children of wisdom. "Where is the one who is wise?" asks St Paul. It is Christ who is the wisdom of God (1 Cor 1:20-24). Jesus Christ is divine wisdom made flesh and dwelling among us. The children of wisdom are those who have received the spirit of adoption in Christ (Galatians 4:4-7, Romans 8:15). So, St Augustine, citing a verse from his Latin translation of Sirach, says: If you ask to whom Jesus refers in Luke 7:35, read what is written, "The children of wisdom are the congregation of the just"—those who are justified in Christ. The least in the Kingdom of God (Lk 7:28), therefore, are the children of wisdom.

Who are we? Are we the children of this generation, sitting in sin and yelling judgment at one another, so that we even hold Christ in contempt? Or are we the children of wisdom, whose lives and proclamation testify to the justification we've received from Jesus? In truth, we are both insofar as we are in the world and in Christ at the same time. In this way, we are no different than the apostles and disciples. Like them, we are the least in the Kingdom of God, for God has chosen what is foolish in the world, to confound the wise; what is weak in the world, to shame the strong (1 Cor 1:27).

Nik+

Spring Clean-Up Day

Saturday, May 21st – 10am-2pm

Bring your tools and elbow grease. Lunch will be provided
Look for the sign-up sheet on in the narthex of the church.

Learn about St. Augustine

A small group of parishioners from Fork & SJtL are meeting at 10am every other Thursday at St. James the Less to listen to and discuss the Teaching Company Course, “Augustine: Philosopher & Saint” by Phillip Cary.

If you are interested in joining the discussion, they will meet again at 10am on Thursday, May 19.

Coffee Hour

One of our most important ministries at Fork Church is the ministry of Hospitality and Fellowship exemplified in our Coffee Hour/Lemonade-on-the-Lawn.

Please consider volunteering for a Sunday.

It doesn't need to be elaborate:

just a small snack or two, coffee, & lemonade

Thanks to Emily Dickson & Paul Jalbert for this morning's refreshments!

Continuing Education

Father Nik will attend a Lutheran-Episcopal Conference on Liturgy at Shrine Mont Monday, May 16 – Wednesday, May 18.

Reminder from the Vestry

The loose offering collected on the first Sunday of every month goes to the Rector's discretionary fund, by which he helps those in our community in need.

Christian Education

Godly Play Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of our Sunday morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

J2A Youth Group will meet this Sunday, May 15 at 5pm in the Parish House.

The Adult Sunday School meets Sunday mornings at 9am in the parish hall to study the Gospel according to Luke.

Small Groups

The Women's Book Group will meet next on Thursday, May 26, at 10am to discuss chapters 9 & 10 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press). Please contact Kathy for directions: boysthree@embarqmail.com

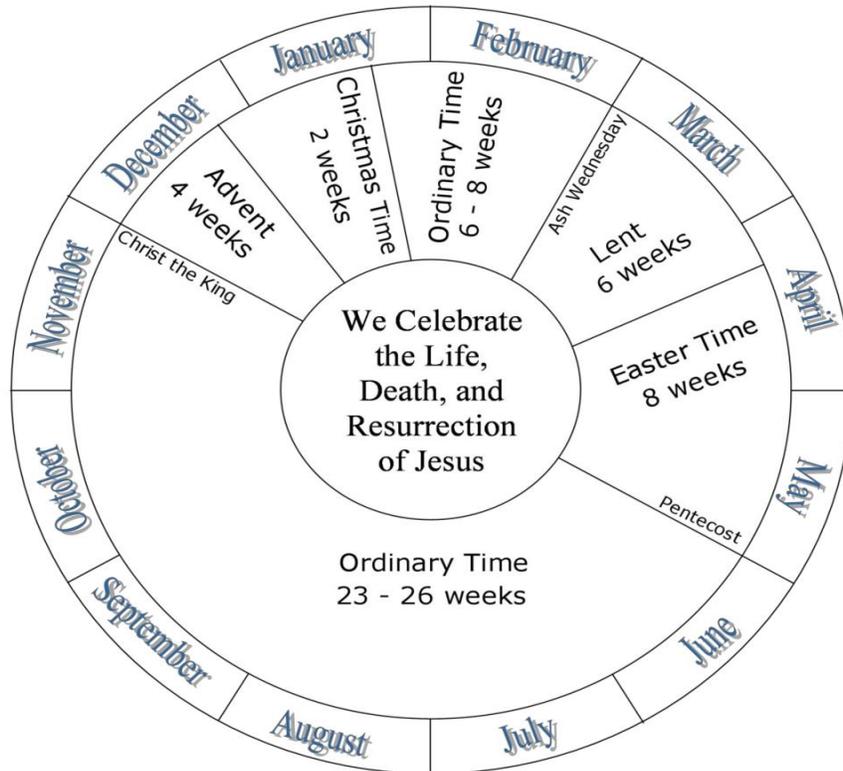
The Men's Book Group will meet Thursday, May 26, at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss chapters 8-10 of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Discipleship* (Reader's Edition – Fortress Press).

Christian Formation

If you have never been Baptized or Confirmed, and are interested in receiving these sacraments, please contact Fr Nik – KnicholasForti@gmail.com

These classes are also for those considering Reaffirming their Baptismal Covenant.

The Liturgical Year



Nik's Calendar

- Monday, May 16 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr. Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
- Mon, May 16-Wed, May 18 – Episcopal-Lutheran Liturgy Conference at Shrine Mont
- Thursday, May 19 – Play “Luther on Trial” - 7pm
- Friday, May 20 – Dinner with parishioner, 6pm
- Monday, May 23 – Coffee with the Rev'd Dr. Ed Bushong, 10:30am-12:30pm
 - Lunch with Dr. David Holmes, Charlottesville, noon
 - Peter Paul Development Center Chapel, 5:30-6:30pm
- Thursday, May 25 – Cluster meeting, Church of Our Savior, 11:30am
- Thursday, May 26 – Region XI meeting, 6:30pm

Looking Ahead

- Thursday, May 19 – “Augustine: Philosopher & Saint” Discussion @ SJtL, Ashland, 10am
- Sunday, May 22 – Trinity Sunday
- Tuesday, May 24 – Vestry Meeting, 7pm
- Thursday, May 26 – Men's Book Group, 7:30-8:30am
 - Women's Book Group, 10am-noon
- Monday, May 30 – MEMORIAL DAY

Office hours: Jacquie Alleva, our office administrator, works Tuesdays, Thursday afternoons, and Fridays. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.