

The Real Jesus

"The people were divided about Jesus." (John 7:43)

Some things never change. One could almost argue that this is a contradiction. As one looks over the course of time, many changes have taken place. Change also seems to take place more and more rapidly. Some say it is because a person gets older. Some conclude it is just the way things are. Most tend to agree on one point. Too much change isn't a good thing.

It seems nothing is untouched by change, even perceptions about Jesus. Just talk to someone about him, or listen to their conversations.

Opinions will vary and these will reveal a number of changes that have taken place. It seems as if people are not content until they change Jesus into something of their own liking.

There is a great danger in this kind of thinking. When I change Jesus into something I want, he no longer remains what I really need. This is where I need to strip away my illusions, my perceptions, and my personal interpretations, and I need to focus on the real Jesus.

Jesus is the one whom God the Father promised to send. He is the Christ, the one set apart to obediently accomplish the Father's will. He is the Savior, the one who removes the curse of sin's condemnation. He is the Redeemer, the one who pays the price to secure freedom from Satan's domination. He is the Good Shepherd, the one who knows his sheep and personally cares for them.

The real Jesus is the one I desperately need. I need an obedient Christ because of my lack of obedience. I need a powerful Savior because I am powerless. I need a faithful Redeemer because I am spiritually bankrupt. I need a loving Shepherd because I am lost and straying. I need Jesus to be the very one God the Father sent for me.

In a time of rapid and non-stop change, it is good to know one thing will never change. It is the love and faithfulness of my Savior, the real Jesus.



Prayer: O dearest heavenly Father, thank you for seeing my great need and providing a great Savior. Thank you for revealing Jesus to me as that Savior, and bringing me into his never-ending and never-changing love. Amen!

Devotion from www.WhatAboutJesus.com

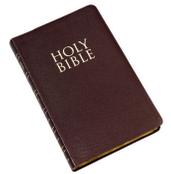
Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting, at which a preliminary ministry plan and budget for 2012 will be discussed, will be held Sunday, January 29, at 11:45 a.m. All are encouraged to attend. Those with questions may speak to any member of the church council (Mark Kreklow, Dale Manzel, Billy Miller, Dan Woltman).

Bible Study on Bible Translation

If you shop online or walk into a Christian bookstore, you will find dozens of different English translations of the Bible. Why are there so many? Which should you buy? Which is accurate and reliable? Is there a perfect translation?

These questions become even more important now, as the translation we usually use (NIV) is no longer being published.



Join us, as we discuss these questions from a biblical perspective Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

What's In A Name?

The amazing names by which God calls himself in Scripture reveal God's amazing grace!

We invite you to be a part of a special online study of four of those names led by Mark Zaring, President of Martin Luther College. Join us Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. or 8:30 p.m.

Jan.25 - God Almighty (Genesis 17)

Feb.1 - The Eternal God (Genesis 21)

Feb.8 - The LORD Provides (Genesis 22)

Click on "[What's In A Name?](#)" on our website to download lesson materials and join in the live web stream.

Men of His Word Conference

Men, be empowered and equipped to carry out your God-given mission in your homes, church, communities, and world at the 2012 Men of His Word Conference on Saturday, February 11, in Oshkosh, WI. Details at www.menofhisword.org.

Women's Retreats

Women, consider attending one of the upcoming faith- and relationship-building retreats:

- Pathways to Christ Retreat – March 9-11 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin; Details at pathways.martinlutheroshkosh.com
- Today's Christian Woman Retreat – March 16-18 in Pontiac, Michigan; Details at www.tcwr.org
- Christian Woman Today Retreat – March 23-25 in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; Details at ChristianWomanToday.org.

Discounted Books for Sale

NPH Christian Books and Gifts is having their annual Stock-Up Sale, offering many books at 30-60% off. By combining orders, we are able to save or eliminate shipping costs.

Highlights include:

- This We Believe: Questions & Answers – \$12.25
- Prepared to Answer – \$11.55
- Genesis (People's Bible) – \$13.99
- The Theology of the Cross – \$13.65

A complete list of available books and an order form are available on our website or in the church entryway. Also consider purchasing and donating books from our church library's wish list. All orders must be received by February 8.

Serve the Lord with Gladness!

Volunteers are needed to assist with several tasks around church. Many of the tasks require only a few hours every week or month, and some can even be done from your home.

For more information, please contact Pastor Wagner.

Weekly Mission Prayer

European chaplaincy – Father in heaven, continue to give Pastor Joshua Martin the strength to carry out his busy chaplain ministry in England, Germany, and France, where he serves members stationed and working in Europe. Also give success to his and his Christian volunteers' efforts to reach out with the gospel to the people of Frankfurt. Give him and those he serves the assurance of the power of the Word in their lives and ministry. Amen.



This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Jan 25—Dale & Gwynn Manzel (37 years)
- Jan 27—Gwynn Manzel

Serving the Lord Today

- Ushers (8:00): Jeff Bruemmer, Jared Bruemmer
- Ushers (10:30): Dan Woltman, Dan Schoenbeck, Rosie Schoenbeck
- Accompanist: Elisabeth Wagner
- Refreshments: Wagner Family, Werda Family

Serving the Lord Next Week (Jan. 23-29)

- Church Cleaning: Schoenbeck & Bernthal Families
- Ushers (8:00): Jeff Bruemmer, Jared Bruemmer
- Ushers (10:30): Dan Woltman, Dan Schoenbeck, Rosie Schoenbeck
- Accompanist: Dave Frick
- Refreshments: Ruth Kline, Jones Family

Give Thanks to the Lord!

- Worship Attendance: 55 (21 – 8:00; 34 – 10:30)
- Sunday Bible Study: 12
- Sunday School: 13
- Other Bible Studies (3): 13