

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

November 20, 2024

Association Minister Message

Rev. Daniel L. Busch

TRUTH. This Sunday, November 24, is noted as the end of the church calendar year that leads to beginning of the season of Advent in preparation for the Birth of Jesus. It is designated as “*Reign of Christ Sunday*” that declares the sovereignty of Christ in the world. Just before His death, King Pilate had issues with Jesus’ authority, and he has Jesus come before him for questioning to determine Jesus’ fate. Pilate had tremendous political and military power that he at times used violently. His armies were used to prevent any uprising from nations Pilate subjugated and terrorized. Accusations were made against Jesus by both the religious and political entities that Jesus was leading a movement to overthrow the Romans. Pilate was hesitant to determine Jesus’ fate and seemed to understand charges against Jesus were false. Pilate asks Jesus, “‘*Are you king of the Jews?*’ Jesus answered, “‘*Do you say this on our own or have others spoken to you about me?*’” (*John 18:33-34*). To this Pilate responded and blamed others for this trial, twisting the *TRUTH* of law and not listening to the *TRUTH* about Jesus.

We live in a time when *TRUTH* is twisted, neglected, and rejected for personal advantage to be in charge. *TRUTH*, when abandoned, results in segments of society who can no longer defend themselves. As we analyze the recent election, political ambitions of candidates were prone to make a mockery of *TRUTH* to improve their electability. It seems easier to lie than to be *TRUTHFUL*. Lies benefit a select few; *TRUTH* embraces all.

Our faith reminds us to love our neighbors as ourselves and embrace the words of the prophet Micah to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God. Exclusion exhibits fear; welcome promotes love. *TRUTH-telling* can be inconvenient, dangerous, and unpopular. Christ the King shows us the *TRUTH* of peace, justice, compassion, and unconditional love. Jesus is *TRUTH* incarnate, and injustice does not have the last word. *TRUTH* embraces resurrection and reminds us that God is forever making all things new. Jesus’ *TRUTH* is a lifestyle of integrity and no regrets. *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*