LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH GARNER, NC 1/27/19

Jesus drops a bombshell

In the name…

Let us pray

All three of the gospels report of Jesus’ teaching at the synagogue in His hometown.. We are told He went to synagogue as was His practice on the sab bath. Luke has three important differences in how he tells about Jesus’ time in the synagogue. First, it happens early on in Luke right after His temptation. It is only after he confronts and overcomes temptation that he feels prepared to begin His ministry. Secondly , after His temptation, He is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. It is slightly later in the gospel of Mark, and after even some healings in Matthew. In Luke it is with the power of the Holy Spirit that he enters the synagogue and teaches. Before this text in verse 14 He returned to Galilee with the Power of the Holy Spirit. And as He begins His reading of Isaiah, “The Lord’s Spirit has come to Me.” This acknowledges also for us that the Work of God must be anchored in God’s presence with us God’s workers. Thirdly, Luke is the only gospel that tells what Jesus actually taught. The words from Isaiah are included in the text. Using Isaiah Jesus taught that the Messiah will be the One Who will liberate prisoners, give sight to blind, free people from suffering. The people He was reading to and us must have thought, “That sounds great” He knows of the long awaited messiah and we sure need Him now. Then He drops the bombshell “This has now been fulfilled in your hearing.” Meaning He is right here with you.

This is the Lord’s Magna Carta. He is the One sent to bring good news to the poor, liberty captives, sight to the blind, and release to the captives. He is the One to bring Justice, He is the One who will announce the year of the Lord. He is also described as one Who kept the Sabbath as usual. Throw a bombshell and make a renewed commitment to keep the Sabbath.

Let’s think of every year as the Year of the Lord and wonder as God’s people how we can be the bringers of good news to the poor, heal and bring liberation to the captives and the prisoners. Bring a bombshell to me. I had mentioned to the council that the bus needed tires, and the Watkins got them for us for 20 percent less than my quote.

In two months time we will be having a pine straw sale and I have already talked to sub-senior citizen men who said they would help.

I heard some talk about some ladies wanting to get together for bible study. If that is the case make sure all know of at that opportunity. We have opportunities Sunday mornings for either bible study or adult discussion groups which can be taken advantage of.

We have less adults it seems willing to be assisting minister or ushering, or acolyting. None of these are the domain of a “select group” throw in a bombshell and put your name down . Most importantly, let’s have an attitude adjustment. When Ruth Bader Ginsburg hears an appellate court judge say the word women is not found in the constitution, she bombshells him right back and says, neither is “freedom”. We will talk of this more in our leadership meeting, but when asked to describe Lord of Life let us use our mission statement from the bulletin that we are a congregation of all ages and backgrounds that share god’s love with all.

Even after Jesus said Scripture was fulfilled the day He read Isaiah in the synagogue, the people were not ready to throw Him off the cliff. They were wanting to do that after He told of the prophet Elijah who went to a non-Jewish woman in a famine, when He told of Elisha cleansing the Syrian Naaman. They wanted to throw Him off the cliff when He went out of the Jewish box speaking of God’s and His prophets relationships to non-Jews.

In the parish committee meeting it was mentioned perhaps people could look to see who might live close and check in. Reach out to those you know or have not seen recently. Reach out to people in need. Reach outside the box, and we won’t throw you over a cliff.

In the name….