

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
February 10, 2021

"A LASTING LEGACY!"

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:20-21

Today is a very significant day in our household. I'm not going to tell you that it's Kay's birthday today, because that's not the direction that this message is supposed to take. It's that in this significant event (Kay's birthday, which I don't plan to make a BIG deal of here) there is a reminder that life in this world is not forever. It's transient. We all get steadily older and one day all of us will leave this life for our eternal, forever, destiny. "I'm but a stranger here. Heaven is my home." We sing that hymn from time to time. *Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Philippians 3:20) There's an old saying; "You can't take it with you." Which comes from a 1938 movie by the same title. Some of us are old enough that we might just have been able to see that film in its first run in theatres. That statement, "You can't take it with you" is not entirely true. There are things that we can and do take from this life into the next...into eternity...and those include our faith and hope, along with our soul and spirit, those things that truly make us who we are. All the worldly stuff... money, homes, cars, clothes, trophies we've won, and much much more...that all stays here when we leave, left to someone else. Listen to what King Solomon, very likely the richest man that ever lived according to today's dollars, had to say about that (Actually it's God speaking here through Solomon). *"I have seen another evil under the sun, and it weighs heavily on mankind: God gives some people wealth, possessions and honor, so that they lack nothing their hearts desire, but God does not grant them the ability to enjoy them, and strangers enjoy them instead. This is meaningless, a grievous evil."* (Ecclesiastes 6:1-2). As the years tick by we begin to think more and more about what we'll leave behind, our legacy for the future, especially in relation to our families. A legacy can be "tangible", made up of money and property, stuff, and it can also be "intangible"; mental, emotional, and spiritual...the wisdom and peace that we model to others in life. I believe that those things, the intangibles, have a much greater impact on the generations that follow us than the "stuff" that we might pass down to them. In my dozen years of ministry, and even in times before, I've heard friends, brothers and sisters in Christ, sadly say that their children and grandchildren have grown up and drifted away from the faith that had been modeled to them. They fear greatly for the eternal salvation of their descendants. That's really hard for us to understand and even harder to deal with. We've brought our children up in the presence of Jesus, but yet as they have grown into adulthood, they don't retain that eternal connection, that saving faith, at least it appears that way to us. We try to speak to them, gently, about how important faith is in our lives and our need of salvation in Jesus, but it seems as if they just tune us out. They've heard it so many times before. I pray that God will send someone else into their lives, someone who will model and speak to them a living faith in Jesus, someone that they will listen to since it's not coming from the usual sources. Maybe, just maybe, the legacy that someone we don't even know will lead to the influence that God the Holy Spirit will use to breakthrough to our children and grandchildren and reignite that flame of faith. Here at Trinity Lutheran Church we have a tremendous opportunity that the Lord has placed before us to build something not only for ourselves, but as a legacy for those who will come after us, whether that be our children and grandchildren that we know, or those that we won't meet this side of heaven. We are undergoing...it started over 5 years ago...a Church building process that is not centered on a structure that will rise on the land next to our current church space, but on the souls and lives of those who will be blessed eternally in Jesus by it. I believe that there is no greater legacy that we can leave behind as we're called home to heaven than to do what we can to ensure that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in this place and that His Sacraments continued to be administered. We have an opportunity not to build a monument for and to ourselves, but to build a Church that God uses to bring more and more people into His Kingdom.

Let's leave the most valuable legacy that we can, that of a Church from which the Gospel is heard, loud and clear!