

Be Reconciled to God and to One Another

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19 NIV)

I have spent just ten months among you in Horicon. During this time much learning has been done. It has been learning on my part and your part. While there has been much learning, something has remained constant. That one constant thing is the message of reconciliation. That message has been with us for quite some time.

God has granted the message of reconciliation to the church. It is a message that has life and meaning for us. It has life and meaning as we consider what Christ has done for us.

Christ has abolished the dividing wall between God and us. Sin destroyed the relationship of trust between God and humanity. The result of sin is a huge wall of separation between God and humanity. We pushed God away because of not wanting confrontation with His holiness, but God did not push us away. God kept coming to us. He kept coming with the promise of abolishing the dividing wall. That abolishment happened once and for all with God sending His Son, Jesus, into the world. No longer are we separated; the wall has been destroyed. With this wall destroyed, Christ has given a mission to His church.

That mission is to spread the message of reconciliation. It is a message that Christ Himself has given the church. It is a message that I have shared with you over these past months. This has been the mission of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church for a long time. This mission that will carry St. Stephen's Lutheran Church into the future. My prayer is for you, the members of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, to carry this message in your hearts, minds, and bodies to the people here in Horicon.

The Lord has reconciled you to Himself in Christ Jesus. This is marvelous in our eyes. Continue to be the beacon of hope for the people of Horicon! God bless you!

Pastor Wilkens