

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 one year among you here 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 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 for the last time 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 this past year. This has been the mission of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, School and Child Care since 1858. The mission will carry this congregation into the future. My prayer is for you, the members, to carry this message in your hearts, minds, and bodies to the people here in Horicon and to the world.

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