

Dear Families:

Happy Christ the King Sunday- the final Sunday of the church year! On this special day, we remember that Jesus is STILL King, even though he is not a physical presence. We also celebrate the fact that He IS returning to us! Today we read the part of Matthew's Gospel that tells of a conversation Jesus had with His disciples before He was crucified. He assures them that He will return, and when he does it will be as absolute King. He will be like a shepherd and separate people into two groups, like a shepherd separates sheep and goats. To the group on his right, He will bid them welcome into His kingdom. The group on the left will be cast into the fire. The group on the right gets to be with Jesus because they helped Him when He was needy; the group on the left did not. There will be confusion; we didn't see you, Jesus. When did you need help? Jesus says that when we help those who are the least of us, we help Him. Make sure YOU are on the right hand of God! Worship Him. Acknowledge that He is coming back for you. Be His hands and feet. Work for God and God alone. Then He will say to you, "well done, good and faithful servant!"

What a great reason to participate in our Advent Challenges! We issued our first challenge this week- to benefit Literacy of Love! Talk about "the least of us;" this charity takes in destitute and homeless children in Uganda, clothes them, feeds them, educates them, and provides them with medical care. Many of these children are malnourished and HIV positive. Ms. Matejka does miracles with her organization- please support her! There are several ways to do so! One way is to bring in your bottle slips for Tops or Reid's Food Barn. All money collected will be donated to LOL. You can also bring in a cash donation to church next Sunday. Finally, you can support by donating online during Giving Tuesday. If you are able to contribute this way, many donations will be matched, increasing the good you can do! Please help support our first Advent Challenge!

We also continued preparations for our Christmas play. Our performance will be during morning worship on Christmas Eve- Sunday, December 24. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Carol McClellan, CE Director