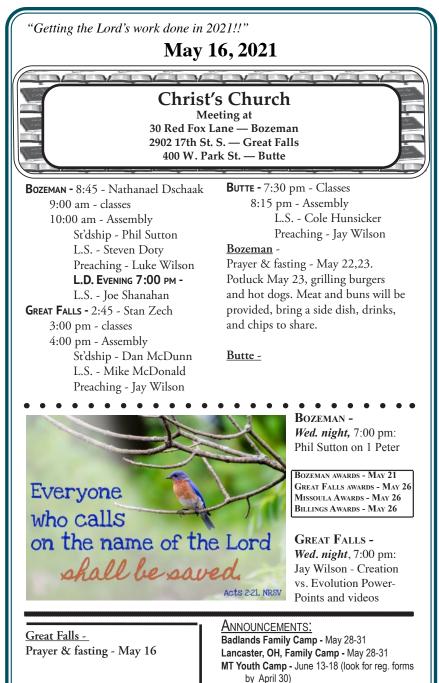
God will send forth His lovingkindness and His truth

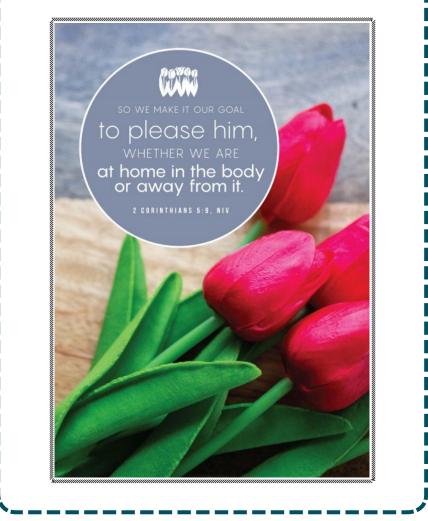


The young people who participated in the 2021 Bible Bowl Christ's Church Bozeman, MT

"They said therefore to the blind man again, 'What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?' And he said, 'He is a prophet.' " John 9:17



Men's PEAKS - July 22-24, 2021 2021 Family Camp - Sept. 3-6



Question of the week:

When Jesus spoke of the Lord's Supper in the gospel according to John in terms of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He spoke of something "on the last day." What was it?

Last week's question: Who was the last to hold the office of judge in Israel, the first to hold the office of prophet, and the first to anoint a king for the nation? *Answer: Samuel (I Samuel 3:20; 7:6; 10:1)*.

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 97	Wednesday Night (5/12) — 78
Morning Assembly – 123	Butte Lord's Day — 18
Evening Assembly – 62	GF Lord's Day – 55,86, Wed 53



The Word to Samaria and Africa

The church in Jerusalem was moving along. The number of disciples was increasing; attendance was up; and the offerings coming in were of record proportions. Then the Lord decided to wreck the church in Jerusalem. As far as mankind could tell, attendance went way down; offerings were off; things were disorganized. But it was the church in Jerusalem's finest hour; so much so that Gentile congregations would later be compared to Jerusalem at this time. "For you, brethren," said the apostle Paul to the church of God in Thessalonica, "became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus that are in Judea, for you also endured the same sufferings

at the hand of your own countrymen, even as they did from the Jews, who both killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out" (I Thessalonians 2:14,15).

Acts Alive ...

With the death of Stephen, "a great persecution arose against the church in Jerusalem and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles ... Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word" (Acts 8:1,4). It was the church in Jerusalem's finest hour, because they responded to persecution by spreading the word!

And spread it they did—Judea and Samaria were filled with the teaching of the resurrected Lord Jesus. In Acts 8, two examples of the spread of God's word are given. The first is the word to Samaria, and the second is the word to an important man of Ethiopia in Africa.

The word to Samaria: Stephen was the first of the seven men set aside to minister to the physical needs of the widows of the church in Jerusalem. He immediately began preaching the word with power, and was the first Christian to die for the faith. The second man mentioned in Acts 6 was Philip, later known as Philip the evangelist. Philip was among the ranks of those who were scattered, and he went down to the city of Samaria to preach the word. The Samari-

tans were not considered to be true Hebrews by the Jews because of their mixture with Gentiles beginning in the 8th century B.C.; neither were they considered Gentiles because their roots were in Israel. As Philip preached the word and confirmed the word with the signs which accompanied his preaching, many believed and were immersed in the name of Jesus. But the church was not sure what the response of the Lord would be. So they sent Peter and John down from Jerusalem to lay hands on them to see if the Lord would confirm their acceptance. When the apostles laid hands upon them, sure enough, visible gifts or manifestations

This was God's inexorable plan, to have His word spread

of Holy Spirit fell upon them, the Lord confirmed their acceptance as children of God, and the congregation at Samaria had a teaching/preaching base to continue the work of the Lord. The word into Africa: The dark continent had Jewish communities also. By 200 B.C., more than 250,000 Jews were in the city of Alexandria, Egypt, alone. But the Jews were even further spread than that—thousands of miles deeper into the continent, in Ethiopia, Jews lived and influenced their surroundings. One such man was the treasurer of the Queen of Ethio-pia. A devout man, this high-ranking official went to Jerusalem to worship at the temple. As the Ethiopian was returning home in his chariot, with thousands of miles to go, Philip once again proves the man with the message. Coming out of the bush by the directive of the Lord, he climbed up into this man's chariot and preached the word of the Lord to him, beginning with Isaiah 53. The Ethiopian eunuch believed, confessed his belief that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God," was immersed into Christ, and went on his way rejoicing! Thus the word went into Africa!

God was moving in His inexorable plan to have the word spread-first in Jerusalem, then in Judea and Samaria, and finally to the remotest parts of the earth. Let's join with the Almighty and do our strong part to continue that same mission today!

JAY WILSON