

CHILD OF GOD

WEEKLY E-NEWS

JANUARY 18, 2024

Week at a Glance

Sunday
January 21, 2024

8 am Worship

10 am Worship

9 am Sunday School
and Bible Study

Women's Bible Study
Jan. 24 6:30 pm

Men's Bible Study
Jan. 24 6:30 pm



Child of God:
A Making and
Shaping Community

Jonah, The World's Worst but Most Effective Missionary

1 Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, 2 "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." 3 So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" 5 And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Jonah 3

Jonah, is the best known worst prophet and missionary. That is why we like him so much. Okay, that's probably not why we like him. We like him because of his fishy story. I don't know why we like that part of the story. Kids do because it is amazing and fun(!?). But It is actually intimidating and scary.

We could debate whether he lived in the belly of a fish for three days or died and was resurrected. Which either way is not on my top 10 list of things to do. Nor is what God asked him to do, and that is to go to the cruel and pagan worshipping people of Nineveh and tell them to repent or die. But there is some compelling lines of thought that come with the later.

In the end, maybe I appreciate Jonah because he is reluctant to go to Nineveh because he thinks it is bad idea and does not have a death wish. Something, I think most of us would have decided against after making a pro and con list. So God kills him and raises him up to convince him to go (at least that is the way I see it). If you died once, why not die again or be convinced that God has power over life and death.

The other biblical reason I suggest that Jonah dies and is raised from the dead is what Jesus says in Matthew 12: 39 *But he answered them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. 41 The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.* If Jesus was dead in the belly of the earth and resurrected three days later, then it could also be that Jonah was dead in the belly of a fish a raised three days later too.

The message and the method of Jonah is the same as Jesus. He called for people to repent and died and rose again because of God's mercy. Jesus message was call to repentance and He died and rose again according to God's mercy.

Like Jonah, Jesus message was brought to a hostile people but in the end it has become the most effective message of hope for those who believe it. There are many differences between Jonah and Jesus but the one that is the biggest is that Jonah was an unwilling prophet and Jesus was a willing prophet. He delivered the message to a lost and condemned people and willingly died for them.

Something greater than Jonah is here!

Pastor Gorline

MEN'S BREAKFAST and BIBLE STUDY: Jan 27th 8:30 am, 244 Montecito Terrace, 63304. Contact Pastor Gorline for more information or if you would like to bring something. jgorline@coglcs.com.

REPORT from CONGREGATIONAL MEETING A nomination committee and policy writing team has been formed and will be seeking nominations for Board Positions of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. If you would like to nominate someone or know someone who might be a good candidate please contact Pam Ludlum (churchoffice@coglcs.com) or Brandi Hallemeier (BHallemeier@coglcs.com). Nominations for Board of Directors are: Josh Swartz, Dan Riordan, Garrett Hallemeier, Loni Ukman

LEEF (Lutheran Education Endowment Fund) established in 2023, Child of God Lutheran School endowment available for Child of God students. The fund has been established to award tuition support for qualifying families who could otherwise not afford a Christian education and will sponsor new students as it increases. For more information or interested in contributing please contact Heather Richter by calling the office or email(buisnessoffice@coglcs.com) .

MO SCHOLARS: Lutheran School Scholarship Program: As we enter the end of the calendar year, now is the ideal time to participate in the MO Scholars program. If you have questions, please contact Leah at 314-590-6211 or visit mo.lcms.org/mo-scholars for information on how to participate. Support Lutheran education at COG.

Women's Bible Study: 6:30 to 7:30 in Room 125. The study will be: Measured by Grace: How God defines Success (By Sharla Fritz). This study discovers how God transformed 6 people in the Bible for His plan and their good. The cost of the book is \$15 (payable to Pamela Wenger). If you have any questions, or are interested in attending, please contact Pamela Wenger at thewengerfamily@aol.com or at her cell number (636)219-2152.

Men's Bible Study: 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the church office The study will be: I See Satan Fall Like Lightning (by Rene' Girard). It is a seminal work on the astonishing power of the gospel by one of the most original thinkers of our time.



GREAT SONGWRITERS OF CHRISTIANITY

If you were to tune in to JoyFM or any contemporary Christian streaming channel, you would hear the music of Phil Wickham. Born in 1984, he was born and raised into a religious family in California. His parents, both musicians, encouraged him to pursue a music career. At age 13, he was leading youth worship in his church and recorded his first independent album at age 18. Wickham's first album recorded under a major label was based on writings of CS Lewis with the idea that "the universe is exploding with the glory of God, and we are compelled to join in with its song."

Wickham has collaborated with a number of contemporary artists over the years including Chris Tomlin, MercyMe, Hillsong and Matt Redman. He's been nominated numerous times for GMA Dove awards and won Song of the Year for "This is Amazing Grace" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjXjkbODrro>). Wickham continues to tour around the United States along with his wife and 4 children.

To date, Wickham has released 10 albums. His songs continue to rank in the top 100 of Christian music charts. Songs including "Living Hope" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifFovH-dhHw>), "The Battle Belongs to You" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=johgSkNj3-A>), and "Hymn of Heaven" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_baJyIQp_w), lend themselves well to congregational singing and contain lyrics that point us to the true God who, through his death and resurrection, makes beauty from ashes and prepares a beautiful place for us in heaven. May we be bold to join in song to be a part of the universe exploding with the glory of God!

<https://www.allmusic.com/artist/phil-wickham-mn0000340006>
https://www.newreleasetoday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=199

All for HIM,
Stephanie McSwain