



The Bridge

January 8, 2021



Inspiring Thoughts by Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director

**- My words- Your words - Words matter -
How to find wisdom within the inflamed information
culture**

First things first: I am wishing you all a happy, healthy and blessed New Year!

I returned healthy from my trip to Germany to see my family and was blessed with a lot of intimate family time since Germany has been and still is in Covid lockdown.

It was healing to sit on mom and dad's sofa by a burning fire to just talk, eat and be. For days on end :-)

I am now back in the office and available whenever you need me. I am aware we are in an interim state of waiting for Pastor June to arrive.

Thank God we have such a wonderful congregation! I see many of our members pulling together to get our ministries going.

Like I said in my last article before the New Year. We are a wonderful, eager, positive, understanding, loving, giving bunch of people!

Living in such challenging times is hard for all of us. We all have our fears, hurts and hopes.

I would like to keep encouraging you to stay connected to your faith community. Get involved in Sunday's online worship and/or Wednesday's CONNECTED (starting back up next week on 01/13/2021 via Zoom).

If you need to have a deeper spiritual talk, call me, email me or meet me in the office (call ahead to make sure I am available).

For our mental, emotional and spiritual health it is essential to keep engaging with the spiritual realm of our lives. Do not allow to let hurt, disappointments and grief to fester!

Lay it all at the feet of Jesus! Pray about it! Talk about it!

And join us in the good works we do for all people and for this island! It still is and always will be "God's work and our hands"; the church deployed!

I know we all are pained by the division, hate, and vitriol our country is experiencing

and the shocking incident at the Capitol on January 6.

Just today (Thursday, Jan 7) I came across a great article by Carey Nieuwhof, in the widest sense a “church leadership coach”. Many of us in church leadership follow his writings.

I’d like to share his wisdom with you all! It spoke to me! We all are far from being perfect. Especially under stress and duress.

Carey addresses “leaders”, and yes, words used by leaders weigh so much more, but honestly, words always matter!

This article should speak to all of us! One word from one person to another can either tear down or build up. Words are powerful!

This is a shortened version. Find the whole, unedited article here: [Carey Nieuwhof](#)

By Carey Nieuwhof

Leaders, your words matter. More than you think.

No matter how many or how few followers you have as a leader, your words matter. A lot. Like many of you, I was horrified watching the historic and ugly assault on the US Capitol yesterday.

After watching Congress return to the floor and waking up again this morning (January 7th), I was left reflecting on so many things and felt so many emotions.

Yesterday’s events, and the long run up to it, have left me thinking about the power of words and leadership.

You and I have watched people get angrier and angrier over the last five years. I, and many others, have written about the damaging impact of **tribalization**, **polarization** and the **hate** that passes for so much of social media, public discourse and even the comments on social media and on sites like this.

It’s deeply alarming to me. It’s been devastating to see us devolve to this level as a culture.

It horrifies me even more that the church has descended into a lot of the hatred, vitriol and division that has come to plague our culture.

Especially in a season like this, the culture needs an alternative to itself, not an echo of itself.

In the hours after the assault on the Capitol, I was talking to a much younger friend. He’s 22.

I sensed that he saw the events of January 6th as less shocking than I did. As almost resigned to them. Or, that they were somehow normal...like some video game that just happened to play out in real life.

And then I remembered that this is how much public and private discourse has been over his lifetime. It saddened me greatly.

I assured him, being three decades older than he was, that this was not the way humans always interact. And it shouldn’t be how we interact moving forward.

Which brings me to words. My words. Your words. And the power of words we wield as leaders, even for the vast majority of us who are private citizens.

1 Words Create Worlds

I like to think of myself as just one voice among many, but as soon as I occupied a position of leadership, that changed. Suddenly, your words weigh 800 pounds, even if you don’t want them to.

They weigh 800 pounds in your organization or church, and every time you post on social. It’s so easy to forget that people are watching, listening and taking cues.

People look to you not just for direction but for tone and influence.

Your tone shapes theirs.

The way you speak and think as a leader is the way your followers learn to speak and think. That’s a very big weight.

This is true personally, too. Words I’ve spoken helped tear down my marriage, until I decided to use words to help heal it.

Words can destroy a relationship. Apologies can restore them.

None of this should shock us.

The Christian scriptures tell us the universe began with a word. God spoke, and it came into being.

Biblically, blessing and cursing are shown to have power. Just ask Isaac, Esau and Jacob whether words once spoken change futures.

You and I have the power to bless, to curse and to shape the lives of the people we lead.

The question becomes then, leaders, what kind of world are you creating with the words you're speaking?

2 Neutral Words Really Aren't A Thing

The longer I lead, the more I realize there are no neutral words in leadership.

Everything shapes something.

It's easy to think you're being neutral. You're not neutral.

You're either

speaking life or speaking death

healing or harming

helping or getting in the way

3 Practical Things You Can Do About Your Words

When it comes to the churches and organizations you lead and the online space you occupy, here are a few things to remember that have helped me.

1. Ask What Your Words Will Do Before You Speak Them

Two quick things...one that happened a millennia ago and another in the last decade.

According to the biblical account, when Adam and Eve ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they actually received knowledge. Their eyes were opened.

Here's the problem though. Having the knowledge of God without the wisdom of God is a trap. You suddenly know things you don't have the power to properly address or solve. It explains so much of human history.

Fast forward to the last decade, when all of a sudden billions of us have access to information and knowledge at a level never known to humanity, and yet lack the wisdom to know what to do with it.

The algorithms used by social media outlets and search engines **further inflame your echo chamber** to align you with voices who agree with you and are more extreme than you, and actively work against your ability to think freely and independently.

All of a sudden you have all this information you don't exactly know what to do with and a keyboard sitting right in front of you.

How do you find wisdom in the midst of the insanity that is public dialogue today?

Before you speak, ask how it helps.

Ask how it heals.

Ask what it will help accomplish.

If it doesn't help, doesn't heal, and doesn't do good, don't speak or post. Especially if you're a Christian.

To read the rest of the article **[go here](#)**

May the peace be with you always!

Silke

**Christ Lutheran
Church Zoom
Worship
Sunday,
January 10, 2021**

**1st Sunday of
Epiphany/
The Baptism
of our Lord**

**10 AM
Join Zoom Meeting**



The Baptism of Christ, by Louis Comfort Tiffany
Stained glass window at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, Baltimore
© by James G. Howes, July 26, 2007.

[Click below:](#)

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 10, 2021
BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

*We are Disciples of Jesus.
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community and Connecting Others to Christ.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85691010897?pwd=TXhoZTgrWVlGaFFteXMrOEtPSkNmdz09>

Meeting ID: 856 9101 0897
Passcode: loveCLCHHI

You will need the password to access every Zoom meeting.

Church Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 am via Zoom technology.

Go to our website: www.clchhi.org to view recordings of
each Sunday's worship services.

[Click Here for Today's Bulletin](#)

We welcome Pastor Bruce Booher who will be preaching and presiding over Communion virtually. We are so thankful he has chosen to be with us for a number of upcoming Sundays, as we await the arrival of Pastor June Wilkins in February.



CONNECTED CONTINUES ON JANUARY 13

We meet at 6 p.m. via Zoom

As always we will offer to dig deeper and do not shy away from the big questions we all have.
"Living the Questions" curriculum is providing the theological grounding, rationale, and vocabulary to help us articulate our deepest questions and might help us to find insight into the challenges we all face in life.

The videos and accompanying discussion questions will serve as an engaging catalyst for conversation among those who are searching for what's next for followers of Jesus. We hope our Zoom meetings will provide encouragement and inspiration in the midst of this extraordinary time in our lives together.

Here is the Zoom log in:

CLC HHI Zoom Leader is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: CONNECTED @ CLC - Spirited Conversations

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87636299009?pwd=ZnlDNUN5YzZVOHlydXdrV2Ewa1c5dz09>

Meeting ID: 876 3629 9009

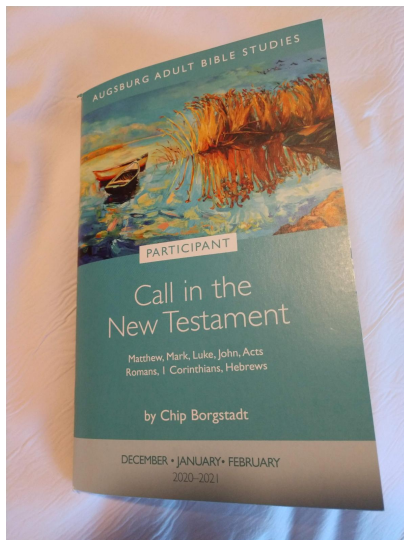
Passcode: CONNECTED

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87636299009#,,, *798961725# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,87636299009#,,, *798961725# US (New York)

Call in the New Testament Bible Study



Our weekly Zoom Bible Study is beginning a new series, “Call in the New Testament”. The Old Testament stories of being called by God carry a bit a drama – Moses and the burning bush, the call of young Samuel in Eli’s house in the middle of the night and Isaiah’s call in the temple that resulted in his saying, “Here I am, send me.” But these are not the only ways that God calls people. Jesus taught his disciples that everyone brings something to the table when it comes to bringing God’s realm to everyday life. God provides what is needed through ordinary people like you and me. We each have our own unique calls to bring the good news of God’s love to our friends, families, and neighbors. As we hear the call of these New Testament people, we gain insight into the call God has for each of us.

We will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays, beginning

Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 11am. Study Guides are available in the church office.

Contact Kathy Mork at klmork@yahoo.com if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.

Preschool is back in session with 22 children attending for both part time and full-time enrollment. We continue to be very diligent in our COVID 19 protocols and ask for your continued prayers for everyone’s safe new year.

Pastor Mary was such a blessing to the Preschool as our interim pastor. The staff and children miss her greatly! Those blessings are continuing with the creation of the Preschool scholarship in her name. There have been 40 contributions made to the fund, totaling \$4,604.41!



Once we enroll the child to receive this scholarship I will update the congregation.

Kirk Taylor's brother, Kent, hospitalized with COVID

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE:

The Word in Season Devotional Booklets
have been delayed from the US Postal Service.

We do not know when we will be receiving them. But in the meantime, below is the link to the Word in Season readings:

<https://go.augsburgfortress.org/temporary-word-in-season-emails>

We have ordered them again, which will take another 2 weeks to get here. We hope the first shipment will appear before then! We will let you know when they arrive so you can pick them up in the Church Office. Sorry for the delay.

We are starting to accumulate things in the front reception area of the Church Office. There are a couple of folding chairs left over from the outdoor functions we have had. Please call or stop by to pick them up, if they belong to you! Thanks.

If you are needing to come to the Church Office, please call ahead of time (843-785-5560), to make sure someone is here. During this time of transition, it is always good to check before you come!
Thank You for your understanding.

The giving envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup in the Church Office. Please stop by and pick yours up!



RENOVATION UPDATE

The past couple of weeks have included work on our the landscaping at the front of the church. The landscape designer had her husband and sons working over the holidays to get our landscaping in place. Below are several photos showing progress. Further work on the inside of the church resumes this week.





THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Sunday, January 10--1st Sunday of Epiphany

10:00 am Zoom Worship Service with Pastor Booher

Tuesday, January 12

10 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 13

10 am Executive Team Meeting, Zoom

3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm Connected

Thursday, January 14

10 am Preschool Committee Meeting, Henrich's Hall

4:30 pm Confirmation Classes

6:00 pm New Council Member Orientation

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4 pm

843-785-5560

