



Message from Pastor Scottie

November 2012: So What?

A repeated question by folks today is, “so what?” Applied to politics, health issues, even the church, the message is ‘how does what I’m told impact my life in everyday terms’. Does it have meaning for me? Will it change my life? If taken seriously and I make it a priority, will it matter for my life here and hereafter?

BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front)-Answer: Jesus died and rose again for us. So what? Without a savior we are on our own in life and death. Life’s experiences show us we are not God. Once in fellowship with the Savior, Jesus Christ, then it’s our privilege and joy to share the same Good News with others. Through a local congregation, like Our Saviors, we “share ourselves, time, and possessions, signs of His gracious love”. This is our mission in life.

How? First, we worship together regularly. On 4 Nov we celebrate All Saints Day. Those who have a loved one die this past year are asked to bring a photo of the deceased and a candle for lighting on that Sunday. We will recognize these saints during worship. Please bring the photos and candles (with holders) to the church office by 1 November to be placed. Also, on 11 Nov, LCOS honors our military veterans during our worship services. All veterans, retirees, and those currently serving in our Armed Forces are asked to come in uniform. If no uniform then bring a photo of yourself in uniform for placement at a special display in the parish hall. Thanksgiving Services will be conducted 20 Nov, 7-8PM, at the First Congregational Church in San Bernardino with a reception following. The offering is canned food that will be given to the Cornerstone Food Distribution Center for the poor. The San Bernardino Symphony Youth Choir will sing at this service. The LCOS invited to attend this service in lieu of a congregational service on Thanksgiving Day so folks can spend more time with their families.

Second, we learn together. Christian education is for all ages. Adults are urged to join a new Bible Study facilitated by me on the first eight chapters of Acts starting 4 Nov. Bring your Bibles. This study will help us as we review the congregation strategic plan being developed and later to be approved by the congregation. Acts is the record of the church’s mission beginnings. There’s no better primer for LCOS in its own mission building for 2013 and beyond. Please don’t forget our children and youth for their growth in appropriate classes.

Third, we care for each other. To better facilitate this effort we need to know each other better. Therefore, for those who are able and willing to have me visit in your home for the purpose of getting to know you for pastoral care, a signup sheet of available times will be posted 28 Oct. For those who need or desire another option, two gatherings are scheduled for choosing: 15 Nov, 7-8:30PM, or 29 Nov, 9-10:30AM, both in the Garden Room, Coco’s Restaurant, 284 E. Highland Ave., San Bernardino (909-882-1209). A signup sheet will be posted for these forms as well. Suspense for signup is for all options is 8 Nov. I strongly ask everyone who is a member, an associate, or frequent visitor to participate in either a home visit or forum gathering. Great pastoral care leads to better preaching, teaching, and reaching. Pastoral care begins with knowing each other. You deserve the best in spiritual care and concern.

Lastly, we have fun (fellowship) together. WELCA states its Fall/Holiday Boutique, 17-18 Nov, at LCOS. Also, 25 Nov, we start Advent with a celebration party and potluck lunch following the 1030 service that Sunday in the parish hall.

So what? When we gather in His name there He is with us. In His presence there is the peace, power, strength, love, courage, wisdom, and understanding for better living here and hereafter. See you wherever we gather in His name

Pastor Scottie

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