

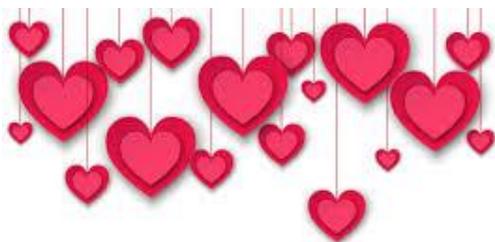
THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 24, 2020



Of all the facets of the Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan, there is one that each of us is called to gather around, to be engaged in by sharing our God given gifts to the fullest. That facet is evangelization, and if you revisit the 3 Pillars of Mission, Community and Witness you will find evangelization under the Mission Pillar. At the core of the Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan is the need for evangelization because it is through this that our parishes will grow as faith communities, that our schools will instill a love for our faith in our children, that we will experience an increase in vocations and all of us will encounter a deeper relationship with our Savior.

The work of evangelization however, is not a singular action of one person. Rather, it is the collective of clergy, religious and laity laboring in harmony to bring the Gospel to all people. It means each and every one of us must bring our unique gifts and talents together that will enable the Church to carry out the Word of God. When we open our hearts to the ministry of evangelization and listen intently for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then some amazing things can happen in 2020 for our diocese. We will begin to touch the lives of our brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the Church. We will discover the souls that are in the margins of our communities that hunger for the Gospel and our love. And, for those that have not yet, we will lead them to an encounter with Jesus Christ.



DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA RECEIVED LILLY GRANT FOR UNITING IN HEART 2030

During this time of diocesan and parish renewal, we are excited to announce that we have received phase II of a national grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. The National Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders phase II grant proposal was accepted in December.

“Receiving phase II of this grant at this time is such a blessing for our diocese as we continue to garner the resources to prayerfully implement the Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan. We wish to continue the good work we started in 2016 with our first grant, and these additional funds allow us to move forward without interrupting the work that is ongoing,” said Bishop Timothy L. Doherty.

The phase II scaling grant will support the Uniting in Heart 2030 Pastoral Plan that outlines the vision of the diocese for the next ten years. Focused on health and vibrancy, the plan is rooted in the 3 Pillars of Mission, Community and Witness—the foundation upon which the diocese will build a new reality and change the culture.

The grant, which extends over three years, awarded the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana one million dollars. As a part of the phase II grant agreement, the diocese must have a dollar for dollar match of one million dollars by the end of the three years.

LOOK FOR THE NEW MONTHLY FEATURE “THROUGH THE CHURCH YEAR”

We begin a new monthly feature in this edition of *The Good News Letter*. The Liturgical year begins with the beginning of Advent, but we will begin this feature in January and end at the New Year 2021. It will feature special feasts and seasons celebrated in the Church year.

UNUSUAL KINDNESS

by Mary Sellars Malloy

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated from January 18 through January 25. Established in 1908, the dates were chosen so that the week concludes with the celebration of the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. The Week of Prayer is eight days long—an octave—which always designates a very special time of prayer and celebration in the life of the Church. This year, the Week of Prayer theme was selected and resources were created by the Council of Churches in Malta. It chose as the theme, “They showed us unusual kindness” (Acts 28:2). This Scripture verse is part of the larger New Testament story of the shipwreck of Saint Paul and his companions (see Acts 27:18—28:10). The story underscores the themes of Divine Providence and hospitality. The Maltese have a special connection to the story, as the shipwreck occurred on the island of Malta, and in its own way signifies the arrival of the Christian faith on the Maltese islands.

Long ago, the people of Malta welcomed and showed unusual kindness to 276 shipwrecked persons, including the Apostle Paul. Today, leaders of the Catholic Church remind us: Hospitality is a much-needed virtue in our search for Christian unity. It is a practice that calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. The people who showed unusual kindness to Paul and his companions did not yet know Christ, and yet it is through their unusual kindness that a divided people were drawn closer together. Our own Christian unity will be discovered not only through showing hospitality to one another, . . . but also through loving encounters with those who do not share our language, culture or faith. In such tempestuous journeys and chance encounters, God’s will for the Church and all people comes to fulfillment.

The Eight-Day Prayer Challenge:

Each of the following Scripture verses is taken from the Scripture account of the shipwreck of Saint Paul. Invite family members to memorize each day’s verse, and take time at some point during the day to do the suggested activity and to pray for the unity of our Christian family throughout the world.

Day 1: “. . . [Y]ou should have taken my advice.” Acts 27:21 Name people who give you advice. Share the best piece of advice you were ever given. Then share examples of the good advice God gives us through his Word and through others.

Day 2: “Neither the sun nor the stars were visible for many days, . . .” Acts 27:20 Invite family members to

close their eyes and imagine that there is no light in the world—no sun or stars to see by, no lamps or candles or fires or flashlights. How do they feel? What will they do? With eyes open, say together, “Even in darkness, Christ is our light!” Decide on one way you will share Christ’s light with others today.

Day 3: “. . . [K]eep up your courage.” Acts 27:22 Invite family members to name the most courageous people they know. Then invite each family member to complete this sentence: It takes courage to _____. Pray together for those who need courage today, and for the courage to always hope and trust in God.

Day 4: “Do not be afraid.” Acts 27:24 Share examples of things that make you afraid, including common examples such as spiders and storms. Invite family members to name things that make them afraid too. Pray together, “With God by our side, we will not be afraid!”

Day 5: “. . . Take some food; it will help you survive.” Acts 27:34 Talk together about favorite family meals and favorite foods. Ask how food helps your family members survive. Then ask why the food of the Eucharist is so special. If possible, make a family plan to shop for and donate canned goods to the parish or local food pantry and/or to spend time in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Day 6: “The natives showed us extraordinary hospitality.” Acts 28:2 Explain that the term “natives” refers to the people who actually come from and live in a particular place. Recall as a family times when you visited a place and received extraordinary hospitality from those who lived there—perhaps when visiting relatives or while on vacation. Brainstorm ways that you can become a family who shows extraordinary hospitality to others.

Day 7: “. . . [T]hey changed their minds. Acts 28:6 Explain that most of us have a tendency to judge others based on how they look or talk or act. Yet often, when we take the time to get to know someone, we find out we were wrong about that person. Ask family members to spend a few moments in prayer thinking about the question: “Do I need to change my mind about someone I know?”

Day 8: They paid us great honor . . . Acts 28:10 Decide as a family on one or more persons you would like to pay honor to—perhaps an elderly relative, a teacher, your pastor, or a neighbor. Make a plan for honoring your chosen person(s).

SHARING CHRIST IN EAST ASIA

You may recall we collected funds to help Kyle Orr, step-son of Mike Nichols of St. John's, who was traveling to East Asia to bring the good news of Christ and the gospels to people of those lands. We have been receiving regular communication from Kyle. He wishes us to share his progress with the people of East Asia and his efforts.

Kyle and his group began with a lot of adversity, but were finally able to get settled nicely. Then abruptly, Kyle ended up in the hospital with a bout with pneumonia and pleurisy. He is doing much better now and has been able to resume his ministry.

For security reasons, ministry is slower in East Asia, but Kyle feels much progress is being made. They have been able to make many contacts and have already had some converts. Many campuses are unreached and finding believers is a huge victory, but Kyle and his group have been able to find a small presence of student volunteers at these campuses to help spread the word of God.

Kyle and others from Cru meet with students privately and discuss Christianity and read from the Bible. Christmas brought about a good opportunity to share the origins of the Christmas story.

Kyle continues to keep us in his prayers and asks that we do the same for him and his Cru group and all the people of East Asia. He says lives are changing in East Asia! Praise God!



"THROUGH THE CHURCH YEAR" THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL-JAN. 25

As early as AD 717 do we find The Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle, referred to as a feast day. Today we celebrate this feast on January 25 which is the concluding day of the 8-day Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is only fitting that the Feast Day and the final day of the Octave coincide as St. Paul's constant focus was on unity of the Christian community.

As Paul was called, so are each of us called to conversion constantly day by day to surrender our lives to Christ. If we are to respond to that call we, like Paul, must give ourselves up to prayer, saying as Paul did, "What shall I do?"

St. Paul's Feast Day reminds us of the whole missionary dimension of the Church to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel." Within the Church and within every community of the Church there must be a constant vigilance for unity and harmony. We must be more concerned for the common good than our own issues or agendas for whatever promotes unity and harmony is from the Spirit. Therefore, we must continue throughout the year to pray for Christian unity seize every opportunity for promoting this goal "for nothing will be impossible for God".

--Francis D. Kelly

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD-FEB. 2

The feast of the Presentation is a three-part remembrance: The Child Jesus being presented to God the Father; Mary's rite of purification; and a feast of light.

The feast of the Presentation commemorates the consecration of the Incarnate Son, Jesus, to God the Father. The simple gesture of the presentation of the Child in the Temple by his parents contains an awesome hidden mystery that we contemplate today with the eyes of faith. Jesus was born to give his whole being to the Father to the point of his bloody sacrifice on the cross. In a way, the feast is a bridge feast between the Christmas commemoration of his birth and the coming Holy Week, when we remember his saving death. The consecration of Jesus to the Father that we note on this feast day is a prelude to his sacrificial offering of himself on the cross.

Mary's purification was in part to uphold the law of the time or purification following childbirth, but at the same time purified for the strength of all-obedient humility and the truth of the Gospel's purifying power. Like Mary, both Simeon and Anna have significant roles as they meet Jesus in the Temple. Both are elderly, having lived a long, faithful and prayerful life keeping their priorities and values in order. The gospel mentions several times that they were "led by the Spirit". Like each of these three, we too live in hope and trust and this often calls for true courage.

This feast day is also a "feast of light". Recalling Simeon's word that Jesus is "light to the gentiles", the Church rejoices in the dark winter season that "her light has come." Every disciple of Jesus understands his or her vocation to follow the light of Christ. Let us remember that the light of Christ follows us from birth to death. At our baptism a lit candle is given to our godparents for us. At death a blessed candle is often lit near the dying person. The prayer for the Blessing of Candles reminds us that we are on our way to "the light that shines forever," to that eternal dwelling place where the Lord God will give us light.

--Francis D. Kelly



RETREATS AT LINDENWOOD

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center is a ministry of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. If interested in either of these retreats, contact www.lindenwood.org or call 574-935-1780.

Contemplative Prayer Retreat

During this day long retreat, you will be led through the ancient Christian form of contemplative prayer. While listening to God's Word within you, Sr. Coletta Wrasman, PHJC, will guide you towards the awareness of God's love and presence. Throughout the retreat, there will be short presentations to help guide you into conversation with the God within.



Led by
Sister Coletta
Wrasman, PHJC

Retreat: \$35 includes refreshments, soup and salad lunch. Mass at 11 a.m.
Register by February 5

February 12, 2020
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

On Saturday, February 29, from 8:30 am – 6:00 pm, we invite you to the Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference! It is the only conference of its kind! A small community feel with so much to offer! This is the 14th year for the conference. It's been called the "best kept secret" of our diocese. But we don't want it to be a secret - we want you to know about it and come experience it! We average 500-700 people each year - with 1/3 of those being children!

Separate programming is planned for adults, HS, MS and children from age 3-11 years, and a nursery for 1-2 year old's. Keep in mind that Kids Corner (ages 1-11 years) closes on February 17. This year we welcome musician and storyteller Steve Angrisano, Dr. Tim Hogan – "The Gift of Cultural Hurricanes - Transforming our Families!" and Ellen Salter - "The Difficulties and Joys of the Cross". Your low, low registration fee covers everything including a hot, catered lunch from one of our highest rated caterers in Kokomo!

ALL Catholic elements are included: a Eucharistic procession to kick off our conference, Adoration Chapel (your children will visit it guided by a religious sister), confession and a vocations lunch for your high school students. We will conclude the conference with the Lord's Day Mass. The Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference is held at Kokomo High School, 2501 S. Berkley Road on Saturday, February 29.

Come celebrate our rich Catholic faith and grow spiritually as a family!

For more info and to register go to www.holyfamilyconference.org.

Mystical Prayer and the Ordinary Life

This retreat is for those who want to "taste and see that the Lord is sweet" (Psalm 34:8), not by intellection, but by experience of the Holy Spirit who enkindles and empowers us. Come join us as we discover the mystical life, which is nothing more, or less, than the ordinary Christian life in full bloom.

February 14 - 16, 2020

Check-in 4 p.m. ET, February 14
Check-out 1 p.m. ET, February 16

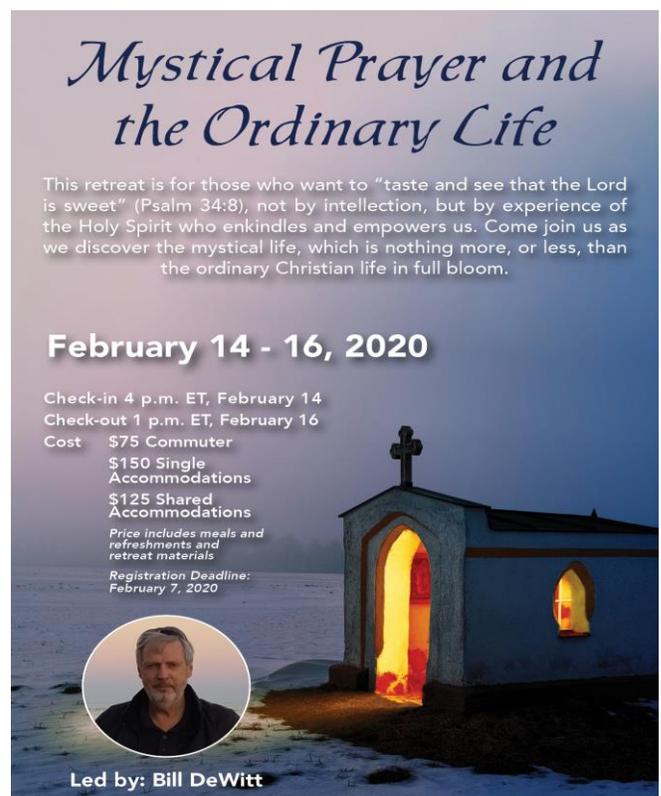
Cost \$75 Commuter
\$150 Single Accommodations
\$125 Shared Accommodations

Price includes meals and refreshments and retreat materials

Registration Deadline: February 7, 2020



Led by: Bill DeWitt



PEOPLE WITH GOOD NEWS

Ashley Henderson was on the A/B honor roll second quarter at Montpelier School.

Madison Henderson was on the all A honor roll second quarter and first semester at Montpelier School.

Gabe Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll second quarter and first semester at Montpelier School.

Gavin Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll second quarter and all A honor roll first semester at Montpelier School.

Mason Kitterman was on the A/B honor roll second quarter and all A honor roll first semester at Montpelier School.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

ANNIVERSARIES:

1 Jack & Becky Cain

BIRTHDAYS:

5 Stuart Shields

10 Austin Mackey

10 Chris Pfeffer

11 Bailey Elkins

15 David Dell

20 Rachel Shields

25 Bud Rees

26 Wanda Hoover

26 Marilyn Snyder

27 Ken Hartnagel

28 Bennie Brenner

If you would like to be included in the birthday and anniversary listings, please drop us a note. We would be happy to share it through *The Good News Letter*.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB

Our cluster parishes of St. Mary's and St. John's now has a website. Check us out at: stmaryjohn.org.

JANUARY CHALLENGE BY K OF C

And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. (Gospel for Jan. 5, Mt 2:9-12)

Whenever I meet a refugee, immigrant or traveler, I am reminded of things I take for granted. Those who come great distances to find something often draw our attention to the blessings we enjoy. Most of us are fortunate to have Jesus nearby, truly present in the tabernacle of our local church, but we take his close presence for granted all too easily. The Wise Men embarked on a difficult journey to encounter Jesus, but a five-minute drive can seem too far for us. May our daily familiarity with Jesus never result in indifference. May we instead, like the Wise Men, enter the Lord's house to do him homage.

JANUARY CHALLENGE by Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William E. Lori:

This month, I challenge you to take to heart the example of the Wise Men and go out of your way occasionally to visit the Blessed Sacrament in a local church. Second, I challenge you to participate in the Faith in Action March for Life or Novena for Life programs or to personally support a local pro-life initiative.

Questions for Reflection:

What daily opportunities do you have to encounter Christ? Because gratitude counters our tendency to take things for granted, how can you demonstrate daily gratitude in your life? Why is it important to visit Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, and have you benefited from this experience?

--Knights of Columbus.org



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY—ST. MARY'S

Feb. 2: **Reader:** Dan Watson **Gifts:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Communion Ministers:** None in February **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Dan Watson & Jane Crouch

Feb. 9: **Reader:** Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Kevin & Wendy Stout Family **Communion Ministers:** None in February **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress

Feb. 16: **Reader:** Ted Kolodka **Gifts:** Jeff & Lisa Geesaman Family **Communion Ministers:** None in February **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Danette Hamilton & Jane Crouch

Feb. 23: **Reader:** Bob Banser **Gifts:** Christa Stigleman **Communion Ministers:** None in February **Greeter:** Phil & Jane Crouch **Counters:** Kathleen Inman & Angie Burress

Feb. 26, Ash Wednesday, 5:30pm: **Reader:** Laverne Watson **Gifts:** Connie & Ken Hartnagel **Communion Ministers:** None in February **Greeter:** Colleen Bicknell **Counters:** Dan Watson & Jane Crouch



LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR FEBRUARY—ST. JOHN'S

Saturday 5:00 pm **Reader:** Jason Lenz **Gifts:** Mary & Jerry Ford **Announcements:** Lisa Rinker **Communion Ministers:** Sarah Montgomery

Sunday 8:30 am **Readers:** Bethany Elkins 2, Susan Lannoy 9, 16, 23 **Gifts:** Karen & John Shields **Announcements:** Bernadette Elkins 2, 23, Shea Aulbach 9, 16 **Communion Ministers:** Anya Uggen

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, 12noon: **Reader:** Susan Lannoy **Gifts:** Mary & Jerry Ford **Communion Ministers:** Sarah Montgomery

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST

Feb. 1-Pope Francis I
Feb. 2-Bishop Timothy Doherty
Feb. 3-Fr. Paul Hudson, St. Mary Dunkirk and St. John the Evangelist Hartford City
Feb. 4-Fr. Dominic Young, St. Ann Lafayette
Feb. 5-Fr. Derek Aaron, St. Maria Goretti, Westfield
Feb. 6-Fr. Sean Aaron, Holy Spirit, Fishers
Feb. 7-Fr. Raymond Akeriwe, St. Patrick, Kokomo
Feb. 8-Fr. Raymond Alaneme, St. Mary Lafayette
Feb. 9-Fr. Tim Alkire, St. Boniface Lafayette
Feb. 10-Fr. Kenneth Alt, Holy Trinity, Trinity
Feb. 11-Fr. Matthew Arbuckle, St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo, Monastery of the Poor Clares
Feb. 12-Fr. Patrick Baikauskas, St. Thomas Aquinas West Lafayette
Feb. 13-Fr. Jim Bates, retired
Feb. 14-Fr. Joshua Bennett, St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
Feb. 15-Fr. Robert Bernatos, St. Joseph Kentland, St. John the Baptist Earl Park, Sts. Peter and Paul Goodland
Feb. 16-Fr. Gerry Borawski, retired
Feb. 17-Fr. Michael Bower Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
Feb. 18-Fr. Phil Bowers, retired
Feb. 19-Fr. David Buckles, Franciscan Health Lafayette
Feb. 20-Fr. Pat Click, St. Louis de Monfort Fishers
Feb. 21-Fr. Paul Cochran, Sorrowful Mother, Wheatfield & St. Cecilia, DeMotte
Feb. 22-Fr. John Cummings St. Joseph, Reynolds & Sacred Heart, Remington
Feb. 23-Fr. Cole Daily, St. Lawrence, Lafayette
Feb. 24-Fr. Donald Davison, St. Augustine, Rensselaer
Feb. 25-Fr. Christian DeCarlo, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
Feb. 26-Fr. Andrew DeKeyser, Diocesan Chancery & Diocesan Tribunal, Blessed Sacrament, West Lafayette and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Remington
Feb. 27-Fr. James DeOreo, St. Alphonsus Liguori, Zionsville
Feb. 28-Fr. Brian Doerr, St. Francis of Assisi, Muncie
Feb. 29-Fr. Richard Doerr, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Carmel

WOULD YOU PRAY FOR A PRIEST?

**St. Mary Parish and
St. John the Evangelist Parish**

209 S. Spring St., Hartford City, IN 47348

PASTOR - Rev. Paul Hudson

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Dunkirk: 765.768.1283 stmaryjohn@att.net

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Lord's Day Liturgy

SATURDAY: 5.00 pm at St. John's

SUNDAY: 8:30 am at St. John's

10:30 am at St. Mary's

- Weekday Liturgy: Please consult inside the bulletin. -

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEB. 21, 2020

Editor: Diana Holsten

**INTERESTED IN A CATHOLIC
PILGRIMAGE?**

Michael Milano from Our Lady of Mount Carmel is leading 2 pilgrimages next year.

In April 2020 to Fatima/Lourdes/ Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona and

In September 2020 to the Oberammergau Passion Play in Germany.

Catholic Pilgrimages with daily Mass to Fatima/Lourdes/ Santiago de Compostela and Barcelona April 21 - May 3, 2020, \$3699 per person and to Oberammergau for the Passion Play performed only every 10 years with Switzerland and Austria September 8 - 19, 2020, \$5299 per person. Pilgrimages include airfare, all sightseeing, breakfast and dinner daily.

For more detailed information please call Cathie or Michael Milano at 1-800-773-2660.

YEAR OF GRACE 2020

Happy New Year!

Let us give thanks to God for his grace, which has sustained us in this past year, and with joy let us raise a song of praise to Him.

--Pope Francis in his message on the Solemnity of Mary, Jan. 1, 2020

**LET US BE JESUS TO EACH
OTHER**

“To be Jesus to someone means that we have given a person an experience of the presence of Jesus in our world today. I believe Jesus counts on us to do this for each other. When Jesus walked the earth, he taught, healed, forgave, prayed with, prayed for, challenged, tricked, accepted, suffered, worked patiently, and sometimes condemned. But everything he did and said came from a heart brimming over with love.”

--100 Prayers Reflections by Fr. Leo Piguet

Jesus:

Some of us have experienced deep moments of your presence but have had little time to distill their meaning.

Some of us have for so long followed the routine of daily service that it is difficult to remember when your Spirit has last touched our hearts.

As we come together in Christian community, let our strengths and weaknesses interact.

Let the energy of those elated by your love rouse the faith of those who have forgotten the vision.

Let the wisdom of those who have borne the trials and blessings of a lifetime provide a foundation for those who are new.

Together let us be Jesus to each other. Amen.