



People sometimes ask, “what’s in a name?”

**“...And you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins”  
St. Matthew 1:21b.**

The name Jesus means “the Lord saves” as the angel told Joseph how the child to be born of Mary would be known. The name of Jesus gives clear indication of the purpose of this child, that He would give salvation by His life, ministry, suffering, death and resurrection according to the will of God as promised (**Genesis 3:15**).

The church recalls the naming of Jesus, on January 1, the eighth day after the birth of Jesus. The name of Jesus is the way God reveals to all people the will of God to give salvation. Peter will confess when Jesus asks, “who do people say I am” that Jesus is “...**the Christ, the Son of the living God**” **St. Matthew 16:16b**. John the Baptist also says of Jesus that He is “...**the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**” **St. John 1:29b**. Jesus is both our God and Lord, that is, He is our Creator and our Redeemer. His life is dedicated to the work of salvation doing the will of God the Father, that we would have forgiveness life and salvation.

We confess that Jesus is our God and Lord, that He is God and Man, the two natures of Jesus that cannot be separated. He is God that He could raise Himself up from death that we would have life; He is Man that He could suffer and die for the sins of the world, even after He lived the perfect life for us in perfect obedience to God’s Law for us. He is the eternal Son of God who becomes human in every way, except without sin to live and die for us that we would be God’s children.

As we begin 2019, we continue to gather together to hear God’s Word and receive His Sacrament. We give thanks for the blessings God gives to us in Christ our Savior who is named Jesus to give us the continual reminder that it is Jesus who has saved us by the grace of God. When we are together in worship on Sunday mornings and we hear God’s Word and receive the Sacrament on the Sundays offered, we are always reminded by a gracious and loving God of how much He loved and loves us through preaching/teaching the Word.

By the life of Christ we are given purpose in our lives. Many have asked what is the meaning of life? The answer is in found in Him who is named Jesus. In St. Luke 24:36-43 Jesus teaches the disciples that the Scriptures are given that people would know of Jesus, the Savior of the world. The Scriptures also teach us and give meaning to our lives today that we would have that eager desire to tell others as did the disciples.

We are made God’s own in our Baptism by which the blessings of the cross are given to us individually that we would be “sons of God.” We are called in our Baptism to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and His church. We are called to dedicate all that we do in this world to God, that the Gospel would be proclaimed and each new generation would hear about their Savior.

During this season of joy (Christmas) followed by Epiphany, The Season of Lights, we are given the “good news” which is for all people, that our Savior came and fulfilled God’s promise of salvation in Him and that by His grace we are saved. **What’s in a name? The Name “Jesus” shows us God’s love for us in Christ!**

**Jesus! Only name that’s given  
Under all the mighty heaven  
Whereby man, to sin enslaved  
Bursts his fetters and is saved.**

**Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God to Thee.**

**“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” (TLH 114, verses 5 & 6)**

In the name of Jesus!  
Pastor Ahrendt