

The Light-Path-Way Time and Talent Commitment

Introduction. Just as Christ has reached out to us and will continue our whole life, we need to reach out to others. The following is an explanation that may help us put into perspective the reasons we may consider using our time and special talents and skills to help others and support the activities at All Saints. The following focuses on The LIGHT, PATH, and WAY followed with a procedure we can use to make our commitment.

THE LIGHT

"What and Where is the LIGHT in your life?"

What are our lives? We have our life at home, work, school, play (golf, tennis, athletic centers, clubs, etc.) and church. In each of these endeavors, we portion our time and expertise depending on our priorities and the importance of each to our physical and emotional well-being on this earth. Each of these areas and those people we associate with are lights in our lives. When our lives are completed, all these lights go out except one which is our relationship with Christ ... this relationship will go on forever for better or for worse. The crucial question we have before us if we face it squarely, is "What is the most important light in our lives and Where does it fit in our priorities?"

Jesus said

"I am the Light of the world, he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life"

"For a little while longer the Light is among you, Walk while you have the Light, so the darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes."

"While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you will become sons of the Light"

So having recognized the true Light, what does Christ ask us to do? We find in Matthew chapter 5, verse 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." In Luke chapter 8, verse 16, "Now no one after lighting a lamp covers it over with a container, or puts it under a bed; but he puts it on a lamp stand, so that those who come in may see the light."

So how can we light the lamp? Believe and get in the game on February 23, Sunday.

The PATH

"If you are the son or daughter of the LIGHT, what and where is your PATH?"

We all go down a lot of paths in our life. There are a lot of twists and turns. We all can remember some very important points in our lives that we decided to move onto a different path. For some of us, the path has been very long and the end of the path seems to be in sight, for others the path has been relatively short and the end of the path is nowhere to be seen; still for others, the path we have in front of us is as long as the path we have traveled. We never know how long the path is for us in life. So no matter how long we traveled and no matter what paths we have taken, we can always choose a new path at any time and bring Christ into our lives and lives of others. So what is the direction we need to go next? Are we coasting? Are we in a groove we can't seem to get out of, but should? Are we going down a path that will end up in dead end? Are we lost and can't find the path? Do we need to change our path? So how can we find the Right path?

In Psalm 119, verse 35, "Make me walk in the path of Your commandants". In verse 105, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path"

So God shows us a path that we can take throughout our lives and we can get on that path any time or come back to that path anytime ... we have the opportunity at any time and all the time to make the commandments and God's living word form the base in our lives. So where can we find the Word: in the Bible, in the message we hear in Church, in the bible studies we have the opportunity to attend, in our individual prayer, and in our sharing of the path with others. .

So what and where is the path you plan to follow? Believe in the Light ... Christ will show you the path ... it will be the right path ... Christ will be with you on the path ..., you will not be alone ... Christ will always be there with you ... you will be on the path to eternity.

THE WAY **"Your Way or God's Way?"**

We all have found ourselves saying at one time or another: "I'm going to do it my way!" or "This is the best way to do it" or "This is the only way to get the best results!" We all want peace, happiness, and contentment, but seem to fall short. As best and hard as we can try, we don't get the results we vision. Are we trying too hard? Are we on the right path? Is there some other way to do it? What are our options? Is there anything else we can do? Is there a path we can travel that is well lit and will lead us to the eternal life? Of course, you already know the answer ... believe in Christ. That sounds easy, but where is the rub?

In John 14 verses 5 and 6: Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the **way**?" Jesus said to him, "I am the **way**, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." Thomas has a good question. After all, it is real difficult for us to buy into something not seen ... we are spring-loaded to step away from such situations and go, what appears to be, a more familiar (usually our own) traveled way. Christ is telling Thomas you have to have faith, when you grab my hand, that I will show you the way straight to the Father. How can you go wrong ... after all Christ is saying he is the essence of truth and eternal life?


So what is God's way? God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus lived as a human being potentially with the same wants, needs, and emotions as any human. Isn't it remarkable that he was able to be sinless and perfect in every respect. My sins are too many to even contemplate ... no matter how hard I try, I can't get anywhere near the perfection of Christ. How could Christ do this for all that period of time ... what commitment to his Father!! There is no way I can abide by God's Way as Christ has ... impossible. But the fact is that Christ died and paved the path for our salvation and provide us with key of forgiveness ... just ask.

In Matthew 6, versus 9: ***"Pray, then in this way: 'Out Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name In Luke 6, verse 31: "Treat others the same way you want them to treat you." In Matthew 5, verse 16: "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. In Luke 20, verse 21: They questioned Him, saying, "Teacher, we know that You speak and teach correctly, and You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. So God's way is prayer to receive forgiveness, his guidance and strength; learn the Word so you can share the Gift of Christ with others; share Christ's message (the Word) with others; and live God's message, be an example of Christ's way, and serve (reach out to others).***

The Word has been given to us all. The Word showed us Christ's Way that can be our Way. The Way is prayer, learning, sharing, and serving. That is the way to God's way.

BOTTOM LINE

Just as Christ has reached out to us and will continue our whole life, we need to reach out to others. All Saints has come up with a list of activities below that may help us to choose the areas we can reach out to others and apply our special skills and talents that God has given us. You can make your time and talent commitment by:

1. **Website Survey**: Completing a survey by clicking this web address:
 **My "Light-Path-Way" Commitment**
2. **Paper Survey**: Print the form below, fill it out, and mail it to All Saints, 16510 Mount Oak Road, Bowie MD, 20716 or bring it to church on Sunday or any other day as well.

An All Saints Team Leader will get back to you on the areas you have committed to voluntarily to pursue.

My "Light – Path - Way" Commitment (Web Site Address: <http://www.allsaintsbowie.org/>)

Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____ **Email Address:** _____

GATHER	WORSHIP	LEARN	SERVE	SUPPORT
<input type="checkbox"/> Gather Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter preparation/publicity <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone caller (Information relaying) <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Team member <input type="checkbox"/> Organize youth events <input type="checkbox"/> Chaperone <input type="checkbox"/> Fellowship Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Team member <input type="checkbox"/> Men's book group <input type="checkbox"/> Women's book Group <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Saints <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday refreshments <input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Interfaith Recreation Council <input type="checkbox"/> Ale Saints participant <input type="checkbox"/> Lenten Wednesday - Provide soup <input type="checkbox"/> Easter Breakfast Provide food <input type="checkbox"/> 1 st Sunday of Month Themed potluck lunches <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Participant* <input type="checkbox"/> Softball <input type="checkbox"/> Volleyball <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Tournament <input type="checkbox"/> Bowling <input type="checkbox"/> Other sports _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Team Member/ Planning Participant <input type="checkbox"/> Acolytes <input type="checkbox"/> Altar flowers provider <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Guild <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Visual Arts <input type="checkbox"/> Crucifers <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Sermon <input type="checkbox"/> Reader <input type="checkbox"/> Liturgical dramas/dance <input type="checkbox"/> Usher <input type="checkbox"/> Communion assistant <input type="checkbox"/> Assisting Minister <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery helper <input type="checkbox"/> Music* <input type="checkbox"/> Tone Chimes <input type="checkbox"/> Play piano <input type="checkbox"/> Play instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 adult choir <input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 adult choir <input type="checkbox"/> Youth choir <input type="checkbox"/> Vocal Solo/Small Ensemble <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School Song Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Other* <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Team <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Program <input type="checkbox"/> Sound System Development/Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Learn Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Librarian <input type="checkbox"/> Participant* <input type="checkbox"/> Day time Mid-week Bible study <input type="checkbox"/> Evening Mid-week Bible study <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday adult Bible Study <input type="checkbox"/> Bring child to Sunday school <input type="checkbox"/> Attend ELCA Women's <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching* <input type="checkbox"/> Adult forum <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday school <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible school <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Bible Study <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Christmas Program Support <input type="checkbox"/> Retreats Program Support* <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Women's <input type="checkbox"/> Men's	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Food Pantry <input type="checkbox"/> Community projects <input type="checkbox"/> Global projects <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Shawls <input type="checkbox"/> Operation Kid Comfort <input type="checkbox"/> Blankets of Hope <input type="checkbox"/> Prison Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Crop Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Coat Drive <input type="checkbox"/> Campsite visits <input type="checkbox"/> Warm Nights <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Meals <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up <input type="checkbox"/> Overnight Hosting <input type="checkbox"/> Shut-ins <input type="checkbox"/> Provide meals <input type="checkbox"/> Provide transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Visit <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas in April <input type="checkbox"/> Gifts of Hope <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran Social Services <input type="checkbox"/> LINC volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Nurse Ministry <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry Team member <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter <input type="checkbox"/> Mutual Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Support*: <input type="checkbox"/> ASLC Special (Appeals, needs, & fundraisers) <input type="checkbox"/> ASLC – Coffee sales	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Budget & Finance Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Audit team member <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry team member <input type="checkbox"/> Offering Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Property Ministry* <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member <input type="checkbox"/> Building maintenance - general <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn care <input type="checkbox"/> Spring/Fall clean-up <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Gardening <input type="checkbox"/> Rain Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Vegetable Garden <input type="checkbox"/> Bowie Certified Habitat Tour <input type="checkbox"/> Sacred Garden/Columbarium <input type="checkbox"/> Governance Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member <input type="checkbox"/> Memorials Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member <input type="checkbox"/> Mission Endowment Fund Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Committee member <input type="checkbox"/> Web-Site* <input type="checkbox"/> Provide updates <input type="checkbox"/> Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook Support <input type="checkbox"/> Church Office* <input type="checkbox"/> Part-time volunteer <input type="checkbox"/> Scrapbooker/historian

Special Talents: Administrative skills Arts & crafts Building maintenance Computer skills Cooking / food service Drama / acting Educator / Trainer
 Other

* A checkmark in this box indicates that you will be willing to support in whatever capacity the team leader needs, but will contact you first.