

# Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Aberfoyle Park

## Home Worship Service

Led by Pastor Andy Kowald

February 6, 2022

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### Welcome & Introduction

Welcome everyone! Also to those joining on Lovestream. This is the Our Saviour Lutheran Church. Aberfoyle Park, Adelaide, South Australia.

I have a problem. It's the same problem that Jesus' disciples once had...

My fishing rods won't go fishing without me!  
I expect to eat fish twice a week. But there's nothing!  
I'm a busy man... It would be very helpful!

What good are they? They look good. They look ready! There's line on the reel. But nothing...!  
Not one fish! ... They just DON'T go fishing! They're just happy to look good in my shed! ...  
Useless rods!

It's ME of course. **I'M** the one that has to go fishing!  
YOU don't catch fish unless YOU go fishing! ... It's not the rods!

And believe it or not ... even when I take my rods fishing, I don't always catch fish! Like the fishermen you'll soon hear about in our Bible reading. They fished all night and caught nothing. And I bet they knew how to fish!

I own a boat too! There it is! It's my launch! The grandkids still talk about the day they went on Gramps' boat!



In our



Bible



story, Jesus got in the

boat. I wonder what would happen if Jesus got in MY boat!

Now the truth is, in our Bible story they didn't use rods. They used nets. I've got some pictures of us with some crab nets on the Semaphore jetty. SHOW.





We caught some crabs (only 3 keepers). *SHOW VIDEO (MULTIMEDIA: in Files for Sunday)*

The thing about using a net, is that it will catch anything that happens to be swimming by! We wanted to catch crabs, but we also caught two beautiful little leatherjackets, and an ugly puffer fish, and some sea weed! The net doesn't seem to care! It's got room for everyone!

This morning I'm going to talk about OUR role when we go fishing with Jesus. And we'll also look at the interaction between the disciples and Jesus.

We are here in the name of God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## Songs

[Mighty To Save](#) CCLI#4591782

[Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee](#) CCLI#25321

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## Bible Reading

### Luke 5:1-11

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret,<sup>[a]</sup> the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. <sup>2</sup> He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup> He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup> When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."<sup>5</sup> Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."<sup>6</sup> When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. <sup>7</sup> So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.<sup>8</sup> When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup> For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, <sup>10</sup> and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." <sup>11</sup> So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

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## Message

Jesus asked Peter to go fishing, where Peter knew there were no fish, but, following Jesus' orders, he ended up catching two boat-loads of fish!!!

You've got to be kidding! Who are we dealing with here!!

Peter then says to Jesus, **"Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"** Another translation says, **"Master, leave. I'm a sinner and can't handle this holiness. Leave me to myself."**

Peter got to experience more than he bargained for!

Our text started by saying, **the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God...**

Sounds good doesn't it. People crowding around wanting to listen to the Word of God...

But what did Jesus, the **Word of God**, want...?

You can bet THE PEOPLE wanted Him to heal them, and lead them, and feed them, and molly coddle them!!! He had just healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law and a huge crowd of her neighbours!

But what does JESUS want...? What does the Word of God WANT?

Today's Bible reading gives away many important truths. Some very obvious. Some rather subtle. I'd like to share two...

**Firstly**, just like the people of old, WE want to gather around Jesus.

But here's the thing: He doesn't want us to be molly coddled on a Sunday morning! That's not how He does His shepherding! A shepherd's staff is not a soft fluffy instrument!

Discipleship for Jesus has to do with the Word. HE is the Word!!

But it is not JUST gathering around the Word – as the crowd did. The Word is on the move. The Word is active. The Word is creative. If you put your finger in the Word, whatever you touch after, will begin a new creation! The Word is interested in creating new lives! If you follow the Word, you have to leave behind what is not worthy of the Word! We pray for release from this every day.

Four years ago a new translation of the Bible came out called "The Passion Translation". The translator points out that when Jesus says to Peter at the end of the story, **"Don't be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."** The "catching" word in the original language is actually a Greek word (ζωγγρεω – ζωη+αγγρεω) that is made up of two other words "life" and "catching" – eternal life catching!

The fish that fishermen catch, die and get eaten, but Peter was to catch people and give them life and freedom. He was saying ***from now on Peter you will be catching people for salvation!***

Discipleship for Jesus, isn't just about YOU. It's especially about OTHERS – who NEED the freeing Jesus-life like we do.

That means meeting people. THEY are our REAL CATCH. Not just preening our nets on the beach, listening to stories about Jesus.

In these COVID times we are asked to practise social distancing.

That means, in high density places, in high risk places, where people are crowded around, we are careful not to be too close to each other.

It's a very important practise in keeping the numbers of sick down.

But contact with other human beings is WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

We are created for relationship. Close loving relationship. We are all made in the image of God, in the image of the close loving relationship of the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit.

In these times, you ARE allowed to gather in small groups up to 10!

But it's not only friendship. When you notice a need, discipleship is not just about friendship, but taking whatever people need from God – and it could be physical healing for example – and praying for that need.

Discipleship for Jesus, was putting out into the deep water. THAT'S where the catch is!

One of my sons went to a big youth event once and at the event the leader asked if anyone had a knee that needed praying for. 7 people responded. He was one of them. He came home and told us that his knee had been healed. Do you think his faith grew on that day that someone was brave enough to have a go!! It's what we are asked to believe and be involved in!

When Jesus first saw the fishing boats, our Bible reading says, ***he saw two boats – AT THE WATER'S EDGE...***

You don't catch huge schools of fish at the water's edge! If you want to fish at the water's edge you don't need a boat!!

To catch lots of fish, you must go to the deep! That's where Jesus told the disciples to go.

The problem is...

- Deep water is not safe!
- Deep water is a place of risk
- Deep water is a place of uncertainty
- You don't know what to expect
- You don't know how people are going to react...

God's missionary Church – and the truth is God has no other kind of church – is always taking chances to bring the Gospel to those who don't yet know the beauty of God, or trust Him.

For example, to pick up on what I said earlier, if you are joining in on LOVESTREAM, we are so keen that you might think about just who else you could do that with.

- Maybe you could invite a friend or neighbour to a croissant breakfast...
- Or have coffee with a jam-buttie and cream afterwards.

We must break old habits of disconnection, and pray to God about what we CAN DO to have someone else join us.

We had a Church Prayer Vigil last Sunday and this point came up 4 or 5 times!

It may feel like deep water for you... You may feel uncertain, even afraid. But deep water is where the fish are.

**The second thing** I want to share, is the fact that they used NETS.

The interesting thing about nets, as I said in my introduction, is that they don't discriminate! A net doesn't care what size or colour or type of fish is swimming by. A net just caresses them all!

That's what the love of Jesus is all about too!

It does not discriminate between the 'fish'.

It even rakes in rubbish fish!

No judgment is made as to who might be caught.

The NET is a good picture of the church.

- If the Church is a net, you could imagine that each square in the net is a square of love, and each of us, as we act together, are like the strings that make up the net.
- We link with each other through the Holy Spirit. He binds us together. He is on about love. And **love casts out fear** (1 John 4:18).
- We don't have to be a fancy evangelist to love like a net. But it does require deep, Godly love.
- It also means that we are not doing it alone! Your Christian friend might do the inviting, and you might provide the scones! And YOU KNOW WHO ELSE IS THERE WITH YOU!
- And the person that you are helping may even want to join the net! Because they are truly people of peace that God has prepared for us to meet

There is so much more that we could say about all this. But I simply want to say: YOU CAN DO IT! You can join Jesus! You can love your neighbour sacrificially. You can ask if you can pray for their healing! You can be bold ... for Christ's sake! **Just remember**, if this is the boat of Christian life that you are sailing in, you are not alone in your boat!

Jesus is WITH you! That's what happened in the story.

- Jesus first got in the boat with Simon.
- He THEN asked him to go into the deep.
- You THEN do what HE says.
- THEN see the miracle.
- You THEN get help from others because the Good News is working so well!!

It just goes on and on! ... Amen.

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## Song

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)* CCLI#6428767

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## Confession and Absolution

Dear heavenly Father,

By Your Holy Spirit You have brought us into the Church, Your Church.

By Your Holy Spirit You have made us Your children – even brothers and sisters of Christ!

By Your Holy Spirit You make us bold to go where You lead us.

You desire us to be where Jesus is; to be with those Jesus is with; to be where life is a bit rough and deep.

We come now humbly... to confess. We confess that rather than be in the deep waters where OTHERS need You, we have preferred to seek the joy of life in other places, where Jesus isn't; and where our comforts are safe. We do not easily let go of our comforts to be where YOU want us to be.

This is sin. We are sorry for this. Please forgive us. Please inspire us by Your Holy Spirit to yearn to be where YOU want us to be, that our friends and neighbours would know You.

Our heavenly Father HAS had mercy on us! He has sent His own Son to die for us. His Word is true, If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. I therefore declare: Your sin is forgiven! In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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## Prayers

Prayer points to ponder:

- Dear Jesus, give us the courage and boldness we need to love and care deeply for people we come into contact with. Help us remember that you are with us, that you have prepared the hearts of these people first and that they need you as much as we do. Help us trust your leading and your presence as we cast our nets for people who need you in their lives.
- We ask for your continued wisdom and guidance on our Call process, for our Call Committee and for the Pastor you are preparing to call to Our Saviour.
- We pray for your comfort, help and healing to those suffering with COVID or those who may be isolated from others because of COVID. Reassure them of your presence in their lives and your unending love.

- Be with those struggling with loneliness, depression, financial or health concerns. We pray especially for people in our own community. Remind them of your unending love and care for them and prompt each of us to reach out to those who need our support and friendship.

**The Lord's Prayer:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

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## Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell, the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favour, and give you peace. Amen.

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## Song

[Raise A Hallelujah](#) CCLI#7119335