

December 7, 2017

# The Connection

## In This Issue

To call all people to a vibrant life of faith in Christ

### From Pastor Paul

*It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"—a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.*

—Mark 1:2-5

*Prepare ye the  
way of the  
Lord,*

*make  
his paths  
straight.*

Children have incredibly vivid imaginations. Their days consist of make-believe adventures filled with imaginary friends; their stories contain great detail about who said what, who went where, and when and how they got there. Usually parents or adults find, often at our own folly, that their imaginary world and their real experiences can collide. When asked how they spent the day, adults can have a difficult time separating fact from fiction, unless, of course, one of us has been there to witness the truth.

It reminds of me of a story about a four year old and a dustup on the playground. The four year old was playing on the playground and another little boy accused him of being mean. The parents engaged their son in conversation. After sorting through the details – both imagined and real – they had the opportunity to talk with their son about repentance. And, after explaining to him what it meant to know in their hearts when they did wrong, and then turning to Jesus for forgiveness, the look on his face gave them a glimpse of how he may come to know new life, new possibilities for their son's journey through life. What a gift it is to be able to teach him about the unending love of God...here with us...always calling us back, no matter what. What a joy it is to see the beginnings of a relationship where truth is spoken in love; honesty is met with forgiveness. How blessed we are to be called back time and time again. Thanks be to God.

**Upcoming Events: (for more, visit Resurrection's [website](#))**

Children's Christmas Practice Rehearsal, December 9  
Toy Drive Gift Collection deadline, December 10  
Serve at East Immanuel Lutheran Church, December 11