



*"For as the body is one and has many members, But all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

What does it mean to be the Body of Christ? To illustrate the church of our Lord Jesus, Paul used the analogy of the human body. In fact, from I Corinthians 12:12 to 12:27, the word soma which means body is used 18 times. He compares the body of Christ to body parts. It is a wonderful analogy. Paul writes:

*If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?*

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them as he chose. What a beautiful way to say that all of us are important to the work of the kingdom. All of us belong. And that's good to know. We need one another.

The body of Christ was created and set apart to do the work that Christ did in the world. To go where his feet went, to the lost and poor and hurting of the world. To teach as Christ's mouth taught, about love for God and love for our fellow human. To see as Jesus' eyes saw, finding beauty and redemption and grace in a prostitute, a leper, a tax collector. To touch as Jesus touched, with gentleness and love and healing power. Instead, God called together a whole bunch of ordinary folks to preach and teach and heal and restore and tear down and build up and redeem a broken creation. The only way we are ever going to accomplish that task is to rely on God's Spirit and one another's talents to make a difference in the world.

This year for Lent we will take a closer look at what it means to be the Body of Christ.

- Ash Wednesday- Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>
- The Hands of Christ- Wednesday, February 21st
- The Eyes of Christ- Wednesday, February 28
- The Mouth of Christ- Wednesday, March 7th
- The Ears of Christ- Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>
- The Feet of Christ – Wednesday, March 21st

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much!

During Lent, there will be various opportunities to strengthen your personal relationship with God and take advantage of activities meant to broaden your Christian understanding.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Michele Kaufman*