

This past Sunday in worship, we were treated to an incredible sermon by Lisa Frauens. (You can check it out at [www.incarnatelowordelca.org](http://www.incarnatelowordelca.org) ) In her message Lisa took John's account of Jesus on trial and reminded us that neither the authorities of religion nor empire were able to see "the Truth" embodied in Jesus right before their eyes. Both saw Jesus as an existential threat to their power and both wanted Jesus dead. In connecting that text to our everyday lives, Lisa then challenged us to see Jesus right before our eyes, reminding us that all too often we fail to see him and the life he brings standing right in front of us.

Let me share with you where I have seen Jesus recently. As many of you know, Reformation Lutheran Church recently sold their building downtown and is currently sharing building space with another Lutheran congregation in Chili. Though the congregation moved, one of its vital feeding ministries did not – Loop Ministries.

Loop Ministries is a 501c3 organization that has been around since 2011, providing approximately 800 – 1,000 bags of groceries per month to some of the neediest working poor in our city. Most of the folks they serve are single moms holding down multiple minimum wage jobs, simply trying to put food on the table for their children. If feeding those in need is not Jesus right before our eyes, I don't know what is. In fact, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that when you look into the eyes of that single mom receiving bags of food for her kids, you are looking right into the eyes of Jesus. If we are indeed the Church, then that's where we're supposed to be!

We talk a lot about being "in the city for good." But it's only talk if our eyes are not open to seeing Jesus right in front of us. Loop Ministries may be another place where we are afforded that opportunity. The Congregation Council has recently authorized the formation of a taskforce to begin working with the leaders of Loop, in discerning if it's possible for us to partner with them in these hunger outreach efforts. As of this moment, we are providing office space for Loop's Executive Director. Though Loop is currently distributing food from their old Reformation location, it's becoming more and more difficult for them to do so as the new congregation at Chestnut Street, continues to limit the space Loop needs to do their feeding. So, we are also exploring the possibility of one day providing space for the actual distribution of food itself.

In the coming weeks, both the taskforce and the Congregation Council will keep everyone informed on the progress of our conversations. All of this being said, I am convinced that Jesus is standing right before our eyes. In the folks we house and the souls we feed, there he is! Just take a look!

Peace and Love,  
Pastor Doug

