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Life is Hard

Our family recently got back from vacation that we took in the Pittsburgh area. We were able to reconnect with our family, eat some really good food, and just have time to be away and decompress. One of the highlights of my vacation was a short road trip to Wheeling West Virginia that I and my mother took. My earliest memories began in "Wild, Wonderful, West Virginia" (that's the state motto). While I was born in New York State, we moved when I was still about 1 year old, so Wheeling was what I remembered when I was small.

My mother and I drove up the small mountain which held our home on the very top. We both wondered how we ever managed to drive up and down the steep road when it was snow covered! We both tried to remember all our old neighbors. While we forgot some, we were able to name many of the families that lived up on the top of the mountain with us. After driving around on top of the mountain, we knocked on the front door of a house hoping to say hello to some old friends. Eventually the door opened and our old friends Walt and Carol invited us in.

We spent hours talking and reconnecting. I learned how Carol had 10 stints put in her, and even though she was 83, she was still going strong! She mowed her own grass, did all their shopping, cooked their meals, and cared for her aging husband who had even more health issues than her. Their son who I idolized as a young boy still lived in Florida. They explained many of their family's hardships, as well as explaining what had been going on in our old neighborhood. They took us out to dinner, and we continued to talk and catch up. I was encouraged by both Carol and Walt's strong faith in Jesus, as well as their understanding in the Bible as foundational to that faith. Carol was amazed and delighted that I held to my faith in Jesus, and believed the Bible to be critical to my faith.

I spent much time thinking about our conversations, as well as reflecting on my early childhood. I can honestly say I cherished that time. I loved to tromp through the woods as I explored up and down the mountain as young boy. I remember block parties, playing with my toy guns, and getting treated on occasion with Baskin Robbins ice cream. While in some ways the area has changed little, the people have drastically changed. The young parents who once raised me are no more. My father has died, and my mother has drastically slowed down. Carol and Walt have broken bodies, with failing health. My great grandmother who lived in a giant old house in the city, has long since passed, and her house is occupied by others. Some of my memories are still strong, but even those are beginning to fade over time.

Perhaps you find yourself looking back on old photos, or remember the way things used to be. Maybe you have many fond memories to pull from. However, some surely are haunted by painful pasts filled with hurts, abuse, and agony. One cannot live very long before the specter of pain, hardships, and loss creep into a person's life. It is a rarity to find an older adult that doesn't have some baggage and troubles that they carry.

I wish I could give you a secret Scripture passage that you could utter to make all the hurts and pain vanish. While some believe that a true Christian has a life filled with constant pleasure, happiness, wealth, and prosperity- the reality is often just the opposite. While God never intended for us to struggle in this life, because of that first sin in the Garden of Eden, we now bear painful consequences. The curse of death brought on from that first sin, is often a slow gradual process. Our bodies wear out, and

our friends and loved ones often leave us, many times too early. With the onset of Covid, more and more people live in fear and the thought of isolation and death has caused many to spiral downward into deep depression.

While I don't have a Scripture passage to share that will make all things better right now, I do have a passage that does help us keep things in perspective. We must understand that we have a rich inheritance waiting for us. For as believers in Jesus Christ, we are considered God's children. And as his children we have an inheritance waiting for us on the other side of death. That inheritance is not just stuff like Great Grand Ma's fine china. Our inheritance is a new life that never ends, that takes place in a remade world that is perfect in every way. Our inheritance is a life without sin, death, or decay. The Apostle Paul wrote of the struggles of this life as not worth comparing to the future glory all believers would have. Listen to his words to the church of Rome:

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. (Romans 8:17-24a)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, please know that I understand that many of you have gone through great hardships and struggles. Some seem to attract pain like a magnet attracts iron! God will walk through your pain with you, and give you peace in the midst of your struggles. But also know this. God has promised you a future inheritance that will be so glorious, your current struggles will fade away and eventually seem like nothing in comparison to what you will have.

Pastor Mike

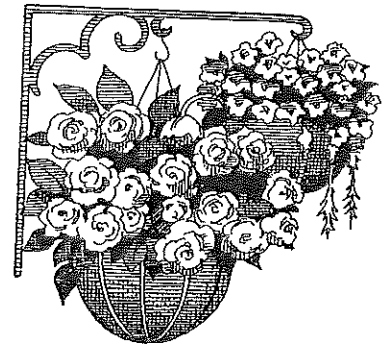
I Pledge Allegiance

to the flag
of the *United States*
of America,
and to the *Republic*
for which it stands
one nation
under God
indivisible
with liberty and justice
for all.



Land That I Love

I wave it proudly, shout and cheer
My country's flag, so dear, so dear
And to its red and white and blue
I promise ever to be true.



What Makes America Great?

The Land.
The People.
The Generosity.
The Freedom.
The Bible.



*It isn't so much
ability that
God wants, but
availability and
pliability.*

The Higher Patriotism

The pages of history are embellished with many thrilling examples of ideal patriotism. Down through the years there have been many young men dedicated to their nation's welfare. There are many in this generation who are filled with a yearning for their country's God-ordained greatness. Idealist they are - idealist who need not be assured that their country has need of them. Let the true patriot be applauded for the blessing that he is.

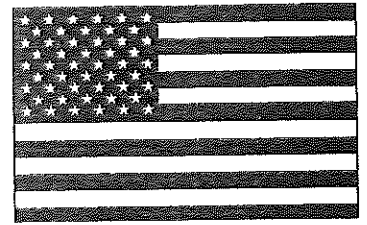
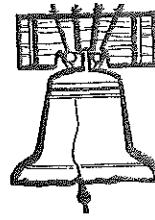
It is not the man who feels the thrill of patriotism only when the drums beat, or when armaments are displayed, or when schools parade, or when classes wage a civil war, or when deadly deeds are done in freedom's name. The zeal of a true patriot does not wait upon external excitement. He is most worthy of his country who loves it, and refused to live on it, but live for it. The higher patriotism is that which seeks a land full of the knowledge of God, which derives there from a determination for justice between man and man. In this attitude life's duties are consecrated to the common good. Such heroes of today are the builders of a greater tomorrow.

Voice in the Wilderness

How to Keep Happy

Begin the day in prayer with God; dedicate the day to Him. Look in the mirror and smile. Do more than one good deed a day, be a record breaker. Speak as many kind words as possible. Tell someone about Christ. Leave a tract or two behind you. Close the day with a portion of the Word of God and prayer. Thank God for every opportunity you had to please Him. Pray for the seed you have sown. "Happy is that people, that is in such a case; yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD," Psalm 144:15. "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding," Proverbs 3:13.

David E. Matthews



The Lonely Battle

Praise the Lord if you see a pew or two full of your own friends and relatives who are saved and walking with the Lord.

But don't forget to pray for that wife who always comes to church alone, or the child who is brought to church by a faithful worker, but who lives with unsaved parents. (If YOU are that lonely one, be faithful and never give up!)

There are many examples in Scripture of a lonely person singularly being faithful to God among the unbelieving and wicked.

Praise God for the faithful! Pray for them! Encourage them!

R. Dennis Warren

Unto the Least of These

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). Have you ever stopped to think about this verse? Isn't it time we apply it to our lives? Below are several suggestions to follow. Remember, once you've done any of these things, you've done it for Jesus.

1. Visit someone you know or even someone you don't know who is in a Nursing Home. Many of these people are so lonely.
2. Send a thank-you card to someone who has influenced your life.
3. Take some clothing, maybe even one of your favorite outfits, to a homeless shelter or goodwill box.
4. Ask a person who doesn't have many friends to do something with you.
5. Forgive someone who has hurt your feelings, or say you are sorry to someone whom you have hurt.
6. Make a special meal for your family.
7. Take flowers, a gift or homemade soup to someone who is sick.
8. Give a donation to the charity of your choice.

Giving a gift with love will not only please Jesus, It will make you feel terrific inside. See what you can do to make someone who may not be as fortunate as you to have a happier day.

Sharon Lee Roberts

The best kind of mother-in-law is the woman who remembers that she once was a daughter-in-law.

Never Found Time

I knelt to pray, but not for long.
I had too much to do.
Must hurry off and get to work,
For bills would soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer,
Jumped up from off my knees,
My Christian duties now were done,
My soul could be at ease.

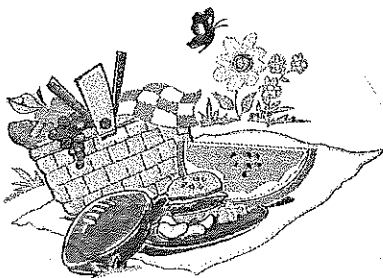
All through the day I had no time
To speak a word of cheer;
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me I feared.

No time, no time, too much to do.
That was my constant cry;
No time to give to those in need -
At last was time to die.

And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes;
Within His hands He held a book -
It was the "Book of Life."

God looked into His book and said,
"Your Name I cannot find,
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time."

Author Unknown



We are constantly straining to devise new methods, new plans, new organizations to advance the church and secure enlargement and efficiency for the Gospel.

This trend of the day has a tendency to lose sight of the man or sink the man in the plan or organization. God's plan is to make much of the man, far more of him than of anything else. Men are God's method.

The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.

What the church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Spirit can use - men of prayer, men mighty in prayer.

THE BIBLE...is the one supreme source of revelation of the meaning of life, the nature of God and spiritual nature and need of men. It is the only guide of life which really leads the spirit in the way of peace and salvation.

Woodrow Wilson

The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country.

Calvin Coolidge

Go to the Scriptures...the joyful promises it contains will be a balsam to all your troubles.

Andrew Jackson

It takes courage to stand up and be counted, but it takes more courage to keep standing after you have been counted.

My God, how little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!

Thomas Jefferson

The first and almost only Book deserving of universal attention is the Bible.

John Quincy Adams

All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated through this Book; but for this Book we could not know right from wrong. All the things desirable to man are contained in it.

Abraham Lincoln

SURE I WAVE the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be.

John Wayne

Antique Shop

I go into junk shops on rainy afternoons and look at all the relics, the urns and silver spoons. Sometimes there is a name which leaps from dust at me; inscribed upon a cover, "With love from Rosalie." I see a little silver mug with baby tooth marks in a row, engraved "Mother's precious boy" with a date from long ago. A Spanish shawl lies faded upon an old settee, and a china cup entreats me, "Oh, please, remember me!" I stand among the treasures from lost and distant years, and touch them very gently, while smiling through my tears.

Mary Ellen Stelling



And everybody gave up
and said "It's all over."
And then along came David
with his sling.
God decides when it's over.
Toby Mac #speaklife



THE ONLY KIND GOD RECOGNIZES

A friend of mine told me her church was calling a new minister; they met to discuss the different names before them. Much was said about the candidates' good appearance and education, but little about their spirituality. A blunt, but real Godly woman arose in the meeting and said, "It isn't a mannequin, nor a professor we want for our minister; it's a man anointed of the Lord we ought to seek for, and that's the only kind of minister God recognizes."

TO A PASTOR, HAPPINESS IS

..knowing your members missed you while you were gone, and greet you affectionately when you return...seeing new Christians sitting in the church on Sunday drinking in the truth from God...pastoring a congregation where the people come each Lord's Day expecting blessings from God...having people say, "I want to work somewhere in the church this year. Can you find a place of service for me?"...pastoring a people who love you in spite of your faults and won't let others talk about you...seeing you in the services with your bible in your hand.

This is My Father's World

This is my Father's world;
And to my listening ears,
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world;
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world;
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their Maker's praise.
This is my Father's world;
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world;
Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

This is my Father's world;
Why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king; let the Heavens ring.
God reigns; let the earth be glad.

Maltbie D. Babcock

Breathless

The colors astound,
The symmetry exults.
I stare breathless
at the craftsmanship of my Creator.
The wonders of my world,
be it the vast oceans,
the rich mountains,
or the meek petals of a daisy,
possess something that bestills my heart.

Kris Rocky

PRAYER

Father, thank you for the blessings you have given this country over the past two hundred years. And thank you for the vision which you gave to our founding fathers...and those who came after them in the 19th century, Men of God... who desired above all else that the young nation would be built upon principles of righteousness...with God and His beloved Son at the very foundation of all that it would become.

Grant that once again the fire of vision will burn in the hearts of young and old alike in this difficult century. In the words of Harvard University's founder: "Let...everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to see Christ as Lord... and Master." This is our prayer. Amen.

Bob Bowman



ON SUCH A MORNING

July has the greenest trees
and morning ringing with stillness—
Wake up!
Cup the sun in your hands, gathering
light, drinking light,
holding for a moment
the secret of the universe.
Where night trailed the gleam of stars,
meadow and field glisten with dew;
where she lingered in her passing,
trees stand in their deepest greening.
Wake Up!
Cool dawn is waiting
for your breath,
and from the horizon of your vision
rises the promise of peace
on such a morning.

Herta Rosenblatt



God,

No matter what I give to you,
you always give more to me.
If I give you the beauty of words,
your Word is always more beautiful.
If I give you the offering of praise,
your presence is always more wonderful.
If I give you part of my income,
your blessings are always more bountiful.
I can't out give you.

Barbara Eisele

What is a Christian?

Years ago, I heard that going to church doesn't make a person a Christian any more than going into a chicken coop makes them a chicken.

If going to church doesn't make a person a Christian, then what does?

Perhaps it is what we do. If we keep all the right rules and behave properly, then perhaps that will make a person a Christian. If we don't swear or hurt people and do give to the church and work on a committee, do we become a Christian? That can't be either because the Bible says salvation "is not of works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:9)

Being a Christian is not what you do or where you attend. It is a relationship. You are in your family because you were born there. Your family name indicates your relationship to the people you belong with, not because of what you do, but because of who you are.

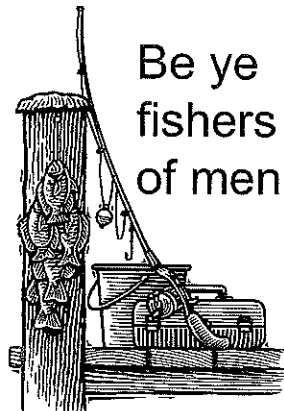
A Christian has a relationship with Jesus. Originally the word Christian meant "Christ's one." Our relationship is by adoption. We are invited to join the family by trusting and following Christ. The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved." (Acts 16:31) So a Christian is someone who has accepted adoption into the family of God by trusting in His Son, Jesus. It's a relationship.

Jay Warren

LIFE IS A JOURNEY, not a home, a road, not a city of habitation; and the enjoyments and blessings we have are but little inns on the roadside of life, where we may be refreshed for a moment, that we may with new strength press on to the end -- to the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

Take Time

- To pray, *God requires it!*
- To read the Bible, *it's God's Word.*
- To go to church, *we need the fellowship.*
- To make good friends. *It makes life worth living.*
- To rest, *our body requires it.*
- To smile, *it brightens the lives of others.*
- To tell your family members *you love them.*
- To enjoy nature, *it's God's gift to you.*
- To be kind to your pets, *it warms their hearts.*
- To feed the birds. *God honors this deed.*
- To blow the dust off your mind...*read good books.*
- To visit the aged, *someday we'll be old.*
- To help the bereaved, *we too shall be there.*
- To visit the sick, *our day will come!*
- To enjoy your home, *you worked hard for it.*
- To be kind to children, *they have a rough road.*
- To encourage and help *our young people.*



Be ye
fishers
of men

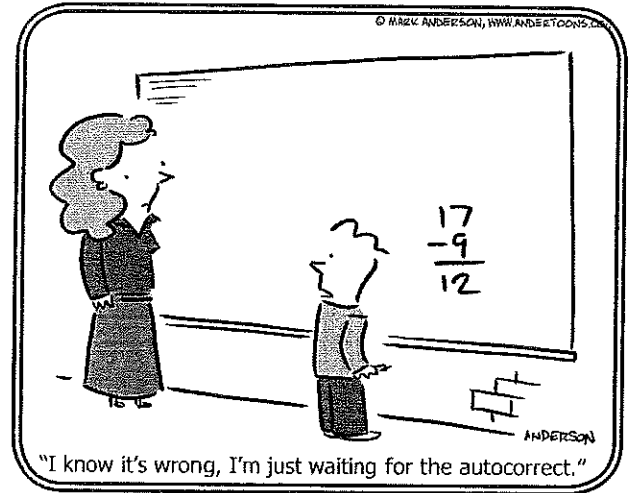
Every True Christian –

Every true Christian will find in his path,
A giant before him like Goliath of Gath.
He can flee, he can cry; he can say all is lost,
Or go out to meet him, not counting the cost.
In the name of the Lord see the enemy defeated,
Thanking God ever he never retreated.

Gordon Lindsay

Words

Words are such wonderful magical things,
Words give our thoughts imperceptible wings,
Words can cause heartaches, words can bring tears,
Words can soothe bounds, words can calm fears,
Words can cause wars, or cause wars to cease –
God, make my words true heralds of peace!



A Neighborly Lift

Have you noticed the flocks of geese on their way to warmer climates? Large groups pass overhead in V-formation. Researchers at Cal Tech in Pasadena point out that the birds fly in that formation because it is aerodynamically efficient. A flock of 25 birds in that pattern can go about 70% farther than if each were flying solo.

When a bird flaps its wings in a downward motion, an upward draft is created near the wing tips. Each bird benefits from its neighbor's updraft.

A similar mutual assist would be realized if the birds flew in a horizontal line, but then those at the center would have to expend more effort than the others. In the V-formation the lead bird experiences a bit more friction than the others but even he benefits from the updraft of the birds immediately behind him on both sides. The birds sense the ease of flying in that fashion and adjust their positions accordingly.

As you hear the honking of geese overhead and see the majestic formations, you are witnessing the practical benefit of a neighborly lift.

Enthusiasm

Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world.

It beats money and power and influence.

Single-handedly the enthusiast convinces and dominates where the wealth accumulated by a small army of workers would scarcely raise any interest.

Enthusiasm tramples over prejudice and opposition, spurns inaction, storms the citadel of its object, and like an avalanche overwhelms and engulfs all obstacles.

It is nothing more or less than faith in action.

Faith and initiative rightly combined

Remove mountainous barriers and achieve

The unheard of and miraculous.

Henry Chester

He Maketh No Mistake

My Father's way may twist and turn,
My heart may throb and ache,
But in my soul I'm glad I know,
He maketh no mistake.

My cherished plans may go astray,
My hopes may fade away,
But still I'll trust my Lord to lead
For He doth know the way.

Tho' night be dark and it may seem
That day will never break;
I'll pin my faith, my all in Him,
He maketh no mistake.

There's so much now I cannot see,
My eyesight's far too dim;
But come what may, I'll simply trust
And leave it all to Him.

For by and by the mist will lift
And plain it all He'll make;
Through all the way, tho' dark to me,
He made not one mistake.

A.M. Overton

The WANTED Man:

1. He who puts God's business above any other business.
2. He who brings his children to church rather than sends them.
3. He who is willing to be the right example to every boy he meets.
4. He who thinks more of his Sunday School class than he does his Sunday sleep.
5. He who measures his giving by what he has left rather than by the amount he gives.
6. He who goes to church for Christ's sake rather for himself or someone else.
7. He who has passion to help rather than to be helped.
8. He who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.
9. He who stands firm in his convictions, based on the Word of God.
10. He who is more concerned about winning souls for Christ than he is about winning honor.

IT'S A POOR JOKE...

when some woman blushes with embarrassment...
when someone carries away an ache...
when something sacred is made to appear common...
when profanity is required to make it funny...
when a little child is brought to tears...
when everyone can't join in the laughter.

Pica Patter

**We should
be thankful
for our tears;
they prepare
our eyes for a
clearer vision
of God.**

Cultivate Your Own Capabilities – Your Own Style

Appreciate the members of your family for who they are, even though their outlook or style may be miles different from yours. Rabbits do not fly. Eagles do not swim. Ducks look funny trying to climb. Squirrels do not have feathers. Stop comparing! There is plenty of room in the forest.

Dr. Charles Swindoll



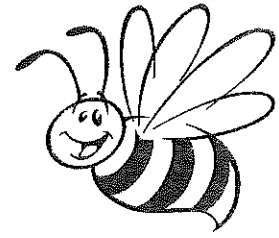


An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with bright freckles, spend the day at the zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by a local artist who was decorating them with tiger paws. "You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in the line said to the little fella. Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head.

His grandmother knelt down next to him and said, "I love your freckles. When I was little girl I always wanted freckles," she said while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful!"

The boy looked up, "Really?"

"Of course," said the grandmother. "Why, just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles." The little boy thought for a moment, peered intensely into his grandma's face, and softly whispered, "Wrinkles."



A doctor gave a man six months to live. The man couldn't pay his bill, so he gave him another six months.

We went out to eat, and my Dad said, "No wonder nobody comes here. It's too crowded."

Now that my wife and I are alone in a rather large house, my daughter asked if I was going to turn one of the empty bedrooms into a den. My wife interrupted with, "Your Father doesn't need one dear. He just growls everywhere in the house."

A mother made an appointment with her young child's pediatrician. She said she had noticed that he had eaten dirt on several occasions.

To the doctor she said, "I've always heard that if a child eats dirt, there is some deficiency. Do you think his dirt-eating indicated a lack of something?"

The doctor replied, "Yes - very definitely. A lack of supervision!"

The landlord called the teenager in the next apartment and yelled, "If you don't turn your stereo down, I'll go insane." "Too late," came the reply, "I turned it off an hour ago."

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, they just met a couple times a week to have coffee. One day they were having coffee when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me...I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name! I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

Preacher: "Please take it easy on the bill for repairing my car. Remember, I am a poor preacher."
Mechanic: "I know; I heard you last Sunday!"

Steve went to a psychiatrist. "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy."

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink.

"How much do you charge?"

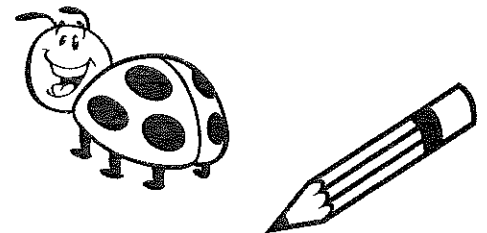
"\$80.00 per visit," replied the doctor.

Six months later the doctor met Steve on the street. "Why didn't you ever come to see me about those fears you were having?" asked the psychiatrist.

"Well, 80 bucks a visit, three times a week for a year is an awful lot of money! A carpenter cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought me a new pickup!"

Is that so? And how, may I ask, did a carpenter cure you?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed! Ain't nobody under there now!"



A Dozen Ways to Tell Your Child "I Love You"

(Without saying the words)

1. When your child is participating in an athletic event or musical performance, be there watching.
2. Find a new way to trust your child by granting a new area of responsibility.
3. Have a family picnic on a Sunday afternoon.
4. Walk in the rain and jump puddles together.
5. Listen to your child with all your attention.
6. Sit down together and watch your child's favorite TV show.
7. Skip rocks together on a lake, pond or river.
8. Say, "I'm proud of you."
9. After your teenage son or daughter comes in from a date, have popcorn together by the fireplace.
10. Tell your child about the things you appreciated most about your own parents.
11. Have a family water-balloon fight (with you as the prime target).
12. Take an evening walk together.

The Summer Fades

The summer fades and autumn comes too soon,
And I who ran with such a quickened pace,
Walk slower now, for it is long past noon
And I have miles to travel in the race.

There is much work to do before the night
And every moment must be made to count,
For there are songs I must find time to write,
And there are hilltops that I long to mount.

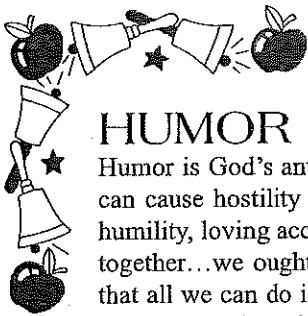
The evening bells ring softly o'er the air
And lamps are lighted all along the way,
And it is time to talk to God in prayer.
For now there is a waning of the day.

Like leaves that fall upon the cold brown earth
The summer fades and memories pile high,
One starts his journey when he's given birth:
There is a time to live, a time to die!

C. G. Curless

Small things are worth a Lot!

In a day when it seems that everything is going "big," if your community is still fortunate to have a *small* store, *small* church, *small* school, *small* post office, *small* cemetery, *small* etc., etc. — hold onto it! We need to remember that God is still interested in *individuals* and *small things*! Not even a sparrow falls without his noticing.



HUMOR

Humor is God's antidote for fear and pride and hate. Pride and a stuffed-shirt spirit can cause hostility and violence and division. Laughter and Holy Humor make for humility, loving acceptance and good feelings about ourselves and others. If we pray together...we ought to be able to laugh together. Sometimes a situation gets so bad that all we can do is laugh. Humor develops a Holy Hope. Laughter heals. To laugh at ourselves is a therapy against pride. Laughter can prevent conflict and act as a curative force to defuse aggressive behavior. However, be careful not to make the other person the butt of the joke. Solemn saints discourage many folk from becoming believers. Forgiveness and celebration are the heart of the Christian faith. Without laughter; faith becomes dogmatism...without faith; laughter becomes cynicism. Faith and laughter...we have both in our joy filled Christ!

Pastor Riggs

One day our little girl came home from her third grade class all upset. We couldn't figure out what was bothering her, so we called the school. Her teacher then explained, "Amanda was in class today and I told the students that today we're going to learn how to do cursive. When I looked at Amanda I noticed that she was crying and was very fretful, so I asked her what was wrong?" She said, "My Daddy is a preacher and he won't let me curse!"

A five year old boy sat and listened attentively to his Sunday School teacher. When she asked what Jesus said to his disciples at The Last Supper, the youngster answered. "Get on this side of the table if you want your picture taken!"

A young mother asked her husband to take the two-year-old for a walk. The husband was busy working on a project, but with a deep sigh (the kind that let his wife know he was not pleased), he grabbed the stroller and began walking around the block in the hot sun.

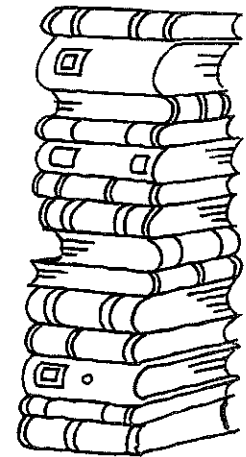
"Honey," shouted the wife from the second-story window.

"Leave me alone!" he called back. "We're all right."

An hour later his wife once again pleaded, "Honey."

"Well, what do you want?" he replied in a gruff way. "Is there anything wrong in the house?"

"No, honey," replied his wife. "But you've been wheeling little Suzie's doll all afternoon. Isn't it time for the baby to have a turn?"





JULY




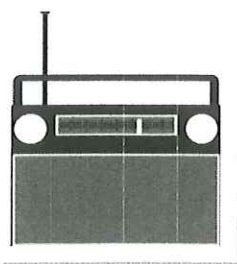
JULY 2021 BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES & ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children, with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts."</i> <i>Psalm 103:17-18</i></p>		<p>"When praying, don't give God instructions, just report for duty."</p>		<p>1 Don & Darlene Hahn</p> <p>Rosemary Sundhagen</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Kim Overdorf</p> <p>Roger Blestrud</p>
<p>4 10 am Freedom Fest Community Service in the tent downtown!</p>	<p>5 Gary Anderson Mitchell Fifer</p>	<p>6 Bridgette Odegaard Kelly Mattern Nick & Brianna Kutter</p>	<p>7 Rhonda Davidson</p>	<p>8 Don Hahn Karmen Eraas</p> <p>WMF Bible Study Circles: 9:30 am Circle 1 2 pm Circle 2 7 pm Circle 3</p>	<p>9 Celina Nielsen Rikki & Sarah Rice</p>	<p>10 Donna Sundhagen John Sundhagen Tyler Lalim</p>
<p>11 Jason & Rachelle Rehak</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>12 Rhonda Rehak Steven & Corrie Dinolfo</p>	<p>13 6:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess Mtg. 7:30 pm Trustee Mtg. 8:15 pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>14 2 pm Ladies WMF</p> <p>Scott & Linda Fifer</p> <p>Bruce & Glenda Lovdahl</p> <p>Richard & Sandra Nelson</p>	<p>15 Robert Odegaard</p>	<p>16 Kasey Odegaard</p>	<p>17 Tiffanie Finstrom Cora Moberg Chuck & Fran Stewart</p>
<p>18 Pastor Richard Carr Gabe & Kendra Karg</p> <p>10:30 am Worship Service</p>	<p>19 Gerald & Evelyn Copes Cody Knudson Matthew Jorstad Rachelle Rehak VBS 6 pm - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>20 Randy & Joy Lalim Gracin Schroeder Aliza Schroeder Michael & Erin Einarson VBS 6 pm - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>VBS 6 pm - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>22 Roger & Georgia Blestrud Lila Perzinski</p> <p>VBS 6 pm - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 10:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>Noon - Potluck and Quarterly Business Meeting</p>	<p>26 Don & Kristy Knudson</p>	<p>27 Juli Christofferson Timothy Larson</p>	<p>28 Elaine Nelson Janna Rojas</p>	<p>29 Lovera Dosch</p>	<p>30 Alex Anderson Laken Martinson Amaleah Raan Barry & Melissa Ramberg</p>	<p>31</p>



AUGUST 2021 BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & ACTIVITIES

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Earl & Susan Syverson Rodger Auen Regina Lalim Dawson James Skalicky 10:30 am Worship Service	2 Alysa Christofferson Sarah Remington	3 Bob & Sue Odegaard Skyler Weisz	4 Brodie & Bridgette Odegaard	5 James Dobrovlny Kristi Knudson Kathi Meland Sandra Nelson Shawn Postovit Jacob & Naomi Smithberg Pete & Jen Wonser	6 Danny Houim Jasmine Houim	7 Joel & Kim Landsverk 
8 Jesse Thull Derek Blestrud Katrina & Jordon Rehak 10:30 am Worship Service	9 Madelyn Carr Ardella Kerbaugh	10 Mitchell Jorstad 6:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting 7:30 pm Trustee Meeting 8:15 pm Council Meeting	11 Wilmer & Mary Ellen Roloff Rick & Annette Haakenson	12 Lyle Braun Jody & Amy Schroeder WMF Bible Study Circles: 9:30 am - Circle 1 2 pm - Circle 2 7 pm - Circle 3	13 Briana Wonser	14 Alan & Sally Iverson Donna Haustveit
15 Suzi Anderson Richard Hurley 10:30 am Worship Service	16 Stacey Sundhagen Sue Odegaard Stephanie Sabinash	17 Linda Aisenbrey Pat Sillerud Paul Eraas	18 Nikki Judkins D'Wayne Johnston	19 	20 Arnold Postovit	21 Georgia Blestrud
22 Evelyn Copes 10:30 am Worship Service	23 Colton Moore Mark Schmidt Jay & Susan Wolla Tim & Brandy Coughlin	24	25 Larry Lambert	26 	27 Llew & Joyce Pederson	28 Chance Holt Scott Davis Meghan Olson
29 10:30 am Worship Service	30 Jared Moberg Gavin Davidson	31 Dantae Knudson Randy & Karen Pederson		<i>"The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice. A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult."</i> Proverbs 12:15-16		<i>"Forget yesterday, enjoy today, and welcome tomorrow."</i>



RADIO MINISTRY

If you would like to sponsor a Sunday broadcast or contribute to the radio fund in honor, or memory of a loved one, please contact the church office, thank you! The radio broadcast is \$100 per Sunday.



Our radio broadcast can be heard on Sundays at NOON on AM Radio Station KTGO 1090.

You can also watch our live-stream online at our website: zionfreelutheran.com

JULY USHERS:

Jim Smithberg

Kim Keller

Isaac Kucera

Richard Nelson

AUGUST USHERS:

Ronnie Lund

Lee Olson

Dan Larson

Ethan Kucera

Join us for Vacation Bible School!

Monday - Thursday, July 19-22nd
(3 yrs. potty-trained, through 7th grade)

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Theme:

"Camp Out" - Getting S'more of Jesus!



If your birthday or anniversary is missing from our Newsletter and you would like to be included, please call the church office

~ CLOTHES CLOSET ~
THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN TO EVERYONE!
HOURS ARE: MONDAY 2 - 7 P.M.
SATURDAY 9 - 12 NOON
IF YOU HAVE A NEED FOR AN ITEM FROM THE CLOTHES CLOSET DURING OFF HOURS, PLEASE CALL RICK RAAN AT 641-6099. THANK YOU!
THE CLOTHES CLOSET IS OPEN IN THE FORMER CHURCH BUILDING: 221 N. MAIN STREET.

Work is being done on the outside of the new church building as funds allow for the parking area, and landscaping along the building. Thank you to all who give of their time and talents for the completion of this project, and thank you to the Landscape Committee who have been busy planting bushes, grasses, flowers and trees, we appreciate you!

