

THE PILGRIM HERALD

September 2016

PILGRIM EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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JULY: PRAYING THE CATECHISM

"There are always more treasures to be discovered in the catechism" [John Pless, Praying Luther's Small Catechism, viii]

About a month ago, a new book caught my eye. "Praying Luther's Small Catechism," by the Rev. John T. Pless. I read it with ease and with an eye towards how I might use it in our catechesis classes. Mind you, it's not just for pastors, but also for "laypeople, especially parents, as Luther saw the head of the household as the primary catechist for the family" (viii). Countless pastors lose their voice and sometimes their mind beating this point home: *the catechism is never something you grow out of but it's something that you continually grow into.* To which parents and children nod, but often it seems that this point doesn't take root into their heart and mind.

We often don't realize it, but we must consider what is at stake here. Consider the world that you live in, think about things you hear, you read, you experience at work and school, what you see on social media. The anchors of Christian teachings are breaking, and our country is off its rocker. It's a mess of moral relativism, hedonism, idolatry, sexual perversion, and complete loss of identity. The worldview of our country is no longer a Christian one and its seeking furiously to suffocate the Christian confession. With this in mind, how might you best equip, train, teach, and give to your children and to yourself anchors that will stand the tests and trials of this mad world? The answer is quite simple, and your likely to roll your eyes when you hear it. It's Luther's Small Catechism. The church and her teachings are the place to start, end, and abide in. The goal of catechesis is not merely the retention of Christian doctrine, the goal is always, and ever shall be, faith in Jesus. This happens as you learn by heart the gifts that are given in the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer,

Baptism, Confession, and The Sacrament of the Altar.

The greatest gift you can give your children is the gift of the Christian confession, the immortal life that is found only in God's Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins. It is all but certain that as the Christian confession gets marginalized, many will leave, sadly even forsake the Christian church, her teachings and her gifts, for what they have been led to believe is a better more loving and tolerant way of life. And yet this way of life will be the way of destruction not only for the body but also for the soul. I don't say these things to create hysteria, as if I was yelling fire in a crowded movie theater. I say these things because if we don't understand the times in which we live, if we don't learn by heart the truth of God Holy Word and gifts that are contained therein, we will quickly loose them, we will find ourselves in exile like the O.T people of old. So in order to buttress ourselves against such apostasy and falling away we need to become entrenched in the gifts of our Christ. The surest way to do that is to come to His house, His Church, and to pray and learn by heart the sound pattern of His Words, most easily digested in Luther's Small Catechism. There is no other way.

To that end, I encourage you not only to pick up again or for the first time, it doesn't matter, Luther's Small Catechism. And if you are so inclined to buy a copy of Pless' Praying Luther's Small Catechism (\$8.99 at Amazon), it will be an oasis to you, who live in a time of increasing unbelief, idolatry, and loss of identity as children of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Perhaps surprisingly, you can pray the Small Catechism. You can speak to God about the most important things in life and in death, things that make you smile and things that make you cry. You can do it with simplicity and with a sound form of words. This is much easy than you think. Because God takes the initiative and put into your mouth the very words that He loves to hear. In this way, even the commandments are promises, and you pray with faith in God's promise to give you all things, especially His promise to give you Himself. Each section begins with material from the Small Catechism followed by a prayer developed out of that material. Then commentary on teaching of the passage shows how teaching shapes praying. Here is the prayer developed out of the 3rd Commandment.

> By Your Word and Spirit, draw us away from our restless labor that we might find rest in You alone, merciful God. Grant that, fearing and loving You above all things, we may never despise the preaching of your Word of Life, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Or this one, on "How can bodily eating and drinking of the bread and wine can do such great things"

> Lord Jesus Christ, as we eat Your holy body and drink Your holy blood, draw our hearts to trust in your promise that Your body and blood were given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Give us the confidence that whosoever Your words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sin"; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God. Amen.

Praying to God from the catechism also turns out to be God speaking from the catechism to you. Through praying and meditating on the Small Catechism, insights from the catechism come to light. One such insight is how the first three parts of the Catechism gel together. For example, the petitions of the Lord's Prayer request nothing else but the fulfillment of what is commanded in the Ten Commandments.

In the end, while pastors and teachers will find great uses for this book, some of the most powerful uses will be in the home. Husbands and wives, parents and children, read this book together, read the Small Catechism together. Whether it's for 10 min or 60 min, matters not. What matters is that you are hearing the sound pattern of the words of your heavenly Father, and in hearing you rejoice, you live the life He has called you to live in your respective vocations all the while living in the comfort and surety that He will guard and keep you in this life and bring you to His eternal life at the time of His gracious choosing.

This book, alongside the Small Catechism, is crucial gem in the Church's work to catechize her people in the ways of a God-given and Godshaped worldview. It is a book that will aid the Christian mightily in these difficult and perilous days to teach him not only how to pray, but how to live in the world according to his heavenly Father's good pleasure. Most assuredly, this book will teach the Christian how to receive his Father's gifts through the Son and by the Holy Spirit. Every Christian should have a copy of this book. And its pages should be well worn.

In the peace and joy of Christ,

Pastor Raffa

BAPTISM

We welcome Weston James Slinger, son of Angela Torre and Derrick Slinger to the family of Christ. Westin was born April 12, 2016 and baptized on August 7, 2016.

LUTHERAN DIFFERENCE BIBLE

CLASS will start up again the Wednesday, after Labor Day. Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

SILENT AUCTION - September 25-October 16, 2016

We will continue to have a combination of raffle, bid and priced items at our Silent Auction. We are looking for <u>new or gently</u> used "treasures" that are clean with no missing parts or pieces. A bid item could include your time, talent or services. We will be accepting donations starting August 1st. Please place them on the table marked "Silent Auction" in the Old Fellowship Hall.

Raffle Tickets are \$2.00 a piece or 6 for \$10.00. Questions regarding donations, contact the church office 334-0375. Thank you for your donations and participation. All proceeds will go towards Pilgrim's debt reduction. If you are able to help with set up, ticket selling or clean up, contact the church office 334-0375 or Norma Benz at 334-4274.

Included in the raffle are "Be a part of the excitement! Live the journey and Own the Future with a ticket package to a 2016-2017 Milwaukee Bucks game! Mineshaft Gift Certificates and A Sharp Microwave oven! Plus, so much more!

PILGRIM DIRECTORY

The dates for the Pilgrim Directory Photo shoot are, December 30, 31, and January 6-7 2017. If those dates do not work for you, please contact Jeff Barger at 262-338-9822 to set up a time to do your photo shoot. We are looking to have 100% of the Pilgrim members involved in this so our Directory is complete. Forms are available on the last page of the Newsletter or in the Church office.

IMPORTANT If you have moved or changed your phone #, or someone in your family has, *please*, contact the Church office with the updated information.

CONCORDIA BIBLE SALE

Read, study and reflect on God's Word with Bibles from Concordia Publishing House. They are offering discounts on: The Lutheran Bible Companion, The Lutheran Study Bible (ESV), Concordia's Self Study Bible (NIV), Concordia's Complete Bible Handbook and so much more. New this year for the 500 Anniversary of the Reformation, in limited quantities, Reformation Anniversary Edition. Please see the order form in the Narthex for more information.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CATECHISM

CLASSES will be starting soon. Sunday school starts on Sunday, September 11th at 9:15 in the Music Room on the lower level. Catechism classes for 5th—8th grade starts on Wednesday September 7th at 4:00 pm. Registration forms will be available for Catechism students in the Cry Room on the table, please pick one up and fill it out for each student in the catechism classes. Please return to the office before September 1st. There will be a brief Parents meeting at 5:30 for the parents of Catechism students. Please plan on attending.

CONCORDIA CIVIC CHORALE SINGERS INVITED!

Community and campus singers from throughout the area are invited to join the newly formed Concordia Civic Chorale at Concordia University Wisconsin. Singers in all voice parts are needed and welcome-there are no formal audition to participate. Music selections will include classical choral masterworks, standard choral favorites, traditional and contemporary cantatas, lighter inspirational works as well as collaborations with other musicians and ensembles. Rehearsals will be held on most Mondays beginning September 12, 7 - 9:30 pm in the choir room (Rincker 106) at Concordia, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon. To register and receive full details, please contact Prof. Mark Bloedow, mark.bloedow @cuw.edu or 262-243-4240. RSVPS appreciated, but not required. All are welcome!

COME JOIN THE PILGRIM QUILTERS

Anyone can join, even if you can't sew, we always need help with laying out, pinning and tying of the quilts. Men and women who are interested, we meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am. Bring your lunch dessert will be provided.

Come see what the Quilters are all about. For more information contact the Church office.



Our Lost and Found is getting full again. Please check for any items you may have lost. If items are not picked up by mid-September all items will be disposed. Thank you

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our teachers have been busy getting ready for the 2016-2017 Sunday School year which begins Sunday, September 11th promptly at 9:15 a.m. for all children age 3 through 8th grade. We meet in the "Music Room" (lower level).

For those who have not enrolled their children yet, please know that we feel music is an important part of our Sunday School program. We will learn new hymns as well as sing storyrelated and fun Sunday School songs.

We celebrate birthdays on a weekly basis during our music time. Students and teachers place pennies (one for each year of their life) into our birthday bank. Last year our birthday bank collected a total of \$5.36, which will be used for a special project at a later date.

We will again be using the *Growing in Christ* Sunday School curriculum. In our classrooms the Bible Story is read and told. The Key Point of the story is brought out and applied to the students' lives. The Law/Gospel dynamic in the text is highlighted and applied to the students' lives. The story details are reviewed. Connections are made to the catechism, liturgy, and hymns of the Church.

Stories for September are found in the Old Testament. They include: The Twelve Spies in Canaan (Numbers 13-14), Entering the Promised Land (Joshua 3:1-5:12), and The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6).

We are only asking parents of <u>new</u> students to complete registration forms this year. We do need to have current information (address and phone numbers) available for each student. Have you moved in the last year? Has your phone number changed? Do we have current contact information should your child become ill during the hour that they are with us each week? Registration forms are available (just ask) or contact Sunday School Superintendent Diane Swanson.

We are in need of substitute teachers. There are occasions when teachers need to be away. Please contact Diane Swanson immediately if you are interested in helping us.

Attendance is important. Our teachers spend a great deal of time preparing lessons each week. If you know you will be away, we appreciate the "heads up". We welcome Julie Raffa and Ginny Schober to our teaching staff.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone on September 11th.



IN OUR COMMUNAL PRAYERS

All servicemen at home and deployed, especially Isaac Wirtz (son of Rev. Nick Wirtz) who is stationed in Baghdad.

Lord God of hosts, stretch forth Your almighty arm to strengthen and protect those who serve in the armed forces of our country. Support them in times of war, and in times of peace keep them from all evil, giving them courage and loyalty. Grant that in all things they may serve with integrity and with honor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Those struggling with health issues.

Father of all mercy, You never fail to help those who call on You for help. Give strength and confidence to Your [son/daughter] in [his/her] time of great need that [he/she] may know that You are near and that You uphold [him/her] with Your everlasting arms. Grant that, resting on Your protection, [he/she] may fear no evil, for You are with [him/her] to comfort and deliver [him/her]; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

For our Seminaries, especially the Ethiopian Lutheran Church and Seminary

O God, through Your Holy Spirit You illuminate the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom You call to the work of pastors and teachers. Look with favor upon this seminary for the instruction and formation of those who are to serve in the sacred ministry of Your Church. Bless those who teach and those who learn that they may apply themselves with ready diligence to the knowledge of Your Word, which alone is able to make us wise unto salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

DAILY LECTIONARY

This outline is a devotional reading plan that covers the entire Sacred Scriptures each year. The selections are based on ancient models and are generally in harmony with the liturgical church year. The average reading is three chapters daily. The lectionary is in accordance with Martin Luther's suggestions: "But let the entire Psalter, divided in parts, remain in use and the entire Scriptures, divided in lections, let this be "Preserved in the ears of the church". Also: "after that another book should be selected, and so on, until the entire Bible has been read through, and where one does not understand it, pass that by and glorify God."

SEPTEMBER'S READINGS

Sept. 1	1Chronicles 29:10-13
	Job 31 – 33
Sept. 2	Psalm 86
	Job 34 – 36
Sept. 3	Psalm 87
	Job 37 – 39
Sept. 4	Psalm 88
	Job 40 – 42
Sept. 5	Psalm 89
	Proverbs 1-3
Sept. 6	Psalms 90
	Proverbs 4-7
Sept. 7	Psalm 91
	Proverbs 8-10
Sept. 8	Psalm 92
	Proverbs 11-13
Sept. 9	Psalm 93
	Proverbs 14-16
Sept. 10	Psalm 94
	Proverbs 17-19
Sept. 11	Psalm 95
	Proverbs 20-22

Sept. 12 Psalm 96 Proverbs 23-25 Sept. 13 Psalm 97 Proverbs 26-28 Sept. 14 Psalm 98 Proverbs 29-31 Sept. 15 Psalm 99 Ecclesiastes 1-3 Sept. 16 Psalm 100 Ecclesiastes 4-6 Sept. 17 Psalm 101 Ecclesiastes 7-9 Sept. 18 Psalm 102 Ecclesiastes 10-12 Sept. 19 Psalm 103 Song of Solomon 1-4 Sept. 20 Psalm 104 Song of Solomon 5-8 Sept. 21 Psalm 105 Jeremiah 1-3 Sept. 22 Psalm 106 Jeremiah 4-6 Sept. 23 Psalm 107 Jeremiah 7-9 Sept. 24 Psalm 108 Jeremiah 10-12 Sept. 25 Psalm 109 Jeremiah 13-15 Sept. 26 Psalm 110 Jeremiah 16-18 Sept. 27 Psalm 111 Jeremiah 19-22 Sept. 28 Psalm 112 Jeremiah 23-25 Sept. 29 Psalm 113 Jeremiah 26-28 Sept. 30 1Chronicles 29:10-13 Jeremiah 29-31

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPT	EMBER BIRTHDA
1-	Diane Behrens
	Rebecca Virchow
	Brian Skrentny
2-	Connie Hackbarth
	Angie Skrentny
3-	Jeffrey Held
	Haley Densow
4-	Nathan Farrington
5-	Mark Baker
7-	Ben Olson
	Jolene Gundrum
8-	David Pajewski
9-	Norma Benz
	Christian Dahl
	Alex Chapman
	Kathy Parker
10-	David Zenda
	Daniel Neuman
11-	Jason Kiviaho
12-	James Krubsack
	Kelly Lange
14-	James Spaeth
	Tyler Smith
15-	Connie Gliniecki
	Marilyn Roell
	Madysin Fettig
	Verlaine Gronowski
16-	Amy Heinen
	Braedon Brehm
17-	Mary Schwittau
	Susan Hepner
	Nicole Olson
19-	Jennifer Strohmeyer
20-	Cindy Schreiner
21-	Scott Sullivan
	Joyce Virchow
22-	Pat Knuth
	Jonathan Thames
	Phyllis Laabs Darkow
23-	Jeff Dalton, Sr.
	Will Taylor

- 24- Cathy Pollow
- 25- Caroline Kreis
- 26- Christopher Held Jody Svien Samantha Chapman Lexie Steiner
- 27- Sandra Thames
- 28- Joshua Farmier
- 29- Eric Johanen Aaron Becker
- 30- Aaron Olson Yvonne Rosenthal Sarah Spalda Tyler Densow Abigail Voll

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2- Steve & Cindy Wiedmeyer Carl & Becky Steiner, Jr.
- 4- Allen & Margie Latall
- 6- Chris & Beth Gatzow
- 8- Robert & Theresa Barenwald
- 10 Richard & Dorreen Dembski
- 11 Keefe & Lindsey Olig
- 15- Jim & Diane Behrens
- 16- Gilbert & Margaret Maffit
- 18- Jeff & Betty Schneeweis Ronald & Joyce Virchow
- 19- Dan & Lori Schulz
- 21- Jeff & Patricia Otten
- 23- Ronald & Cheryl Virchow
- 25- Scott & Amy Goetzke Mark & Natalie Baker
- 30 Paul & Ruth Kohler



Let's Go To Togo! News from the Wildauer Family, serving the Lord in Togo and West Africa

Campus Life

There really isn't anything glamorous about the campus of the Lutheran Center of Theological Studies (CLET - acronym of the French title). Yet it is a well-designed campus by former LCMS missionaries. The intent was to have a place dedicated to the training of men to serve as village pastors while also serving others as a place to gather for seminars. Within the walls of these buildings, students engage the texts of Sacred Scripture like the Bereans of Acts 17. They delve deep into the Truth which sets them free. Herein this newsletter, I present to you some of the students who have completed their second year of studies.

Meet a Baptized Believer from the Field - Student Edition

Serge Zakpa Sonzana comes from the village of Bakoubly in the lvory Coast. He is married with 2 children. During his youth, he was known as "Judah," but had given up going to church. At one point, he saw everyone else in his family was attending church which revealed to him his spiritual need. This led him to his mother's church which is Lutheran. Upon hearing the proclamation of the Gospel, he took interest in theology. He became president of the chorale and a respected leader at a young age. His local congregation sent him to the CLET in 2014. Because his village has a congregation and a pastor, he will most likely serve as a missionary for a neighboring village. Soon after the birth of his son last year, his wife had to return to the Ivory Coast for medical reasons (pray that the unknown sickness is found). He remains in Dapaong with his daughter. He is fluent in two languages and knows some English due to proximity to Liberia. He finds great comfort in 2 Corinthians 5:17.





Pray For:

Our families in the States whom we miss

The continued acquisition and application of the French language for the classroom

✤ The students during their summer break

Health of the students' and professors' families fighting a round of sicknesses

Safe travel for Rev. Jacob Gaugert and other missionaries who travel during this summer

Ongoing support for missionaries Rev. Gary (Area Director) and Steph Schulte who will join us in Africa soon

Give Thanks For:

A blessed Pentecost celebration (everyone was healthy, too!)

The continued spiritual growth of local congregations

Precent and cool rains (and playing in such!)

To support our work financially, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mission Central 40718 Highway E-16 Mapleton, IA 51034

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (or "LCMS"). Please include "Wildauer-Togo" in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely through the LCMS website using my online giving page at <u>www.lcms.org/wildauer</u>. To give a gift over the phone, please call 1-888-930-4438.

[OR]

The CLET serves 8 Lutheran church bodies from 7 different countries. Students will leave their extended families and, accompanied by their immediate family, will remain in Togo for up to 3 years. This is certainly no easy task. News from home does not come often and phone communication is expensive. Yet the 8 church bodies who govern this school see it as necessary to form solidly confessional pastors and missionaries who will serve their communities upon their return. Your support of myself and other LCMS missionaries truly does extend the proclamation of the Gospel through these families.

Meet a Baptized Believer from the Field - Student Edition

Jean Jobert Mampassi and his family come from the Éthnie Babémbé people group in the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville). He and his wife have 7 children, 2 who remain in Congo and one who was born just a couple months ago. His family line has been Christian for a few generations, the same of his wife's family. He entered the Lutheran church in 1999 and was later appointed as an Evangelist in 2003. Musically gifted, he headed the chorale in his church. In 2014, his church and the National President encouraged him to take up studies at the CLET to become a well-trained pastor. Some congregations in his national church are served by circuit riders. Thus, due to his fluency in the 3 national languages, knowledge of 1 other local language and a bit of English, he might be assigned to serve a few congregations. He enjoys studying the life and mission work of St. Paul, which will be similar to his task. He has enjoyed learning the liturgy in theology and practice (the same which his church uses) as it brings the clarity of the message of salvation.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, or if you prefer to receive by posted mail, or if you think someone else might enjoy receiving this newsletter, send an email message to *micah.wildauer@icmsintl.org* with the word ADD or REMOVE in the sublect line.



Étienne (Stephen) Gnagna comes from the Tépo people group in the Ivory Coast and is married to a Liberian lady. They have 6 children, one who remains at home. Their home village is Dayoke. When young, he saw division in his family and people group. At the age of 27, he was converted and baptized by Lutheran missionaries John and Johanna Hansen. From them, he was "given the Light of the World, How could he keep this light for himself and support others who remained in darkness?" He immersed himself in the Bible and the Catechism and later served as an Evangelist under LCMS Missionary Ron Mudge. Appointed by his church to take up pastoral studies, he began at the CLET in 2006-2007, stopped studies for various reasons, and recommenced in 2015. His son, Syroné (Cyrus) loves to play soccer (or football as the rest of the world calls it), and his daughter Christelle aspires to take up the art of hairdressing.



Classroom Studies

Upon our arrival last August, I was given one primary task: Continue with the acquisition of the French language. This gave me a chance to get to know many of the students while allowing for the family to adjust to our new surroundings. With the arrival of the second trimester came the assignment to team-teach the continuation of a class on the Liturgy-Theology and Practice. This same class continued into the third trimester. By this point, the Academic Dean felt comfortable with my spoken French to let me teach on my own. What a blessing it was to both teach and receive responses from the students. The third trimester included the time of Holy Week and Easter. something which very few of them had studied in detail. Below is a snapshot of the chalkboard on Good Friday when we discussed the timeline of events during the three day of Jesus' death and resurrection. From here, the students began to see how each Sunday celebrates the Resurrection and all our life of prayer extends from the cross of Christ (the thief, the two Psalms spoken by Jesus,



For further updates of our family and life in West Africa, check out Robin's blog at www.wildauersgototogo.blogspot.com

finished!"). For many of them, their home church celebrates a three-day/night vigil during this time. Now, they are equipped with services which will accompany their gatherings for prayer.





ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PAGE PUZZLE

fro Words from Romans 8 will be found in next month's Newsletter

WORDS OF WIT AND WISDOM



Sometimes it's important to work for that pot of gold. But other times it's essential to take time off and to make sure that your most important decision in the day simply consists of choosing which color to slide down on the rainbow.

—Douglas Pagels, These Are the Gifts I'd Like to Give to You

We could all use some...

Modern Miracles

At the mention of miracles, we often picture the biblical kind: a dead person brought back to life, a small amount of food feeding a crowd, sight restored to a blind man.

Yet even today we look for the unexpected healings or an earthquake victim found alive after days amid the rubble.

But consider someone born with poor eyesight who, thanks to technology, can work as a professional proofreader or create intricate digital paintings. Consider someone with a prosthetic leg who can run even win races. Consider someone who thanks to a donated heart, kidney, or blood, continues to live. Consider friends in the United States and Europe who can connect in "real time", offering support during a crisis. Technology— whose source is the human brain created by God— makes possible new, modernday type miracle. When used for good, it can overcome barriers, allowing us to celebrate life and serve one another. Miracles, indeed!

GIVING ME YOUR ALL



Christ says, "Give me all. ... No half-measures are any good. ... Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked — the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact, I will give you Myself: my own will shall become yours."

-C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Do Something!

God wants our work to be meaningful and satisfying. No matter what we do, it should provide a reason to get up each day and use the talents God gave us. As Benjamin Franklin said, "The man who achieves makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all: doing nothing."

Our Real Work

It may be that when we know what to do we have come to our real work, and that when we no longer know which way to go we have come to our real journey.

The mind that is not baffled is not employed. the impeded stream is the one that sings.

-Wendell Berry, Standing by Words

We must remember throughout our lives that in God's sight there are no little people and no little places. Only one thing is important: to be consecrated persons in God's place for us, at each moment.

-Francis Schaeffer, No Little People

Blessings or burdens?

Interruptions can be viewed as sources of irritation or opportunities for service, as moments lost or

experienced gained, as time wasted or horizons widened. They can annoy us or enrich us, get under our skin or give us a shot in the arm, monopolize our minutes or spice our schedules – depending on our attitude toward them.

-William Arthur Ward

Bible Humor

We take Scripture seriously, or course, but God also gave us the ability to laugh – and it's healthy to do so! Enjoy these Bible based riddles:

Q: Who was the fastest runner in the Bible? A: Adam. He was the first in the human race.

Q: Where is baseball played in the Bible? A: Genesis 1:1 reads "In the big inning." Then Eve stole first, and Adam stole second, Cain struck out Able, and soon everything was rained out.

Q: Who was the best financier in the Bible? A: Pharaoh's daughter. She went to the Nile bank and pulled out a little prophet.

Q: What was Boaz like before he got married? A: Ruthless.

Working for God, serving others

No matter your occupation, each day brings op-

portunities to honor God by helping other people.

This applies to everyone from a prince to a laborer, as Martin Luther said:

"The prince should think: Christ has served me and made everything to follow him; therefore I, should also serve my neighbor, protect him and everything that belongs to him. That is why God had given me this office, and I have it that I might serve him. ...

"The same is true for the shoemaker, tailor, scribe or reader. If he is a Christian tailor, he will say: I make these clothes because God has bidden me so, so that I can earn a living, so that I can help and serve my neighbor. When a Christian does not serve the other, God is not present; that is not Christian living.

Back to School Humor

(all parents should enjoy this)

- Summer is over. Time to remember what day of the week it is!
- "Labor Day is a glorious holiday because your child is going back to school the next day. It would have been called Independence Day, but that name was already taken."
 (Bill Dodds)
- Receiving new textbooks, one student whispered to another: "Psst, How do you turn this thing on?"
- Parent: "What did you learn in Kindergarten today?" Kindergartener: "Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.





Please see back bulletin board for More information or #2 for website address.

Please print legibly as this is going into the directory. Fill out form completely. Thank you
FAMILY NAME
FIRST NAME
SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME
CHILDREN'S NAMES
CURRENT ADDRESS
CITY STATE
ZIPCODE
2 nd ADDRESS (if applicable)
CITY STATE
ZIPCODE
HOME PHONE # (if applicable)
CELL PHONE #
Email address (if applicable)
Please list your choice of date and time for your photo shoot. Number of people in picture
Dates available are. December 30 or December 31, 2016
Times available are between 8:00 am and Noon, and again from 12:45pm to 4:00 pm.
1 st choice
2 nd choice
3 rd choice
Please check here if you are interested in ordering prints
You will be contacted with your appointment time.

Thank you



This craft will remind you that God is always with you.



What you need:

- · A large round bowl
- · 2 large pieces of
- construction paper
- A pen
- Scissors
- A ruler
- A brad
- A Bible or search engine

What you do:

- Turn the bowl upside down and trace around it on both pieces of paper.
- Cut out the circles. Draw a dot in the center of each.
- On one circle, trace and cut out two 2" squares opposite each other, with the dot in the middle.
- Align the dots and place the brad through both circles.
- In the space left by one square, write a fear you have. Then write a comforting Bible verse in the other square.
- Rotate the circle to a new blank space, and write another fear and verse.



God always watches over us, during good times and bad.

Directions: Connect the dots, according to the instructions below. Then use the resulting word to complete the Bible verse.

Start at 19. Draw from 19-18, 18-17. 47-62, 62-77. 22-21, 21-20. 50-51. 82-81, 81-80, 80-65, 65-50, 50-35, 35-20. 24-38, 38-53. 24-40, 40-55. 17-32. 47-48. 32-47. 26-41, 41-56, 56-71, 71-86. 56-57, 57-58. 55-54, 54-53, 53-68, 68-83. 55-70, 70-85. 58-43. 57-73, 73-88. 43-28, 28-27, 27-26.

15 16 17 30 45 46 47 62 63 60 60 61 62 63 60 75 77 90 100 101 102 103 105 106 107 110 111 112 113 114 115 115 117 118 110 120 . ٠ ٠ ٠ ٠ 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 121 122 123 _ ___, for I am with you; do not "So do not _ ~~ be dismayed, for I am your God." Isaiah 41:10, NIV

Answer: fear