



From the Pastor's Desk

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

Psalm 33:12a

I recently finished reading through I & II Kings and I & II Chronicles in the Bible, along with many of you who are reading through the Bible this year. These books of the Bible record the reigns of the kings of Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom), along with commentary about their accomplishments, national events, and the spiritual life of the king and the nation. The books of the Kings are from more of a political perspective, and Chronicles are from more of a religious perspective. The difference is especially seen when some kings have extra length of detail in Kings about their great political and economic success, but in Chronicles, it simply records that they “did evil in the sight of the Lord.” Their worldly success was meaningless in light of their spiritual bankruptcy.

In reading through all of the history of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah, one cannot but notice that when evil kings and queens sat on the throne, the people suffered immensely; but when godly leaders reign, the nation was blessed. The northern kingdom (which retained the name, Israel) never had a godly king. None. Zip. The nation was plunged into great evil, disregard for the life of children, political corruption, sexual immorality, religious idolatry, and a decadent culture. In their final days, they even turned to cannibalism and eating their children, along with sacrificing their children as burnt offerings to idols, rather than turning to God for deliverance. Even though God sent many prophets to them, warning them of sin, they persisted in it, and would not repent. Because of this, they were ruthlessly conquered by the Assyrian Empire in 722 B.C. and scattered throughout the region of the Middle East. Today they are known as the “ten lost tribes of Israel” because they have never been regathered.

Judah, the southern kingdom, fared better and survived over 100 years longer. This was because she had the advantage of the temple being in her capital city, Jerusalem, and the faithful priests of God were there. Judah also had some very good kings, such as Jehoshaphat, Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah, etc. These kings led reforms and along with the prophets called the people back to God. These reforms would bring seasons of great blessing upon the people. It is interesting to note whether the advisors that the kings had around them, were godly or not as well. A tragic example is King Joash, who turned from the Lord when his godly advisor died. Joash even killed the son of his advisor for warning him of turning from God. Another striking observation is that just because a king had a godly father or grandfather was no guarantee that they would walk in

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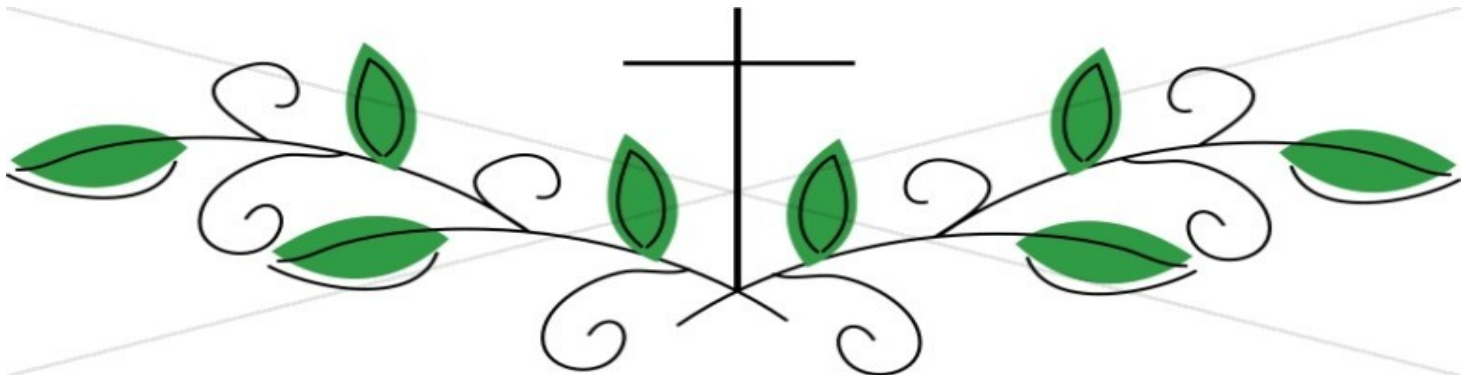
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the ways of God. Thankfully, the opposite was also true, and some kings who had evil fathers, turned from that evil and led the nation in godly ways.

Eventually, the southern kingdom also succumbed to the same fate as the northern kingdom. One might think that Judah would have learned from her sister's example, but she ultimately went in the same direction of sin and rebellion against God to the point of no return, and she was conquered by the Babylonian Empire in 608-606 B.C. Both kingdoms started off with the incredible heritage of King David, but both ended up turning their backs on God and going their own ways to destruction and demise.

As we celebrate our own national heritage on July 4th, let us reflect upon how God has overwhelmingly blessed our nation, and let us as a people repent and confess our sins, and turn to God with a whole heart. Let us faithfully pray for our leaders and pray for our nation, and recommit ourselves to walk in the ways of the Lord.

Praying together with you for our nation!

Pastor Carlson



Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life

“The creation of the world and its government is the work of the Lord, and it is not in His declared plan that man will destroy it. The fright peddlers are giving too much power to man. It is God’s power they need to recognize, not man’s. If man is the basic power, then the answers must come from man, but if God is the sovereign power, then the answers must come from God, and none other. God has provided the answers, and they are in His Word. Our problem is that men pay no attention to them.”

R. J. Rushdoony, author and theologian –
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Welcome New Members!



Pictured left to right, front to back:
Marirose Donlin, Heather Weighley, Racheal Weighley, Donna Weighley, Ethan Vogelsberger,
Cassandra Rummel, Joanna-Praise Morden, John Morden, Joe Cawley, Jr., Jason Weighley

Not pictured: Janet McGowan, Melissa Manzo

On June 20th these folks were received into Christian fellowship here at Ruthfred Lutheran Church by affirmation of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Please welcome them as you have opportunity.



Member Profile:**by Mettelise Ziegler****Barb & Marc Harrold**

Barb & Marc Harrold have been active church members for over three decades. They have developed a strong sense of community from participating in numerous projects and ministries over the years.

Neither were Lutheran as children. Marc, from New Kensington, was United Methodist. Barb, from Indiana, PA, was raised in the Roman Catholic faith.

The two met at Duquesne University as undergraduate students in the School of Pharmacy. After graduation in 1982, the couple moved to Cleveland where they worked as pharmacists for about a year until Marc decided to pursue a PhD in his field. For over four years, they lived in Columbus while Marc attended Ohio State University. Their oldest son, Daniel, was born during that time. Two sons followed. All three were active at Ruthfred throughout their childhoods. Dan is married with a wife and four-year-old son. He teaches English at Baldwin High School. Ian is a medical doctor in Cleveland where he and his wife are raising a four-year-old daughter and a toddler son. Nathan, the youngest, is attending the University of Chicago.

Barb and Marc have lived in Bethel Park for thirty-three years, ever since moving there when Marc began a job at Duquesne. He is a professor in the School of Pharmacy. Barb has been employed as a pharmacist at the Veteran's Hospital in Oakland for many years.

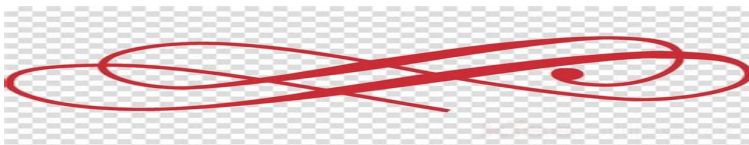
During the time they lived in Columbus, the Harrolds walked to a nearby Lutheran Church. They appreciated the worship style, finding the liturgy meaningful. When they moved to Bethel Park, they visited several Lutheran churches before deciding on Ruthfred.

Ruthfred offered a family-friendly environment, as well as biblical teaching that appealed to the Harrolds. Both have held positions as Sunday School superintendent. They were active with the former Pioneer Club that was held on Wednesday nights. Barb has a gift for theater, participating in community playhouses like the Little Lake Theater and Old Schoolhouse Players. She used her talent to assist in puppet ministry and Christmas pageants.

The Harrolds have been faithful to attend adult Sunday School, help in the nursery and coordinate Easter baskets. Marc has served as usher, elder and teacher. Barb has also taught. She led a ministry called Parents of Young Adults (POYA) that encouraged fellowship and Bible study between participants in that group.

Outside of church, Marc participates in a model railroad club, plays the piano and runs. He and Barb exercise together by bicycling the many fine rails-to-trails in our region.

The Harrolds want to encourage others to join any of the groups that are active at our church. They know first-hand how these associations have blessed them over the past thirty-three years by helping their family members to grow.

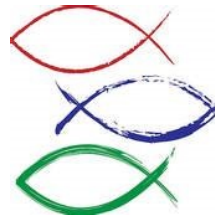


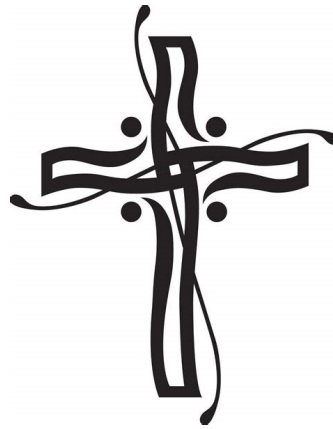
Brandon Fouks began his tenure as Youth Director at Ruthfred on Jan. 1st, 2016. I was so thankful that he and **Bekah** were coming from Wisconsin/Minnesota to Pennsylvania! We had been without a youth director for a full 1 ½ years and even though we had adults and vicars who stepped in and were helping, the truth was, our youth ministry was struggling. Those first years had extra challenges, but Brandon in characteristic fashion, met them with quiet determination and dependence upon the Lord. One of Brandon's great strengths has been, to not be driven by the tyranny of the urgent, nor the pressure of image which is so prevalent in the South Hills. Brandon has always been about substance over packaging; faithful commitment over fleeting interest; and authenticity over superficial image. Alongside of him a solid group of youth advisors has gathered as well. This has all resulted in the spiritual as well as numerical growth in our youth groups at Ruthfred. Brandon and Bekah will certainly be missed as they journey back to Wisconsin in early August. They are purchasing the farm where Brandon grew up and will be living there. The grandparents are extremely excited to soon have Atticus and Otto so close!



We pray God's blessing upon them in this new season of life!

Pastor Carlson





**Thank You Brandon & Bekah
for the last 5 1/2 years of
faithful ministry !**



AFLC Conference 2021

On June 16th - 19th our annual AFLC Conference was held in Plymouth, MN. Pastor Carlson, Ben Carlson, and Ron and Chris Stout represented our congregation at the conference.

In the pictures below, how many other Ruthfred connections can you identify?



"Discovering You're Priceless to God"

VBS is July 26-30th!
9 AM - 12 PM
Ages 4 - Grade 8



Join us in person for a fun week filled with skits,
Bible lessons, crafts, games and more!

FREE!

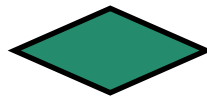
Registration is highly recommended

Register:
[events/2ce20e](https://vbspro.events/p/events/2ce20e)



<https://vbspro.events/p/>

Looking for something FUN this summer?? We need lots of
volunteers to make this week great! Please head over
to the website shown above for an opportunity to serve!



VBS DONATIONS

Unable to volunteer for VBS this year, but still want to help? We are asking once again for gift card/monetary donations for our snacks. Accepted donations:

- Sam's Club Gift Cards
- Walmart Gift Cards
- Checks or Cash

Place donations labeled "VBS" in the offering basket on Sundays, or in the church office throughout the week. Please have all donations in by Sunday, July 11, 2021.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Church Picnic / Praise-in-the-Park:

Mark your calendars for **Saturday August 21st, 2021!** The Church Picnic and 2nd annual Praise-in-the-Park concert will be a combined event this year. Stay tuned for upcoming details as they evolve.

Official Acts -- June 2021

Baptisms: (*indicates member)

*Brooks Hunter Bollman—6/27/2021

Funerals: (*indicates member)

*Glenn Hughes—6/5/21 (Memorial service)

Thomas R. Armor—6/5/21 (Memorial service)

Carolyn F. Shiring—6/9/21 (Memorial service)

New Members:

6/20/21

Joseph F. Cawley, Jr.

Marirose Donlin

Janet McGowan

Melissa Manzo

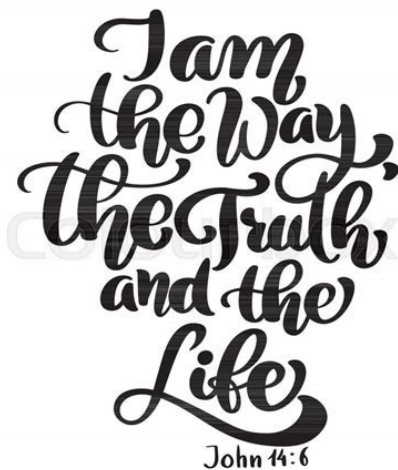
John Morden

Cassandra Rummel

Ethan Vogelsberger

Jason and Donna Weighley and children

Heather and Racheal



Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

How Great Thou Art

Lyrics: Stuart K. Hine

Music: Swedish Folk Melody



At a 1955 Billy Graham Crusade in Toronto, soloist George Beverly Shea performed "How Great Thou Art". The song gradually caught on with audiences and went on to become a signature hymn for the Graham crusades. It was not the first and only time that this hymn was introduced in North America, but it was almost certainly the way in which it was most widely popularized. In his 1975 collection of essays titled "Hymns of Faith", Nathanael Olson made this observation: "Many poets and songsmiths have expressed their wonder of God's creation, but few have struck such a responsive chord in the hearts of millions as did the writer of this hymn – currently *the* most popular sacred song." I found two factoids that lend some credence to this bold claim. One is that the only hymnal in my personal library that included this hymn – "The Singing Church" – placed it as hymn #1 in its collection. The other is that a 2001 survey by *Christianity Today* ranked "How Great" second on a list of the favorite hymns of all time, with "Amazing Grace" as no. 1. (Wikipedia)

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.*

So, who was the "writer of this hymn" referred to by Mr. Olson? The answer is somewhat complicated. English hymnals generally credit Stuart Hine, and justifiably so. It is his translation that has become so well known and loved in the English speaking world, and it was Hine who added the verses about Jesus' work of redemption and the anticipation of His second coming in glory. Hine first heard a Russian version of the hymn while serving as a British Methodist missionary in the then Soviet Ukrainian SSR. So the original version was Russian you might think. No, actually it was a translation from German by Ivan S. Prokhanov, the "Martin Luther" of Russia. The German in turn was a translation from Swedish by Manfred von Glehn.

Now we are finally getting to the root origins of the hymn we now know as "How Great Thou Art". Rev. Carl Boberg (1859–1940) was a Lutheran pastor, editor, and one time senator in the Swedish parliament. As the story goes, Boberg was walking home with some friends from an afternoon service one day when they were caught in a sudden brief thunderstorm. The sky then cleared and the sun shone again. From the window of his home he had a beautiful view of the sea, and church bells were playing a tune in the distance. That evening he was inspired to write a nine verse poem titled "O Store Gud". A few years later the poem got paired with an old traditional Swedish melody. The rest, as we saw above, is history! One final footnote, however, to this complicated, but interesting history. When Manna Music obtained the rights to Hine's lyrics, they made two minor changes: "Consider all the works" was changed to "Consider all the worlds", and "mighty thunder" was changed to "rolling thunder".

I love how this wonderful, classic hymn of praise, in its current English version, starts out with "awesome wonder" at God's creation in the heavens, then moves to the grandeur of our earthly home. It then follows with gratitude for the Father's love in sending His Son, such that we "scarce can take it in", and concludes with joyful anticipation of His second coming.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!*

An Unanticipated Encounter

by Ned Wellman



There's a little road trip that my wife and I take about 3 or 4 times each summer. We drive about 100 miles to Bedford County where I am from, and back again the same day. While there we have lunch with an old friend who drives down from State College, and after lunch we often visit with my sister who lives nearby.

Because of the long hiatus due to the COVID shutdowns, we were particularly looking forward to this first trip in 2021. We left home about 9:00 AM for a projected 12:30 lunch in Bedford. My wife, Barbara, and I prefer to avoid the major highways and stick to back roads instead. The weather was beautiful and it looked to be a perfect day for traveling.

About 10 miles east of Monongahela, however, the tire pressure indicator light on my dashboard suddenly lit up. This is in what you might call "God's country", with the next town, West Newton, maybe 10 more miles away. Since the car was not showing any signs of agreeing with the indicator, I decided to continue on and gamble on finding a service station somewhere. Well, it wasn't until the east side of West Newton that I finally found a little Sunoco station with two gas pumps and a sad little convenience store.

I pulled off the road and parked next to an old car with a cracked windshield and a guy inside who appeared to be asleep. As I was unsuccessfully searching for a tire pressure guage in my car, I was startled by a voice behind me saying "Do you need some help?" It was the sleeping stranger from the old car. After eyeing the large, gruff looking gentleman up and down for a few seconds, I asked him if he by chance had a pressure guage. "Sure," he replied, and proceeded to rummage around in the trunk of his vehicle. I couldn't help but notice that the trunk was full of junk. The inside of the car was also filled with bags of stuff.

My new "friend" was an imposing specimen, reminding me of an NFL lineman or a coal miner who just finished his shift. He sported an impressive gallery of tatoos exposed by a sleeveless shirt. "Well," he announced, "I can't seem to find mine either. Maybe there's an air pump around back." So off we went to the back of the station. We found a vacuum machine, but no air pump. "Sometimes they are combined in one machine," he said. And sure enough he was right.

While I fumbled around with the air pump, my friend informed me that he was a mechanic. I asked if he worked out of a garage or auto shop. "No," he replied, "I work out of my car. I go to the customer instead of the customer coming to me." After a brief moment of silence, he added "You know, I've been through some hard times, including time in the penitentiary." You might imagine that I would have been a little spooked by now, but there was something calming and reassuring about this fellow. The pump required quarters to operate, and I only had one on me. As I started searching my pockets for more, my friend produced a roll of quarters, explaining that he always carried them for anyone who might need some.

We quickly found that the pressure in all four tires was just fine. My helper then announced that he had a tool to reset the indicator light. Just then I noticed that Barbara was about to offer him several bills in

appreciation for his kind assistance. He quickly refused any reward, telling us that when he got out of the penitentiary he promised God that he would find someone he could help each day. He declared that our encounter was God's doing and that he could not accept anything for simply being His instrument. Barbara asked if he was a church-goer to which he hesitantly replied "Yes". She then asked if he would take her money and put it in the collection plate. He agreed.

As we prepared to part ways, we introduced ourselves to him, and he to us. His name is Tommy Quattro (just like the Audi). I'll never forget Tommy, and I think about him a lot.

As you might guess, we were late for lunch.



WELCOME New Staff members!

- * Sally Ondrejko is in the process of succeeding Paula Mikulan as our new office manager.**
- * Regan Johnson will be arriving in July to work with Brandon for a week, and then take over as our new youth director beginning Sept. 1st.**

We are so thankful to the Lord for providing these new partners in ministry here at Ruthfred! Please welcome them as you have opportunity.

90+ Birthday Club

Elizabeth Wood	July 3rd	94
Fritz Heilman	July 3rd	91
Jackie Feller	July 12th	91
Al Hatala	July 16th	95
Andy Kovac	July 22nd	93

Happy Birthday !!

Congratulations to our missionaries Scott & Paula Starker

who just received special recognition for their 30 years of service with Wycliffe Bible Translators!

We have been supporting them on the mission field for a number of years.

Scott and Paula Starker began their work with Wycliffe Bible Translators aiding with Bible translation and literacy in Oaxaca, Mexico. After experiencing a life altering stroke, Scott moved from translator to System Administrator in the Publications Department for the Mexico branch of SIL, a global, faith-based non-profit organization that partners with local communities around the world to create language solutions that enable people to engage with Scripture. Scott also serves as System Administrator and Programmer for scriptureearth.org which provides Scripture materials for languages of the world via the internet. They currently supply video, audio, text to read, pdfs and mobile apps in 2,817 languages! In addition, Scott now administers a fourth website, Literacy in Mexico.

Paula serves to meet the needs of the Mexico branch co-workers through the Fellowship Team and Catalina SIL Member Care Team. She is an RN and has been very busy during COVID doing contact tracing and updating COVID policies and protocols to be in line with the county, state and CDC. Paula is currently a medical advocate for four people with serious health needs.

The Starkers' daughter, Amanda, lives with them in Tucson, AZ while working on a master's degree in counseling, managing her own business and doing church youth ministry.

If you would like to send them a note of congratulations, their address is:



Scott & Paula Starker

39022 S Cracked Corn Dr.

Tucson, AZ 85739



July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 HAPPY 94 th BIRTHDAY ELIZABETH WOOD Happy Birthday HAPPY 91 st BIRTHDAY FRITZ HEILMAN
4 Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00	5 Elders' Meeting 7:00	6 Worship Team 7:00	7 Bible Study 10:00	8	9	10 Mary Bible Study 9:30
					CHURCH CAMPING TRIP	
11 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	12 Happy Birthday HAPPY 91 st BIRTHDAY JACKIE FELLER Elders' Prayer Time 7:00	13 Craft & Sew 9:30 Worship Team 7:00	14 Bible Study 10:00 Esther 12:00	15 Ruth 2:00	16 HAPPY 95 th BIRTHDAY AL HATALA Happy Birthday	17 Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 5:00
18 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	19	20 Worship Team 7:00	21 Bible Study 10:00	22 HAPPY 93 rd BIRTHDAY ANDY KOVAC Happy Birthday	23	24 
25 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	26 VBS BEGINS	27 Worship Team 7:00	28	29	30	31

Ruthfred Youth July 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



1

[Onward @.](#)

2

[The ARC .](#)

3

4

Sunday School
9:45 am
SWAP 6-7:30 pm
@ Church

5

6

TNT @
Roose's
7-9 pm

7

8

9

[Annual](#)
[Church](#)

10

[Camping](#)
[Trip](#)
----->

11

[@ Moraine](#)
NO SWAP

12

13

TNT @
Weighley's
7-9 pm

14

15

16

17

18

Sunday School
9:45 am
SWAP 6-7:30 pm
@ Church

19

20

TNT @
Isaac Cox's
7-9 pm

21

22

23

24

25

Sunday School
9:45 am
SWAP 6-7:30 pm
@ Church

26

[Ruthfred .](#)

27

TNT @
Nirella's
7-9 pm

[Vacation .](#)

28

[Bible .](#)

29

[School .](#)

30

[2021 .](#)

31

Reading Through the Bible 2021

Schedule for July

1st	2 Chronicles 29:3-36 2 Chronicles 30 2 Chronicles 31
2nd	Proverbs 25 Proverbs 26 Proverbs 27 Proverbs 28 Proverbs 29
3rd	Proverbs 30 Proverbs 31
4th	Psalms 42 Psalms 43 Psalms 44 Psalms 45 Psalms 46
5th	Psalms 47 Psalms 48 Psalms 49 Psalms 84 Psalms 85 Psalms 87
6th	Psalms 1 Psalms 2 Psalms 10 Psalms 33 Psalms 71 Psalms 91
7th	Psalms 92 Psalms 93 Psalms 94 Psalms 95 Psalms 96 Psalms 97
8th	Psalms 98 Psalms 99 Psalms 100 Psalms 102 Psalms 104 Psalms 103
9th	Psalms 105 Psalms 106
10th	Psalms 107 Psalms 111 Psalms 112 Psalms 113 Psalms 114
11th	Psalms 115 Psalms 116 Psalms 117 Psalms 118
12th	Psalms 119
13th	Psalms 120 Psalms 121 Psalms 123 Psalms 125 Psalms 126
14th	Psalms 128 Psalms 129 Psalms 130 Psalms 132 Psalms 134 Psalms 135
15th	Psalms 136 Psalms 146 Psalms 147 Psalms 148 Psalms 149 Psalms 150
16th	Isaiah 18 Isaiah 19 Isaiah 20 Isaiah 21 Isaiah 22 Isaiah 23
17th	Isaiah 24 Isaiah 25 Isaiah 26 Isaiah 27 Isaiah 29
18th	Isaiah 30 Isaiah 31 Isaiah 32 Isaiah 33
19th	Isaiah 34 Isaiah 35 Micah 2 Micah 3 Micah 4 Micah 5
20th	Micah 6 Micah 7 2 Chronicles 32:1-8 2 Kings 18:13-18 Isaiah 36:1-3 2 Kings 18:19-37
21st	2 Kings 19:1-19 Isaiah 37:1-20 2 Chronicles 32:9-19 2 Kings 19:20-37 Isaiah 37:21-38 2 Chronicles 32:20-38
22nd	2 Kings 20:1-11 Isaiah 38:1-8 2 Chronicles 32:24-31 Isaiah 38:9-22 2 Kings 20:12-19 Isaiah 39
23rd	Isaiah 40 Isaiah 41 Isaiah 42 Isaiah 43 Isaiah 44:1-5
24th	Isaiah 44:6-28 Isaiah 45 Isaiah 46 Isaiah 47 Isaiah 48:1-11
25th	Isaiah 48:12-22 Isaiah 49 Isaiah 50 Isaiah 51 Isaiah 52:1-12
26th	Isaiah 52:13-15 Isaiah 53 Isaiah 54 Isaiah 55 Isaiah 56 Isaiah 57
27th	Isaiah 58 Isaiah 59 Isaiah 60 Isaiah 61 Isaiah 62 Isaiah 63:1-14
28th	Isaiah 63:15-19 Isaiah 64 Isaiah 65 Isaiah 66 2 Kings 20:20-21 2 Chronicles 32:32-33
29th	2 Kings 21:1-9 2 Chronicles 33:1-9 2 Kings 21:10-17 2 Chron. 33:10-19 2 Kings 21:18 2 Chron. 33:20 2 Kings 21:19-26 2 Chron. 33:21-25 2 Kings 22:1-2 2 Chron. 34:1-7 Jeremiah 1 Jeremiah 2:1-22
30th	Jeremiah 2:23-37 Jeremiah 3 Jeremiah 4 Jeremiah 5:1-19
31st	Jeremiah 5:20-31 Jeremiah 6 2 Kings 22:3-20 2 Chronicles 34:8-28

A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a



Back by popular demand -- more bulletin bloopers that fortunately Paula never made!

Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Barbara C. remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests recordings of Pastor Jack's sermons.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement Friday evening.

There will be tryouts for the choir next Thursday. They need all the help they can get.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Regarding Adam & Eve, a story I heard was that when God first decided to create a helper for Adam, he consulted with Adam for his thoughts. "Wow," Adam said, "I think it would be great to have someone to cook, clean, raise the kids, keep the garden weeded, and give me a neck rub every night."



God responded that a helper like that would cost Adam an arm and a leg. Adam thought about that for a few seconds and then replied, "I see --- what can I get for a rib?"

