

RUTHFRED HERALD

July 2022

Volume 32, No. 7



From the Pastor's Desk

"...encouraging one another..."

Two years ago, June 28, 2020, I was ordained and installed as a pastor at Ruthfred. Much has taken place in the past two years to help me grow in my appreciation for the pastors who've served at Ruthfred over the years, and in my appreciation for pastors in general. At the same time, much has taken place in these two years to help my family and me grow especially in our appreciation for this congregation, our beloved Ruthfred!

Coming back from the AFLC's Annual Conference in Wisconsin last week, Erin told me, *"It was great to see all those people we love and miss. Even so, being there with them this week reinforced to me that we're in the right place here at Ruthfred! We are where God wants us to be!"*



Erin was lovingly pointing out that while we miss our Midwestern, Scandinavian brothers and sisters in Christ; deeply love, appreciate, and are grateful to God for them; there are significant cultural differences between Pittsburgh and the Midwest. A common Minnesota joke, for example, when the CDC first recommended practicing six feet of social distancing, was that Minnesotans responded, "Six feet? That's kinda close, isn't it?"

Erin and I are grateful to God to have had the opportunity to attend the AFLC's Annual Conference. We reconnected with so many friends, learned more about the business of our church body, and enjoyed seeing and spending time with Pastors Brent Olson, Nathan Olson & family, James Molstre, Adam Osier & family, Aaron Olson & family, Kevin Czymbor & family, Alex Amiot & family, and Micah Hjermstad. We were even blessed to see Micah Hjermstad elected the new President of the AFLC! Our own Mark Riley was also elected to serve on the AFLC's World Missions Corporation.

It meant a lot to the people of the AFLC to have such a great turnout from Ruthfred at the conference. With Pastor Carlson and Sadie, Chris Stout, Mason Mitchell, Regan Johnson, and seven McMinns, 12 Ruthfred members made the trek to Wisconsin.

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Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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The photo to the left shows Chris Stout giving her presentation. She provided the church body with a summary of the financial condition of the various corporations and ministries of the AFLC.

Many of my seminary classmates and others asked, “How are things going at Ruthfred?” I shared with them many of the exciting things that have taken place here in the past two years, and honestly told them, “I’m still learning to develop a healthy balance. At times it’s overwhelming. But there’s no other place in the world I’d rather be!”

Would you like to attend the AFLC’s Annual Conference in 2023? They love seeing people from Ruthfred! I encourage you to consider attending. It’s a great way to show your love and support to the people of our small, faithful church body. In addition to reconnecting with many of our Midwestern brethren, Erin and I were blessed to meet other pastors and families from AFLC congregations in Pennsylvania, like Pastor Will Cole, his wife Nicole, and their kids from St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church in Millerstown, PA.

Gathering together is how God’s people worship Him, receive His grace, are strengthened in the Faith by His Word and Spirit, and love and encourage each other (Hebrews 10:23-25). He commands us to gather together in these ways, to His glory.

Consider attending next year’s AFLC Annual Conference. If you haven’t been to church in a while, don’t just consider, but *do* come back. Gather together and worship with us here on Sunday. We’d love to see you. It’ll be an encouragement to you, others will be encouraged *by* you, and God will be glorified!

***Love in Christ,
Pastor McMinn***

Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



Lutherans
For Life

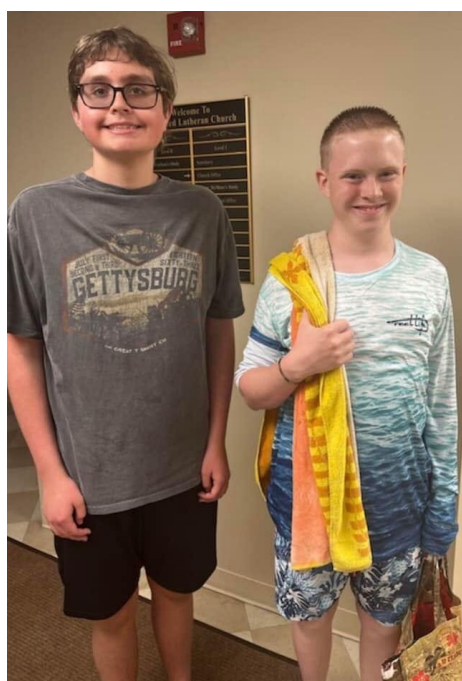
“The God who chose to give us life at the moment of fertilization is the same God who chose to rescue us and redeem us and give us salvation. And He did it by sending His Son, Jesus, to experience every stage of human life so we could be forgiven and given life everlasting with Him!”

**Rev. Craig Michaelson, Faith Community Lutheran Church, Las Vegas,
Nevada – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org**



YOUTH SUMMER KICKOFF

June 7th, 2022



Member Profile:**by Mettelise Ziegler****Blake Dowd**

A few months ago, at the 11:00 am Sunday worship service, an animated group of adults and teens surrounded Blake Dowd around the baptismal font. At Ruthfred this was somewhat unusual, as baptisms typically involve young parents holding a squirming baby on the pulpit side of the baptismal font while two sponsors stand off to the lectern side trying to look at ease in front of the congregation. One or both pastors would be standing at the center behind the font, smiling and speaking confidently about the benefits of Holy Baptism and the mandate to raise the child in the Christian faith. Then the unsuspecting, often squawking baby would suffer the indignity of having water drenched upon its fair forehead in the name of the Holy Trinity as the baby is adopted into the family of God.

I enjoyed Blake's baptism so much. I was sitting in the front pew with the choir, hearing low whispers behind me. There was a good mix of Blake's family including parents Amy and Steve, as well as Ruthfred youth celebrating this important sacrament with him. I caught up with Blake by telephone last week. He was on his annual family trip to Deep Creek Lake waiting for rain to quit. Having recently graduated from Peters Township High School, Blake was looking forward to fun on the water before heading off to college in August.

Blake was raised in a Christian home. His family attends the South Hills Bible Chapel. Between the fourth and eighth grades, Blake attended Hillcrest Christian Academy. Since the school did not go beyond grade eight, he returned to the Peters Township School District to finish his secondary education. This past spring, Blake had the leading role in the school musical, *Beauty and the Beast*. Blake loves musical theater, singing, tennis, soccer and baseball. Blake's older brother will be a senior in college this fall, while his younger brother is just fourteen.

Blake chose to study early childhood education at Grove City College. He was attracted to the Christian character and competence of the teaching staff. Blake chose to become a member of Ruthfred for similar reasons. A friend, Isaac Nirella, invited Blake to attend the youth's summer kick-off event in 2020. Blake told me he was instantly welcomed by his peers. He began attending TNT as well. Finally, he came to worship and was surprised by how much he really enjoyed the liturgical style. He said Ruthfred felt like home for many reasons, including that it is small enough that he can develop relationships and know the pastors.

Blake has been given a solid start in life. He is on a good foundation. Join me in welcoming Blake to our Ruthfred family and supporting him as he studies at Grove City and discerns God's will for his future.



Registration for VBS (Vacation Bible School) is now open! Come with us on a Monumental Journey celebrating God's Greatness July 25 to 29th at Ruthfred Lutheran Church from 9AM to Noon. Registration is available on www.ruthfred.org. For information or questions contact jason.weighley@gmail.com.

Save the Date and Join the Fun!

Annual Church Picnic

Saturday, August 20, 2022

3:00-7:00pm Church Grounds



Food, Fun, Fellowship, and Worship!

Look for more info in future bulletins and mailings.

Summer Reading Program for Kids!

“CPH Reads” is a summer reading program offered by Concordia Publishing House. Ruthfred is participating as a way to keep our kids reading, and growing their faith, over the summer.

The program is designed for ages 2 through 5th grade. (Obviously the younger children would be read to by parents or other adults.) We currently have a variety of CPH Arch books available for borrowing, located on a bookshelf in the fellowship hall.

To participate, parents need to register children on the *cph.org/reads* website. The books read are then logged online with CPH, plus there are cards to take home to track reading progress. Each faith-based CPH book counts for 100 points. Other books can be read as well for 50 points each.



Prizes: CPH is entering readers who reach 1,000 points into a prize give-away. Ruthfred will also be awarding cool prizes as well, including a drawing for a grand prize! To be eligible for the prizes, please be sure to return your tracking cards to the fellowship hall bookshelf by August 14th.

Song of the Month

By Mettelise Ziegler

Holy Spirit, Live In Me

Lyrics: Fanny Crosby

Music: Charles Kirby / Jack Schrader

*Holy Spirit, live in me; More like Jesus let me be;
Fill my soul with peace and love, Make me gentle as a dove.
More like Jesus as I go, Pilgrim in this world below;
Poor in spirit I would be, Holy Spirit live in me.*

*More like Jesus when I pray, More like Jesus day by day;
He will teach me how to live, All my sinful ways forgive.
Born of Him, by grace renewed, By His love my will subdued;
Rich in faith I still would be, Holy Spirit live in me.*

Several weeks ago the senior choir sang an anthem by Fanny Crosby titled, *Holy Spirit Live In Me*. The lovely words asked the Lord for guidance to become more like our Savior, Jesus Christ. I won't embarrass him, but one of our members was particularly moved by the piece. Our *Herald* editor, Tom Glasser, hoped I would find some interesting background on it. I came up with nothing. Nada. Zilch.

However, it is impossible to reach my age and not be deeply, richly blessed by the works of Fanny Crosby. Impossible. She wrote over 8,000 poems that composers set to music. She was sometimes criticized for writing sappy, sentimental prose. So what? The truths of those words and the tender hugs they placed on broken hearts since the 1800's is nothing short of saintly, in my book at least.

As Americans, some of us believe we should always find quick fixes, easy and permanent. We may think we understand that suffering and sin are real conditions, but we avoid them at all cost, cursing God for not taking them away at our request. Fanny was different. She was born Frances Jane Crosby in Southeast, New York on March 24, 1820. She was the only child of her father John and his second wife, Mercy, but she had a half-sister from her father's first marriage. When she was six weeks old, she developed an eye infection. Having run a daycare center for nearly fourteen years I know that eye infections are common. Get eye drops. No big deal. But sadly, with medical science then not being as advanced as now, a doctor applied mustard poultices -- hot, mind you -- to her newborn eyes. Tragically this caused her to become totally blind.

As if that were not hardship enough, God allowed Fanny's father to pass away when she was six months old. That left her mother, sister and grandmother to fend for themselves in the 1820's. Fanny's mother went to work as a maid while her grandmother worked hard to help her "see" the world as best she could.

Fanny was very intelligent. She also had a strong faith, an optimistic outlook, and keen ability to memorize huge portions of Scripture. She attended the New York Institution for the Blind from 1835-1843, and then became a teacher there. She married one of her students, ten years her junior, changing her surname to Van Alstyne.

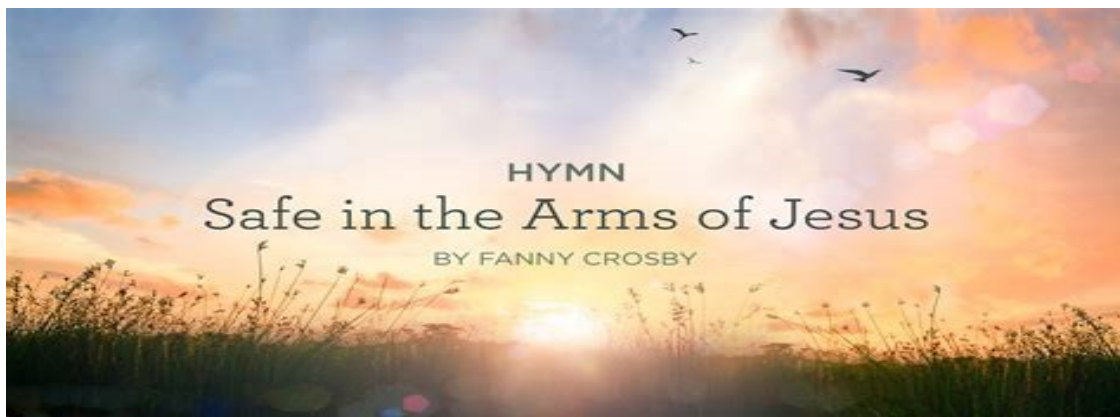
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Husband, Van, went to regular college, becoming a music teacher. Fanny began writing hymns, always beginning with prayer, in her forties. She was paid a dollar or two for each one. They lived near the worst part of New York City, the Bowery, where they became acquainted with Jerry McCauley, a former prison convict and founder of New York City Mission. Fanny helped at the mission, sharing the pardon and peace found in the Gospel. Fanny died close to my childhood home in Bridgeport, Connecticut in 1915.

Fanny left a legacy. At our church, we know *Blessed Assurance*; *Pass Me Not O Gently Savior*; *To God Be the Glory*; *Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross* and maybe a couple more. But Fanny's best known may be *Safe In the Arms of Jesus*. My own personal story involves this hymn. My sainted mother-in-law remembered when her young nephew died a terrible, tragic death. This is the hymn that was sung. When my step-daughter tragically passed away decades later, no one could find it. Finally, the pastor was able to obtain a copy. What a balm it was for our family.

Sources: Wikipedia, Encyclopeda Britannica; Christianity.com



Ponderable Quote:

The Americans combine the notions of Christianity and liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive the one without the other; and with them this conviction does not spring from that barren traditional faith which seems to vegetate rather than live in the soul.

Alexis de Tocqueville 1805 - 1859
(Frenchman who visited America in the 19th century and wrote about his experiences)

No Time to Play

My precious boy with the golden hair
 Came up one day beside my chair
 And fell upon his bended knee and
 Said, "Oh, Mommy, please play with me!"
 I said, "Not now, go on and play;
 I've got so much to do today."
 He smiled through tears in eyes so blue
 When I said, "We'll play when I get through."
 But the chores lasted all through the day
 And I never did find time to play.
 When supper was over and dishes done,
 I was much too tired for my little son.
 I tucked him in and kissed his cheek
 And watched my angel fall asleep.
 As I tossed and turned upon my bed,
 Those words kept ringing in my head,
 "Not now, son, now go on and play,
 I've got so much to do today."
 I fell asleep and in a minute's span,
 My little boy is a full-grown man.
 No toys are there to clutter the floor,
 No dirty fingerprints on the door,
 No snacks to fix; no tears to dry:
 The rooms just echo my lonely sigh.
 And now I've got the time to play;
 But my precious boy is gone away.
 I awoke myself with a pitiful scream
 And realized it was just a dream
 For across the room in his little bed,
 Lay my curly-haired boy, the sleepy-head.
 My work will wait till another day
 For now I must find some time to play.

Dianna (Mrs. Joe) Neal

Submitted by Greg Saul

90+ Birthday Club



Elizabeth Wood	July 3rd	95
Fritz Heilman	July 3rd	92
Jackie Feller	July 12th	92
Al Hatala	July 16th	96
Esther Cox	July 18th	90
Andy Kovac	July 22nd	94

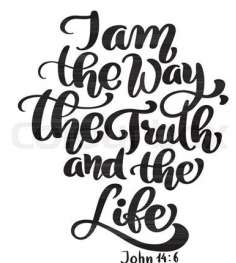


Official Acts -- June 2022

Funerals:

- * James R. MacManus 6/23/22
- * Darryl L. Roussel 6/27/22

* Indicates member



Worship Team Members for July 2022

Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. Isaiah Compel (7/3)
Jonathan Tarrant (7/10)
Isaiah Compel (7/17)
Noah McMinn (7/24)
Jonathan Tarrant (7/31)

11:00 a.m. Noah McMinn (7/3)
Elias Manzo (7/17)
Josh Cimarolli (7/24)
Josh Cimarolli (7/31)

Flag Bearers in Celebration of 4th of July:

8:30 a.m. Josh Cimarolli (7/3)
Isaiah Compel
11:00 a.m. Noah McMinn

Counters:

8:30 am Tom Glasser
Eric Went
11:00 am Kris Went
Josh Cox

Ushers:

8:30 a.m. Bernard Pattera
John Ruzicka
11:00 a.m. Will Charlton
Mark Hisdorf

Altar Guild
Elaine Widich

Coffee Hour:
Handshue Family

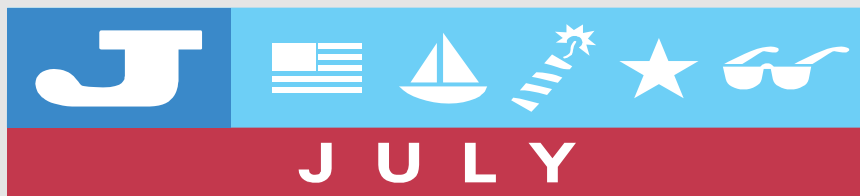
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~Psalm 84:10
(KJV)~

For a day in thy courts
is better than a thousand.
I had rather be a
doorkeeper in the
house of my God, than
to dwell in the tents
of wickedness.

CL



2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	2
3  Holy Communion Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY HAPPY 95 th BIRTHDAY Elizabeth Wood HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY Fritz Heilman	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	5 Worship Team 7:00	6 JTTW Summer Session 10:00 ("Perfect Opportunity")	7	8 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	9 Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
10 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	11 Elders' Meeting & Prayer Time 6:30 Council Meeting 7:30	12 FLAG DAY Worship Team 7:00 HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY Jackie Feller	13 JTTW Summer Session 10:00 ("Spirit") Esther Noon	14 Knit Wits 10:00	15 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	16 Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 6:00 HAPPY 96 th BIRTHDAY Al Hatala
17 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	18 HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY Esther Cox 	19 Craft & Sew 9:30 (Sewers) Worship Team 7:00 HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY George Schneider 	20 JTTW Summer Session 10:00 ("Unlawful")	21 Ruth 1:30	22 St. Mary Magdalene Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) HAPPY 94 th BIRTHDAY Andy Kovac 	23 
24 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels')	25 St. James the Elder, Apostle  Benevolence 7:00	26 Worship Team 7:00	27 No JTTW	28	29 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	30 Herald Deadline
31 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00						

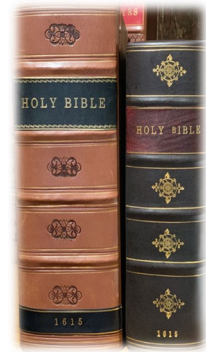


2022 Youth Ministry Calendar

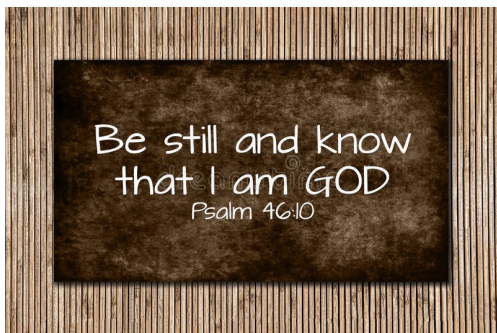
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:45 No SWAP Work Camp	4 	5 No TNT	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	11	12 TNT @ the Wente's house 7-9	13	14	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30 FLY Beyond	18	19 TNT @ the Burke's house 7-9	20	21	22	23
24 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	25 VBS	26 TNT @ the Hoppe's house 7-9	27	28	29	30
31						

Reading Through the Bible 2022

Schedule for July

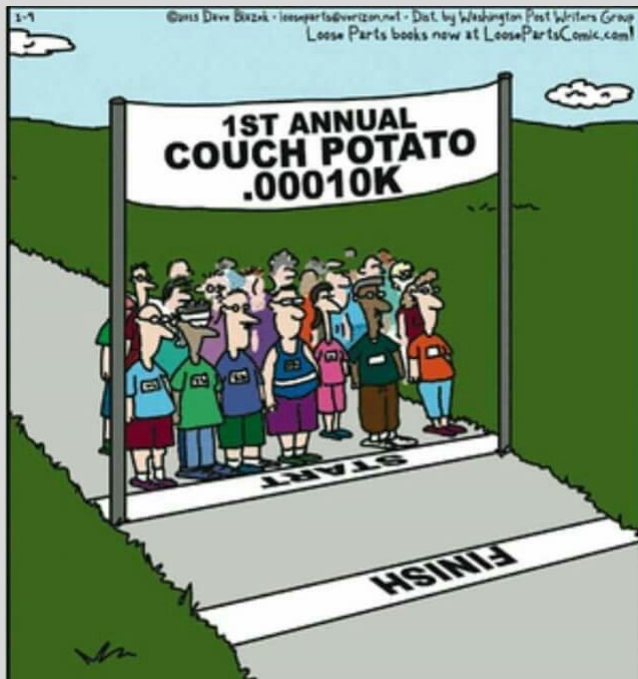


1st	Psalm 21	Psalm 22	Psalm 23	Psalm 24	Psalm 25		
2nd	Psalm 26	Psalm 27	Psalm 28	Psalm 29	Psalm 30	Psalm 31	
3rd	Psalm 32	Psalm 33	Psalm 34	Psalm 35			
4th	Psalm 36	Psalm 37	Psalm 38	Psalm 39			
5th	Psalm 40	Psalm 41	Psalm 42	Psalm 43	Psalm 44	Psalm 45	
6th	Psalm 46	Psalm 47	Psalm 48	Psalm 49	Psalm 50		
7th	Psalm 51	Psalm 52	Psalm 53	Psalm 54	Psalm 55	Psalm 56	Psalm 57
8th	Psalm 58	Psalm 59	Psalm 60	Psalm 61	Psalm 62	Psalm 63	Psalm 64
9th	Psalm 66	Psalm 67	Psalm 68	Psalm 69			
10th	Psalm 70	Psalm 71	Psalm 72	Psalm 73			
11th	Psalm 74	Psalm 75	Psalm 76	Psalm 77			
12th	Psalm 78	Psalm 79					
13th	Psalm 80	Psalm 81	Psalm 82	Psalm 83	Psalm 84	Psalm 85	
14th	Psalm 86	Psalm 87	Psalm 88	Psalm 89			
15th	Psalm 90	Psalm 91	Psalm 92	Psalm 93	Psalm 94	Psalm 95	
16th	Psalm 96	Psalm 97	Psalm 98	Psalm 99	Psalm 100	Psalm 101	Psalm 102
17th	Psalm 103	Psalm 104	Psalm 105				
18th	Psalm 106	Psalm 107					
19th	Psalm 108	Psalm 109	Psalm 110	Psalm 111	Psalm 112	Psalm 113	Psalm 114
20th	Psalm 115	Psalm 116	Psalm 117	Psalm 118			
21st	Psalm 119						
22nd	Psalm 120	Psalm 121	Psalm 122	Psalm 123	Psalm 124	Psalm 125	
23rd	Psalm 126	Psalm 127	Psalm 128	Psalm 129	Psalm 130	Psalm 131	Psalm 132
24th	Psalm 133	Psalm 134	Psalm 135	Psalm 136	Psalm 137	Psalm 138	Psalm 139
25th	Psalm 140	Psalm 141	Psalm 142	Psalm 143	Psalm 144	Psalm 145	
26th	Psalm 146	Psalm 147	Psalm 148	Psalm 149	Psalm 150		
27th	Job 1	Job 2	Job 3	Job 4			
28th	Job 5	Job 6	Job 7				
29th	Job 8	Job 9	Job 10				
30th	Job 11	Job 12	Job 13				
31st	Job 14	Job 15	Job 16				



A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a



Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Novocain during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

A hungry lion was roaming through the jungle looking for something to eat. He came across two men. One was sitting under a tree and reading a book. The other was typing away on his laptop. The lion quickly pounced on the man reading the book and devoured him. Even the king of the jungle knows that readers digest and writers cramp.

