



From the Pastor's Desk

Called to Believe, Teach, and Confess

So, why Ruthfred Lutheran Church? What's the difference between Ruthfred Lutheran, Bethel Presbyterian, St. Thomas More Parish, Christ United Methodist, South Hills Assembly, South Hills Bible Chapel, or that pretty Greek Orthodox church up on the hill across from the Galleria?

Why do we baptize babies, but some churches don't? What's Holy Communion?

For that matter, why Jesus? What does it mean to be a Christian in the first place? What are the basics of the Christian Faith, and why do the different denominations seem to disagree on them?

These are all good questions for Christians to consider; questions I've tried hard to walk through with our first-year confirmation students this year, and with the adults these last two and a half months in Ruthfred's adult Sunday School class. In confirmation and in the adult Sunday School class we've taken a look at Luther's Small Catechism to find answers to the above questions, and to learn (or refresh our understanding) of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian.

We've had some fun as we've walked through these things together. The confirmands and I enjoyed delicious, unhealthy snacks in confirmation class, and closed out the year with mini-golf at Cool Springs, followed by a trip to Rita's!

The adult Sunday School class seemed to enjoy the humor of my attempts to dress like Martin Luther, speak like him, and we've all enjoyed the terrific YouTube videos of Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, who has a fantastic sense of humor and some excellent teaching skills.

Do yourself a favor: Go to Youtube, and search for this: "*Bryan Wolfmueller Why I'm a Lutheran.*" You'll LOVE it! Pastor Wolfmueller isn't only informative. He's funny, and has a clear gift for making complex concepts simple.



Why I'm a Lutheran
Bryan Wolfmueller

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Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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After watching that video, feel free to follow Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller's Youtube Channel, and search for his videos on baptism, Holy Communion, the Ten Commandments, and other issues about which you might be curious.

If you're interested in learning more about the basics of the Christian Faith that we teach at Ruthfred, feel free to e-mail Pastor Carlson or me as well. We enjoy discussing these things. Maybe you've been a member of Ruthfred for 50 years, but have never read or heard of the Augsburg Confession, or haven't read or opened your Small Catechism since you were 14 years-old in confirmation class. Maybe you've never read the Large Catechism, and don't have the foggiest idea what the differences are between Presbyterians and Lutherans.

There's help for you! In fact, if you'd like a free copy of Luther's Small Catechism, or the *Book of Concord* (the book of the Lutheran Confessions), I can give you a copy! We can even sit down over coffee and talk about these things together if you'd like.

Pastor Carlson and I stand with you, 'fighting back against the devil's temptation to be bored with theology!' There are wonderful reasons Ruthfred is Lutheran. There are wonderful reasons Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, Pastor Steven Carlson, and I are Lutheran. They're Biblical, Gospel-centered reasons. And, as Pastor Wolfmueller says, "we think YOU should be Lutheran too! HA!"

Pastor McMinn



Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life

"Death is the one thing no Christian has to do on his or her own. Jesus has already been through suffering and death before us. He knows the way through death and the way back to life, too. Our friends and family cannot go with us—but Jesus can. He will never let go of our hands. And He will bring us back to life with Him because He has promised, and He will never lie."

Dr. Kari Vo, Lutheran Hour Ministries – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life
lutheransforlife.org

Confirmation Class of 2021

On Thursday, May 10th the confirmation class of 2021 publicly displayed their knowledge and understanding of God's Word and the Christian faith which they have so diligently studied the past two years. Then on Sunday, May 23rd, they publicly confirmed that faith into which they had been baptized. May God continue to bless them and walk alongside them as they move forward with their lives.

"We have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you be filled with the knowledge of [God's] will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."
Colossians 1:9-10



Sydney Marie Felicetti
Faith Mayda Coleman
Amanda Grace Sperandio
Heidi Nicole Miller
Lauren Marie Tarrant
Emma Jean Bianco
Neil James Agnew
Alana Lorraine Agnew
Layton Ray Cameron
Colton James Pfeuffer
Tanner Jacob Pfeuffer
Evan Lee Ng



YOU DID IT!
Congratulations

to the following college graduates among us:

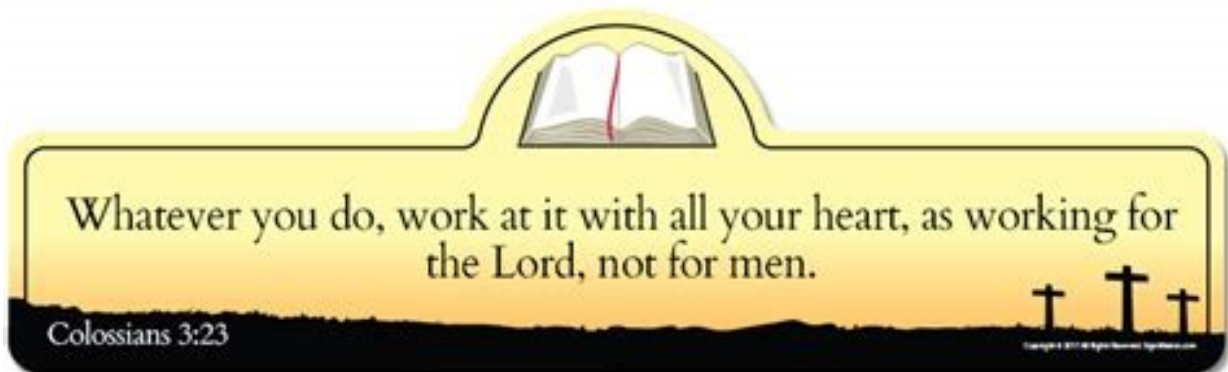
Jacob Boehme graduated from Washington and Jefferson College with a BA in Business Administration.

Alexia Cardiges graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a BS in Neuroscience and Psychology, with a minor in Chemistry.

Ben Carlson graduated *magna cum laude* from Grove City College with a BS in Physics and minors in Astronomy and Chemistry.

Coltin and Rebecca Cox graduated from the Free Lutheran Bible College.

Maddie Wente graduated from Ohio State University and will be starting a career in sales with Dow Chemical.



Member Profile:**by Mettelise Ziegler**

Greta Kelly

Greta (Seaholm) Kelly was born in the Bronx and raised in Bohemia, a hamlet of the town of Islip on the southern shore of Long Island, New York. She has strong ties to Ruthfred, a church she has loved since 1987.

As a child and teenager, Greta was very active with her local Lutheran church on Long Island. For several summers, she particularly enjoyed attending camp with other Lutheran girls. She remembers three years of weekly confirmation classes. However, she was not confirmed in the usual way.



Greta was denied confirmation in the eighth grade. Her story made it all the way to Pittsburgh within the church. Pastor Dennis was familiar with the tale. Greta's pastor refused to confirm her because attending Lutheran summer camp took her away from a summer program at her church. Elders and bishops became involved in a heated controversy. Greta was required to pass an oral examination. By the time the pastor's decision was reversed by those who overruled him, Greta was incensed and refused to be confirmed at the church.

Greta attended Ohio State University (OSU), graduating with a degree in Journalism. She came to Ruthfred with her parents. Pastor Dennis developed a program for Greta so that in 1991, at the age of twenty-three, she was finally confirmed in the Christian faith.

Since OSU, Greta received training in desktop publishing at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh. Currently, Greta writes for blogs and social media posts. Greta also works part time jobs to help support her family. A single mother since 2014, Greta has been raising three children. Rory is a student at the University of Vermont. Kendall attends the University of Arizona. Shane, the youngest, lives at home, creating art projects on a freelance basis. The Kelly's are residents of Mt. Lebanon.

Over the years, Greta has leaned upon her faith. She had back surgery several years ago. She experienced a heart attack at a young age. Greta is needed to help a family member with a chronic health condition. Greta worked with the youth group until she married and had her own children. She taught Sunday School in the past. For at least five years, Greta has served in the church nursery. She is also the wedding coordinator, a volunteer position helpful to insure that nuptials run smoothly.

No matter what occurs in the future, Greta is determined to set a good example for her children. She feels truly blessed, even "when life kicks you." As time passes, Greta appreciates even more how abundantly God loves her. She is thankful for her life and for being able to share it with people at Ruthfred.

Greta Kelly is a confirmed Lutheran.

Journey Through the Word -- Summer Session

All are welcome to join us Wednesdays, June 16-August 4, from 10:00-11:30. We'll be watching Season 1 of the biblical TV series *The Chosen*. For the first time ever, the greatest story ever told is presented as a multi-season show. Digging deeper into the back-stories and context of the people and events of the gospels, we'll be introduced to people such as Simon Peter, Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene, Matthew, and, of course, Jesus in a way never before seen on film. We'll have a short discussion after viewing each episode. That's it -- no homework! Plan to join us for this time of fellowship as we imagine life with Jesus and those who knew Him during His time on earth.



Please email your resume and any questions to:
Denise Stutzman at
denisestutzman@ruthfred.org

Craft and Sew

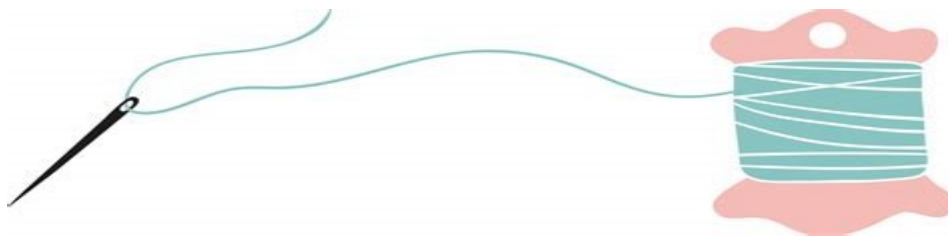
The virus was still a concern in January and February, so women continued to sew from home. Our first meeting at the church was in March. It was great to see everyone again and catch up on the events of the past year.

For the first 5 months in 2021, we were able to make and deliver:

60 Face Masks, 10 Walker Bags and 15 Eye Glass Cases to Concordia South
10 Walker Bags and 15 Eye Glass Cases to the Baptist Home
44 Pillow Cases to the Washington City Mission
44 Walker Bags, 18 Eye Glass Cases, 5 Face Masks, 6 Crocheted Lap Robes and
Easter and Mother's Day favors made by the Crafters to Concordia in Cabot, PA.

Thank you to everyone who continued to sew and make table favors from home during the past year. These items mean so much to the residents and they are very appreciative.

If you or anyone you know could use a walker bag or adult bib please check the storage area behind the kitchen for those items, they will be in a box, please help yourself.



If you are interested in joining the sewing group, we will be meeting 9:30am on the third Tuesday in June, July and August. You do not need to be able to sew, there are plenty of other things to do, and the best part is, we have a good time!

Please continue to donate candy, individual Kleenex packets and new or gently used hand or dish towels.

If you have any questions, or other sewing ideas, please contact me.

Thank you for all your donations!
Arlene Ball
arlene1952@gmail.com



"Discovering You're Priceless to God"

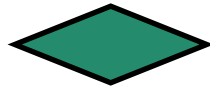
**VBS is July 26-30th!
Ages 4 - Grade 8**



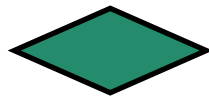
Join us in person for a fun week filled with skits, Bible lessons, crafts, games and more!

Registration is highly recommended

Register: <https://vbspro.events/p/events/2ce20e>



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.

Questions about anything VBS?

Contact Lauren Compel by email at VBS_laurencompel@yahoo.com

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Adult Sunday School:

Beginning on **June 13th**, Pastor Carlson will be teaching a three week series on **“God’s Desire and Design for Marriage.”**

This is a particularly relevant topic as our culture drifts further from God’s truth in these areas of gender and sexuality. We will explore Scripture together and celebrate the true beauty of love and marriage. Alongside of this is the question of what place does happiness and holiness play in marriage? Furthermore, how does marriage reflect the image of God and the community of the Trinity, as well as symbolize the relationship between Christ and the Church. This will also give insight on why Satan hates marriage so much.

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 -- May 2021

Confirmands 5/23/21

Alana Lorraine Agnew

Neil James Agnew

Emma Jean Bianco

Layton Ray Cameron

Faith Mayda Coleman

Sydney Marie Felicetti

Heidi Nicole Miller

Evan Lee Ng

Colton James Pfeuffer

Tanner Jacob Pfeuffer

Amanda Grace Sperandio

Lauren Marie Tarrant

Weddings: (*indicates member)

* Patricia Willmott & Thomas Sanders -- 5/22/21

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart

Lyrics: Edward Hayes Plumptre

Melody: Arthur Henry Messiter

On May 9th, our recessional hymn here at RLC was "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart". After the choir had recessed, the fetching Mrs. Glasser remarked that she liked that hymn and suggested it as a possibility for a Song of the Month article. Being Mother's Day and all, I thought it only meet, right, and salutary that I act on her suggestion.

Ironically, one of the things I learned is that this hymn was written for use as a processional. Dr. Edward Plumptre composed it in 1865 for use at a choir festival at England's Peterborough Cathedral. Commenting on hymns like "Rejoice", hymnologist Albert Bailey commented that one "can hardly realize the emotional effect of a processional made up of choirs from a dozen different communities, marching with full panoply through 'long-drawn aisle' and under 'fretted vault'".



Peterborough Cathedral

*Rejoice, ye pure in heart,
Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high,
The Cross of Christ your King.*

One can picture the inspiring pageantry of a grand processional led by a crucifer with cross raised high followed by another acolyte carrying a colorful "festal banner". The version of "Rejoice" that we sang on May 9th had seven stanzas – a few more than we typically like to sing. We can be thankful, however, that we did omit the four additional stanzas which do exist! Another hymnologist, William Reynolds, noted that it "was not unusual for a cathedral processional to take from ten to thirty minutes, and the hymn that was sung by both the choir and the congregation needed to have enough stanzas for this."

Dr. Plumptre has an impressive list of theological, academic, and literary accomplishments as long as my arm. So it is with humble trepidation that I question the title of his hymn. "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart." Wow, that seems to leave me out! My heart is certainly nowhere near pure. Assuming that Plumptre's theology is in the mainstream of Christian orthodoxy, however, I can only assume that he used the concept of "purity" to simply refer to all Christians who truly confess and repent of their sinfulness and sincerely rely on God's grace in Christ for forgiveness. In that case, I pray that I can count myself among the *bright youth and snow crowned age* called upon to raise their *free, exultant song*. OK, with that little caveat out of the way, enjoy this hymn as one that eloquently urges joyful praise to God *with all the angel choirs* and *all the saints of earth*.



E. H. Plumptre

*With voice as full and strong
as ocean's surging praise,
send forth the hymns our fathers loved,
the psalms of ancient days.*



A. H. Messiter

The lively, yet stately melody for Plumptre's text was composed by Arthur Henry Messiter, who incidentally has a Pennsylvania connection (albeit on the Flyer's side of the commonwealth). After immigrating from England to the U.S. in 1863, he had a notable career in Philadelphia as an organist, music editor, and music historian.

Catching up with Council . . .

RUTHFRED LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES May 10, 2021

The last day of regular class is June 7th. There are plans for a different style of teaching Sunday school for summer. Ms. Bunny and Susan Wholey will continue their class.

As chairman of the call committee, Pete Huwe recommended Regan Johnson be hired as the new Youth Director. Pete shared about the weekend that Regan spent in Pittsburgh visiting Ruthfred. Tom Sanders made a motion to hire Regan which was seconded by Eric Wenthe. The motion passed.

Joe Roman gave an update on the Office Manager position. We had some interest from members but are looking to advertise on LinkedIn and Indeed. If anyone knows of someone who may be a good fit please let us know. Praying for some activity.

Preschool – We will need to hire 1-2 new teachers. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested, please recommend them to council. This year, we will need two classes.

Pastor Carlson said that the ushers have done a marvelous job seating people during Covid while it was difficult to find room for everyone. People appreciate their efforts. Confirmation students will be at the altar rail. A motion was passed to restart the coffee hour beginning June 6th.

We need two nursery attendants starting June 13th.

Pastor Carlson suggested combining the picnic with 'Praise in the Park' since the two events are so close to each other on the calendar and have a similar fellowship focus.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Wenthe



JUNE 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	2	3	4	5
6  <i>Holy Communion 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Holy Communion 11:00</i> (First Holy Communion for Sr. Confirmands 11:00) <i>Holy Communion 6:00</i>	7 <i>Elders' Mtg 7:00</i>	8 <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	9 <i>Esther Bible Study</i> <i>12:00</i>	10	11	12 <i>Mary Bible Study</i> <i>9:30</i>
13 <i>Worship svc 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship svc 11:00</i>	14 Flag Day <i>Elders' Prayer Time</i> <i>7:00</i> <i>Council 7:30</i>	15 <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	16 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i>	17 <i>Men's Cookout</i> <i>6:30</i>	18	19 <i>Contemporary</i> <i>Liturgical</i> <i>Sevice 5:00</i>
			===== AFLC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 6/16 - 6/19 =====			
20 Father's Day <i>Worship svc 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship svc 11:00</i>	21	22 <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	23 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i>	24	25 <i>Anniversary of</i> <i>The Presenta-</i> <i>tion of the</i> <i>Augsburg</i> <i>Confession</i> <i>(1530)</i>	26
27 <i>Worship svc 8:30</i> <i>Sunday School 9:45</i> <i>Worship svc 11:00</i> <i>GIFT Bible Study 6:30</i>	28	29 <i>Worship Team 7:00</i>	30 <i>Bible Study 10:00</i>			

JUNE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 TNT @ Church 7-9 pm	2	3	4	5 Summer Kickoff 5-9 pm @ Church 8-12 Grades
6 Sunday School 9:45 am SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	7	8 TNT @ Garin's 7-9 pm	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday School 9:45 am SWAP 6-7:30 pm @ Church	14	15 TNT @ Caleb Cox's 7-9 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:45 am No SWAP	21	22 TNT @ Huwe's 7-9 pm	23	24	25	26 <u>2021 TNT</u>
27 No SWAP <u>SUMMER</u>	28 <u>TRIP @</u>	29 No TNT <u>The ARC</u>	30 <u>OSCEOLA WI</u>			

Reading Through the Bible 2021

Schedule for June

- 1st Proverbs 17 Proverbs 18 Proverbs 19
- 2nd Proverbs 20 Proverbs 21 Proverbs 22:1-6
- 3rd Proverbs 22:17-29 Proverbs 23 Proverbs 24
- 4th Song of Songs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- 5th 1 Kings 11 2 Chronicles 9:29-31 Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- 6th Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 Eccl. 2 Eccl. 3 Eccl. 4 Eccl. 5 Eccl. 6
- 7th Ecclesiastes 7 Eccl. 8 Eccl. 9 Eccl. 10 Eccl. 11:1-6
- 8th Ecclesiastes 11:7-10 Eccl. 12 1 Kings 12:1-20 2 Chronicles 10 1 Kings 12:21-24
- 9th 1 Kings 13 1 Kings 14:1-24 2 Chronicles 12:13-14 2 Chron. 11:18-23
2 Chron. 12:1-12 1 Kings 14:25-28 2 Chron. 12:13-16 1 Kings 14:29-31
1 Kings 15:1-5 2 Chron. 13 1 Kings 15:6-8 2 Chron. 14:1-8 1 Kings 15:9-15
1 Kings 14:19-20 1 Kings 15:25-34 2 Chron. 14:9-15 2 Chron. 15
- 10th 1 Kings 15:16-22 2 Chron. 16:1-10 1 Kings 16 1 Kings 15:23-24
2 Chron. 16:11-14 2 Chron. 17 1 Kings 17:1-7
- 11th 1 Kings 17:8-24 1 Kings 18 1 Kings 19 1 Kings 20:1-22
- 12th 1 Kings 20:23-43 1 Kings 21 1 Kings 22:1-9 2 Chronicles 18:1-8
- 13th 1 Kings 22:10-28 2 Chronicles 18:9-27 1 Kings 22:29-35 2 Chron. 18:28-34
1 Kings 22:36-40 1 Kings 22:51-53 2 Chron. 19 2 Chron. 20:1-30
- 14th 2 Kings 1 2 Kings 3 1 Kings 22:41-49 2 Chronicles 20:31-37 1 Kings 22:50
2 Chron. 21:1-4 2 Kings 8:16-22 2 Chron. 21:5-7
- 15th 2 Kings 2 2 Kings 4
- 16th 2 Kings 5 2 Kings 6 2 Kings 7 2 Kings 8
- 17th 2 Chronicles 21:8-20 2 Kings 8:23-29 2 Chron. 22:1-7 2 Kings 9
2 Kings 10:1-17 2 Chron. 22:8-9 2 Kings 10:18-31
- 18th 2 Kings 11:1-3 2 Chronicles 22:10-12 2 Kings 11:4-12 2 Chron. 23:1-11
2 Kings 11:13-16 2 Chron. 23:12-15 2 Kings 11:17-21 2 Chron. 23:16-21
2 Kings 12:1-16 2 Chron. 24:1-22 2 Kings 10:32-36
- 19th 2 Kings 13:1-11 2 Kings 12:17-21 2 Chronicles 24:23-27 2 Kings 13:14-25
- 20th 2 Kings 14:1-14 2 Chronicles 25:1-24 2 Kings 13:12-13 2 Kings 14:15-16
2 Kings 14:23-27 2 Chron. 25:25-28 2 Kings 14:17-22 2 Kings 15:1-5
2 Chron. 26:1-21 Jonah 1 Jonah 2 Jonah 3 Jonah 4
- 21st Amos 1 Amos 2 Amos 3 Amos 4 Amos 5 Amos 6
- 22nd Amos 7 Amos 8 Amos 9 2 Kings 14:28-29 2 Kings 15:6-7
2 Chronicles 26:22-23 Isaiah 6
- 23rd 2 Kings 15:32-38 2 Chronicles 27 Micah 1 2 Kings 16:1-9 2 Chron. 28:1-15
Isaiah 7
- 24th Isaiah 8 Isaiah 9 Isaiah 10 Isaiah 11

Reading (cont.)

25th Isaiah 12 Isaiah 17 2 Chronicles 28:16-21 2 Kings 16:10-18 2 Chron. 28:22-25
2 Kings 18:1-8 2 Chron. 29:1-2 2 Kings 15:30-31 2 Kings 17:1-4 Hosea 1
Hosea 2:1-13
26th Hosea 2:14-23 Hosea 3 Hosea 4 Hosea 5 Hosea 6 Hosea 7 Hosea 8
27th Hosea 9 Hosea 10 Hosea 11 Hosea 12 Hosea 13 Hosea 14
28th Isaiah 28 2 Kings 17:5 2 Kings 18:9-12 2 Kings 17:6-41 Isaiah 1:1-20
29th Isaiah 1:21-31 Isaiah 2 Isaiah 3 Isaiah 4 Isaiah 5
30th 2 Kings 16:19-20 2 Chronicles 28:26-27 Isaiah 13 Isaiah 14 Isaiah 15
Isaiah 16

A Thank You from Tom and Sue Swan:

To the anonymous person or persons who left us a card in the choir room filled with various gift cards, we want to thank you from the bottoms of our hearts! Your kindness and generosity have blown us away! We especially thank you for your prayers. Know that we are praying for you to be greatly blessed by God. He knows who you are even though we don't! THANK YOU!

90+ Birthday Club

Kay Wyrwas June 15th 90

Happy Birthday !!

A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

How many trustees does it take to change a light bulb?

Three -- one to hold the bulb and two to turn the ladder.

How many elders does it take to change a light bulb?

Six -- six to pray over it, plus three trustees.

How many pastors does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one -- but the bulb has to repent and want to change.



"I downloaded them from a cloud."