

RUTH FRED HERALD

June 2023

Volume 33, No. 6



From The Editor's Desk

For a significant portion of my adult life I made my living as a programmer/analyst. Somewhere along the way I came into possession of a small, green leather bound copy of the Psalms, Proverbs, and New Testament from the Gideons which I kept on my desk. In the opening pages of this little volume was the following introduction:

The Bible contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable. Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed.

Christ is its grand subject, our good the design, and the glory of God its end.

It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, will reward the greatest labor, and will condemn all who trifle with its sacred contents.

I found these short paragraphs to be a pithy and edifying description of the message and purpose of Scripture. Then, imagining the existence of some great philosophical manifesto of atheistic, scientific materialism, it came into my head to compose a similar introduction for this imaginary tome. Using the Gideon Bible introduction as inspiration, and with a heaping tablespoon of sarcasm, I came up with the following:

Scientific Materialism contains the amazing accumulation of knowledge about the universe achieved by mankind's exercise of will and rational thinking, including proof that there is no philosophical basis for believing in free will or rational thinking. It analyzes the state of man, the way of determinism, the doom of everyone and everything, and the impossibility of ultimate happiness for anyone.

Its presuppositions are holy; its definitions of what constitutes truth are binding; its theories are true until refuted or revised. Read it to be smart, believe it to be sophisticated, and practice its conclusions at your own risk. It contains enlightenment to see through everything, acid to dissolve all comforting superstitions, and a description of man's origin and destination to lead you to despair.



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Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road

Bethel Park , PA 15102

Www.Ruthfred.org

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is
Monday, June 26th, 2023

The email publication date is
Monday, July 3rd, 2023



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Malcolm Muggeridge was a well known British journalist and satirist throughout most of the twentieth century. He was no stranger to atheistic materialism or to Christian faith. Raised as a socialist, he was initially enamored with the Russian Revolution. And for the first half of his life he was also a secular, humanistic atheist. At some point, however, he had a conversion experience, became convinced that Jesus was who he claimed to be, and rejected all of his earlier values and views. According to Sally S. Wright in the magazine 'Chronicles', "by the time he died in November 1990, Malcolm Muggeridge had become the most widely read Christian apologist since C.S. Lewis." The following is one of my favorite quotes from Mr. Muggeridge:

"The greatest artists, saints, philosophers, and, until quite recent times, scientists, through the Christian centuries, . . . have all assumed that the New Testament promise of eternal life is valid, and that the great drama of the Incarnation which embodies it, is indeed the master-drama of our existence. To suppose that these distinguished believers were all credulous fools whose folly and credulity in holding such beliefs has now been finally exposed, would seem to me untenable; and anyway I'd rather be wrong with Dante and Shakespeare and Milton, with Augustine of Hippo and Francis of Assisi, with Dr. Johnson, Blake and Dostoevsky than right with Voltaire, Rousseau, the Huxleys, Herbert Spencer, H.G. Wells and Bernard Shaw."

Happy Summer! And happy reading -- especially from that Book that is the "traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter!"

*Grace & Peace,
Tom Glasser*



Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



"Almighty Triune God, thank You for Your amazing love for us. Thank You that You have rescued us from ourselves and that You have made us Yours through Christ dying on the cross for our sin and rising again to give us eternal life. Thank You for Your Holy Spirit, which calls us and opens our eyes and minds and hearts to respond in faith to Your message of salvation. And bless us this day as we cling to You and as You hold us up in the palm of Your hand and in the grip of Your grace."

Rev. Roland Syens, Guest Speaker on "The Lutheran Hour"
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

2023 National Right to Life Convention

Pittsburgh, PA
June 23-24, 2023

The National Right to Life Convention will be held in June at the Hyatt Pittsburgh Airport. We are in need of volunteers for the following service projects:

1. People to unload the truck Tuesday, June 20th, starting at 3 p.m.
2. People to prepare registration packets Wednesday, June 21st, starting at 11 a.m.
3. An errand runner Wednesday, June 21st, starting at 11 a.m.
4. Oratory Contest Timers Saturday, June 24th, starting at 10 a.m.

The most critical need is for people to unload the truck.

If you know of anyone willing to volunteer, please have them email or call me, Maria Gallagher, with their name, cell phone number, and email address. Thank you for any help you can give.

Take care,
Maria V. Gallagher
Legislative Director
Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation
www.paprolife.org
717-541-0034



Also note that Pastor McMinn has been asked by the National Right to Life Committee to lead the ecumenical worship service at the convention on June 24th. The service will be held at 6 PM in the Wright Room of the hotel. All are welcome to attend!

Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

MEGHAN & MASON MITCHELL

A little over a year ago, Mason Mitchell was featured in this column. You may recall that he had served as a summer intern with the youth program and was planning on returning for his second year at the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in the fall. Well, Mason is now back to serve another summer with our youth as interim director. This time, however, he is a recently married man with a wife he met at school named Meghan Quanbeck.

Our repeat interim director is a South Fayette native who once doubted the existence of God. Through participation in our youth program, Mason came to believe not only in God but in the importance of living a life of service to honor Him. It took two years of youth group, much reading, and a trip to the Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) convention in Colorado for Mason to embrace the Christian faith.

Meghan, on the other hand, comes from a small community called McVile, North Dakota. Her entire high school class had just fifteen members. The family was active at their AFLC church in nearby Northwood. Not only that, one of her two older brothers and both parents had attended the Bible School before her. She is distantly related to Matthew Quanbeck who interned at Ruthfred as a vicar several years ago. As a sixth grader, Meghan was determined to attend Bible School after high school. Mason says she was so quiet that he wasn't sure how to approach her. But one day he gave Meghan and her friend a ride to church. They started talking. And then Mason asked Meghan to go hiking with him. She wasn't keen at the beginning, but has learned to enjoy it! After about a year, Mason asked her to be his bride on one of those adventures.

The Mitchells were married the same day they graduated from Bible School. It seemed to make the most sense since their families and friends were there already. Pastor Nathan Olson, another former vicar from Ruthfred, married them at Living Word Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. While on Spring break, the couple was able to secure an apartment to rent in Bethel Park. Meghan found employment as an assistant teacher in a local childcare center where she currently works with 3-5-year-olds.

Mason shared how excited he is to be working at Ruthfred for the summer. He has been making plans for meaningful activities for both the TNT (senior high) and SWAP (middle school) groups. Weekly meetings will be held for both. Students will be encouraged to help at Vacation Bible School. The older students will be traveling to the FLY convention in July.

Welcome Meghan and Mason Mitchell!



The Great Journey Through the Word Summer Film Festival

Wednesday mornings, beginning June 14 at 10AM

Many excellent Christian movies have been released through the years. A variety of old and new, fiction and documentary will be shown for your viewing pleasure! Come for one; come for all! No registration necessary, and all are welcome.



- ◆ June 14 ***The Hiding Place*** Corrie ten Boom's family hid Jews in their home during WW II until they were sent to concentration camps for it.
- ◆ June 21 ***Risen*** Clavius, a Roman Military Tribune, and his aide are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem.
- ◆ June 28 ***The Jesus Revolution*** The true story of a national spiritual awakening in the early 1970s chronicles its origins within a community of teenage hippies in Southern California. Starring Jonathan Roumie and Kelsey Grammar.
- ◆ July 5 ***Shadowlands*** This story follows C.S. Lewis's romance with and marriage to American Joy Davidman later in his life. Anthony Hopkins plays C.S. Lewis.
- ◆ July 12 ***I Can Only Imagine*** A biopic of musician Bart Millard tells how he wrote the song about the relationship he had with his father that became the best-selling Christian single of all time.
- ◆ July 19 ***Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Pacifist, Nazi Resister*** This documentary tells the dramatic story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the young German theologian and Lutheran pastor who became part of a plot to kill Adolf Hitler.

July 26 VBS—no Journey

- ◆ August 2 ***The War Room*** Outwardly, Tony and Elizabeth Jordan seem to have it all—but their world is crumbling under the strain of a failing marriage. Their lives take an unexpected turn when Elizabeth meets Miss Clara and is challenged to establish a “war room” and a battle plan of prayer for her family. Starring Priscilla Shirer as Elizabeth.
- ◆ August 9 ***A Man Called Peter*** This biographical feature film from 1955 tells the story of the Scottish-born minister who became Chaplain of the U.S. Senate and the husband of Christian writer, Catherine Marshall.

VBS Volunteers Needed!

Please consider signing up at myvbs.org/ruthfredlutheran to be a volunteer. Even if you cannot do the full week, please let me know if you can volunteer for at least a day. I promise you will find the time investment is worth it! There will be a volunteer meeting June 11th after the 11AM service. Right after that meeting I will be helping anyone that would like assistance completing the required Child Clearances. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jason Weighley.

(Jason.weighley@gmail.com)



VBS is right around the corner. Please register at <https://www.myvbs.org/ruthfredlutheran>. Our VBS will be from July 24 to 28th. 9AM to Noon. Come and see how **Following Jesus Changes the Game!**

Decorating continues on May 2nd, 16th, and 23rd from 7PM to 9PM.

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

The Lord's Prayer

Lyrics: Jesus

Music: Tom Leech

"When you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:" According to Matthew's Gospel, this is how Jesus prefaced his teaching to his disciples on how to pray. What follows, of course, is what we now call The Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9-13). The ESV English translation of the prayer is a mere 52 words, and even with the added doxology (more about that later) only takes about 30 seconds to say! And yet, it is probably safe to say that for many centuries now there has not been one second of one day when that prayer is not being said by someone or some congregation somewhere in the world.

The Lord's Prayer has been set to music many times, perhaps the most well known being the arrangement by Albert Hay Malotte in 1935. This article, however, is about an arrangement composed by RLC's own Tom Leech. If you attend the contemporary liturgical services held each month you are probably familiar with it as it has become a staple part of those services. Tom notes that he "began to write the song as part of a music workshop activity conducted in January 2018 at the Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge PA. The focus of the workshop was writing music for contemporary liturgical settings, with emphasis on lyrics presented in a fashion singable in a group setting."

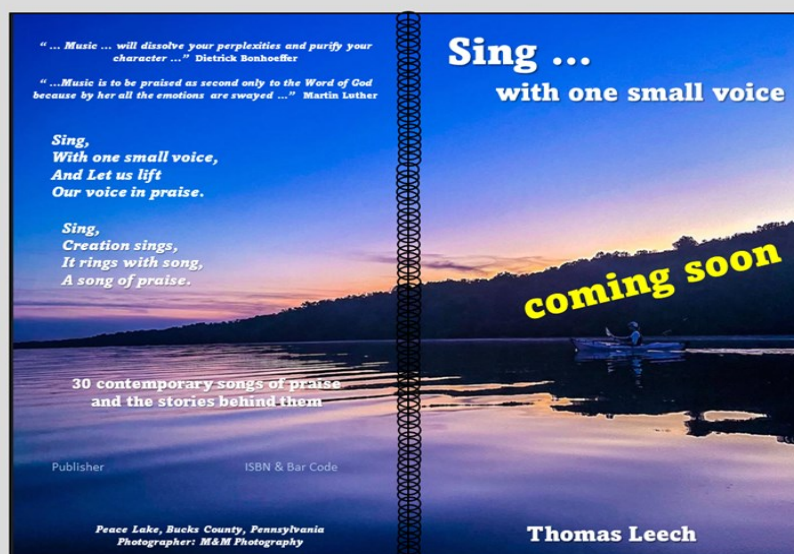
In providing some interesting background to The Lord's Prayer, Leech also cites the late theologian, linguist, and author Kenneth Bailey as follows: "The Aramaic-speaking Jew in the first century was accustomed to speak his prayers in Hebrew, not Aramaic ... The use of Aramaic in worship was a major upheaval in the assumptions of Jesus' day. It meant that for Jesus no sacred language was **the language of God** ... [thus he opened the door] for the New Testament to be written in Greek (as opposed to Hebrew) and then translated into other languages."



Tom's version, like the spoken version used in most Protestant churches, ends with the following doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen." You may notice, however, that these words do not appear in the Bible anywhere. So where do we get them from? A footnote in The Lutheran Study Bible notes that this doxology "may have been added as early as the first century in the Didache [and] in Greek manuscripts as early as the fifth century. These words were likely a liturgical response when the prayer was used in worship." (The Didache is an early Christian, although non-canonical writing that was discovered in a monastery in Constantinople in the 19th century. It is estimated to have been written around 100 AD.)

Continued on next page ...

Tom Leech, who can be seen playing mandolin, Irish whistle, and keyboard (not all at the same time!) at the contemporary services, has also been working on other compositions as well. The worship team has had the privilege of playing some of them. Shown here is a cover draft for a compilation of his songs that he has been working on:



90+ Birthday Club

Wayne Bock	June 1st	90
Kay Wyrwas	June 15th	92
Gladys Reith	June 18th	90

Happy Birthday !!



1947 - 2023

On April 21st, God saw fit to call home from this life our beloved, talented organist of the last 11 years. Sensing that his departure was imminent, Fred wrote a letter addressed to Pastor McMinn, Bob and Lynn Vogel, the Senior, Bell, and Children's choirs, the staff, and the Ruthfred congregation at large. Here is a transcription of that letter:

I wish I could be with you all to thank you in person, but Margery said a letter would be almost as good.

I thank you, Pastor McMinn for all your visits wherever I was. You sang to me, prayed for me, and gave me communion. I really needed the communion to help me stay close to Jesus. God bless you and your family.

I thank you to Bob and Lynn for all your visits, especially on my last day. It was so good to hear you recall all the fun and good times we had. You, Bob, were so wonderful to work with. You were the reason I ended up staying for so long. May God's blessing be with you and Lynn.

Dear Ruthfred choir, we had some ups and downs (mostly ups), but you always pulled through. You knew there was trouble when I rolled my eyes. But I loved every moment with you. Thank you for all your love and prayers. We had some very good years together, with many memorable occasions. God's blessings be on you.

Continued on next page ...



Thank you to the Ruthfred congregation. I was overwhelmed by all the cards and prayers that you sent. Margery would read them to me. There were so many. The love expressed by all will always be in my heart and in my soul. Your love is a reflection of the love and mercy you received from our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you.

In leaving you I would like to quote from Colossians 3: vs. 23 to 24 as to my total dedication to the gifts God gave me.

"Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you are serving the Lord Christ."

May God's love and peace abound in you.

Fred



Official Acts -- May 2023

Baptisms:

* Maxwell Cruz Battaglia -- 05/14/23

Confirmands:

Joshua Raymond Cimarolli

Jonathan Reid Tarrant

Funerals:

* Garnett Fullerton Wasson -- 05/08/23

* Mary Ann Scott -- 05/15/23 (Memorial service; burial was 11/17/22)

Frederick L. Schell -- 05/20/23 (Memorial service; funeral & burial 04/27/23)

Members Removed by Church:

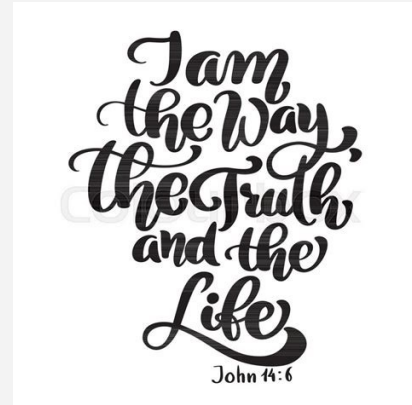
Holly Morrison Elben -- 05/22/23

Members Removed by their request:

Amanda, Jameson, and Harper Murdy and McKenna Schilling --

05/08/23 (transferred to Ascension Lutheran Church in McKees Rocks (ELC)
where Amanda's husband is pastor)

* *Indicates member*



Ponderable Quote:

"Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle. Leave the rest to God."

Unknown

Worship Team Members for June 2023

Acolytes & Crucifers:

		<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Crucifer</u>
6/4	8:30 AM	Ryan Handshue	-----
	11:00 AM	Asher Manzo	Holly Miller
6/11	8:30 AM	Jonathan Tarrant	Courtney Felicetti
	11:00 AM	Josh Cimarolli	-----
6/18	8:30 AM	Elliot McMinn	-----
	11:00 AM	Evan Gusky	-----
6/25	8:30 AM	Janathan Tarrant	-----
	11:00 AM	Joshua Cimarolli	-----

Ushers:

8:30 AM	Bernard Pattera John Ruzicka
11:00 AM	TBD

Counters:

8:30 AM	Neil Wagner Chris Clark
11:00 AM	Marty Rieck Tom Sanders

Altar Guild

Rich Kleiser

Coffee Hour

Donna and Jason Weighley

Better is ONE day in
your courts than
thousands elsewhere;
PSALM 84:10









2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY Wayne Bock! 	2 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	3
4 HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 (First Holy Communion for 2023 Confirmants) Holy Communion 6:00 City Mission Food Sun. 	5 Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters) Elders' Meeting 7:00	6 Worship Team 7:00	7	8	9 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	10 Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
11 St. Barnabas, Apostle Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 (H.S. Graduate Recogni- tion) (Welcome Rev. Dr. Brent Olson and Rev. Dr. Na- than Olson as preacher and Adult Sunday School leader, respectively)	12 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	13 Worship Team 7:00	14 FLAG DAY JTTW Summer Films 10:00 ("Hiding Place") Esther Noon  AFLC Annual Conference	15 Ruth 2:00 HAPPY 92 nd BIRTHDAY Kay Wyrwas! 	16 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) Parents' Date Night 5:30-8:30 p.m.	17 Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 6:00 
18 FATHER'S DAY Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 HAPPY 90 th BIRTHDAY Gladys Reith! 	19 JUNETEENTH Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters)	20 Worship Team 7:00	21 JTTW Summer Films 10:00 ("Risen") 	22	23 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
25 Anniversary Presentation, Augsburg Confession, 1530 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 GIFT Bible Study 6:30 (@	26 Herald Deadline	27 Worship Team 7:00	28 JTTW Summer Films 10:00 ("The Jesus Revolution") 3 rd Anniversary of Pastor McMinn's Installation 	29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles 	30	



2023 Youth Ministry Calendar

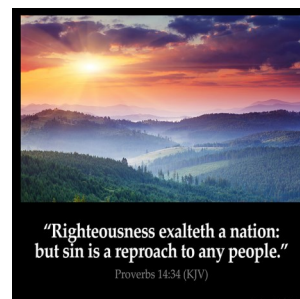
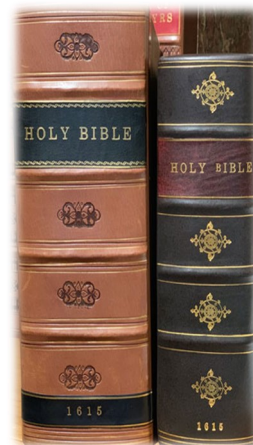
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:45 1st Communion for Confirmants 11:00	5	6 TNT @ Church 7-9	7	8	9	10
11 Senior Sunday Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30 	12	13 SWAP & TNT Summer Kick-Off @ Church 5-9 	14  AFLC Annual Conference	15	16	17
18 Sunday School 9:45 No SWAP 	19	20 TNT @ TBD 7-9	21 	22	23	24
25 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	26	27 TNT @ Caleb Cox's house 7-9	28 	29	30	

Reading Through the Bible 2023

"One Story that Leads to Jesus"

Schedule for June

1st	Psalm 1	Psalm 2	Psalm 147		
2nd	Proverbs 1	Proverbs 2	Proverbs 3	Psalm 148	
3rd	Proverbs 4	Proverbs 5	Proverbs 6	Psalm 149	
4th	Proverbs 7	Proverbs 8	Proverbs 9	Psalm 150	
5th	Proverbs 10	Proverbs 11	Proverbs 12	Psalm 1	
6th	Proverbs 13	Proverbs 14	Proverbs 15	Psalm 2	
7th	Proverbs 16	Proverbs 17	Proverbs 18	Psalm 3	
8th	Proverbs 19	Proverbs 20	Proverbs 21	Psalm 4	
9th	Proverbs 22	Proverbs 23	Proverbs 24	Psalm 5	
10th	Proverbs 25	Proverbs 26	Proverbs 27	Psalm 6	
11th	Proverbs 28	Proverbs 29	Proverbs 30	Proverbs 31	Psalm 6
12th	Ecclesiastes 1	Ecclesiastes 2	Ecclesiastes 3	Ecclesiastes 4	Psalm 8
13th	Ecclesiastes 5	Ecclesiastes 6	Ecclesiastes 7	Ecclesiastes 8	Psalm 9
14th	Ecclesiastes 9	Ecclesiastes 10	Ecclesiastes 11	Ecclesiastes 12	Psalm 10
15th	Song of Songs 1	Song of Songs 2	Song of Songs 3	Song of Songs 4	Psalm 11
16th	Song of Songs 5	Song of Songs 6	Song of Songs 7	Song of Songs 8	Psalm 12
17th	Jeremiah 1	Jeremiah 2	Jeremiah 3	Psalm 13	
18th	Jeremiah 4	Jeremiah 5	Jeremiah 6	Psalm 14	
19th	Jeremiah 7	Jeremiah 8	Jeremiah 9	Psalm 15	
20th	Jeremiah 10	Jeremiah 11	Jeremiah 12	Jeremiah 13	Psalm 16
21st	Jeremiah 14	Jeremiah 15	Jeremiah 16	Jeremiah 17	Psalm 17
22nd	Jeremiah 18	Jeremiah 19	Jeremiah 20	Jeremiah 21	Jeremiah 22 Psalm 18
23rd	Jeremiah 23	Jeremiah 24	Jeremiah 25	Psalm 19	
24th	Jeremiah 26	Jeremiah 27	Jeremiah 28	Jeremiah 29	Psalm 20
25th	Jeremiah 30	Jeremiah 31	Jeremiah 32	Psalm 21	
26th	Jeremiah 33	Jeremiah 34	Jeremiah 35	Jeremiah 36	Psalm 22
27th	Jeremiah 37	Jeremiah 38	Jeremiah 39	Psalm 23	
28th	Jeremiah 40	Jeremiah 41	Jeremiah 42	Jeremiah 43	Jeremiah 44 Psalm 24
29th	Jeremiah 45	Jeremiah 46	Jeremiah 47	Jeremiah 48	Psalm 25
30th	Jeremiah 49	Jeremiah 50	Psalm 26		



A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

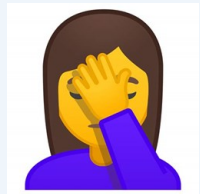
It has been said that angels can fly because they take themselves lightly. In that spirit, it's good when we Christians can poke fun at ourselves and at each other.

You might be an Evangelical if:
 You've never been skiing without
 rededicating your life to Jesus at a
 bonfire afterwards;
 The last concert you went to included an
 altar call;
 Much of your clothing and accessories
 are considered witnessing tools;
 Your fantasy football team was selected
 based on the testimonies of the players.



Q: What do you call a
 sleep walking nun?

A: A Roamin' Catholic



We Lutherans like our coffee, right?
 Well, consider this:
 Coffee was introduced in Europe in 1515.
 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses on the
 Wittenberg door in 1517.

Hmmmm...



Muslims do not recognize the Jews as God's chosen people;
 Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah;
 Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader
 of the Christian world;
 Baptists do not recognize each other in the liquor store.

