



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Everything Is Not OK.

In April Ruthfred lost some dear members, whom we love. Marcia Pavesi died on April 3<sup>rd</sup> after a courageous fight with cancer. Then, completely unexpectedly, our dear brother in Christ, D.J. Taylor, died on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

Now John Pavesi mourns his beloved bride, best friend, and sidekick. Amy Taylor mourns a beloved husband and best friend, whom she'd hoped to have at her side for many more years. Zachary and Alea, D.J.'s and Amy's children, mourn their Dad, whom they'd hoped would be at their side guiding them, comforting them, fixing broken stuff, hugging them, and walking with them through many more years of life.

That's not OK. It's not OK when our loved ones die. We've come to depend on them, and look up to them with admiration and respect. We're grateful to God for them. We don't want to lose them. When they die there's a void in our life that won't be filled. No one will ever replace Marcia or D.J..

One autumn day I stood at the grave of my grandparents, Charles and Laura Flory. They took my brothers and me to church, and taught us about Jesus. My heart longed to hug them again as I stood at their grave, to hear my grandfather (my "Pap") laugh, to hear my grandmother (my "Nan") talk about Jesus and uselessly nag my Mom once more to stop smoking. I began deeply mourning for my Nan and Pap. Suddenly I felt guilty, wondering, "Am I wrong to mourn like this? Did I make an idol of them? Shouldn't I be happy they've gone on to their eternal reward, and celebrate that I'll see them again, when Jesus returns?"

As I was thinking that, something amazing suddenly happened! First though, I'll remind you that in John 20 the disciples had seen their Lord, Best Friend, and Teacher, tortured and killed. He (Jesus) was only about 33 years old when that happened. They'd lost Him (or so they thought). They sat in a locked room, missing Him, depressed, mourning, and afraid they'd be arrested and killed for following Him. Then suddenly, Jesus came and said to them, "*Peace be with you.*"

When Jesus said that, it happened! They had peace. They went from being overwhelmed with grief, depression, and fear, to being filled with amazement and joy!

As I stood at my Nan and Pap's grave, grieving and wondering if I was wrong to mourn like that, I looked up, and there, in the distance, I saw the steeple of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, pointing up to God! The cemetery where my Nan and Pap are buried is one mile from Saint Stephen's, where they took my brothers and me, where I was baptized, and where I learned about Jesus! In autumn, without leaves on the trees, from their grave you can see St. Stephen's! I never before realized that!

*Continued on page 3 ...*

## Ruthfred Lutheran Church

3401 South Park Road

Bethel Park , PA 15102

Wwww.Ruthfred.org

**Pastor** Steven P. Carlson

**Pastor** Bryce C. McMinn

**Office Manager** Sally Ondrejko

**Parish Assistant** Melissa Bostaph

**Administrative Assistant** Felicia Rieck

**Youth Director** Regan Johnson

**Council President** Mark Riley

## Herald Staff

**Editor** Tom Glasser

**Staff Writers** Mettelise Ziegler

Tom Glasser

**Proofreading** Ruth and Alan Hinkelman

**Mailing Labels** Lauren Daugherty

**Printing** Sally Ondrejko

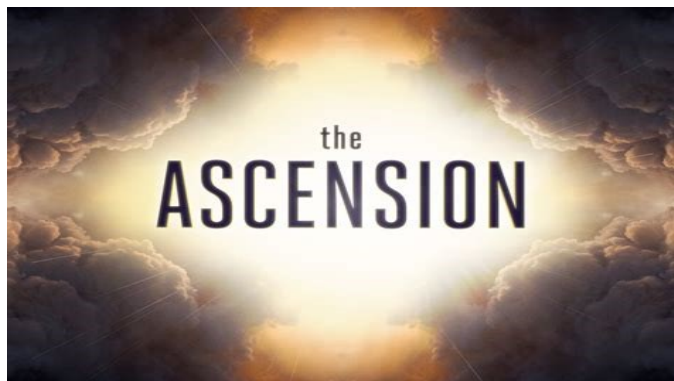
**Assembly Leader** Joyce Bock

The submission deadline for the next Herald is

**Sunday, May 29th, 2022**

The email publication date is

**Friday, June 3rd, 2022**



## In This Issue

### 3 From the Pastor's Desk

Continued from cover page

### 4 Family Easter Festival Report

### 5 Member Profile

Tom & Sue Swan

### 6 Lutherans for Life Quote Knit Wits News

### 7 FLC Campus Days

### 8 VBS News

### 9 Song of the Month

One of These Days

### 11 Official Acts Birthday Club Ponderable Quote

### 12 Worship Team Members for May

### 13 Church Calendar

### 14 Youth Calendar

### 15 Reading Through the Bible 2022 (Storyline Version)

### 16 A Joyful Heart Is Good Medicine



Continued from Front Page . . .



Suddenly I remembered, God loves me! God gave my Nan and Pap to me as His gifts! Through THEM I experienced some of God's love for me. God works through His people. He provides the things we need through people. He brings us to life through our parents, and loves and provides for us through them. The love my Nan and Pap gave me was from God! They were God's gifts to me! I hadn't made idols of them. I simply missed the love GOD gave me through them! It's OK to miss them! It's OK to mourn and grieve over their death. Thank God for them! They were gifts from God in my life. My grief and mourning for them, from God's perspective, are expressions of gratitude to Him for these precious gifts He gave.

I'd never thought of that before that moment. As suddenly as Jesus appeared and told His disciples, "Peace be with you," and they had peace, I understood that it was OK for me to miss and grieve for my Nan and Pap. I can do so in peace.

Martin Luther wrote many letters to grieving spouses, parents, and others whose loved ones died. A certain theme repeats in Luther's letters

to grieving people. Luther himself experienced the deaths of his parents and two daughters. He consoled grieving people in a way that went like this:

"It's natural and OK for you to grieve. How could you say you loved them if you didn't grieve their death? Grieve. But in your grief, remember the grace of God. Remember that they were a gift from God to you. Remember God's grace in giving them to you. Remember His grace to them, in saving their souls. Remember that they're with Him now in Paradise."

Everything is not OK. We don't have to pretend it is. But in our pain, when things are not OK, may God help us to remember His grace to us, and to our loved ones. Everything is not OK. We grieve and mourn; but not like those who have no hope, because Jesus died and rose again! God will NOT forget our loved ones, who've died. His Word says, we who are alive when Jesus returns, will go up into heaven WITH our faithful loved ones, to meet Jesus in the air, and we'll be together with them again, and with Jesus, forever!

Everything is not OK. But as we grieve and mourn, let's comfort each other with God's words in I Thessalonians 4:13-18.

*Love in Christ,  
Pastor McMinn*





## The Third "Annual" Family Easter Festival

was held on Palm Sunday, April 10th. "Annual" is in quotes because there was a year missed in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic. This year's festival was well attended and enjoyed by so many families. The unofficial themes could probably be summed up by the words on the blackboard above: Easter Blessings -- He Is Risen! There were various activities, crafts, games, a puppet show, and sing-along. The evening then concluded with a delicious pasta dinner.

Total attendance was 190 which included 52 volunteers and 73 children. 9 of the families were non-members.

Thanks to Barb Harrold for once again spearheading this wonderful event, and also to all the volunteers who enthusiastically pitched in!



## Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

## TOM & SUE SWAN

Two days before his birth, Tom's parents stood at the altar at the small, back chapel (which was all there was in 1954), and proclaimed their intent to become faithful members. Fast forward five years. Bob and Gladys Reith appeared on the scene. They were from New York City. Tom remembers spotting the Reiths from the patio that was once located outside. Children would get a breather between church and Sunday School. Parents would inhale cigarettes.

Tom saw a little three-year-old girl in her pretty dress, straw hat and patent leather shoes emerge from the family vehicle. At the age of five, he was hit by Cupid's arrow, and vowed to marry little Sue one day. Well, the romance had its drawbacks. Tom had a couple of girlfriends he dated in high school. When neither could make it to the Bethel – Mt. Lebanon football game, he invited Sue. Let us just say, it did not go well.



High School did not include any dates between Tom and Sue. However, church youth activities did. Luther League included our member Mark Arelt and Sue playing guitar and singing together. Mark's mother, Ruth Arelt, was the youth director. Mark's future wife, Peggy Burns Arelt, was a member of Bethany Lutheran, down the road from Ruthfred. Tom remembers spelunking through a cave with Peggy and her father.

Sue became a school librarian after double majoring in Library Science and Music at Edinboro. She worked in New York's Finger Lakes region in Penn Yan after earning her master's degree from the State University of New York at Geneseo. Longing for family brought her home.

Tom graduated from Grove City College and Michigan State in school counseling. He worked in Michigan for a time. Then, he came home. Both Sue and Tom moved back to the area within six months of one another. Fast forward, again. On July 17<sup>th</sup> of 1980, the couple went on another date. This time it was to a church softball game followed by pizza and a movie. They were married on the same Saturday one year later, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1981. They have been married 40 years.

There are numerous familial connections to Ruthfred. Tom's sister, Barbara, now lives in Minnesota. His brother David is, as Pastor Dennis would have said, "one of the sons of the congregation." He is a retired pastor residing in Indianapolis, Indiana. Sue's sister, Linda, lives in California. Her brother, David, is in Maryland. Only her sister, Janet Pacich, is still here. The Swans' son Nathan is in Burgettstown and their daughter Bethany is in New Brighton.

*Continued on next page ....*

Tom is retired from a career in insurance, although he enjoys a part time job. Retired from the West Allegheny Community Library, Sue has not stopped writing and publishing. She has stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, *The Almanac*, and a publication *Quick and Easy Bible Lessons for Kids* among others.

Over the years, the Swans have participated in many ways at Ruthfred. Currently, you will find Sue at the helm at Wednesday Morning Journey Through the Word. You will find both Swans singing to the Lord with the Senior Choir.



## ***Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life***



*“Remember, it is your **INDISPENSABLE** hands that gather up all the coins from baby bottles, the diapers from diaper drives, and the layettes and baby clothes that keep pregnancy resource center shelves stocked and able to provide much needed support for a pregnant mother and father to choose life!”*

**Jeff Duncan, Lutherans For Life**

**A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)**



The **Knit Wits** group is working on a new project—knitted and crocheted dish cloths to be shared, along with a bottle of dishwashing liquid, with our local food banks. Dish soap contributions are welcomed and can be left in the bin in the Fireside Lounge. Please call Pat Lutz if you need more information. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 12, at 10 a.m. All are welcome!





**In April a number of our youth visited the Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary during their "Campus Days" weekend. Pictured above, left to right and front to back are: Olivia Underwood, Megan Huwe, Caitlyn Bostaph, Natalie Scott, Kate Cox, Caleb Cox, Mason Mitchell, Isaac Cox, Regan Johnson.**





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

## **Looking for Volunteers!!**

Summer is Just around the Corner! How do I know? It's time to start planning for VBS.

VBS is from July 25 to 29th from 9AM to Noon.

There will be an information meeting on May 1st after the 11AM Service in the Large Sunday School Room.

Questions? Contact Jason Weighley by email at [Jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.weighley@gmail.com)

### **VBS 2022 Set Decorating has started.**

We are teaming up with South Hills Bible Chapel again to decorate the sets for Vacation Bible School. This year two times are available to participate in set decorating. VBS set work days are at the Bible Chapel on Tuesday from 6 to 8pm enter door 2 or Wed from 12 to 3 enter at door 5 and ring the bell. Decorating continues into May (Dates to be provided by Jason)

Anyone willing to help is welcome. Any questions please contact Jason Weighley @ [jason.weighley@gmail.com](mailto:jason.weighley@gmail.com)



## Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

# One of These Days

Lyrics and Music: Jeromy Deibler

A few months ago I wrote about a contemporary song titled "Borning Cry", and in connection with that song discussed the kinds of hopes and expectations we all might have about heaven. At last month's contemporary worship service, I was introduced to another song titled "One of These Days". I was drawn to its subdued but catchy folk rock style, and also realized that Jeromy Deibler's lyrics touched upon those same themes of what we might expect to experience in heaven. Consider verse 2 for example:

*One of these days I'm gonna do all the things I've never done  
I'm gonna finish all the races that I've run but I've never won  
And I'm gonna see a million faces and recognize every one  
One of these days*

It was verse 4, however, that particularly caught my attention. It describes a heavenly hope that I hadn't mentioned in the "Borning Cry" article: having our questions answered and our knowledge fulfilled in some appropriate, God-ordained way.

*And one of these days I'm gonna talk with all the saints that have gone before  
And in their sandals I will walk and we will sit along the shore  
And I will learn all the things that I never knew before  
All this and more*

In recent decades there have been a plethora of books, lectures, and documentaries by atheists who stridently denounce religion and argue for scientific materialism. One such atheistic philosopher, Thomas Nagel, wrote this: "It isn't just that I don't believe in God and, naturally, hope that I'm right in my belief. It's that I hope there is no God! I don't want there to be a God; I don't want the universe to be like that." Scientist and prolific author Richard Dawkins has also expressed his disdain for religious belief, and loves to praise the glories of advancing scientific knowledge. In his book "Unweaving the Rainbow" he opined the following: "The feeling of awed wonder that science can give us is one of the highest experiences of which the human psyche is capable. It is a deep aesthetic passion to rank with the finest that music and poetry can deliver. It is truly one of the things that make life worth living and it does so, if anything, more effectively if it convinces us that the time we have for living is quite finite."

*Continued on next page ...*

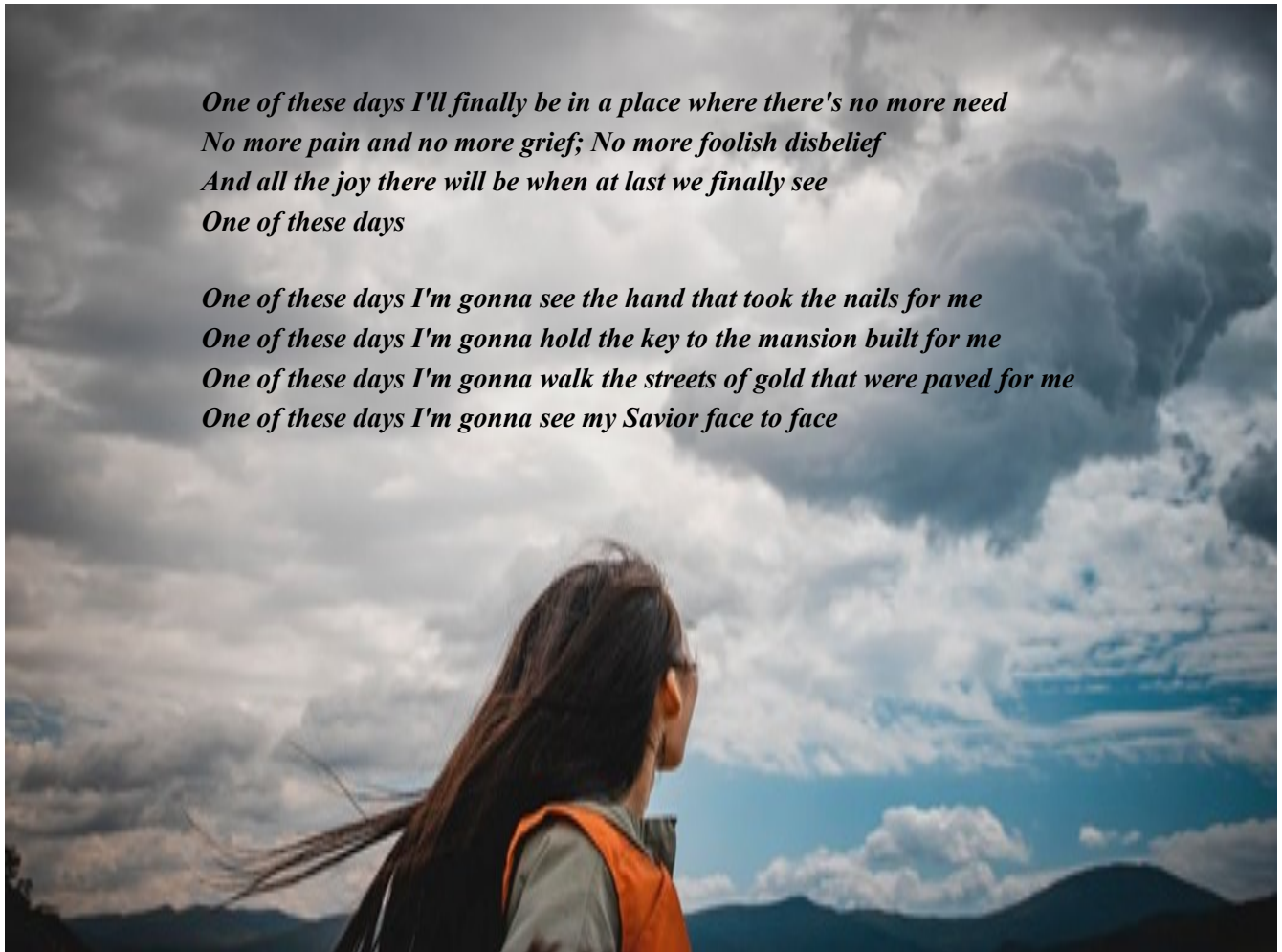
The degree to which mankind has been able to explore and unlock the mysteries of creation is truly amazing. What is puzzling to me, however, is why many atheist scientists like Dawkins have no desire to entertain a hope that their awe-inspiring investigations into the mysteries of the universe might be gloriously completed "one of these days". How is it that they can be content with these "deep aesthetic passions" ultimately coming to nothing, both for themselves individually and eventually for the whole human race?

We all have doubts and questions, of course. On this side of heaven we cannot understand why all the evil and suffering in the world is allowed to exist, or why life is the way that it is. To believe that it is all nihilistically meaningless, however, is something people of faith cannot accept. We "do not want the universe to be like that!"

In closing, two thoughts from Scripture come to mind. In Job, arguably the oldest book in the Bible, God answers Job's anguished questioning with His own question – "Were you there when I laid the foundation of the earth?" Then, in Revelation, the last book of the Bible, we hear words like these: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away ... Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man ... He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

*One of these days I'll finally be in a place where there's no more need  
No more pain and no more grief; No more foolish disbelief  
And all the joy there will be when at last we finally see  
One of these days*

*One of these days I'm gonna see the hand that took the nails for me  
One of these days I'm gonna hold the key to the mansion built for me  
One of these days I'm gonna walk the streets of gold that were paved for me  
One of these days I'm gonna see my Savior face to face*



## Official Acts -- April 2022

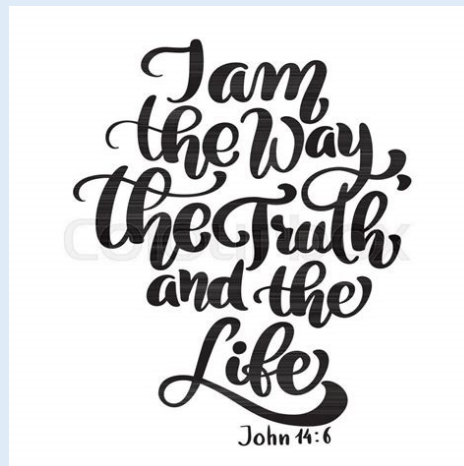
### Baptisms:

- \* Bryson Joseph Wellinger -- 04/24/22
- \* Zeke Kenneth Picard -- 04/24/22

### Funerals:

- William J. Schultz -- 04/04/22
- \* Marcia A. Pavesi -- 04/08/22
- \* Donald J. Taylor -- 04/27/22

\* indicates member



## **90+ Birthday Club**

Martha Schneider

May 5th 90

Marian Meyer

May 12th 90

### **Ponderable Quote:**

**Virtue -- even attempted virtue -- brings light.  
Indulgence brings fog.**

**C.S. Lewis**



## Worship Team Members for May 2022

### Acolytes:

8:30 a.m. Isaiah Compel  
11:00 a.m. (5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/29) Noah McMinn  
(5/22) TBD

### Flag Bearers for Memorial Day Sunday:

8:30 a.m. (5/29) Isaiah Compel; Joshua Cimarolli  
11:00 a.m. (5/29) Noah McMinn; Elias Manzo

### Crucifers:

8:30 a.m. (5/8, 5/29) Maddie Cox  
11:00 a.m. (5/1, 5/15) Vienne Battaglia  
(5/22) TBD

### Altar Guild:

Joanne Salvetti

### Counters:

8:30 am Chris Clark  
TBD  
11:00 am Marty Rieck  
Kevin Boehme

### Ushers:

8:30 am Bernard Paterra  
John Ruzicka  
11:00 am George Barrett  
Ray Urksa

### Coffee Hour:

Susan Bohaski

CL




~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





# May, 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b>  Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 VBS Planning Meeting after 11:00 service Holy Communion 6:00 CITY MISSION FOOD	<b>2</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters) Elders' Meeting 7:00	<b>3</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Sewers) Worship Team 7:00	<b>4</b> Children's Choir 5:45 Confirmation 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>5</b>  HAPPY 90 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY MARTHA SCHNEIDER National Day of Prayer Observance 7:00	<b>6</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 	<b>9</b> JTTW Leaders 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30	<b>10</b> Worship Team 7:00	<b>11</b> Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Confirmation 6:45 Senior Choir 7:00	<b>12</b> Knit Wits 10:00 HAPPY 90 <sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY MARI- AN MEYER 	<b>13</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>14</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
<b>15</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Visitation Volunteer lunch after 11:00 service Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels') 	<b>16</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Crafters) Confirmation Public Exam 7:00	<b>17</b> Election Day Worship Team 7:00	<b>18</b> Children's Choir 5:45 Confirmation 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>19</b> Preschool Closing Program (3-year olds) 10:45 Ruth 2:00	<b>20</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>21</b> Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 6:00 
<b>22</b>  Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Confirmation Reception after 11:00 service Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 (A & C Vogels') GIFT Bible Study 6:30	<b>23</b> Preschool Closing Program (4-year olds) 10:30 Benevolence 7:00	<b>24</b> Craft & Sew 9:30 (Sewers) Worship Team 7:00 Preschool Last Day (3-year olds)	<b>25</b> Preschool Last Day (4-year olds) Children's Choir 5:45 Senior Choir 7:30	<b>26</b> Knit Wits 10:00 	<b>27</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Herald Deadline	<b>30</b> Memorial Day Observed 	<b>31</b> Worship Team 7:00				



# 2022 Youth Ministry Calendar

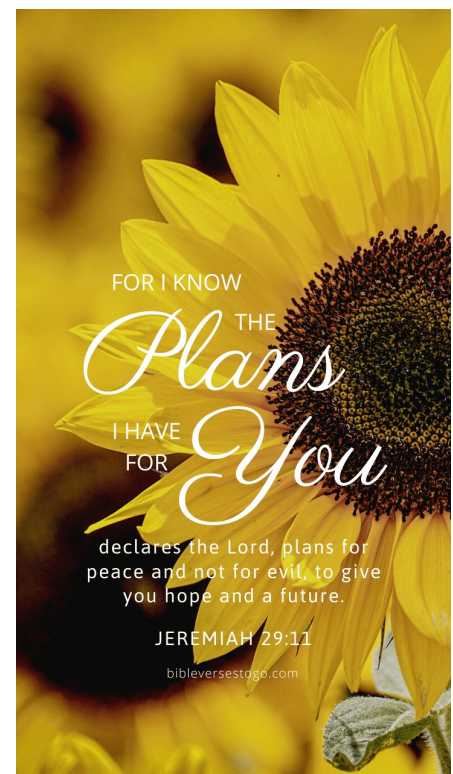
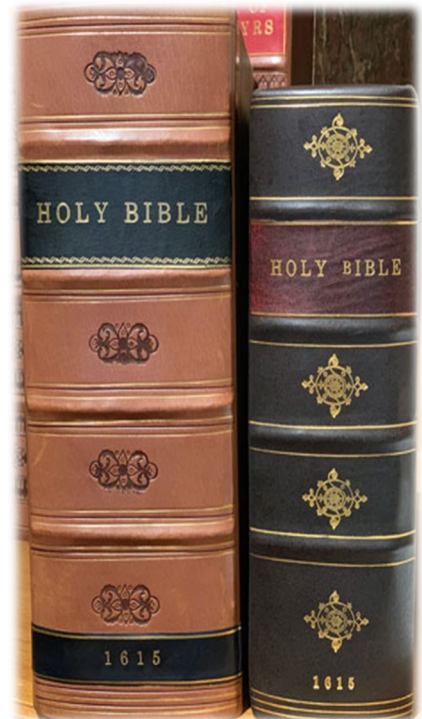
<b>1</b> Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> TNT @ Church 7-9	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30  	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> TNT @ Church 7-9	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> TNT Retreat at Seneca Hills  	<b>14</b> TNT Retreat
<b>15</b> TNT Retreat  Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> TNT @ Church 7-9	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30  	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> TNT @ Church 7-9	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Sunday School 9:45  SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> TNT @ Church 7-9				



# Reading Through the Bible 2022

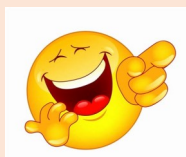
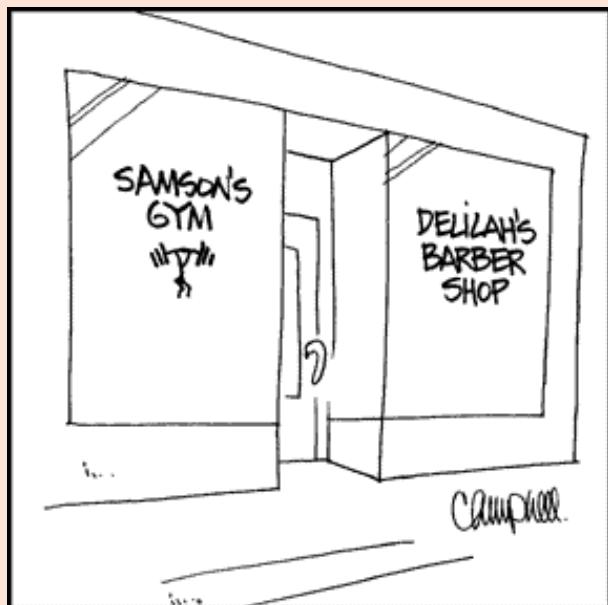
## Schedule for May

1st	Isaiah 9	Isaiah 10	Isaiah 11	Isaiah 12	
2nd	Isaiah 13	Isaiah 14	Isaiah 15	Isaiah 16	Isaiah 17
3rd	Isaiah 18	Isaiah 19	Isaiah 20	Isaiah 21	Isaiah 22
4th	Isaiah 23	Isaiah 24	Isaiah 25	Isaiah 26	Isaiah 27
5th	Isaiah 28	Isaiah 29	Isaiah 30		
6th	Isaiah 31	Isaiah 32	Isaiah 33	Isaiah 34	Isaiah 35
7th	Isaiah 36	Isaiah 37	Isaiah 38	Isaiah 39	
8th	Isaiah 40	Isaiah 41	Isaiah 42	Isaiah 43	Isaiah 44
9th	Isaiah 45	Isaiah 46	Isaiah 47	Isaiah 48	
10th	Isaiah 49	Isaiah 50	Isaiah 51	Isaiah 52	Isaiah 53
11th	Isaiah 54	Isaiah 55	Isaiah 56	Isaiah 57	Isaiah 58
12th	Isaiah 59	Isaiah 60	Isaiah 61	Isaiah 62	Isaiah 63
13th	Isaiah 64	Isaiah 65	Isaiah 66		
14th	Jeremiah 1	Jeremiah 2	Jeremiah 3		
15th	Jeremiah 4	Jeremiah 5	Jeremiah 6		
16th	Jeremiah 7	Jeremiah 8	Jeremiah 9		
17th	Jeremiah 10	Jeremiah 11	Jeremiah 12	Jeremiah 13	
18th	Jeremiah 14	Jeremiah 15	Jeremiah 16	Jeremiah 17	
19th	Jeremiah 18	Jeremiah 19	Jeremiah 20	Jeremiah 21	Jeremiah 22
20th	Jeremiah 23	Jeremiah 24	Jeremiah 25		
21st	Jeremiah 26	Jeremiah 27	Jeremiah 28	Jeremiah 29	
22nd	Jeremiah 30	Jeremiah 31			
23rd	Jeremiah 32	Jeremiah 33	Jeremiah 34		
24th	Jeremiah 35	Jeremiah 36	Jeremiah 37		
25th	Jeremiah 38	Jeremiah 39	Jeremiah 40	Jeremiah 41	
26th	Jeremiah 42	Jeremiah 43	Jeremiah 44	Jeremiah 45	
27th	Jeremiah 46	Jeremiah 47	Jeremiah 48		
28th	Jeremiah 49	Jeremiah 50			
29th	Jeremiah 51	Jeremiah 52			
30th	Ezekial 1	Ezekial 2	Ezekial 3	Ezekial 4	
31st	Ezekial 5	Ezekial 6	Ezekial 7	Ezekial 8	



**A joyful heart is good medicine.**

**Proverbs 17:22a**



**Did you hear about the butcher who accidentally backed into his grinder and got a little behind in his work?**

**I kept trying to figure out why the frisbee looked bigger and bigger the closer it got. Then it hit me.**



**Did you hear about the cheese factory in France that exploded? De Brie was everywhere!**