



From the Pastor's Desk

Do you “*Honor thy father and thy mother...?*”

The 4th Commandment says, “*Honor thy father and thy mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*”

Martin Luther said that means, “We should fear and love God so that we do not despise our parents and superiors, nor provoke them to anger, but honor, serve, obey, love, and respect them.”

It helps us understand the Commandments to examine examples of breaking them. I’ll share some personal experience with the 4th. My Dad is my hero. I love and respect him. He’s been through some intensely difficult things, especially as a Vietnam veteran, that are beyond my imagination. His experiences have left their mark on him. He loves my two brothers and me, and freely communicates with us, including when he disagrees with our decisions. When Dad thinks correction may be needed, he often says something like, “You don’t have to agree with me or do what I say. But let me tell you something...”

What follows may not always be communicated with complete gentility. I remember times when my response to my Dad’s somewhat less than gentle approach fell far short of the love, honor, servant’s heart, obedience, and respect God commands me to show him. To his credit, my Dad is a forgiving man.

Not all parents are equal. In fact, some are cruel, abusive, and evil. For people with parents like that, keeping the 4th Commandment looks different from what it looks like for me to keep it. If you’re struggling with parents like that, contact me. I’d be honored to walk with you through that.

Those of us who are blessed with honorable (though imperfect) parents still struggle to keep the 4th Commandment. When was the last time you called Mom or Dad, or visited? Do they need anything from you? Do you even know?

The ancient Hebrew language of the Old Testament has no word for grandfather or grandmother. If you lived then, you called your grandfather “father,” and your grandmother “mother.” They were due double honor, because they’re the parents of your parents. They were to be esteemed and treasured. No family business was considered “none of their business.” If God hadn’t used them to bring your family into existence, you’d have no family or business at all.

If your parents or the parents of your parents had opinions about the way you raised your children, they could share them. That wasn’t considered “sticking their noses into your business.”

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Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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Www.Ruthfred.org

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Some twenty-first century American views on family, parents, and grandparents are not only unbiblical, they're downright sinful. We don't have to agree with everything our parents and grandparents say. That's not the point of the 4th Commandment. But it does say, "*Honor thy father and thy mother.*" It does not add exceptions like, "*unless they hurt your feelings, share opinions you don't like, or otherwise annoy you.*"

If I were to choose, as many sadly do, to refuse to speak with my Dad or lash out at him when he communicates honestly with me about things in a harsher way than I'd prefer, or about things that twenty-first century American culture says are "none of his business," I'm breaking the 4th Commandment. If I refuse to visit him, call him, help him when he needs help, or listen respectfully to him even when I disagree, I'm breaking the 4th Commandment. If I break the 4th Commandment, I sin not only against my parents, but against God Himself. Only Christ's blood can save us from the consequences of that.

I've learned and continue to learn some humbling things, by God's grace. For one, I've learned that my relationship with my parents is more enjoyable when I don't feel the need to point it out every time I disagree with them. Generally, unless someone specifically asks for your opinion, it probably isn't of any interest (Perish the thought! GASP!), nor of any help to them. That's hard for us to accept. Social media tempts our generation into the delusion that our opinion is inherently valuable and interesting. Social media distorts reality.

Remember, I likely know very little about your family relationships. This article is not an attempt to publicly scold or rebuke you personally, even if you haven't called your Mom lately, and she secretly hopes I wrote this with you in mind. I'm a sinner, like you. I fail, like you. Praise God, I'm saved by grace through faith in my Savior, Jesus! God's 4th Commandment is a guide for me in my relationship with my parents.



I need His guidance! If the 4th Commandment is especially challenging for you, contact me. I'll walk with you.

Like me, my Dad isn't perfect, but I know he loves me. He's shown me often. Here's one way: he texted this picture to me, which he took of me walking to Ruthfred with Pastors Nathan and Brent Olson. His text said, "I'm proud of you."

However old you get, nothing hits you like Dad saying he's proud of you. Dads, have you told your kids?



On Saturday, Oct. 16th, we held our annual **Family Fall Festival** at the Cox Farm. Thankfully the rain stopped and the sun even came out. It was a wonderful time of fellowship for our church family. Thank you so much to the Cox family for hosting and for the food and hayrides! Thanks also to our Worship Team for the music, as well as to Regan and our youth for all the games!



Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

Regan Johnson

What brought our new youth director all the way from Minnesota?

Regan Johnson is from the small town of Fosston, Minnesota, about two hours northeast of Fargo, North Dakota. A proud, active community of about 1,500 citizens, Fosston has been recognized as an All America City by the National Civic League, a Minnesota Star City and a Millenium Community by the White House.

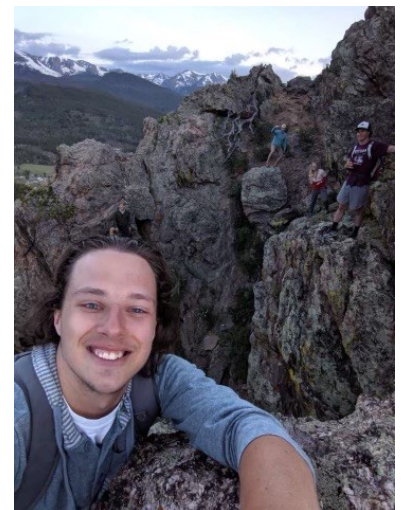
Regan, his older brother, younger sister and parents first worshipped at a non-denominational church where his grandfather served as elder. Through friendships with the sons of the local AFLC pastor, Regan was drawn to their church, Calvary Free Lutheran. He was confirmed, attended youth events, and eventually enticed his entire family to join.

The Johnsons enjoyed traveling and cooking food from different cultures together. Regan is especially thankful for the family camping trips to the beautiful shores of Lake Superior and is still fond of spending time in the woods hiking and camping. Regan enjoyed playing sports as a boy. He played basketball and participated in track and field events throughout high school. After high school, Regan was intrigued by the prospect of studying God's Word at the Free Lutheran Bible College. Many of his acquaintances raved about life changing experiences resulting from their Bible School education. Regan attended the full two years. He was part of summer teams that worked with children in many different locations.

After Bible College, Regan served as a youth leader in southern Illinois for a year. He then went to Minnesota State in Morehead. He is wrapping up a bachelor's degree in Business Marketing. Regan was employed as a childcare worker assigned to school-age children ages five to seven. His local pastor was none other than our former vicar, Micah Hjermstad. Regan has been inspired by so much of the Word of God that it is hard to say what is most meaningful to him. Right now, he is drawn to Ephesians 6: 18-20.

¹⁸praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, ¹⁹and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Welcome, Regan! May your love for God and His Word inspire the young members of our congregation as much as the friends at your church in Fosston have inspired you.



Christmas Giving Tree

Beginning on Sunday, November 7th, the tree outside the elevator will be decorated with small red & green envelopes to benefit the Adopt-A-Family program. A former Bethel Park police officer started this program over 16 years ago. He recognized a need in our community, as well as surrounding communities, for families trying to provide meals and gifts at Christmas. The holidays are one of the most expensive times of the year for families – especially those who are struggling to make ends meet. Your generosity can help alleviate this burden. Last year this program helped over 190 local families to enjoy Christmas. If you can donate a gift card to Giant Eagle, Shop 'N Save, Walmart, Aldi's, Eat 'N Park, or Target, it would help provide food and possibly a small gift this Christmas. Please take an envelope and then place it in the weekly offering basket, or take it to the office where there is a decorated bin. All gift cards must be collected by Sunday, December 5th. Carol Ward will be delivering them the next day.



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection

Samaritan's Purse, run by Franklin Graham, has been operating the "Operation Christmas Child" project since 1993 and has collected and delivered more than 178 million shoebox gifts to children in need all over the world as a tangible expression of God's love. These shoebox gifts are filled with fun toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. For many of these children this shoebox gift is the first gift that they have ever received. Many of the children who have received shoeboxes have then participated in the Greatest Journey, a 12 lesson discipleship program where they learn what it means to follow Jesus and share their faith with family and friends. We have a chance to help children know that there is a God who loves them. Please take a Boy or Girl self-adhesive tag from the "Operation Christmas Child" tree on the Sanctuary level by the elevators, as well as a shoebox. "How to Pack a Shoebox" instructions and gift ideas are available on the display table. Fill the box and return it to the Fireside Lounge no later than noon on Sunday, November 7th. Please contact Carol Ward with any questions: (412) 559-2592 or wardmailbox1@gmail.com.



CRAFT & SEW

Candy donations needed:

The crafters are back at Craft & Sew and need to replenish the candy supply they use for the favors they make. They use bite size and mini/fun size of the following candies: Milky Way, Kit Kat, 3 Musketeers, and Hershey. In addition, M & M's or Hershey kisses are welcome donations. Anything you can give will be put to good use and will be greatly appreciated. This collection will be ongoing throughout the year. Donations can be placed in the container in the kitchen. **Thank you!**

KITCHEN CREW VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With Pat Lutz's recent retirement, we are seeking persons who would be available to work in the kitchen and fellowship hall to help with funeral dinners, XYZ luncheons, and our Lenten Suppers in the Spring. If you are interested, please contact Joanne Salvetti at home – 724-206-0744 or on her cell phone – 412-253-3738.



COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Sunday School Family Gathering for families with children age 2 through grade 5.

Date: Nov. 21st

Time: During Sunday School hour

Where: Fellowship Hall



Activities will include a short lesson, an advent-themed craft, and time for fellowship and refreshments.

We are in need of some volunteers to coordinate and serve the refreshments. Donation of breakfast items, such as pastries, muffins, fresh fruit, kid-friendly casseroles, etc. would also be another way to serve. Sign up at bottom of staircase or contact Barb Harrold at brharrold@comcast.net

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

God Leads us Along

Lyrics and Music: George A. Young

For this month's song article I have chosen yet another hymn with which I was unfamiliar. Perhaps you know it, however. As I may have mentioned in a previous article, part of my morning routine is to flip the page on three devotional daily calendars we have displayed on a hutch in the dining room, one of which was a gift from Jeen and Rick Harper. The October 4th page on that one featured excerpts from "God Leads Us Along". The chorus in particular struck a chord with me:

*Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.*



I decided to research this hymn that I had never heard before. First off, unlike many of the old favorites we love to sing, this one dates post 19th century, although not by much as it was written in 1903. A quick Internet search revealed multiple performances by many different performers in various styles and with various kinds of instrumental accompaniment. Apparently the hymn was more popular than I had supposed. I also discovered that it is included in the AFLC Ambassador hymnal. The verses, especially the first, appear to be loosely based on the 23rd Psalm.



*In shady green pastures, so rich and so sweet,
God leads His dear children along;
Where the water's cool flow bathes the weary one's feet,
God leads His dear children along.*

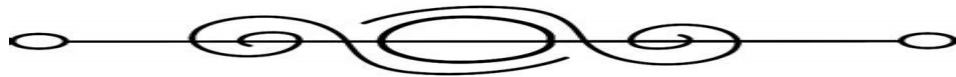
The glory of poetry, of course, is that it effectively uses imagery, rhythm, rhyme, and concise phrasing to convey thoughts, feelings, and ideas. It is left to the less talented among us to try to clumsily unpack its meaning. Going back to the chorus again, here is my take on it: Everyone in this world experiences trials and tribulations to some degree. Some are mild, symbolized by "waters". Some are more severe, symbolized by "flood". Others may be extreme, hence "fire". For Christians, however, we cling to the promise that God will bring us through them all through the blood of His Son. God also promises to be along side us throughout. In Psalm 23 it is with His rod and staff that we are comforted. In "God Leads Us" it is with a song that He provides.

Not much seems to be known about George Young, who composed both the lyrics and music. The following paragraph from one particular website summarizes what little there is to know:

Continued on next page ...

"Young was an obscure 19th century preacher and carpenter who spent a lifetime serving in small rural communities. Often his financial support was small, and it was hard on his family. But through all the ups and downs his faithful wife never wavered in her loyalty to God and to her husband. After a long struggle, the family was able to move into their own small home (which George built himself). But then, on an occasion when George was away preaching, some local thugs – who didn't like his Gospel preaching – set fire to the house, and it was totally destroyed. It was out of that experience that Young reaffirmed his faith in God by writing 'God Leads Us Along'." [thecontinuingwitness.com]

If, like me, you are not familiar with this hymn, check out some of the renditions on the Internet. Also, there is a possibility it might show up as special music at one of our upcoming services.



Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



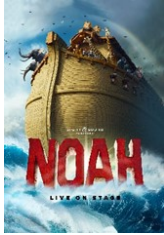
"We pray for God's light to shine on all of our decisions and that every aspect of our lives would be fulfilled within the boundaries of His Law and Gospel. We do not want our worry to guide our search for daily bread (Matthew 6:25-34). Rather, we rely on God's Promise and receive what He has provided with thanksgiving. For we know that with Jesus we have daily bread that endures, even to everlasting life (John 6:28-29)."

Rev. Justin A. Herman, University Lutheran Church, West Lafayette, Indiana
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Start date: Wednesday, September 15th

Time: 6:45pm – 8:00pm

2021/2022 Evening JTTW Schedule:

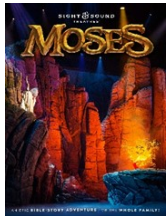


September 15th: Noah Week 1 (Genesis 6:1-11)

September 22nd: Noah Week 2 (Genesis 6:12-22)

September 29th: Noah Week 3 (Genesis 7)

October 6th: Noah Week 4 (Genesis 8:1-9:19)



October 13th: Moses Week 1 (Exodus 1:7 - 2:10)

October 20th: Moses Week 2 (Exodus 2:11-15)

October 27th: Moses Week 3 (Exodus 2:16-21; 3:2-10; 4:1-8)

November 3rd: Moses Week 4 (Exodus 4:31-5:2; 7:4-6; 11:9)



November 10th: Jonah Week 1 (Jonah 1:1-3)

November 17th: Jonah Week 2 (Jonah 1:4-17)

November 24th: Thanksgiving Break

December 1st: Jonah Week 3 (Jonah 2:1 - 3:9)

December 8th: Jonah Week 4 (Jonah 3:10 - 4:11)

December 15th, 22nd, & 29th -- Christmas Break



January 5th: Ruth Week 1

January 12th: Ruth Week 2

January 19th: Ruth Week 3

January 26th: Ruth Week 4



February 2nd: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 1

February 9th: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 2

February 16th: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 3

February 23rd: The Pilgrim's Progress Week 4

OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



- * The SWAP group had a wonderful retreat at Seneca Hills Bible Camp with Regan.
- * We are short a deacon for the 11:00 service. Nathan has been getting people to fill in for the vacant deacon position.
- * A tent and hot dog roller were donated to the church. The tent is stored at the Cox farm.

Old Business:

- * Brian Schmidt reported that we will be interviewing for the Parish Assistant job on Tuesday and Thursday and that three resumes have been submitted for the Financial Manager Position. We are still accepting resumes for both positions.

New Business:

- * There was a long discussion regarding refinishing the pews. They were last done in 1980. This needs to be done by a professional. He talked with three companies. Roger Kurtz is talking with vendors to gather pricing information. Topics discussed included the cost of the project and funding, timing and upgrades that also need to be done to the fellowship hall.
- * 2022 Budget - Bill Ward presented the proposed 2022 budget which will be discussed at the Congregational meeting in November. A motion was passed to accept the budget.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kris Wentz

WEEKLY CHURCH IS GOD'S GIFT

Assembly Required

90+ Birthday Club



Evelyn Meyer	November 7th	94
Raymond Feller	November 18th	92
Jim MacManus	November 20th	93
Lorraine Graham	November 21st	94
Ralph Thompson	November 21st	92
Alma Vogel	November 28th	92

Official Acts -- October 2021

Baptisms

* Robin Elizabeth Blackston -- 10/24/21

Weddings:

* Loraine Rebecca Ziegler and Craig William Montanye -- 10/2/21

Funerals:

Thomas G. Boehm -- 10/12/21
(Funeral home service and committal)












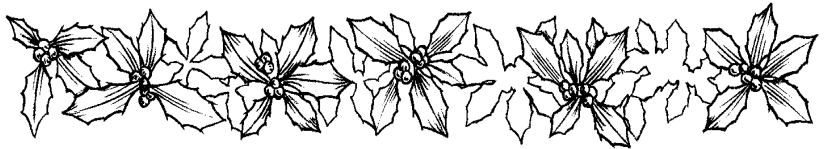
* Lillian Patricia Radke -- 10/16/21 Funeral;
10/18/21 Committal service at the
National Cemetery of the Alleghenies

* indicates member

*I am
the Way,
the Truth
and the
Life*
John 14:6




November, 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Meeting 7:00 	2 ELECTION DAY Worship Team 7:00	3 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30	4	5 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	6 TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK 
7 End Daylight Savings ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY INTL. DAY OF PRAYER— PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00 City Mission Food Sunday Happy 94th Birthday Evelyn Meyer 	8 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30 	9 Worship Team 7:00 Women's Ministry 7:00	10 JTTW 9:15 Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	11 Knit Wits 10:00	12 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge) Wedding Rehearsal 6:00	13 Mary Bible Study 9:30 Wedding (Riley & Cole) 2:00
14 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	15 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30	16 Worship Team 7:00	17 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	18 Ruth 2:00 Happy 92nd Birthday Raymond Feller 	19 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge) XYZ Noon	20 Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 5:00 Happy 93rd Birthday Jim MacManus 
21 POINSETTIA SALE Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Congregational Meetings after each service Happy 94th Birthday Lorraine Graham Happy 92nd Birthday Ralph Thompson 	22 JTTW Leaders 9:30	23 Worship Team 7:00	24 Children's Choir 5:45 NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES Senior Choir 7:30	25 THANKSGIVING DAY Service 10:00 	26	27  PREPARING FOR ADVENT
28 Herald Deadline 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Happy 92nd Birthday Alma Vogel 	29 JTTW Leaders 9:30 	30 Worship Team 7:00 				

November 2021

Youth Ministry Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  ALL SAINTS' DAY	2 TNT @ Church 7-9	3	4	5	6
7  Sunday School 9:45	8	9 TNT @ Church 7-9	10	11	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	15	16 TNT @ Church 7-9	17	18	19 Board Game Bonanza 4:00-10:00  GAME NIGHT	20
21 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	22	23 TNT @ Church 7-9	24	25 THANKSgiving Day 	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	29	30 TNT @ Church 7-9				
						

Reading Through the Bible 2021

Schedule for November

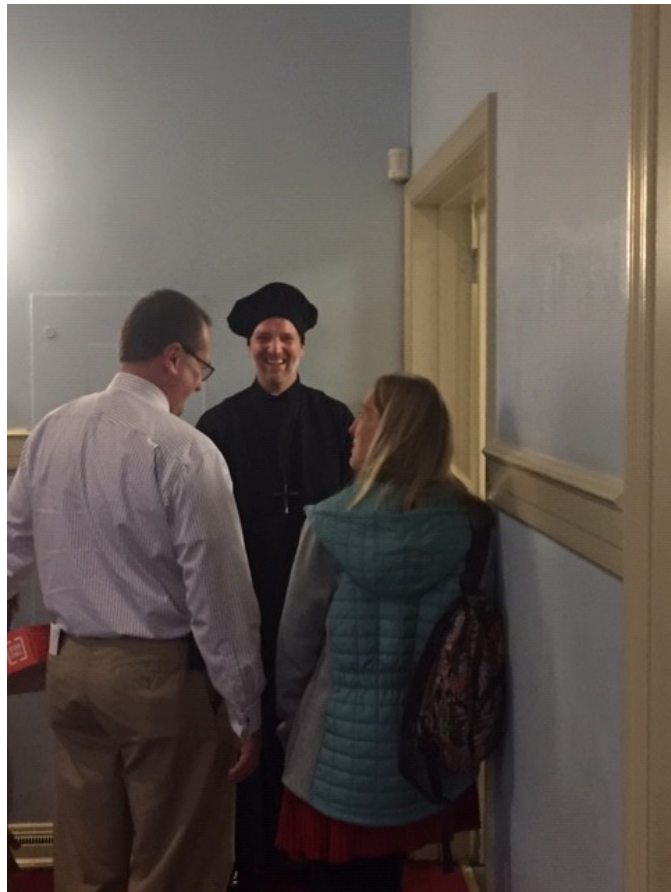
1st	John 18:1-2 Mark 14:32-42 Matthew 26:36-46 Luke 22:39-46 Mark 14:43-52 Matthew 26:47-56 Luke 22:47-53 John 18:2-24
2nd	Mark 14:53-65 Matthew 26:57-68 Mark 14:66-72 Matthew 26:69-75 Luke 22:54-65 John 18:25-27 Mark 15:1 Matthew 27:1-2 Luke 22:66-71 Matthew 27:3-10
3rd	Mark 15:2-5 Matthew 27:11-14 Luke 23:1-12 John 18:28-40 Mark:15:6-15 Matthew 27:15-26 Matthew 27:15-26 Luke 23:13-25 John 19:1-16 Mark 15:16-20 Matthew 27:27-31
4th	Mark 15:21-24 Matthew 27:32-34 Luke 23:26-31 John 19:17 Mark:15:25-32 Matthew 27:35-44 Luke 23:32-43 John 19:18-27 Mark 15:33-41 Matthew 27:45-56 Luke 23:44-49 John 19:28-37
5th	Mark 15:42-47 Matthew 27:57-61 Luke 23:50-56 John 19:38-42 Matthew 27:52-66 Mark 16:1-8 Matthew 28:1-7 Luke 24:1-12 Mark 16:9-13 John 20:1-18 Matthew 28:8-15
6th	Luke 24:13-43 Mark 16:12-13 John 20:19-23 Mark 16:14 John 20:24-31 John 21 Matthew 28:16-20 Mark 16:15-18 Luke 24:44-49
7th	Mark 16:19-20 Luke 24:50-53 Acts 1 Acts 2
8th	Acts 3 Acts 4 Acts 5
9th	Acts 6 Acts 7 Acts 8:1
10th	Acts 8 Acts 9
11th	Acts 10 Acts 11 Acts 12:1-5
12th	Acts 12:6-25 Acts 13 Acts 14:1-20
13th	Acts 14:21-28 Galatians 1 Galatians 2 Galatians 3:1-23
14th	Galatians 3:24-29 Galatians 4 Galatians 5 Galatians 6 Acts:15:1-21
15th	Acts 15:22-41 Acts 16 Acts 17:1-15
16th	Acts 17:16-34 Acts 18:1-3 1 Thessalonians 1 1 Thessalonians 2 1 Thessalonians 3 1 Thessalonians 4 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
17th	1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 2 Thessalonians 1 2 Thessalonians 2 2 Thessalonians 3 Acts 18:4-23
18th	Acts 18:24-28 Acts 19:1-20 1 Corinthians 1 1 Corinthians 2 1 Corinthians 3
19th	1 Corinthians 4 1 Corinthians 5 1 Corinthians 6 1 Corinthians 7
20th	1 Corinthians 8 1 Corinthians 9 1 Corinthians 10 1 Corinthians 11:1
21st	1 Corinthians 11:2-34 1 Corinthians 12 1 Corinthians 13
22nd	1 Corinthians 14 1 Corinthians 15
23rd	1 Corinthians 16 Acts 19:21-41 Acts 20:1-6 Romans 1
24th	Romans 2 Romans 3 Romans 4
25th	Romans 5 Romans 6 Romans 7 Romans 8:1-17

Continued on next page ...

Reading Through the Bible (Cont.)

26th Romans 8:18-39 Romans 9 Romans 10
27th Romans 11 Romans 12 Romans 13 Romans 14
28th Romans 15 Romans 16 2 Corinthians 1 2 Corinthians 2:1-4
29th 2 Corinthians 2:5-17 2 Corinthians 3 2 Corinthians 4 2 Corinthians 5
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
30th 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 2 Corinthians 7 2 Corinthians 8 2 Corinthians 9
2 Corinthians 10

*Pastor McMinn having
some fun with his
Halloween / Reformation
Martin Luther costume
after the Oct. 31st services.*



Ponderable Quote:

**I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought,
and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder.**

G.K. Chesterton

A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a

Dear God
Please send me a pony.
I've never asked for anything
before. You can look it up.
Bruce

Dear God
I went to this wedding and
they kissed right in church.
Is that okay?
Neil

Dear God
We read that Thomas Edison
made light. But in Sunday
school we learned that you did
it. I bet he stole your idea.
Michael

Dear God
I bet it is very hard for you to
love all of everybody in the
whole world. There are only 4
people in our family and I can
never do it.

Nan

