



From the Pastor's Desk

Thankful for God's Word



Thanksgiving is on my mind as I write this article. In part it's on my mind because it's November, and in part, because I'm thankful for the amazing number of Sunday School kids, parents, and families who turned out for Ruthfred's Family Sunday School on Reformation Sunday (October 30th). It was a blessed event!

I had fun dressing as Martin Luther, and distributing Bibles to all Ruthfred children in 1st through 5th grades. If you are the parent or grandparent of a Ruthfred child who hasn't received a Bible, please let me know. We have more. I'd be happy to provide you with one for your child. The kids were excited to have their very own, personalized Bible with their name on the inside cover. Their Sunday School teachers encouraged them to start bringing their Bible to church and Sunday School with them. The kids were clearly thankful for God's Word.



After receiving their Bibles the children sat with their parents, who helped them look up some verses and write them out by hand. It was then time for the children to follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther themselves and nail their Bible verses onto a replica of the Wittenberg Castle doors, which was designed by Ruthfred member Marirose Donlin.

Continued on page 3 ...

Ruthfred Lutheran Church

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Wwww.Ruthfred.org

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In This Issue

3 From the Pastor's Desk
Continued from cover page

4 Family Fall Festival

6 Member Profile
Carol & Bill Ward

**7 Lutherans for Life Quote;
Ponderable Quote**

8 Letter from Franklin Graham

9 Song of the Month
Live Like That

11 Church Library Featured Books

**12 90+ Birthday Club;
Congratulations Josh Libell!;
Official Acts**

**13 Worship Team Members
for November**

14 Church Calendar

15 Youth Calendar

**16 Reading Through the Bible 2022
(Storyline Version)**

17 A Joyful Heart Is Good Medicine



Continued from cover page ...

Each child had his or her picture taken with “Martin Luther” in front of the Castle Church doors, and a fun-filled and delicious time of snacks and games followed. Many faithful hands work hard to organize and manage our family Sunday School events. We’re thankful to God for all of them!

Another fun Family Sunday School will take place on Sunday, November 20th, marking the beginning of the Advent season. We hope you’ll plan to attend with your family. There’ll be plenty of food, fun, and Advent-themed gifts and crafts for all.



This Thanksgiving, may God help us to remember to be thankful, perhaps for some of the incredible blessings we ordinarily take for granted. As we learned on Reformation Sunday, until many reformers risked their lives to translate the Bible into the languages of ordinary people 500 years ago (many being executed as a result), very few people on earth had a copy of the Bible in their own language. Be thankful for God’s Word!

Be thankful that because of God’s gracious provision to us through the courageous works of ministry of our ancestors in the Faith, we not only have His saving Word in our own language, but we have a church like Ruthfred, where we can hear God’s Word preached, sing It, pray It, study It, and read It. Here, at Ruthfred, be thankful to God for the many souls that are saved, strengthened, and kept in the Faith by His Word through Its faithful preaching and teaching, and through the faithful administration of the Holy Sacraments.

Look around in the pews beside you when you’re here on Sundays, and be thankful for your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are part of this wonderful family of the Faith! May it mark our character here at Ruthfred, as a part of our very lifestyle, to be “*always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus to God our Father.*”
-Ephesians 5:20

Yours in Thankfulness and Praise to God,
Pastor Bryce C. McMinn



Fall Festival 2022



On Oct. 15th the annual Fall Festival was held at the Cox farm in Monongahela. God blessed us with a nearly perfect sunny crisp fall day, and everyone enjoyed a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. Thanks to the Cox family, the TNT Youth, the Youth Committee, RLC staff, the Worship Team, and everyone who brought chili and other delicious foods!! As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, so here are some pictures on this page and the next that will save me from typing 8,000 words!





Member Profile:**by Mettelise Ziegler****Carol & Bill Ward**

Carol (Wannemacher) and Bill Ward have been members of Ruthfred for twenty-six years. You may know Bill as the faithful treasurer serving several terms. You have seen Carol's name in the bulletin as the contact person for Operation Christmas Child and the Giving Tree projects. She recently coordinated Souper September collections.

The Wards have a long Lutheran history, but neither was raised in a Lutheran Church. Carol and Bill are both from Bethel Park. They are three years apart, so it is not surprising that they did not know one another in high school. While in their thirties, a mutual friend set them up on a blind date. Carol committed to just one hour, expecting another disastrous attempt by her friend at matchmaking!

Carol's mother was Episcopalian, and the family attended St. Paul's in Mt Lebanon. Bill was Roman Catholic. The Wards initially planned to be married in Bill's church, but when they were told Carol would not be receiving Holy Communion at the wedding, they agreed it was time to go in another direction. Because Pastor Dennis was a family friend, they consulted with him and were persuaded to consider the Lutheran Church.

Carol's father and grandfather both attended Capital University in Ohio. Her father met Pastor Dennis there, as he rented a room at her Aunt Minnie's boarding house. Carol's grandfather served as pastor of Stewart Avenue Lutheran Church in Brentwood for fifty years. He mentored Pastor Dennis when he was fresh out of seminary, working to plant a church at South Park and Patterson roads we know as Ruthfred Lutheran Church.

The couple married in 1997. Currently, their household includes rescue dogs they sometimes drive several hours to pick up and foster. All of them have been Labrador mixed breed through an organization called *For the Love of Labs Rescue* in Connecticut. Besides pets, the Ward home is often full of family members including nineteen nieces and nephews.

Bill has been working at Ward Financial for over thirty years. The family firm specializes in arranging finances for resort properties. Even though her hours are "crazy" Carol loves her job at Bradley Michaels Furniture in Pleasant Hills, as well as her side business as an interior decorator.

The Wards have a Thanksgiving story to share. After college, Bill purchased a "beat-up farmhouse in Whitehall" which he worked to restore. After they were married, the Wards invited Pastor Dennis to Thanksgiving Day. He was available to stop in for dessert. Suddenly the pastor exclaimed, "I've had pie here before!" Apparently, Bill had unwittingly purchased a house formerly owned by a Zion Lutheran pastor. Both Pastor Dennis and Carol's grandfather had been frequent visitors to that very house. Carol and Bill no longer live in that old Whitehall farmhouse. Their home in Bethel Park, however, still echoes with stories of their Lutheran heritage.



Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



"These two choices are vastly different: to give birth to a child or to abort it. But one thing is the same: to choose Jesus is to choose life. For Jesus holds every life—even the tiniest—in the nail-scarred palm of His hand."

Rev. Gary Blobaum, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oregon, Illinois –
A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



Ponderable Quote:

We see reasons for not believing. But always there is also reason to believe. And not believing raises more questions than believing does! I may see reasons that make it hard to believe there is meaning. But not to believe there is meaning, I have to give up reason entirely. The first may be hard, but the second is impossible.

James Dillet Freeman

October 4, 2022

Dear Ruthfred Lutheran Congregation,

I want to thank you for the generous gift sent to Samaritan's Purse from Ruthfred Lutheran Church for U.S. Disaster Relief. We deeply appreciate your investment in what God is doing through this ministry.

Our disaster relief teams are on the ground in Fort Myers and Englewood in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, and we will be opening an additional site in Punta Gorda this week. We are helping people clean mud and waterlogged debris out of their homes, remove damaged flooring and sheetrock, treat for mold, cut up fallen trees, and tarp roofs. We will need many volunteers to come alongside us in the weeks and months ahead as we bring relief to these storm victims who are hurting, have lost loved ones, and have had their lives turned upside down. Our teams in eastern Kentucky are continuing to assist flood victims, and we are repairing and rebuilding homes destroyed by previous storms in western Kentucky and Louisiana.

Please pray for people in these communities who have lost so much and our teams as we help them in Jesus' name. May God bless you.

*Sincerely,
Franklin Graham*

Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

Live Like That

Lyrics and Music: Ben Glover, Ben McDonald, David Frey

*Sometimes I think: What will people say of me?
When I'm only just a memory.
When I'm home where my soul belongs.*



So goes the opening line of "Live Like That", produced by the Sidewalk Prophets in 2012, and recently performed by our RLC worship team at the Fall Festival. Who among us hasn't had thoughts like this? Will people remember us for our corny sense of humor?; the style of clothes we liked to wear?; the cowlick that always stuck up at the back of our head? On a more serious note, will they remember us as kind, generous, God-fearing, and faithful? Sobering thoughts, to be sure. These are exactly the kinds of thoughts that Sidewalk Prophets Ben, Ben, and David explore in "Live Like That", as the next line of the song indicates:

Was I love? When no one else would show up? Was I Jesus to the least of us?

Then comes a line that hits close to home for me, as one who enjoys singing hymns in church and participating in the senior choir and the worship team:

Was my worship more than just a song?

Zing - ouch! Verse 2 continues with similar questions:

*Am I proof that You are who You say You are? That grace can really change a heart?
Do I live like Your love is true?
People pass, and even if they don't know my name, is there evidence that I've been changed?
When they see me do they see You?*

As Christians, I think most of us would answer such questions with "I hope so, but I'm also keenly aware of how far short I fall every day." So we can probably join in with the Sidewalk Prophets when in the chorus and bridge they declare a bunch of "I wanna's":

*I wanna live like that, and give it all I have, so that everything I say and do points to You.
If love is who I am, then this is where I'll stand, recklessly abandoned, never holding back.
I wanna live like that; I wanna live like that.
I wanna show the world the love You gave for me.
I'm longing for the world to know the glory of the King.
I wanna live like that!*

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I don't really know much about the Sidewalk Prophets, but I get the sense that they are not seeking to live for God in order to earn His favor. Rather they "wanna" serve God and be a witness for Him as a response to His love and grace. And thanks be to God that our standing with Him does not depend on how well we answer all the questions in this song! As Paul says in his letter to the Ephesians:

"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Eph. 2:8-10

May God help us with all our "wanna's", and with walking in those good works prepared for us.

Having just celebrated All Saints Day, I would like to close this article with the lyrics of another song that comes to mind -- "Find Us Faithful" -- that also deals with how we might hope to be remembered.

*We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,
and those who've gone before us line the way,
cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary,
their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.*

*Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us run the race not only for the prize,
but as those who've gone before us,
let us leave to those behind us
the heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.*

*O may all who come behind us find us faithful,
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe,
and the lives we live inspire them to obey.
O may all who come behind us find us faithful.*

*After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
and our children sift through all we've left behind,
may the clues that they discover, and the memories they uncover,
become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.*

O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

(Written by Jon Mohr and popularized by Steve Green)





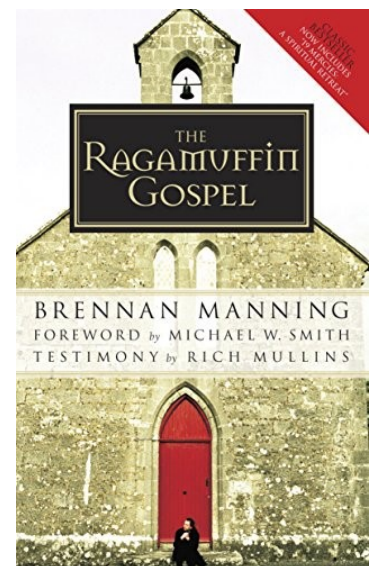
Dear Readers, NEW Books have arrived!!!!

Our church library is a wonderful goldmine!! Last week additional brand-new books arrived!

- * **Martin Luther's Theology of Beauty:** In this book, Rev. Dr. Mark Mattes does an exceptional work in portraying the beauty of Christ's love for us in that He takes upon Himself the ugliness of our sin and makes us holy and beautiful through His righteousness. The world does not understand this and despises Christ as "ugly," but this is the true beauty of God's love. This book will deepen your understanding of Christ and the depth of His love for you. It is a work that is rich with Biblical and Lutheran theology.
- * **God's Smuggler:** This is a wonderful book about Brother Andrew (who just passed away this fall) who was famous for smuggling Bibles into communist countries. As he would drive up to the checkpoints and inspection guards with his car loaded with Bibles, he would pray his famous prayer, "God, you made blind eyes to see, now please make seeing eyes blind." Great inspirational reading! I read it as a teenager and have never forgotten this testimony of God's miraculous works!
- * **Great Christians:** This is not a new release, but it is a collection of life accounts and testimonies of Christians who lived out their faith, some even in martyrdom. It starts with Polycarp, who was the disciple of John the Apostle, and moves on through Church history highlighting different individuals. There is an excellent chapter on Martin Luther! It was written to be used in Sunday school in the Lutheran Church. It is a quick read, and well worth it!
- * **The Ragamuffin Gospel:** In this book, Brennan Manning, sets out the sweetness of the Gospel to souls that are famished, bruised, and broken. We don't deserve it, we are but "ragamuffins" but the good news is that the Gospel Good News is for us sinners purely out of the goodness and grace of God.

Just as Paul wrote to Timothy, "bring my books", our hope is that we can bring these books to you to enrich your spiritual life in the Lord!

A fellow reader,
Pastor Carlson



90+ Birthday Club



Evelyn Meyer	November 7th	95
Anne Fife	November 14th	90
Raymond Feller	November 18th	93
Lorraine Graham	November 21st	95
Ralph Thompson	November 21st	93
Gary Thayer	November 26th	90

Congratulations to Josh Libell who graduated from basic training in the US Navy on October 10th! He is now stationed in South Carolina and his mailing address is:

**FN Libell, Joshua J., Class 2305-A
101 NNPTC Circle
Goose Creek, SC 29445**



Official Acts -- October 2022

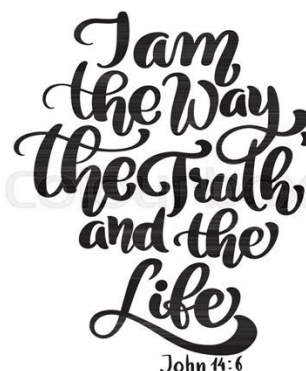
Funerals:

Kama Olivia Allen -- 10/10/22

Alice Didion Schmitt -- 10/29/22

Member Removed Per Their Request:

Gay Lynn Miller -- 10/27/22



Worship Team Members for November 2022

Acolytes:

8:30 AM Jonathan Tarrant
11:00 AM Asher Manzo (6, 13, 27)
Ryan Handshue (20)
Thanksgiving Day 10:00 AM
Isaiah Compel

Crucifers:

11/6 11:00 AM Morgan Dolence
11/13 8:30 AM Morgan Dolence
11/20 11:00 AM Courtney Felicetti
11/27 8:30 AM Morgan Dolence
Thanksgiving Day 10:00 AM
Morgan Dolence

Flag Bearers for Veterans Day Celebration

8:30 AM Evan Gusky
11:00 AM Josh Cimarolli

Altar Guild

Will Charlton

Ushers:

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

Counters:

8:30 AM Greg Saul (11/6),
Marc Harrold
11:00 AM Kurt Ziegler,
Mark Riley

Coffee Hour

Sue Dawson

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












2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving. Palm 95:2</p>		1 Worship Team 7:00 	2 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45	3	4 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	5 TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK
6 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	7 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Meeting 7:00 Happy 95th Birthday Evelyn Meyer!	8 ELECTION DAY Polling Place at Ruthfred All Day Worship Team 7:00 	9 JTTW 9:15 Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	10 Knit Wits 10:00	11 VETERANS' DAY Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) 	12 Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
13 VETERANS' DAY SERVICE Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	14 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting 7:30 Happy 90th Birthday Anne Fife! 	15 Worship Team 7:00	16 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30	17 Ruth 2:00	18 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) XYZ Noon Happy 93rd Birthday Raymond Feller 	19 Contemporary Liturgical Worship Service 6:00
20 CHRIST THE KING Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 Annual Congregational Meetings after each service Young Adult Bible Study 6:30 	21 Happy 95th Birthday Lorraine Graham! Happy 93rd Birthday Ralph Thompson! 	22 Worship Team 7:00	23 Children's Choir 5:45 NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES, JTTW, or Kids' Time Senior Choir 7:30	24 THANKSGIVING DAY Service 10:00 	25	26 Happy 90th Birthday Gary Thayer!
27 Herald Deadline Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00 	28 JTTW Leaders 9:30	29 Worship Team 7:00	30 St. Andrew, Apostle JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30 			



YOUTH MINISTRY CALENDAR

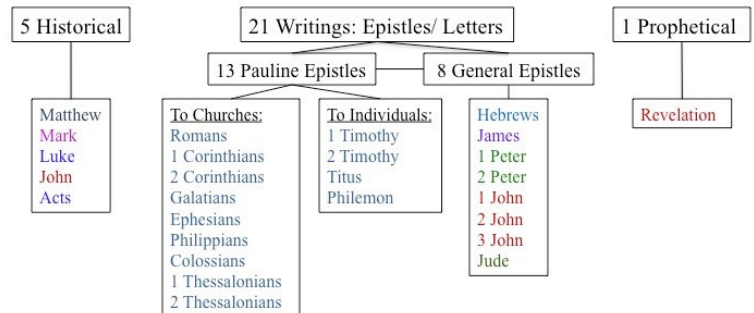
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 TNT @ Church 7-9 	2	3	4	5
6  Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	7	8 TNT @ Church 7-9	9	10	11 Veterans Day 	12
13 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	14	15 TNT @ Church 7-9	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-8:30	21	22 TNT @ Church 7-9	23	24 Thanksgiving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

Reading Through the Bible 2022

Schedule for November

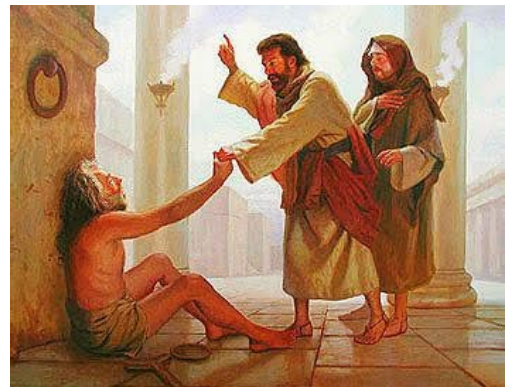
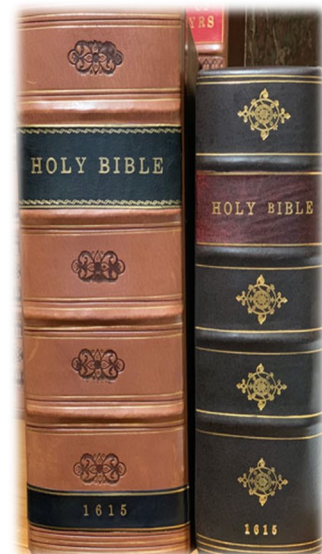
1st	Luke 1		
2nd	Luke 2	Luke 3	
3rd	Luke 4	Luke 5	
4th	Luke 6	Luke 7	
5th	Luke 8	Luke 9	
6th	Luke 10	Luke 11	
7th	Luke 12	Luke 13	
8th	Luke 14	Luke 15	Luke 16
9th	Luke 17	Luke 18	
10th	Luke 19	Luke 20	
11th	Luke 21	Luke 22	
12th	Luke 23	Luke 24	
13th	Acts 1	Acts 2	Acts 3
14th	Acts 4	Acts 5	Acts 6
15th	Acts 7	Acts 8	
16th	Acts 9	Acts 10	
17th	Acts 11	Acts 12	
18th	Acts 13	Acts 14	Acts 15
19th	Acts 16	Acts 17	
20th	Acts 18	Acts 19	Acts 20
21st	Acts 21	Acts 22	Acts 23
22nd	Acts 24	Acts 25	Acts 26
23rd	Acts 27	Acts 28	
24th	Romans 1	Romans 2	Romans 3 Romans 4
25th	Romans 5	Romans 6	Romans 7
26th	Romans 8	Romans 9	Romans 10
27th	Romans 11	Romans 12	Romans 13
28th	Romans 14	Romans 15	Romans 16
29th	1 Corinthians 1	1 Corinthians 2	1 Corinthians 3 1 Corinthians 4
30th	1 Corinthians 5	1 Corinthians 6	1 Corinthians 7 1 Corinthians 8

Types of Books in the New Testament



1. Matthew wrote Matthew
2. Mark wrote Mark
3. Luke wrote 2 books - Luke and Acts (only Gentile to write in the Bible)
4. John wrote 5 books - John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Revelation
5. Paul wrote 13 books
6. Unknown author - Hebrews
7. James wrote James
8. Simon Peter wrote 2 books - 1 Peter and 2 Peter
9. Jude wrote Jude

9 Authors in the NT



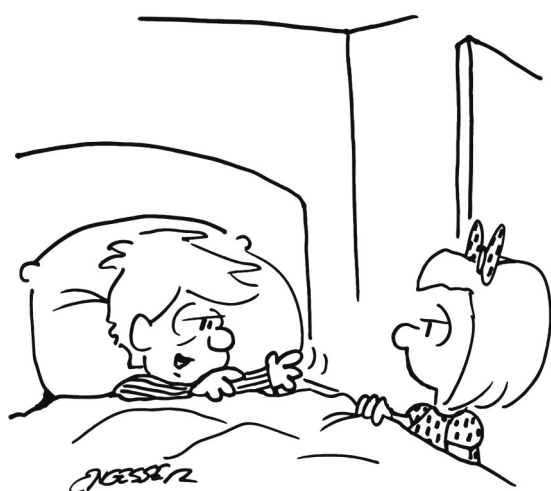
A joyful heart is good medicine.

Proverbs 17:22a



"Could we study Exodus instead of the book of Acts?"

My family has begged me to stop telling stupid jokes at Thanksgiving, but I can't just quit cold turkey!



"Tell Mom I'll stay home today and do Sunday school online."



"We never talk during halftime anymore!"