## RUTHFREDHERALD

October 2021

Volume 31, No. 10



## From the Pastor's Desk

## The Catechism: It's NOT Just for Middle Schoolers, Ya Know?



Five years after being excommunicated by the Pope for upholding the teachings of Scripture against many unbiblical, horrible teachings that were spreading throughout the Church, Dr. Martin Luther and other Reformers visited congregations around Germany to check on their overall spiritual health. Among other things, Luther said this in response to what he saw in the churches: "The deplorable, miserable condition I discovered...has forced me to prepare this catechism. Mercy! Dear God, what great misery I beheld! Everyone says they're Christians, even though they can't even recite the Lord's Prayer or the Creed or the Ten Commandments. They live like dumb brutes and irrational hogs. Now that the Gospel has come, they have nicely learned to abuse all freedom like experts."

That's just the start of what Luther said on the subject. He goes on for many more powerful (if also entertaining) paragraphs in his prefaces to the Small and Large Catechisms, which you'll find starting on pages 313 and 351 respectively in your copy of *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*. Don't have a copy of that book yet? I've got a FREE copy for you in my office. Check with me. I'll get it to you.

It's fall now, and confirmation classes are going strong here at Ruthfred. I'm reminded these days that Luther's Small Catechism is NOT just for confirmation students!

CONCORDIA
THE LUTHERAN CONTENSIONS

A RIVER'S Edition of the Book of Concept

What Luther said 500 years ago about the Small Catechism is sadly true today:

"Many see the catechism as a poor, common teaching, which they can read through once and immediately understand. They can throw the book into a corner and be ashamed to read it again. But for myself, I am as learned and experienced as all the people who have such assumptions and contentment. Yet I act as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning, and whenever I have time, I read and say word for word the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Psalms, and such. I must still read and study them daily. Yet I cannot master the catechism as I wish. I must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and am glad to remain so. Therefore, for God's sake, I beg such lazy bellies or arrogant saints to be persuaded and believe that they are truly, truly not so learned or such great doctors as they imagine! They should never assume that they have finished learning the parts of the catechism or know it well enough in all points, even though they think they know it ever so well."

Continued on page 3 ...

#### **Ruthfred Lutheran Church**

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is Sunday, October 24th, 2021

The email publication date is **Monday, November 1st, 2021** 



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#### ruthfredherald

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Once again Luther goes on for many more paragraphs in his unique salty style, encouraging us not to arrogantly set the Small Catechism aside as just for middle schoolers to study. We should all learn and study it. No one, especially pastors, should arrogantly kid themselves that they know it well enough, and set it on a shelf the rest of our lives after we've been "confirmed." Test yourself. Write the Ten Commandments in order. Can you do it?





Like Luther, I too read and study the Small Catechism daily. To the left is the little, white, 23-page, Small Catechism from which I read two pages per day. Do you have one? If not, I have a FREE copy for each member of your family. Come and see me. I'll get them to you. Maybe you haven't cracked open the Small Catechism in so many years, you don't remember when you last read it. Don't worry. You're not alone. But don't be comfortable either, just because many other people are also neglecting the catechism with you!

Contact me for your FREE copy today! Stand with our confirmation students and me in regularly studying these priceless basics of the Saving Faith into which you were baptized!

But don't take my word for it. Take Luther's: "I beg all Christians not to think of yourselves as doctors too soon and imagine that you know everything. Guard against the poisonous infection of contentment and vain imagination. Keep on reading, teaching, learning, pondering, and meditating on the catechism. Stop when you've taught the devil to death, and have become more learned than God Himself and all His saints. May God grant His grace! Amen.

Pastor McMinn

## Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



"Life ministry is about walking together, bearing one another's burdens, and celebrating the lives God has given us. Life ministry is assisting the mother who is struggling in the pew with her 'busy' preschooler. Life ministry is encouraging the father whose unbelieving wife just left him. Life ministry is visiting the sick and elderly, preparing meals for the grieving, celebrating with the newlyweds. Christ's Church continues to bring the message of new life into each and every heart. And that is a beautiful thing!"

Deaconess Rachel Geraci, former Mission and Ministry Director for Lutherans For Life A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

#### Member Profile:

by Mettelise Ziegler

## **John and Praise Morden**

This past June, John Morden and his daughter Joanna Praise Morden officially joined as members of Ruthfred Lutheran Church. Why Ruthfred? John and his wife Stella have lived in South Park for about twenty-five years. They met in the Washington, D.C. area, and have reared eight children. The Christian faith is important to them. All family members are practicing Christians, but not all attend the same church.

The Morden Family has a long history of attending churches with a more contemporary worship style. Although nothing wrong with that, John and Praise both felt drawn to more contemplative, traditional worship. For a time, John attended St. Stephen's Anglican Church in Sewickley. Although he thoroughly enjoyed the church, the long drive made it difficult to attend much more than Sunday mornings. It was actually daughter, Praise, who found Ruthfred. She started attending before her father did. Along the way, she became friends with Cassandra Rummel, who is now married to Andrew Vogel, a son of the congregation and also on staff. In fact, Praise was a bridesmaid in their recent wedding.



Why did John gravitate towards Ruthfred? It was not just the liturgical worship style. What clinched it was Pastor McMinn's series of classes on Lutheranism. Pastor taught about the basics of the Lutheran faith from the Book of Concord. John was particularly impressed by the Apology to the Augsburg Confession and recommends that every one read it. For the first time in his entire life, John was brought to an understanding about the forgiveness of sins. He came to see that Jesus died for him willingly and lovingly. Jesus had not saved John reluctantly. Jesus is not looking at John with some sort of disdain, scorn or aloofness. John understands now that Jesus truly loves him and says that this truth is life changing.

During the week, John works as the accountant for Volkwein's Music. Praise is a registered nurse at St. Clair Hospital. On weekends, you will see both father and daughter at worship at different times, as John has recently joined the choir. We hope that Ruthfred will continue to nurture their faith in meaningful ways.





## **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 Mus-

keteers, 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:

#### **Church Fall Festival**

Where: Cox Farm in Monongahela

Date: Oct. 16th
Time: 1 PM - 7 PM



Food Games Music Hay Rides Fellowship

#### Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

## LORD, TEACH US HOW TO PRAY

Lyrics: James Montgomery Music: William Henry Havergal

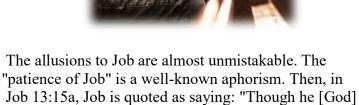
On the first Sunday in September we sang a hymn I was unfamiliar with: "Lord, Teach Us How to Pray." The melody was simple and easy to sing, and the words made an impression on me. Maybe it's because I've always had a problem understanding the concept of prayer. If God already knows all of our needs, why do we need to ask Him? If things turn out the way we want when we pray God gets all the credit, but if they don't, God doesn't get any blame. If God hears and answers our prayers, why is it sometimes such a guessing game figuring out what the answer is? But I continue to pray anyway. Why? Mainly because God's Word teaches that we should. All the godly people in the Bible, including Jesus himself, encouraged and modeled the practice of prayer. Add to that the billions of godly people now and througout history who have fervently practiced prayer. As the second part of verse 1 of "Lord, Teach Us" says, "Though dust and ashes in thy sight, we may, we must draw near!" Then the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse starts out with "We perish if we cease from prayer."

Montgomery's lyrics may not answer all the mysteries surrounding prayer, but they do offer some very powerful advice about it. The 7<sup>th</sup> and final verse starts out with the statement, "Give these, and then Thy will be done." Unless you paid close attention to the previous four verses, you might wonder what the "these" refers to. To summarise concisely, here's a list:

- \* Truth in the inward parts;
- \* Deep humility and godly sorrow;
- \* Strong desire to hear God's voice;
- \* Faith in the only sacrifice [i.e. Christ's] that can atone for sin;
- \* Patience, courage, and trust.



Patience to watch and wait and weep, Though mercy long delay; Courage our fainting souls to keep, And trust thee though thou slay.



One aspect of prayer that Montgomery does not really touch upon is honesty with God. Consider the second half of Job 13:15 where Job goes on to say, "Yet I will argue my ways to his face."

slay me, I will hope in him."

In closing, here are some interesting tidbits about the composer and the lyricist. William Havergal was an Anglican clergyman, and also father of Frances Havergal, composer of "Take My Life and Let It Be" and "On Our Way Rejoicing." James Montgomery also wrote "Go to Dark Gethsemane".

Pour out your heart to God. The One who sweat blood in the Garden of Gethsemane understands.

## The Fall Return of Journey Through the Word



## **Morning Journey**

It's that time of the year when our hearts return to Fall Bible study! Wednesday morning Journey Through the Word (JTTW) will resume on September 15. We'll be studying the book of Ephesians, the perfect book for our current times. We'll start out with chapters 1-5 during the first five weeks, then do an intensive, seven-week study of chapter 6, specifically looking at each piece of the Armor of God. During these weeks, we'll be using a powerful video study done by Priscilla Shirer. For those who may not be familiar, she is the daughter of Tony Evans (the men's group has done some of his studies) and is a wonderful Bible teacher in her own right.

Morning Journey starts at 9:15 AM with a brief social time over coffee & donut holes. Then at 9:30 there is a large group opening & teaching session. Following that everyone breaks up into smaller groups for further discussion.

If you did not register in the spring, please do so now. There will be a basket across from each elevator with registration forms. Please fill one out and give it to an usher. (Online participants should email Sue Swan.) We have groups for both men and women and an online study group—all are welcome! Join us for this important and relevant study. Questions? Contact Sue Swan—412-708-3535 or writingcygnet@gmail.com.

Childcare is available for children under five years of age.

#### **Evening Journey**

In 2021 and 2022, join evening JTTW on a journey through some of the most familiar accounts in the Old Testament! Ruthfred Lutheran Church will publicly screen four of **Sight & Sound Theatres'** most popular productions during this year's Evening JTTW: *Noah, Moses, Jonah*, and *Ruth*. This exciting season of JTTW will finish with an animated look at one of the most famous works of Christian fiction of all time: John Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*.

Each class will begin with a short time of worship in song, led by some of Ruthfred's many talented musi cians. Pastor Carlson or McMinn will then lead the class with a discussion of the Scriptural Texts associated with the segment of the production about to be viewed, participants will view segments of the production, then break up into small groups for study, discussion, and prayer.

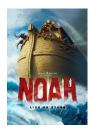
Jill Huwe is directing Evening JTTW again this year. Please contact her or visit Ruthfred.org to register. Jill will make sure that you are in a small group.

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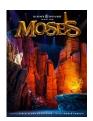
Start date: Wednesday, September 15th Time: 6:45pm – 8:00pm

#### 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)



Octoberr 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

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#### **CHURCH LIBRARY**

Why not stop by the church library and see the many resources that are available to you. Some are listed below. Last year just before the Covid19 outbreak we added two magazine racks that carry for your enjoyment Biblical Archeology, World Magazine, Mature Life, Home Life, Parent Life, and Christianity Today among others. There are many Reference resources available, and for your listening enjoyment many Christian Music CDs and Movies. Stop in today!

Autobiographies

Bibles

**Bible Study** 

Biographies

**Christian Living** 

Commentaries

Devotionals

Famous Authors

Fiction

Jesus

**Lutheran Church** 

The Church Year

Family Life:

Resources on Marriage

Resources for Men

Resources for Women

Resources on Parenting

Resources for Teens

Resources on Psychology

**DVD Bible Studies** 

Movies

Music

**Audio Books** 

**Periodicals** 

## A New Beginning

No one to see my smíle, The long journey took miles. No visits from friends, Something I never thought would end. Church up and closed, Online viewing proposed. Months gone by, And I began to cry. Longing for friendships and faith, I had to come back to my base. The time had come to make the change, A new church home would certainly be strange. New friends I had found, And new bonds would be bound. Games and Bible study gave me joy, Church is now something I enjoy. As I sit and reflect on what I miss, I'm so glad the switch brought me bliss. My mood improved, My life renewed. Hopes returned, And my faith confirmed. Loneliness was extinguished, Nothing but smiles all day long. I truly believe I found where I belong. Socialization became the norm. Smiles on my face made me realize I weathered the storm.

Heather Weighley



## 90+ Birthday Club

Patricia Lindauer October 5th 93 W. Foster Walker October 14th 91

Happy Birthday!!



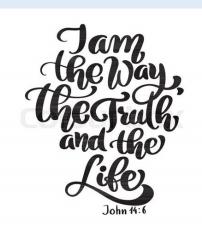
## Official Acts - September 2021

#### **Baptisms**

\* Delilah Rose Hall – 9/19/21

#### **Funerals:**

- \* Maurice Dickens ("Dick") Thomas -- 9/7/21 (Funeral home service)
- \* Shirley Ann Tadda -- 9/13/21 (Funeral home service)



John Presto -- 9/30/21 (National Cemetery of the Alleghenies)

\* indicates member



# October, 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
					Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge) Wedding	Wedding (Ziegler & Montanye) 3:00			
World Communion Sunday  Holy Communion 8:30  Sunday School 9:45  Holy Communion 11:00  Holy Communion 6:00	4 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Elders' Meeting 7:00	Worship Team 7:00 Happy 93rd Birthday Patricia Lindauer	G JTTW 9:15 Esther 12:00 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	7	8 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge)	<b>9</b> Mary Bible Study 9:30			
10 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew (Crafters) 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Mtg 7:30	12 Worship Team 7:00 Women's Ministry 7:00 Benevolence Comm. Mtg 7:00	JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	Happy 91st Happy Birthday Birthday W. Foster Walker	Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge)	Family Fall Festival (Cox Farm 1:00-7:00 p.m. No Contemporary Liturgi- cal Worship Service (Music provided at the Festival)			
17 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	18 JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew (Sewers) 9:30	19 Worship Team 7:00	20 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45 Confirmation 6:45	<b>21</b> Ruth 2:00	Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge)	23			
24 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	25 JTTW Leaders 9:30	26 Worship Team 7:00	27 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	28 Knit Wits 10:00	29 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m.(Fireside Lounge) XYZ Noon	30			
31  REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45	ALL SAINTS' DAY								



# October 2021 Youth Ministry Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sunday School 9:45					SWAP Retreat @ Seneca Hills	SWAP Retreat @ Seneca Hills
SWAP @ Church 6-7:30		TNT @ Church 7-9				
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday School 9:45						Family Fall Festival @ Cox Farm 1:00-7:00
SWAP Retreat @ Seneca Hills (NO SWAP @ Church)		TNT @ Church 7-9				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Sunday School 9:45				Upclose @ Bible School	Upclose @ Bible School	Upclose @ Bible School
SWAP @ Church 6-7:30		TNT @ Church 7-9		Solicon		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Sunday School 9:45						
SWAP @ Church 6-7:30		TNT @ Church 7-9				
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Sunday School 9:45		M. de	MIL		·	200
SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	5		500	* The state of the	65	<b>TO</b>
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## **Reading Through the Bible 2021**

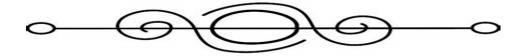
#### **Schedule for October**

- 1st John 5 Mark 2:23-28 Matthew 12:1-8 Luke 6:1-5 Mark 3:1-6 Matthew 12:9-14 Luke 6:6-11 Matthew 12:15-21
- 2nd Mark 3:7-19 Luke 6:12-16 Matthew 5:1-12 Luke 6:17-26 Matthew 5:13-48 Luke 6:27-36 Matthew 6:1-4
- 3rd Matthew 6:5-34 Matthew 7:1-6 Luke 6:37-42 Matthew 7:7-20 Luke 6:43-45 Matthew 7:21-29 Luke 6:46-49
- 4th Matthew 8:5-13 Luke 7:1-17 Matthew 11:1-19 Luke 7:18-35 Matthew 11:20-30 Luke 7:36-50
- 5th Luke 8:1-3 Mark 3:20-30 Matthew 12:22-45 Mark 3:31-35 Matthew 12:46-50 Luke 8:19-21 Mark 4:1-9 Matthew 13:1-9 Luke 8:4-8 Mark 4:10-20
- 6th Matthew 13:10-23 Luke 8:9-18 Mark 4:21-29 Matthew 13:24-30 Mark 4:30-34 Matthew 13:31-52 Mark 4:35-41 Matthew 8:23-27 Luke 8:22-25
- 7th Mark 5:1-20 Matthew 8:28-34 Luke 8:26-39 Mark 5:21-43 Matthew 9:18-26 Luke 8:40-56
- 8th Matthew 9:27-34 Mark 6:1-6 Matthew 13:53-58 Matthew 9:35-38 Mark 6:7-13 Matthew 10 Luke 9:1-6
- 9th Luke 9:7-9 Mark 6:14-29 Matthew 14:1-21 Mark 6:30-44 Luke 9:10-17 John 6:1-15 Mark 6:45-52 Matthew 14:22-23 John 6:16-21 Mark 6:53-56 Matthew 14:34-36
- 10th John 6:22-71 Mark 7:1-23 Matthew 15:1-20
- 11th Mark 7:24-30 Matthew 15:21-28 Mark 7:31-37 Matthew 15:29-31 Mark 8:1-10 Matthew 15:32-39 Matthew 16:1-4 Mark 8:11-21 Matthew 16:5-12
- 12th Mark 8:22-30 Matthew 16:13-20 Luke 9:18-20 Mark 8:31-38 Mark 9:1 Matthew 16:21-28 Luke 9:21-27 Mark 9:2-13 Matthew 17:1-13 Luke 9:28-36
- 13th Mark 9:14-29 Matthew 17:14-21 Luke 9:37-43 Mark 9:30-32 Matthew 17:22-23 Luke 9:43-45 Matthew 17:24-27 Mark 9:33-37 Matthew 18:1-6 Luke 9:46-48 Mark 9:38-41 Luke 9:49-50 Mark 9:42-50 Matthew 18:7-35
- 14th John 7:1-9 Luke 9:51-56 Matthew 8:18-22 Luke 9:57-62 John 7:10-53 John 8:1-20
- 15th John 8:21-59 Luke 10 Luke 11:1-13
- 16th Luke 11:14-54 Luke 12:1-34
- 17th Luke 12:35-59 Luke 13:1-21 John 9
- 18th John 10 Luke 13:22-35 Luke 14:1-24
- 19th Luke 14:25-35 Luke 15 Luke 16 Luke 17:1-10 John 11:1-37
- 20th John 11:38-57 Luke 17:11-37 Luke 18:1-8
- 21st Luke 18:9-14 Mark 10:1-12 Matthew 19:1-12 Mark 10:13-16 Matthew 19:13-15 Luke 18:15-17 Mark 10:17-31 Matthew 19:16-30 Luke 18:18-30

Continued on next page ...

## Reading Through the Bible (Cont.)

- 22nd Matthew 20:1-16 Mark 10:32-34 Matthew 20:17-19 Luke 18:31-34 Mark 10:35-45 Matthew 20:20-34 Mark 10:46-52 Luke 18:35-43 Luke 19:1-27
- 23rd Mark 14:3-9 Matthew 26:6-13 John 12:1-11 Mark 11:1-11 Matthew 21:1-11 Luke 19:28-40 John 12:12-19 Luke 19:41-44 John 12:20-36
- 24th John 12:37-50 Mark 11:12-14 Matthew 21:18-22 Mark 11:15-19 Matthew 21:12-17 Luke 19:45-48 Mark 11:20-33 Matthew 21:23-37 Luke 20:1-8
- 25th Matthew 21:28-32 Mark 12:1-12 Matthew 21:33-46 Luke 20:9-19 Matthew 22:1-14 Mark 12:13-17 Matthew 22:15-22 Luke 20:20-26 Mark 12:18-27 Matthew 22:23-33 Luke 20:27-40
- 26th Mark 12:28-34 Matthew 22:34-40 Mark 12:35-37 Matthew 22:41-46 Luke 20:41-44 Mark 12:38-40 Matthew 23:1-12 Luke 20:45-47 Matthew 23:13-39 Mark 12:41-44 Luke 21:1-4
- 27th Mark 13:1-23 Matthew 24:1-25 Luke 21:5-24 Mark 13:24-31 Matthew 24:26-35 Luke 21:25-33
- 28th Mark 13:32-37 Matthew 24:36-51 Luke 21:34-38 Matthew 25
- 29th Mark 14:1-2 Matthew 26:1-5 Luke 22:1-2 Mark 14:10-11 Matthew 26:14-16 Luke 22:3-6 Mark 14:12-16 Matthew 26:17-19 Luke 22:7-13 John 13:1-20 Mark 14:17-26 Matthew 26:20-30 Luke 22:14-30 John 13:18-30
- 30th John 13:31-38 Mark 14:27-31 Matthew 26:31-35 Luke 22:31-38 John 14 John 15:1-17
- 31st John 15:18-27 John 16 John 17



### **Ponderable Quote:**

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

Ronald Reagan





## Why did the chicken cross the road?

To show the opossum it could be done.

## Why did the snail cross the road?

I don't know. I'll let you know when he gets here.





## Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

He didn't have any guts!



