### RUTHFREDHERALD

October 2022

Volume 32, No. 10

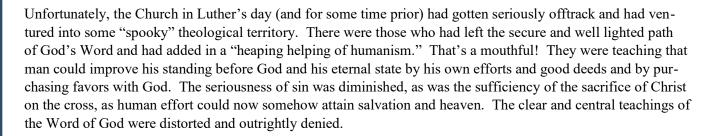


### From the Pastor's Desk

### **A Holy Reformation**

As we enter the month of October, I immediately think of the upcoming celebration of the Reformation wich occurred on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1517. It was on that day, known as "All Hallow's Eve" that Martin Luther famously nailed his "Ninety-five Theses" to the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther called for church reform and a return to the clear teachings of Scripture regarding sin and salvation. Few people today realize that "Halloween" was not always about pumpkins, spooks, and "trick or treating;" but rather was a day of fasting and prayer as "All Hallow's [holy] Eve", the preparation day for "All Saints' Day" which is celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Luther strategically chose this day because it was originally a day for the Church to remember that:

- We are born sinful and are NOT holy on our own.
- We need to live in daily repentance of our sins.
- We are made holy by the forgiveness of God through the shed blood of Christ on the cross which cleanses us from all sin.
- Christians are therefore declared to be "saints" which literally means "holy ones" of God.
- ◆ Those who passed away in faith in Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior are in the holy presence of God. We honor their memory and know that we will be reunited with them in glory one day.
- We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, according to God's promises in Scripture alone!



The Reformation was essential for returning the Church back to the Bible and to the message that God's grace alone brings salvation to sinners. Today it seems like we have again entered the spiritual "dark ages" which were prior to the Reformation.

Last week, Ligonier Ministries and LifeWay Research released the results of their survey regarding what Americans believe about God. This "theological temperature" is taken every two years. Yes, I realize that surveys have their limitations and distortions, but the results are sobering, especially given that they focused on "evangelical Christians" who are described as those who hold to the historical tenants of the Christian faith, attend church, and are not "Christian" in name only. Here are a few of the survey statements:



#### **Ruthfred Lutheran Church**

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The submission deadline for the next Herald is Friday, October 28th, 2022

The email publication date is

Tuesday, November 1st, 2022



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#### \* "Everyone is born innocent in the eyes of God."

- ♦ 71% of average U.S. adults agreed, and believe that people are born innocent and are basically good. There is no real surprise here as secular humanism has been a staple teaching in American society and education for well over half a century.
- - ♦ Everyone has a sinful nature from the time of conception. (Psalm 51:5)
  - ♦ "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)
  - ♦ "There is none righteous, no not one." (Romans 3:10)

### \* "The Bible, like all sacred writings, contains helpful accounts of ancient myths but is not literally true."

- ♦ 53% of average U.S. adults agreed with this.
- ♦ 26% of evangelical Christians agree with this as well. If one out of four Christians do not view the Bible as reliably true, no wonder Christians are often lost in this world.

#### \* "Every Christian has an obligation to join a local church."

- ♦ 56% of U.S. adults disagreed.
- ♦ 26% of evangelical Christians also disagreed.
- ♦ Throughout most of the history of the U.S. church membership was the norm. Today it has seriously declined, even though in Scripture God repeatedly instructs believers to be joined together in the local congregation as brothers and sisters in the wider Body of Christ. This is where the formation of Christian faith takes place!

I read through the results of the entire survey. If you are interested, email me (<a href="mailto:pastorcarlson@ruthfred.org">pastorcarlson@ruthfred.org</a>) and I will forward you the link to the survey as well. Here is a brief overview of some of the additional ones. 48% of evangelicals, along with 51% of the general public believe that God does <a href="mailto:not know all things">not know all things</a>. There was a significant rise in evangelical Christians who no longer believed that Jesus was fully God, nor that He was "the only way to heaven." Religious beliefs are increasingly viewed as merely personal opinions that one holds, rather than objective theological truths.

On issues of sexual ethics there was an encouraging increase among evangelical Christians to be more in line with the Bible on matters of adultery and fornication (94% believe sex outside of marriage was sin), but in the cases of gender identity (37%) and homosexual behavior (28%) evangelical Christians took a significant turn away from Scriptural teaching. Regarding abortion the percentage has now risen to 91% in seeing unborn life as created in the image of God and that it would be a sin against God to terminate this life.

The survey certainly revealed that evangelicals who responded often had a confusing and sometimes incoherent mix of beliefs. For example, most affirmed the Trinity, but at the same time 73% partially agreed with the statement that "Jesus was the first and greatest being created by God the Father." This was the Arian heresy the early church had to deal with which resulted in the formation of the Nicene Creed in 325 AD and 381 AD.

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In short, do we need another Reformation of the Church? Yes, indeed we do!

As one reviews even the first three questions of this survey, we can see that we are in serious need of reformation. When the majority of evangelicals do not even understand they have a sinful nature but instead are convinced of their own goodness, and a significant percentage do not believe the Bible is God's true Word, and they do not believe it is important to belong to a church where they can be nourished spiritually on a regular basis; it is no wonder that on so many basic points the Church is beginning to look more and more like the world.

In Luther's day, people generally did believe they were sinners and needed salvation. The problem was the Church taught that one could buy their way into heaven, rather than depend solely upon God's grace. Today, people generally do not believe they are sinners and therefore do not think they need a Savior. They think they are owed heaven as a result of their own goodness.

Ironically, both in Luther's day and today, people are planning to get to heaven by their own goodness. The difference is that in Luther's day people thought they would have to earn it through their good deeds; whereas today people think they deserve it because they are "already good enough." In both cases, souls will be lost, unless people receive by faith the grace of God as promised in the Word of God!

Praise God for the Reformation! Pray to God for the ongoing reformation of the church!

"Faith Alone, Grace Alone, Scripture Alone!"

**Blessed Reformation!** 

#### Pastor Carlson



# FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL

Hosted by Ruthfred's TNT Youth Saturday, October 15 3 - 8 PM at the Cox Family Farm 1007 Route 481 Monongahela, PA 15063

Chili Cook-Off

Fun Fall Activities



Praise Team Concert

Great Fellowship

There is a sign-up sheet on the table outside the Fellowship Hall. Please also indicate if you plan to bring chili, a side dish, or a dessert. The Cox family will provide cheese, sour cream, and other toppings, as well as hot dogs. You will be able to plug in your crockpot/slowcooker to keep your chili warm.

See You There!!

# October 2022 Evening JTTW

We invite you to join us and grow in knowledge and comprehension of Scripture concerning "31 Undeniable Prophecies of the Apocalypse" in Dr. David Jeremiah's "The Book of Signs". Evening JTTW will be studying the international and cultural signs and their significance to end-time events. As you study with evening journey you will see not only how God's Word offers insights into the future, but also how Scripture builds faith through the events of the past and encouragement in the uncertainty of the present. Dr. Jeremiah would like us to discover what Scripture reveals about the signs of the times and the signs of God's plan for the future. The end times may be near, but as Christians, our future is secure. Indeed, we live in a chaotic world, but we can be confident and at peace because God is the author of history, and because the return of the Prince of Peace may be closer than we think.



# To obtain your study guide, register for the 2022-2023 Evening Journey Through the Word session by October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Please join us October 19, 2022 as we begin a twelve-week study with Dr. Jeremiah on The Book of Signs. Our Wednesday evening gatherings will begin with a Forkless Dinner offered for all registered families, then following this fellowship time, evening JTTW bible study will begin and run in parallel with Kids Time and Confirmation classes. See our Wednesday evening family activities listed below. For more information regarding programs and registration see the Ruthfred Lutheran Church website at www.ruthfred.org. For more information contact Jodie or Mark Riley, 412-401-9137.

Kids Choir	5:45PM to 6:45PM	Evening Journey Through the Word	6:45PM to 8:00PM
Bell Choir	6:30PM to 7:30PM	Kids Time	6:45PM to 8:00 PM
Forkless Dinners	6:00pm to 6:30PM	Senior Choir	7:30PM to 9:00PM
Confirmation Classes	6:45PM to 8:00PM		

(Morning Journey Through the Word: 9:30AM to 11:30AM)



### **Life Team Introduction Meeting**

Please consider attending the first Life Team meeting where you will watch a video prepared by Lutherans for Life that explains the work the Teams can do to support life in all phases. We plan to meet on Tuesday, October 25th, at 7 PM in the large Sunday School room.

### Life Quotes from Lutherans For Life



"We may think our prayers are small in relation to the magnitude of the problem of abortion. Not so! ... Educate yourself, your children, and the people you know about Lutherans For Life ... Support leaders who embrace these words, 'All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.' ... We have the most hopeful message the world has ever heard. You know it. God does big things with small stuff. How can we be so sure? Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Miriam, and Moses ... and especially Jesus."

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

### **Ponderable Quote:**

Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.

**Mother Teresa** 

#### Song of the Month

By Tom Glasser

### Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word

Music and Lyrics: Martin Luther

Lord, keep us steadfast in thy word, Curb those who fain by craft or sword Would wrest the kingdom from thy Son, And set at naught all he hath done.

Lord Jesus Christ, thy power make known,
For thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend thy Christendom, that we
May evermore sing praise to thee.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth; Support us in our final strife, And lead us out of death to life. Amen Since October is when we celebrate the Reformation, I thought it might be nice to feature another hymn by Martin Luther. Hence the selection of "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast". In the article last month on "Wonderful, Merciful Savior", I pointed out how the three verses were dedicated to the three persons of the Holy Trinity respectively. So as I started looking at this hymn, my trinitarian antennae went up and, sure enough, there it was again.

The first verse is addressed to God the Father, although translator Catherine Winkworth uses the ambiguous title "Lord". I'm not sure what the original German word might have been there, but it becomes obvious that the Father is the subject because the verse references "thy Son". The second verse is addressed to said Son, and the third verse to the Holy Spirit (Comforter).

The next thing I noticed about this hymn is that it's in a minor key. I know the SBH hymnal indicates that Luther based his melody on some existing Plainsong. But still, why would he choose something in a minor key? The musictheoryacademy.com website describes minor keys this way: "The minor scale is the scale which sounds negative – it is used by composers to depict sad, melancholic, or even angry/dramatic moods." Looking again at the lyrics, there is a sobering spiritual battle theme that runs throughout the hymn. Each verse is a prayer to a person of the Trinity to "curb those who would wrest the kingdom", "defend Christendom", and "support us in

our final strife". The minor key decision began to make some sense.

Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word! How blessed we are to belong to a church that still respects and honors the Bible as God's written Word. How blessed we are to have pastors and teachers who immerse themselves in that Word, faithfully mine its treasures, and share them with us week after week. Don't let them have all the fun, however. Dig in yourself!



Continued on next page ...

#### ruthfredherald

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"One of the most famous collects introduced by Archbishop Thomas Cranmer in the first Book of Common Prayer is the one appointed for the Second Sunday in Advent:

'Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; grant us that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our savior Jesus Christ.'' [chasingchurches.com]



# 90+ Birthday Club

Patricia Lindauer October 5th 94
Foster Walker October 14th 92

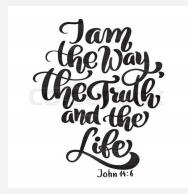
## Official Acts - September 2022

#### Weddings:

\* Andrea Suzanne Groves and Crispin Havener -- 09/24/22

#### **Funerals:**

- \* Patricia A. VanKirk -- 09/10/22 David G. Brown -- 09/17/22
- \* Indicates member





# News

The AFLC Home Missions board is pleased to announce that Pastor Andy Coyle has accepted the call as Home Missions Director.

Please join us in praying for Pastor Andy and family. He will continue to serve the congregation of Shiloh as he assumes the role of Home Missions Director. Pastor Andy will begin serving as the Home Missions Director on October 1, 2022.



# Craft and Sew



The sew-ers would like to thank everyone for the patriotic fabric and monetary donations. Your donations went above and beyond our expectations. We were able to make 50 pillowcases. We delivered 10 in June and 23 in August. The remainder will be delivered when needed. Displayed below is a sample of the pillowcases we were able to make. The veterans at the City Mission will be truly blessed with your kind donations.

We collected 20 sets of twin sheets that were also delivered. Shelley, from the City Mission, is extremely grateful for the faithfulness and the kind and giving hearts of our congregation.

Arlene Ball arlene1952@gmail.com



The letter below is from Ethan Vogelsberger. It is addressed to our pastors as representatives of our congregation which supported Ethan's mission trip through Spiritual Orphans Network. Reprinted here per request by Pastor Carlson and the Benevolence Committee.

Dear Pastor Carlson + Pastor McMinn, I wanted to thank you for supporting me in my trip to Slavakia! It was such an enlightening experience, and the Lord is definitely at work charging hearts for the better I had the apportunity to run two classes in my time visiting the country. One was a younger group at an English Camp, and the other was a group of teens in a VBS-style retreat in Ruzomberok. In both carps, we introduced stories about Christ's ministry and life at a man, and related it back to the topic, "Who Am I?" The goal of the comps was not to convert kids to Christianity necessarily, but we bid want to share the love of Christ with them. Despite that, the Lord had other plans, because two of the kids I worked with in my groups cone from each camp) asked me if they could give their lives to Christ. I never felt like I pushed the envelope for their conversion, yet God seemed to use whotever was going on in their lives at the time to bring them to faith. It was a humbling and uplifting experience. This is definitely a ministry I wish to pursue again in the future. Thank you again for your support! In His Service, Ethan V.

#### ruthfredherald

The **Orality Institute** is a ministry supported by our church. Kevin Olson (Nathan's dad) is the founder and director. The model is to train local believers who will then train others. In one of their brochures, the goals of this ministry are summarized as follows:

- \* It is an emphasis on using the Bible as it is written.
- \* It is a multi-sensory learning style.
- \* It is an interactive teaching and discovery process.
- \* It emphasizes Biblical application.
- \* It is a powerful communication tool.
- \* It reaches those who learn through other means.



The following articles were recently disseminated which provide interesting and inspirational updates on what is happening with Orality.

Submitted by Sue Hughes



#### Growing Leaders in Biblical Training Changing Lives Around the World

By God's grace, we strive to...
"Entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others."



#### Growing Leaders in Biblical Training Changing Lives Around the World

By God's grace, we strive to...
"Entrust to reliable men who will be qualified to teach others."

#### **Endurance**



"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus." Romans 15:5

Life requires endurance.
We face hard things in life that require us to persevere. The Orality Institute 50-mile awareness and fundraiser bike ride requires stamina and so does the Grand

Canyon hike in October. Reaching distant countries, memorizing God's Word, and teaching people to training other people requires endurance. We know that we need to persist through challenges, but Romans 15:5 reminds us that God is the one that can give us endurance.

This year we have 15 participating in the bike ride from Emmaus Lutheran in Bloomington, to Chaska and back. The ride will be fun, fellowship, and the Orality Institute. It will help us raise vital funds for carrying out this ministry. This year there are three events: the first is the bike ride, the second is the motorcycle trip to the churches in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the third is the Grand Canyon hike. Each of these connect with different groups of people and together they will raise the awareness of how we are training people in Malawi, Ethiopia, Uganda, Dominican Republic, and Mexico.

Together, we hope to raise \$5000 to send four Ugandans to train in Malawi, \$2,000 to print the second translated curriculum for Malawi, and \$10,000 to introduce this training in Ethiopia in November. The bike ride has already raised \$2100.

The Lord is the one that gives the endurance to face challenges in life and He is the one that provides for the work that He calls us to do. Our job is to continue looking to Him for strength and direction. May the Lord give you endurance in the challenges that you face as well.

Orality Institute
3026 Virginia Ave. N. Crystal, MN 55427
kevino@oralityinstitute.org 952-412-1366

#### Encouragement



"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ,... if any fellowship with the Spirit,... then make my joy complete." Philippians 2:1-2

The motivation to face challenges comes from the effective results in the lives of people. This is a picture of one of the training groups that Watson N'gomba oversees in

Malawi. Two of the ladies in this group talked about how the training has helped them know the Bible, to meditate on God's Word, to do ministry, and to resist the temptation to do evil things.

Mama Nissi gave this testimony. "When I joined the orality training, I saw the evidence of the changed lives, lives which Christ had transformed. They taught the Word of God from what they knew in their minds. The Word transformed them and I wondered if the Word could transform me. I looked at myself and saw what a wretched woman I am; what I want to do, I do not do and what I do not want to do is what I do. As I surrendered to the Holy Spirit to do His work, people began to say that this training has really changed you.

I felt a burning desire to share God's Word with as many people as possible. We formed a serious prayer group and we have seen God answer prayer after payer. I started teaching and praying for each student by name. One time I had a class every day of the week and the Lord sent helpers. I loved the students above myself and paid the transport to go and teach them.

I was appointed as the Secretary for the Institute. God helped me to be faithful, obedient, work in humility, and to be available as needed. When Zones were introduced, I was appointed to oversee Zone C in Jinja. We chose a hard-working committee and led them in humility. I was given the opportunity to train in Malawi. When we reached there, there was true hunger for the Word of God! We have offered ourselves to be missionaries to various fields and we look to the Lord for help, and we see that He is using us."

Orality Institute
3026 Virginia Ave. N. Crystal, MN 55427
kevino@oralityinstiutte.org 952-412-1366

### Worship Team Members for October 2022

Acolytes: (8:30 and 11:00 respectively)

8:30 AM Elliot McMinn 11:00 AM Evan Gusky Altar Guild:

**Joanne Salvetti** 

**Crucifers:** 

10/2 11:00 AM Courtney Felicetti 10/9 8:30 AM Holly Miller 10/16 11:00 AM Morgan Dolence 10/23 8:30 AM Holly Miller 10/30 11:00 AM Courtney Felicetti **Counters:** 

8:30 AM Tom Glasser,

Mark Arelt (10/2, 10/23, 10/30)

Mick Nowicki (10/9)

11:00 AM Tom Sanders, Steve Kratz

**Ushers:** 

8:30 AM Bernard Paterra & John Ruzicka 11:00 AM Mark Hisdorf, Steve Kratz (10/2, 10/9) and Will Charlton (10/16, 10/23, 10/30) Coffee Hour Mary Lou Streiner



# ~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



# October, 2022

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 World Communion Sunday  Holy Communion 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Holy Communion 11:00 Holy Communion 6:00  CITY MISSION FOOD SUNDAY	JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Meeting 7:00	4 Worship Team 7:00	Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 6:45 Kids' Time 6:45 Senior Choir 7:30 Happy 94th Birthday, Patricia Lindauer	6 Birthday!	<b>7</b> Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	8 Mary Bible Study 9:30 (Fireside Lounge)
Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	10 JTTW Leaders 9:30	11 Worship Team 7:00	JTTW 9:15 Esther Noon Children's Choir 5:45 Bell Choir 6:30 Confirmation 6:45	13 Knit Wits 10:00	Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge) Happy 92nd Birthday Foster Walker	Facil Festival  Facil Festival  Facil Festival
16 Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	JTTW Leaders 9:30 Craft & Sew 9:30 Elders' Prayer Time 7:00 Council Meeting	18 St. Luke, Evangelist Worship Team 7:00	JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	<b>20</b> Ruth 2:00	21 Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	22
23 St. James of Jerusalem, Martyr Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00	24 JTTW Leaders 9:30	25 Worship Team 7:00 Lutherans for Life 7:00 (Large Sun day School Room)	26 JTTW 9:15 Children's Choir 5:45 Forkless Dinner 6:00 Bell Choir 6:30 JTTW 6:45	27 Knit Wits 10:00	28 St. Simon and St. Jude Men's Prayer Group 7:00 a.m. (Fireside Lounge)	29
30 Reformation Sunday  Worship Service 8:30 Sunday School 9:45 Worship Service 11:00  Herald Deadline	31 Reformation Day  JTTW Leaders 9:30					



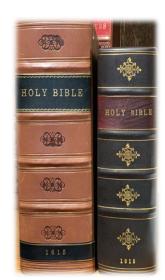
# 2022 Youth Ministry Calendar

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2 World Communion Sunday Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	3	4 TNT @ Church 7-9	5	6	7	8	
Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	10	<b>11</b> TNT @ Church 7-9	12	13	14	Family Fall Festival 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. @ Cox Farm  Family FALL Festival	
16 Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	17	18 TNT @ Church 7-9	19	20	21 SWAP Retreat @ Seneca Hills Bible Camp	22	
Sunday School 9:45  NO SWAP @ Church	24	25 TNT @ Church 7-9	26	27	28	29	
30 Reformation Sunday Sunday School 9:45 SWAP @ Church 6-7:30	Reformation Day						

# Reading Through the Bible 2022 Schedule for October

- 1st 2 Chronicles 35 2 Chronicles 36
- 2nd Matthew 1 Matthew 2 Matthew 3 Matthew 4
- 3rd Matthew 5 Matthew 6
- 4th Matthew 7 Matthew 8
- 5th Matthew 9 Matthew 10
- 6th Matthew 11 Matthew 12
- 7th Matthew 13
- 8th Matthew 14 Matthew 15 Matthew 16
- 9th Matthew 17 Matthew 18 Matthew 19
- 10th Matthew 20 Matthew 21
- 11th Matthew 22 Matthew 23
- 12th Matthew 24 Matthew 25
- 13th Matthew 26
- 14th Matthew 27 Matthew 28
- 15th Mark 1 Mark 2 Mark 3
- 16th Mark 4 Mark 5
- 17th Mark 6 Mark 7
- 18th Mark 8 Mark 9
- 19th Mark 10 Mark 11
- 20th Mark 12 Mark 13
- 21st Mark 14
- 22nd Mark 15 Mark 16
- 23rd John 1 John 2
- 24th John 3 John 4
- 25th John 5 John 6
- 26th John 7 John 8
- 27th John 9 John 10
- 28th John 11 John 12
- 29th John 13 John 14 John 15
- 30th John 16 John 17 John 18
- 31st John 19 John 20 John 21











## Ears, Kernels, and Other Corn

I had ear surgery last week, and I haven't heard from my doctor since. I'm not sure if that is a good thing or a bad thing.



What do you call a single kernel on a corn cob? A unicorn.



Don't tell secrets in the garden.

The potatoes have eyes, the corn has ears, and the beanstalk.



A dejected looking young man named Winston walks into church, and the pastor says, "What's wrong, son?"
Winston says, "Could you please pray for my hearing?"
The pastor puts his hands over Winston's ears and prays hard for ten minutes.

"So, how is your hearing?", asks the pastor.

"I don't know," replies Winston. "It isn't until next Wednesday."

How many ears did Dr. Spock have?

Three. The left one, the right one, and the final front ear.

A man goes to his doctor and says, "I think I'm having trouble with my hearing."

"Can you describe the symptoms?", asks the doctor.

"Sure," replies the man. "Marge has blue hair and Homer is fat and bald."

