

The Herald

I PRAY THAT ...
YOU MAY KNOW ...

HIS
*incomparably
great power*
FOR US WHO BELIEVE.

EPHESIANS 1:18-19, NIV

From the Pastor's Desk

On the Trail

We have enjoyed a few very pleasant days and it has drawn many of us out into the woods and hills for a hike. The image of the hike has prompted me to think of discipleship as a walk with Jesus. So promote following Jesus as a long list of dos and don'ts. Over the years I have preferred to see discipleship as an invitation from Jesus to enjoy the gifts and blessings he offers.

Take for instance Jesus' invitation to join him on a hike. Now that sound like a fun time. Anyone want to go along? Jesus is the most perfect hiking companion. He really knows the trails. Since he created everything he know what to look for and can point out the unique features in the scenery and creatures I would have totally missed. And, when you have a bit of trouble on the trail who better to call for, right! Now, it seems to me, the challenge comes when you reach a fork in the trail and Jesus suggests, or I would say, invites you on a trail you have never hiked before. We know you can rarely see very far down a trail, but your sharp eyes quickly note some obstacles you aren't interested in engaging. For the moment you forget the skill set of your hiking companion and respond, no, I'm heading this way, and take off on your own down a "wiser choice" trail.

Now, sometimes, Jesus has put me on a trail I had no interest in going on and it felt like I had no choice in this selection. Kind of like Joseph finding himself in Egypt. But we know the end of the Joseph story! He ends up being the 2nd most powerful leader in all of the known world and rescues millions from starvation. What a hero! Now I don't think I've ended up the hero like Joseph, but I do know when ever I have been with Jesus on an unchosen hike the destination has usually been amazing. Enough so, that even when I don't see "amazing" coming through the trees I am learning to trust that from what he sees something amazing is truly happening.

This analogy could go on and on but let me make another point, or rather an invitation. If you are seeking to walk with Jesus on this journey of discipleship. You are wanting to experience all the joys and blessings that hiking with Jesus has to offer. When you come to an act of obedience that is expected in scripture or you sense the Spirit prompting you to take a difficult step consider this is your hiking guide, Jesus, inviting you to a trail that has joys and blessings you can't imagine. The trail may look challenging, even impossible, and in fact it may be very difficult but remember who you are traveling with, his capabilities, his promises, his nearness and accept the invitation to take the new trail. I'm confident you will find it amazing.

Happy Hiking, Pastor Dennis

This **May** Be Just What You Need...
To Read and Relax!

May Day, Cinco de Mayo parties, Mother's Day, graduations, Memorial Day celebrations and the beginning of the tourist season...this is what we *normally* think of in the month of May. But our *normal* has been turned topsy-turvy with the Covid 19 pandemic.

In light of this *new normal*, here are a couple things to consider:

The Little White Church Library is open if you need something to keep you busy while you are "sheltering in place". We have hundreds of fiction and non-fiction books on a multitude of subjects, as well as, Bible studies and movies for both kids and adults. Come on in...the hours are Mondays & Fridays 9 am—Noon.

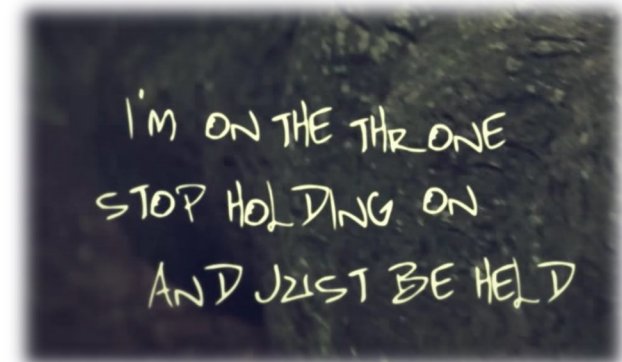
During this time of uncertainty, God invites you to let go of your fears and place your life in his hands. The song, "Just Be Held" by Casting Crowns reminds us that God is there for us. Make the lyrics of this song be your prayer today and relax.

If your eyes are on the storm
You'll wonder if I love you still
But if your eyes are on the cross
You'll know I always have and I always will

And not a tear is wasted
In time, you'll understand
I'm painting beauty with the ashes
Your life is in My hands

So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held
Your worlds not falling apart, its falling into place
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held
Just be held, just be held

Lift your hands, lift your eyes
In the storm is where you'll find Me
And where you are, I'll hold your heart
I'll hold your heart
Come to Me, find your rest
In the arms of the God who won't let go



Focus on Missions– Awana

Closing one chapter, opening another

As AWANA concludes for 2019-2020, the year ends on a different note, in more ways than one. Not able to meet with the children due to the corona virus, weekly posts to the Little White Church website have been an attempt to stay connected to the children and their families. Secondly, we are saying goodbye to AWANA, pending a final decision from the church elders, and moving ahead with plans for using Pioneer Club materials, the BOLT program particularly.

The first session of AWANA during the 2008-2009 school year began with seven children and over the years increased to about 70 in 2017 and 2018, including the Cubbies, Sparks and T&T children. After that, we dropped the Cubbies component due to lack of staffing, and enrollment at the elementary school declined. Likewise, we did see our AWANA numbers also decline in the past couple years, with enrollment hovering around 40-45.

Our AWANA missionaries, Paul and Janet Harkness, are much appreciated for keeping us going each year with a mini conference and periodic visits to our church. Following the acrostic AWANA (**A**pproved **W**orkmen **A**re **N**ot **A**shamed) Paul and Janet were not ashamed of the gospel, were firm in their faith, and encouraged us to look for ways to share the gospel and get the Word of God into the lives of children.

We are thankful for all those who helped with AWANA, working with children on a weekly basis, substituting, praying, providing food, working in the kitchen and walking children from school. Every single person was a valuable asset to the program.

In the fall, we are planning to use BOLT (**B**ible Centered, **O**utreach Focused, **L**ife Skills Learned, **T**ransformation Experienced). Sarah Walker and Becki Groven are taking on leadership positions in this effort and those of us who have been involved in AWANA, are thrilled to have new people and new ideas. It looks to be an exciting program that uses plenty of hands on activities, something we have been seeing a need for in the past few years. Like AWANA, there is a strong Bible component, but in addition to that, children will be involved in life skills, such things as first aid, baking, outdoor cooking and secret codes, to name a few.

Watch for more details in the future as our church, Lord willing and with elder approval, moves ahead with this new endeavor. We hope to reach more children with this approach, and we welcome your involvement in any capacity. Talk to Sarah Walker or Becki Groven if you have an interest in getting on board with BOLT!

LWC Rainbow Bible Ranch Campership

Kids...Get ready for summer camp!

The Little White Church provides a campership program to help our kids go to Rainbow Bible Ranch this summer. Upon completion of our Campership Application the camper will have \$100 paid towards his or her Ranch Camp fees (ages 8-16) or \$50 towards Little Rancher's Camp fees (ages 6-7).

In addition, if your child completes a Campership Packet, which includes Bible studies, Bible verse memorization and doing a service project, they can earn a total \$200 towards Ranch Camp fees or a total of \$75 towards Little Rancher's Camp fees.

Pick up applications on the table by the bulletin board or from the church office.

See Cindy Dusing for Campership Packets.

*****All applications and packets are due by June 1, 2020.**

2020 Camp Costs:

Little Rancher's Camp (two days): \$120

Ranch Camp (ages 8-12): \$415

Ranch Camp (ages 12-16): \$435

**Go to: www.rainbowbibleranch.org
for more info about the camp!**

If you would like to give to the Campership program, please make check out to LWC and write "RBR campership" in memo. Thank you!

I CALL YOU FRIENDS.

Jesus loved to spend time with His friends, eating, talking, walking, sailing. He wants to be together always with His friends. *I am going away, He said, but I will return and bring you to the place I have prepared for you, so we may be together always. Father, He prayed, it is My desire that the ones You gave Me may be with Me in Your presence.*

Jesus told His friends things about Himself and His Father that He didn't tell everyone.
All that I heard from My Father I told you. I will send the Holy Spirit and He will tell you about Me. Jesus wants us to know Him!



Jesus prayed for His friends. *I pray for them. Keep them, Holy Father, that they may be one as We are. May they have My joy. Keep them from the evil one. Set them apart by Your truth. May Your love be in them and I in them.*

Jesus gave to His friends.

His life: *I show My love by laying down My life that you may have eternal life.*

His example: *You show your love by loving and serving one another as I have loved and served you.*

His joy: *May My joy remain in you in fullness.*

His peace: *Peace I leave with you, not temporary peace, but peace that enables your hearts to be untroubled and fearless.*

His words: *You are cleansed because of My words.*

His glory: *I share the Father's glory that you may have perfect unity.*

His presence: *I will not abandon you. I will be with you ALWAYS.*

PROTECTING OUR LEGACY

By: BJ Reese

For two years now, this blog has been about acknowledging all the wondrous things we've learned from the eldest members of our society. It has been about honoring the Precious Legacy of wisdom they have contributed to our world. Today, I'm calling on all of you to help me honor them in a different way.

COVID-19 has, as we all know, created a global health crisis. In an effort to slow its spread, we are being asked to pull back from non-essential activities. To isolate ourselves for a little while. For most of us, doing so is proving to be an inconvenience, but nothing we can't handle.

After all, we have the many technological marvels of this glorious information age to help us stay connected. We can reach out via social media, and have live video conversations with those we love. We can attend church online, and still see the loving faces of our pastors and church families. We can shop online and have items delivered, or pick them up with minimal human contact. Many people are finding ways to continue working – from the safety of their own homes. Students are able to keep up with their school work online. So many creative options make it possible for us to continue our daily lives.



That's great – for most of us. But what about those living in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and senior communities? Most of them do not even use the internet – not even email. A great number of them are no longer able to drive. Outside visitors, to nursing homes and other care facilities, have been suspended in order to protect the residents and patients.

How do these folks stay connected to the outside world during this crisis? Normally, they gather together – right where they live. They play cards, share a meal, or meet for coffee several mornings a week. These simple activities help break up the monotony of their days. Now, however – in the name of health and safety – many of these

PROTECTING OUR LEGACY– Continued By: BJ Reese

These distractions are no longer available to them. Out of concern for their health – as the ones most vulnerable to COVID-19 – they are being cut off from the very interactions which support their emotional well-being. I'm asking you to take a moment to consider how that might feel.

Put yourselves in their shoes for a moment. Imagine . . . you have a phone, but it ONLY makes phone calls. No texts, no pictures, no internet connection – just voice contact. You have no computer, and no access to one. No access to the internet through ANY source . . . and you wouldn't know how to use it if you had it, anyway. You have no car, and no means to use one. No one can come and visit you. And, in many cases, you live alone.

This is the current scenario for many of our eldest citizens. Many of them have lived through horrors you and I cannot even imagine. Now, our world is being invaded by an unseen horror, and they are caught in the cross-fire. They're being protected from the virus, but the isolation COULD be equally as dangerous for them. Maybe even more.

As Christians, we've been called to show the light and peace of God's love to the troubled world around us. I'm asking all of you to join me in doing our part. If you know someone who's living as I have described here, PLEASE reach out! Call them, just to touch base and check on them. See if they need anything. Let them know they are not forgotten . . . that they are not alone.



God has promised to be with us through ANY storm. Be His hands and feet – and His voice - now. Show these precious folks that WE are there to walk beside THEM as we all weather this storm together. Make sure they know they have not been abandoned.

Church Body Updates



Birthdays

1st Patricia F.
13th Daniel F.
14th Joanie B.
14th Ethan W.
16th Anne C.
19th Georgie N.
22nd Dick K.
25th Brenen B.
25th Lorena F.
27th Keith H.
29th Lonnie F.



Anniversaries

6th Jim & Joyce R.
(13 years)
7th Mark & Denise N.
(31 years)
11th John & Verona K.
(18 years)
26th Chuck & Jenny F.
(19 years)
26th John & Ginger O.
(47 years)

National Day of Prayer—Community Walk

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR GOD'S GLORY TO SPREAD ACROSS AMERICA

Community Prayer Walk/Drive

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2020

8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On-site prayer posters at the following places

Government-City of Hill City (243 Deerfield Rd)

Education and Families (341 Main St at Library)

Business District (NE corner of Main & Elm)

Fire/Ambulance & Military (E Main St-Breakout Room parking lot)

Media-Hill City Prevailor (333 Main St #7)

Churches: Little White Church (525 Main St)

St Rose of Lima (100 Park St)

Lighthouse Assembly (256 Pine Ave)

Our Savior's Lutheran (108 Elm St)

Community Lutheran (705 S Newton)

THURSDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 2020

8-10 pm Eastern Time

National Observance on:

Facebook Live, Moody Broadcasting, GODTV, DAYSTAR

Everyone Welcome!

PRAY GOD'S GLORY ACROSS THE EARTH

Habakkuk 2



Newsletter Newsletter

A prayer for Memorial Day



We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adopted by God

Anecdotes abound of couples who become pregnant soon after finalizing a long-awaited adoption. A *Reader's Digest* contributor recounts how one such mother later handled well-meaning inquiries about which child was “hers” (biologically). She replied: “I’ve forgotten.”

That mindset, perhaps, is why John Piper calls adoption “a picture of the Gospel.” God, through his Son Jesus, makes us his very own eternally beloved children.

Max Lucado writes: “If anybody understands God’s ardor for his children, it’s someone who has rescued an orphan from despair, for that is what God has done for us. God has adopted you. God sought you, found you, signed the pa-



Sunday school teacher: Tell me, Johnny. Do you say prayers before eating?

Johnny: No, ma'am, I don't have to. My mom's a good cook.

Matthew: What did the mother rope say to her child?

Jim: What?

Matthew: "Don't be knotty."



Jack: What did the mother broom say to the baby broom?

Bill: What?

Jack: It's time to go to sweep!



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