

Shepherd's Staff

July 2019

We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.

"You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth!"

Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m., 6:00 p.m. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m. ~ Life Plus Wed., 6:30 p.m.

The Lighthouse

Whitefish Point Lighthouse stands on the shore of Lake Superior on the northern edge of Michigan's lower peninsula. One of the first lighthouses to be built on the Great Lakes, it has provided a sense of hope to sailors on the terrifying waters of this wild lake. The sea is known for the destruction she has caused and the graveyard of ships that lay at the bottom of the lake. This is why this particular lighthouse stands out in my mind.

Erected to help guide the ships around the Point and safely into the river for passage to the locks that would bring cargo and passengers through the St Lawrence passage, she is a welcomed sight on the dark nights when the waters would be stirred up. In addition to the light, a load horn was added to warn sailors in times of fog that the rocky shore line was just ahead.

While the lighthouse is no longer staffed, it has been updated with automated equipment that still warns passing ships of the hazards. The history of this structure dates back to the early 1800's, first built during the time of the Civil War. Updates have kept this beacon shining through the storms or peril on Lake Superior as a faithful sentinel for many years.

Looking at the purpose for the lighthouse makes me think of the Christian's lighthouse. While not a building with a glowing light, we have the light of the world shining on and in us to light our way. This lighthouse is Jesus. He is the light to the world that shines the light of truth over the rocks of sin that so easily entangle many who travel the uncharted and dangerous paths of life. The consistency of the beacon that shines on those who put their trust in Jesus will never be lost to the wild waves or rocky shore because Jesus lights the way to joining him in glory.

The invitation to be guided by the Lighthouse comes with the promise that to all who trust in him safe passage will be given. The storms of life will still rise up, but never forsaken or left alone, we will arrive at the eternal rest after the storm. This is the peace that comes to those who find Jesus as the Savior and Lord. Giving up ourselves to find the peace that comes from this sweet surrender brings a peace that the world can never know.

Do you have this peace? It is still offered as the free gift of God. Just as the Whitefish Point lighthouse stands ready and willing to shine the guiding light on the sailors who pass by, so Christ shines his saving love on those who seek to follow him through the storms. If you do not have this peace, simply close your eyes and fold your hands and ask God to take the wheel in your life so that the light of God's love will set you free to live in the grace of God. Battered by the waves, your life will be secure in spite of the storm. Do you have a lighthouse in your life?

Pastor Rus



Loaded Red, White and Blue Cookie Bars

★★★★★

Prep	Total	Ingredients	Servings
15 MIN	2 HR 20 MIN	9	24



Ingredients

- 1 roll (16.5 oz) Pillsbury™ refrigerated sugar cookies
- 3 oz (from 8-oz package) cream cheese, softened
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 8 Golden Oreo™ sandwich cookies, coarsely crushed (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup red, white and blue M&M's™ candy-coated milk chocolate candies
- 1/2 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped cocktail peanuts
- 2 tablespoons red, white and blue candy sprinkles
- 1/4 cup white vanilla baking chips

Steps

- 1 Heat oven to 350°F. Let dough stand at room temperature 10 minutes to soften. Spray 13x9-inch pan with cooking spray.
- 2 In large bowl, break cookie dough into small chunks. Add cream cheese and flour; stir with spoon or hands until well blended. Stir in crushed cookies, candies, chocolate chips and peanuts. Spread in bottom of pan. Sprinkle candy sprinkles on top.
- 3 Bake 25 to 29 minutes or until golden brown and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 30 minutes.
- 4 In small microwavable bowl, microwave white vanilla baking chips uncovered on High 30 to 60 seconds or until chips can be stirred smooth. Spoon melted chips into small resealable food-storage plastic bag; partially seal bag. Cut off tiny corner of bag; squeeze to pipe over top of bar. Cool completely, about 1 hour. Cut into 6 rows by 4 rows.



July Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

7/3	Darrell Druvenga
7/3	Sylvia Jansen
7/3	Janet Johnson
7/8	Clarence Karsjens
7/14	Curtis Kalkwarf
7/14	Michael Mulder
7/20	Frank Pott
7/20	Marcia Allspach
7/21	Marjorie Aswegan
7/22	Luke Edeker
7/25	Lola Stirling
7/26	Kenneth Johnson
7/26	Mary Vry
7/26	Kamie Shepard
7/26	Amy Swanson-Haan
7/27	Gene Venenga
7/28	Joy Kneppe

Happy Anniversary

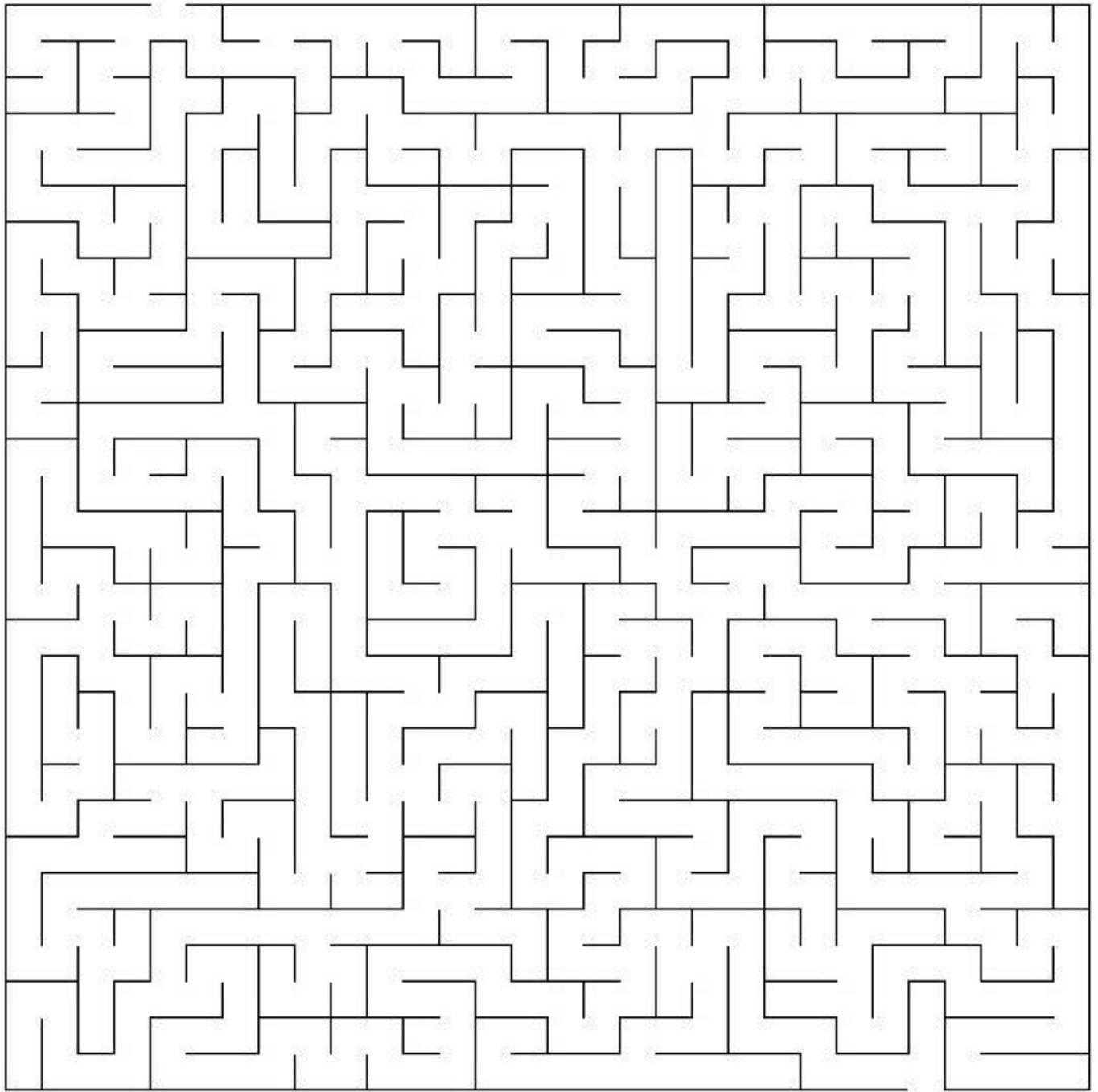
7/5	Dale & Angie Meester
7/23	Dennis & Sharon Schipper



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
7/7	Pastor Rus & Mary (N)	Gerald	Kevin & Shelly
	Delbert & Sharon (S)		
7/14	Ryan & Stacy (N)	Ken Meester	Ryan & Stacy
	Mark & Lanae (S)		
7/21	Irv & Amy (N)	Mark Kramer	Dennis & Lois
	Paul & Darlene (S)		
7/28	Frances V. & Marj A. (N)	Ken Johnson	Joel & Brandy
	Duane A. & Darrell D. (S)		

*If you are unable to serve coffee on your Sunday as listed, please find your replacement. Thank you.



4TH OF JULY 
M A Z E