

Shepherd's Staff

March 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.

Ready for the End

Everywhere I go I hear people talk about the snow that came in February. With storm after storm and the winds to blow the snow around we seem to be ready for a break. I have not heard many talking with affection for the white stuff, but most are wondering if or at least when it will end. The weather forecasters seem to be stuck in the predictions of more and more still coming. With this the case, many are longing for the end of winter and the snow. I too long for the end of the winter weather with the cold and snow, but I am also amazed at how many are concerned with such a short term phenomenon and yet we have become complacent over the promise of another end that will surely come. Of course I am talking about the return of Christ, marking not the end of winter but the end of time.

If we are not concerned about the end of time coming, perhaps we should be. We know that it is because of God's grace that the end is delayed. Not wanting that anyone should perish God is waiting. Still we see the world spiraling deeper and deeper into a lawless state. Where human life has no value as evident in the number of shootings and mass killings reported so often to the atrocity of babies being murdered before birth and now in some areas even in our country after a live birth!

How far does humanity need to be destroyed before God will have enough? Are we so complacent because of the time that has already lapsed that we are hardened to the promise of Christ to return? Yet this very return is the pivotal point in Christianity. The death, resurrection and return of Christ is our hope in life and in death. So, if we no longer hold to the return as emanate, what is our hope for the future? If we place our hope in our political system, we can see from the news we are on shaky ground. If we place our hope on the things we can or have acquired as a security, we can find just how insecure wealth can be.

The bottom line for Christians should be that we hold to the truth of Christ's return as proclaimed throughout scripture. Any other source of hope will leave us in a world of hurt. We must be reminded that we are in the world but not of the world when we are found by Jesus Christ. With the Lord as Savior we know that we can weather any storm in life. This is because our comfort in life and in death does not rely on the things of this world but instead on the Creator of the world. His promises still hold. When he states that the Christ will return we can be confident that this is true.

While we can be sure that as long as Christ tarries, winter will give way to spring and the snow will stop. We can also be sure that our Lord will come again in the splendor and glory that belong to him as the Son of God! When he does, we know that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord! Believing it now simply has us ready for the eventual return. Being anxious for the return will help us to endure even the harshest of winters in life as well as our spirit.

Pastor Rus



A Prayer in Spring

Oh, give us pleasure in the flowers today;
And give us not to think so far away
As the uncertain harvest; keep us here
All simply in the springing of the year.

Oh, give us pleasure in the orchard white,
Like nothing else by day, like ghosts by night;
And make us happy in the happy bees,
That swarm dilating round the perfect trees.

And make us happy in the darting bird
That suddenly above the bees is heard;
The meteor that thrusts in with needle bill,
And off a blossom in mid-air stands still.

For this is love, and nothing else is love,
The which it is reserved for God above
To sanctify to what ends He will,
But which it only needs that we fulfill.

Robert Frost





March Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

3/9 Michael Stirling
 3/11 Kathleen DeGroot
 3/15 Kay Swanson
 3/26 Naomi Allspach
 3/28 Rhonda Meester

Happy Anniversary

3/19 Pat & Deb Prier
 3/21 Don & Annie Allspach



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.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
3/3	Don & Annie (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Joel & Kellen	Ryan & Stacy #10 Fruit of the Spirit PEACE	Arnie & Kay
3/10	Dennis & Sharon (N) John & Karen (S)	Ken Johnson	Deb & Jolynne #11 Fruit of the Spirit Patience , Faithful	John & Karen
3/17	Ken & Jan (N) Rollyn & Kathy (S)	Luke E.	NO SS	Pat & Deb
3/24	Mike Ascher Family (N) Arnie & Kay (S)	Rollyn DeGroot	Stacy & Kamie #12 Fruit of the Spirit Kindness, Goodness	Paul & Darlene
3/31	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Joel Reints Family (S)		Kayla & Shelly In Like a lion-Out like a Lamb	SS/HS

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

#The teacher schedule and lessons will be in the bulletin. You can always check the website as well- the bulletin is always on there (even before Sunday!!) www.parkersburg-crc.org If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.

Spring Flowers

Find the hidden words within the grid of letters.



N Y L B V D M O B H R Y O L F U L Y J M
D O I V I F O U S Q O R S F R Z I C F F
C B D T Q Y M G M W M C G I F T L O W X
K N O Z K J S A W E R Y S N A P Y R P A
I C F H H W V O J O H C A K T D O A L A
U I F M G Y A T C X O T V V U N G K I C
B O A R P Q I U E Z S D N M B N S L W S
G U D P D W S I Y L A M G A R K O T M V
E C O X M V T K T W H F P O S N W B W Y
G P T F S Q V T A V Y I S D G Y P I A V
M A R I G O L D N I W E S A F E R S V W
K R B A Q G L M O O D G M U N O J H X H
I P X W V S B U E L O A Q R A G P G C F
A I I E M G T X Q E I L Q Z H S W X F A
T L Y Z I I J T Y T L B R I W E I T X S
E U B V M M R Q S D R R C Z Q U B K L Z
Q T H K V I W I C T X N A P Q L C W L R
W L M J J G E H S Z U A P S A E U M Q T
E F F Y C B X X A B B A D U X X N U P W
V P E O N Y N C U C W O Y Y O Y N M N Q

chrysanthemum

crocus

daffodil

daisy

dogwood

iris

lily

magnolia

marigold

pansy

peony

poppy

rose

tulip

violet