

Shepherd's Staff

May 2018

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.

Values

The old saying of "Put your money where your mouth is!" may be more relevant today than we would like to acknowledge. It seems with the advance in the comfort items in our lives we have become more dependent on things than our ancestors were. What our heritage taught us was to "trust in God" for every aspect of life. With such a foundation we were always willing to show our gratitude to the One who goes beside us throughout life and into death. Thanks living was the rule for the day that we seem to have left behind but what if we were to return to that reference of living? What would life look like if we were to look to God and not Google?

For as long as I can remember Christians have had to struggle with making ends meet. Today it seems that the struggle is no better as the division of where people rank in society has become more polarized. The middle class is becoming an endangered species while the rich focus on themselves and the poor find survival through government programs that lock them into a way of life that penalizes any attempt to move ahead. All of this has an effect in how we manage what God has blessed us with. Giving has become something we do with whatever we may have left after all the bills have been paid.

In the ancient days, God called for His people to give first to Him so that He could bless and not curse the people. Fear of not having what everyone else has so we will not be left behind has become crippling. We want what is best for our families, which is admirable. But what is actually best is perhaps something we can argue about. Taking advantage of every opportunity for our children is often the goal, but is it the most important?

The costs of living for families today are taking a toll on more than just our finances. Family time has become time spent apart at events instead of around a dining table. Church has become some place to go if there are no other obligations. Through it all, I wonder if, in the rare silence, we can hear Satan laugh?

Families are a gift from God that we have lost ground on. The extended family of the church is also becoming lost in our society as well. The unity we find when we are together is how we learn of the importance of our unity with God. Loving God as the united One God in three Persons allows us to see how we too benefit from joining ourselves together, bringing strength and a closeness we can cherish. This unity also comes with responsibility. Giving as God has blessed us is how we show our gratitude. I like what David said when offered the threshing floor and the oxen that were offered saying, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." (II Samuel 24:24)

While we no longer offer burnt offerings, our offerings are still meant to express our joy and gratitude for what God has given us. We also are asked to give of our time and energies to further the Kingdom of God in the world. Yet when our time and money are spent predominately on the things of this life, are we worshiping idols and not the true God? Are we buying short-term happiness at the cost of eternal gladness? Giving to God and our families as God intended should be our first and highest concern. After we have done all to advance our faith and unity with God through Christ are we free to live in this world as the light of God shining in the darkness.

Our priorities in life are reflected in where we give of our time and wealth. If we are putting God first, then our giving should reflect that, both with our moneys and our time. If we give to God out of our wealth, is God pleased or as Jesus pointed with the widow giving only two small coins, all that she had, compared to the wealthy giving out of abundance? (Luke 21:4) Today, we should ask ourselves, what (or Who) is first in my life? If we have any answer other than God, now is the time to re-examine our values and seek God's grace anew. Then let your gratitude show for the glory of God.

Pastor Rus

Memorial Day

We walked among the crosses
Where our fallen soldiers lay.
And listened to the bugle
As TAPS began to play.
The Chaplain led a prayer
We stood with heads bowed low.
And I thought of fallen comrades
I had known so long ago.
They came from every city
Across this fertile land.
That we might live in freedom.
They lie here 'neath the sand.
I felt a little guilty
My sacrifice was small.
I only lost a little time
But these men lost their all.
Now the services are over
For this Memorial Day.
To the names upon these crosses
I just want to say,
Thanks for what you've given
No one could ask for more.
May you rest with God in heaven
From now through evermore.

--C. W. Johnson



Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

As we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we think of how they have followed in the footsteps of your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please hold our service men and women in your strong arms. Cover them with your sheltering grace and presence as they stand in the gap for our protection.

We also remember the families of our troops, and ask for your unique blessings to fill their homes and your peace, provision and strength to fill their lives.

May the members of our armed forces be filled with courage to face each day and may they trust in the Lord's mighty power to accomplish each task. Let our military brothers and sisters feel our love and support.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.



Thank you, Mother

No matter where we go, we remember the things our mothers taught us—those precious lessons of life and love; the example they lived before us; the prayers that pointed us in the right direction. As we look to the future, we can face with confidence whatever happens because mothers help give us a foundation of faith. No matter where, no matter when, mothers love us, again and again.

--Rebecca Barlow Jordan



May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

5/3 Steven Kramer
 5/4 Dale Meester
 5/9 Emma Haan
 5/14 Sharon Schipper
 5/20 Amy Mulder
 5/21 Irvin Haan
 5/26 Cayden Shepard
 5/28 Rollyn DeGroot
 5/29 Ryan Edeker
 5/30 David Mulder

Happy Anniversary

5/14 Steve & Charlene Kramer
 5/16 Delbert & Sharon Cordes
 5/26 Henry & Kathy Heeren



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20th of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
5/6	Pat & Deb (N)	Delbert	Ryan & Stacy	John & Jodi
	Kamie & Cory (S)		Deb	
5/13	Ken & Nancy (N)	Dale	Kayla & Shelly	Ken & Jan
	Ken Kramer family (S)		Stacy	
5/20	John & Karen (N)	Ken Johnson	Kamie & Nancy	Mike & Kayla
	Dennis & Sharon (S)		Brandy	
5/27	Rollyn & Kathy (N)	Luke E.		Steve & Charlene
	Ken & Jan (S)			

*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.



Mother's Day Word Search



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



MOTHER
 GRANDMA
 FLOWERS
 ADOPTION
 WISE



CHILD
 LOVE
 PRESENTS
 PERFUME
 LESSONS



PARENT
 FAMILY
 BIRTH
 KISS
 COOKING

