

# Shepherd's Staff

May 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.*

## Waiting

We live in a fast paced world today. We have instant food, same day delivery for our products, instant answers through our phones and computers, and an ever increasing desire for instant success in our life endeavors. What started me thinking of this fast pace was my eagerness for Spring to begin. The waiting for the trees to bud, showing the long cold Winter finally passed, was taking so long. We do have such great demands for time to move quickly in so many parts of our life we often fail to catch what is passing us by without noticing.

The faster pace of some of life is not all bad if we also use the faster pace to our advantage. Doing our chores more efficiently so we can spend more time on the truly more important things should be welcomed. A quickly prepared meal so we can gather at the table and enjoy the company of one another has the potential for time well spent and yet we often eat in passing, with barely a chance to greet each other as we hurry on our way. What a shame we get so caught up in loading our days and even our hours with so much that we need instant everything to fit it all in.

We even take our religion in instant portions it seems. What once was considered sacred time has become time to fit in if possible. With the activities that we must crunch into the weekends, we often lose time for spending one day with God. Because we are so busy running from event to event we no longer have time for table meals let alone family devotions. We do all this without giving thought to our vow spoken of bringing up our children in the way of the Lord.

Just what is this way of the Lord? I think we have numerous passages that teach us to wait on the Lord. We are reminded that the farmer must plant the seed and then wait for the plant to germinate, grow, produce a crop all before harvest can begin. God in His wisdom also longs for us to spend time with Him in the richness of His Word. Waiting, or being patient, is not a strong virtue in today's society. Yet we see the rewards from patiently waiting on God and His blessings. Abraham was promised great things that he never saw in his lifetime. It was generations before God would bring them about. Many in the Old Testament trusted in God to bring blessing "in His time!"

So what have we gained in our fast paced world today? More grief, anxiety, and doubts. We have again tried to become our own master, not wanting to trust in God's perfect timing. We are afraid of being left behind in a world that is moving so rapidly that only the strong can survive. Yet God tells us He make the weak to thrive, the patient to accomplish great things in His Name. So maybe it is time we hit the pause button in our lives and spend more time with God and our families as we wait on the Lord. Yes, it might mean not participating in an event or even putting our phones down for a while, but we can start small. God can do great things with the little we begin to give Him. Are you ready to be amazed at what God will do through you when you wait on the Lord?

Pastor Rus



### *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

## **CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!**

Three members of our congregation will be graduating in May.

**Laura Edeker** will be graduating from the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts with a degree in interdepartmental studies with a focus in community and human services. After graduation, she will be working for two years in East Asia to aid in the establishment of church plants throughout the nation. she will be living in a city largely populated by university students. Her team's goal is to plant reproducing churches throughout the campuses of their city. During her time overseas, she will be spreading the gospel, studying the language, and discipling new believers.

**Nolan Prier** will be graduating from the University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor of Science degree in Construction Management. He begins work the middle of May at Lang Construction out of West Des Moines as a project engineer. He will reside in Waukee.

**Brandy Reints** will graduate from Allen College of Nursing with her Nurse Practitioner degree. Brandy will begin working in Marshalltown.



**May God Bless them on these new journeys.**

## **Jeremiah 29:11**

**11** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



# May Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

- 5/3 Steven Kramer
- 5/4 Dale Meester
- 5/9 Emma Haan
- 5/14 Sharon Schipper
- 5/17 Ken Roberts
- 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 Armstrong by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers<sup>#</sup></i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
5/5	Pat & Deb (N)	Delbert	Stacy & Kamie	John & Jodi
	Frank & Betty (S)		Father's Day	
5/12	Ken & Nancy (N)	Dale	Kayla & Shelly	Joel & Brandy
	Ken Kramer family (S)		Mother's Day	
5/19	John & Karen (N)	Ken Johnson	Kay & Amy	Mike & Kayla
	Dennis & Sharon (S)		Earth Day	
5/26	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](http://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

