

# Shepherd's Staff

May 2021

*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.*

## Who's Responsible

When did taking responsibility for our actions end? In today's society the idea that we are to be held accountable for our actions seems to have fallen out of the realm of possibility. It should not surprise us though as we see the concept taking place in the garden of Eden when Adam blamed Eve and Eve the serpent for the actions they took. We have become a society of scapegoating. Blaming everyone else for our actions that don't fit the societal norms is almost pandemic in nature. What does the Bible say about our responsibility in all matters?

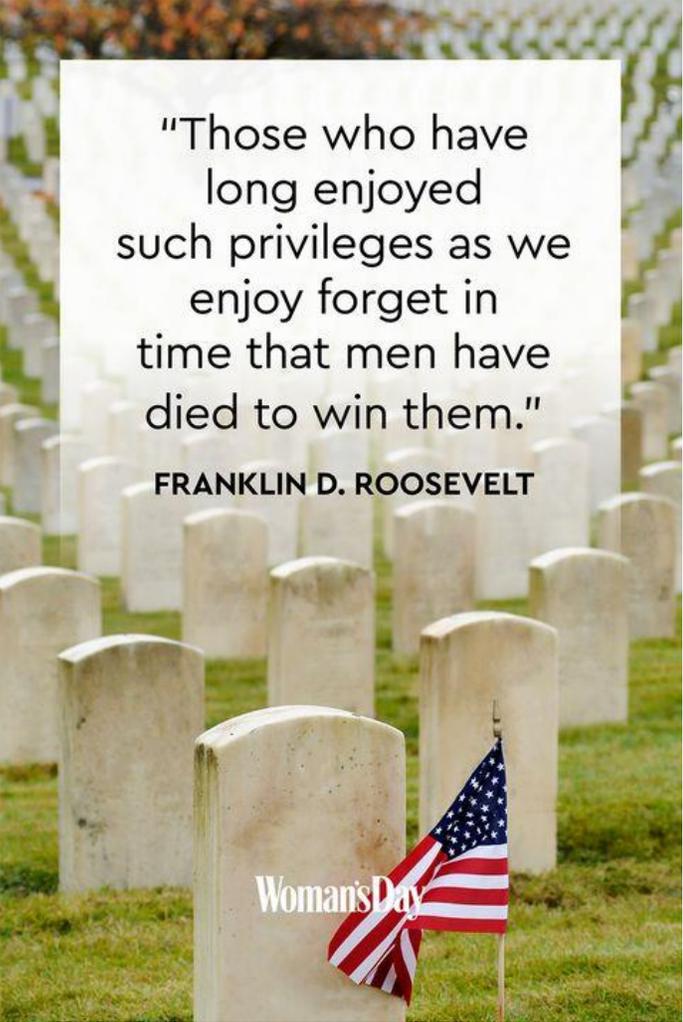
Let's start with the problem of today. We blame guns for the actions of shooters, the police for causing harm when persons try to fight their way out of being held accountable for their actions and even the idea that we are not responsible for paying our debts if the government is willing to take up our cause. I am not saying that some responsibility for harm caused to individuals is not a shared responsibility. Persons brought into custody should have a degree of safety provided but how do things get so far out of control that life is lost because of a traffic stop or a warrant being processed? How is it that we hold landlords hostage for our rent when we cannot pay even if the reason is because of the pandemic. Landlords still have their own expense that must be met without the help of the government. How is it that we have been swept away to a new society that does not hold us accountable anymore?

I refer back to the story in Genesis where Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. We can see that they were quick to blame someone else or even something else. But when we look at God's response we find that their attempts were not given credibility. The action they took, they took from the free will of their hearts leading. Today we all enjoy the same free will to choose a direction for ourselves in society. But just like in the garden we must be willing to take the responsibility of our choices. If we fight against the laws of our land that are in place to keep society safe we must expect to pay the price for our wrong choices. If we speed and are caught we must expect to pay the fine. If we to run away from our responsibilities we end up paying more.

As Christians we should be the ones to point out to the world the proper attitude when we break the laws of God and man and take the consequences of our actions. We can do this because we know that to receive forgiveness before God we must acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness. Forgiveness does not mean that we will not be held accountable. There is still a fine to be paid for speeding and the points will appear on our record for a period of time. Being responsible is what it means to pay our obligations that we willingly accept. Rent must be paid and all our bills must be met before we spend on the luxuries of life.

One thing we can count on though is the fact that our sins will be covered before God when we put our trust in the Savior Jesus Christ. It does require us to face our sins head on though. We are called to repent, which means turning around from the wrong direction and heading in the right direction. We must also believe that God in Christ will take away our sins not because of our deserving but because of the grace that is God's to give. It also means that we have remorse for our sins and walk in the newness of life that comes from following God in a new obedience, living according to the Law that is given us in his Holy Word. Only when we claim the responsibility of our actions can we be forgiven. Only when we are forgiven can we enjoy the freedom from our sins before a merciful God. Only when we also stand before the society that we have been placed in and acknowledge our faults can we present to the world the proper display of what we are in Christ. Forgiven and redeemed for a better life that is to come. Responsibility is not easy but it is the way that Christ would have us take so that we can be seen as the children of God we are.

Pastor Rus



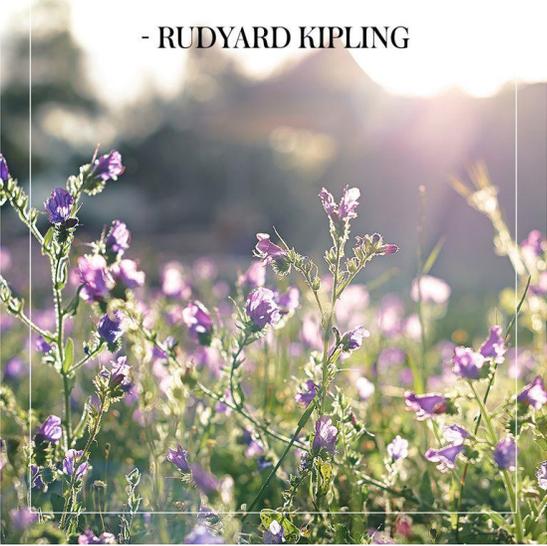
"Those who have  
long enjoyed  
such privileges as we  
enjoy forget in  
time that men have  
died to win them."

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Woman's Day

*"God could not  
be everywhere, and  
therefore he made  
mothers."*

- RUDYARD KIPLING



Dear Lord,  
lift the hearts of those  
for whom this holiday is not just diversion,  
but painful memory and continued deprivation.  
Bless those whose dear ones have died.  
We remember with compassion and  
heartfelt thanks, those who  
have died serving their country.  
Amen.

Happy Memorial Day



# 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
- 5/28 Rollyn DeGroot
- 5/29 Ryan Edeker

## 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.





# Mother's Day

Second Sunday of May



APPRECIATION  
BEAUTIFUL  
BREAKFAST  
CANDY  
CHARMING  
COMFORT  
DEVOTED  
FLOWERS  
FORGIVING  
GIFTS

GUIDANCE  
HUGS  
JEWELRY  
JOY  
KISSES  
LAUGHTER  
LOVE  
MATERNAL  
MOM  
MOTHER

NURTURE  
PERFUME  
PROTECTIVE  
SHARE  
TELEPHONE  
TENDER  
THE BEST  
WARM  
WISE

