

## A Target to Aim At Pt 2

Last month I began to describe what an apprentice to the Lord Jesus Christ looks like. These and these alone are the Children of Light. I began by talking mostly about the mind and the thoughts for two reasons: First, that's where the Bible itself begins. We are to "be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds." (Rom 12:2). Second, it's just a fact about human nature that we become like what we set our minds on. The set of our mind (which includes what we really think to be true and untrue) determines the course of our lives. This is why the Bible has so much to say to us about where we should set our minds. For example, in Colossians 3:1-2 we are told that seeking something and setting the mind on something are fundamentally the same spiritual activity. It's also why Psalm 135:18 says that those who make and place their trust in idols will become like what they worship. We all become like what we worship, whether we're talking about the Holy One of Israel, or money, or worldly success, or sex. That's why it's important to worship the Living God alone. Becoming like him is the only healthy, good, non-destructive way to live. Every other obsession will ruin us and will hurt the people around us.

This month I'd like to examine how the apprentice of Jesus deals with feelings. The emotional life of the Child of Light is deeply characterized by love. They love good things. They love people. They love their life. They are thankful for their life and love who they are, even if their life contains many difficulties. They receive it all as God's gift to them, or at least as something that he allows. They are confident of God's goodness and greatness and believe they now experience it and will go on to experience fuller and fuller measures of it as they walk with God. Therefore, they have joy and peace, even in the hardest of times. This is true even when they suffer unjustly (James 1:2; 1 Peter 2:19-20.) Because they have learned what God is really like, they are confident and hopeful. They do not indulge in thoughts of rejection or failure or hopelessness. There just isn't any room in them for those things. God takes up too much space inside of them.

In order to think about how to become like this, we have to get past some incorrect thinking and valuing where our feelings are concerned. Martin Luther once compared humanity to a drunkard who falls off his horse on the left side. Vowing to never let that happen again, he climbs back on the horse and immediately falls off on the right side instead. We've got something like that going on in our history right up until today.

I've heard it said among the older generation that they were taught when they were young not to show any emotion. This is often thought of as a strength, and in some ways, in limited doses perhaps, it is a form of strength. But it also tends to make a person brittle. Or worse. This was a common way of dealing with tragedies in the past, especially among those who were recent immigrants from northern

Europe. Terrible things happened, and we simply weren't to speak of them again after they were over. It was not thought generally necessary or helpful to process events out loud with others.

On the other hand, we've been taught as a culture at least since the 60's that our feelings are the truest indicator of our genuine, inward identity. This is why expressing even the mildest disapproval over people's choices is thought to be akin to murder. It's "dangerous" not to affirm someone's choices, because those choices arise from the sacred depths of the person in the form of feelings and desires which are indicators of their "truest selves." To cast any doubt or disapproval on what emerges from the depths of the sacred self is liable to send them into a wounded tizzy. They'll probably kill themselves and it will all be your fault, you bigot! This view underlies the extreme fragility we see among today's young people, and especially young women. If I tell you I identify as a man or a cat or a kumquat, you had better smile and tell me what a beautiful man/cat/kumquat I am. I read not too long ago of a 40-something Canadian truck driver who decided he was a six-year-old girl named "Stephoknee." He abandoned his family and found some stupid, brain-addled family who took him in, put him in pink dresses with bows in his (rapidly disappearing) hair, and let him play with their six-year-old daughter. I'm not kidding. Google it.

Feelings should not be denied. Nor should they be the stars by which we navigate our lives. We need feelings. We actually can't live very long without them. But we need to subordinate our feelings to the truth and to our thoughts about the truth. Where our feelings turn out not to be aligned with the truth, we don't bend truth to suit our feelings. We bend our feelings to suit the truth.

And there are some feelings, frankly, which just shouldn't be indulged. These are the most powerful feelings, which in New Testament Greek are called "epithumia." This word is most often translated as "lust" in our English Bibles. We tend to assume this is just talking about sexual feelings and then move on. But it's not just talking about sexual feelings. It's talking about any of the powerful feelings that can come to possess us and drive us in a direction away from God. There is very little that a person who is in the grip of these strong desires will not give up in order to gratify their desire. We see this clearly in addiction. We also see it in the torrid affair that destroys a marriage and causes emotional carnage everywhere. But there are all sorts of other situations like this that aren't nearly as obvious to us. I know one person who loved real estate and almost destroyed their marriage over building a house. I know of a woman whose obsession to have a baby wrecked both her finances and her marriage. When her husband suggested adoption and refused to go along with yet another round of crippling expensive IVF, she left him to find an alternative baby daddy.

The Child of Light subordinates his or her feelings to the thoughts and the will. The will is oriented towards what is good, and will refuse to indulge any feelings that lead away from the good. This is the only sane way to live.

### Praise and Worship Greeters

- 1: E: John and Lois Van Diepen  
C: Jim and Pauline Van Engen  
W: Curt and Peg Van Kley
- 8: E: Ger and Barb Van Diepen  
C: Dean and Amy Van Marel  
W: Harvey and Marcia Van Ruler
- 15: E: Jena Ver Steeg/family  
C: Bryan Verdoorn  
W: Joel and Kathy Verdoorn
- 22: E: Roger Verdoorn  
C: Clayton and Jodi Wagenaar  
W: AJ and Jenny Weg
- 29: E: Lawrence and Ruth Ann Wiersma  
C: Ryan Wiersma  
W: Derek and Megan Ackerman/family

### Worship Service Nursery

**Nursery is open  
but unstaffed  
during the  
summer months.**

### Fellowship Coffee Servers

- 1: Ger and Barb Van Diepen  
8: John and Lois Van Diepen  
15: Jim and Pauline Van Engen  
22: Curt and Peg Van Kley  
29: Duane and Pam Vande Hoef

### Willing Hands Group



**Group #6**  
will be responsible for  
services during the month.

#### Co-chairpersons are:

- Peg/Curt Van Kley
- Rhonda/Larry Riebeling

### Children & Worship during the service

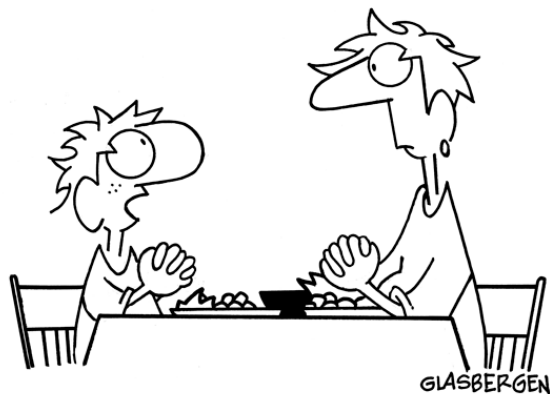


**Children and Worship  
is on break until fall**

### Library Volunteers



- 1: Jamie Hulstein  
8: Jan Juffer  
15: Jeannette Juffer  
22: Leona Meendering  
29: Janice Runia



**"If God wants me to be thankful for vegetables,  
why did He make them taste like vegetables?"**





## Stewardship & Giving

### Offering Summary through May 31:

- **General Fund: \$155,185.51**  
Budget: \$363,794.52; 42% of budget
  - **Benevolent Fund: \$6,294.64**  
Budget: \$61,125; 10% of budget
  - **Building Fund offerings to date: \$770**
- \*\*\*\*\*

**Average Monthly Offering Needed:**  
**\$35,493.29**

**Total Ben./Gen. Offerings through April 26:**  
**\$25,988.20**

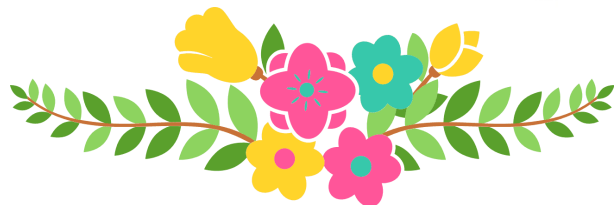
*Total Ben/Gen offering does not include  
"Special Monthly Offering" donations as they  
are technically not part of the estimated budget.*

### Special Offering for May Freedom's Gate!!



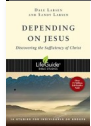
## Faith In Action for June: Shut-ins/Nursing Home Residents

**Make it a point to send a  
card, visit or  
make them  
feel special in  
some way.**

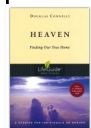


## Deuteronomy Trivia Time!!

1. Which was not one of the cities of refuge Moses set aside, east of the Jorda, where anyone who had unintentionally killed a person could flee and be kept safe? (Bezer, Beth Peor, Golan, Ramoth)
2. What did God instruct the tribes standing on Mount Ebal to do? (Pray for rain, Pronounce curses, Pray for fire, Defy the enemy armies)
3. It took the Israelites 11 days to go from Horeb to Kadesh Barnea by the Mount Seir road. About how long would it take us to travel the same distance today by car? (2 hours, 2 days, 7 hours, 7 days)
4. Who am I? I've been known as everything from a criminal to royalty, but no one has ever had the mighty power or matched the awesome deeds I did.
5. How many years passed from the time the Israelites left Kadesh Barnea until they crossed the Zered Valley? (20 years, 35 years, 38 years, 40 years)
6. God told the Israelites that he would bring terror and fear on all the nations under heaven because of them when Israel began to fight against whom? (People of Seir, King of the Moabites, Ammonites, King Sihon of Heshbon)



**Faith Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, June 16 at 9:30 am**. We will be studying lesson #10, "Mercy Within Failure" in our study book *Depending on Jesus*. Scripture will be John 18:15-18, 25-27; 21:15-19. Leader will be Luella and Jan Harskamp will serve as hostess. All are invited! If you would like to join, please let us know! Hope to see you there!



**Patience Bible Study**, will meet on **Monday, June 16 at 3:00 pm**. We will be studying lesson #2 "The Surprising Jesus," in our book *Meeting Jesus*. Scripture for the lesson is Luke 5:17-32. Barb will lead and Kathy will serve as hostess. Come. If you would like to join our new study, please contact Barb Van Diepen and we will get you a book.

### **6:30 pm Sunday Evening Fellowship Bible Study Opportunities!**

#### **\*\*Message Discussion and Application Bible Study\*\***

\*FRC Fellowship Hall

#### **\*\*Digging into God's Word\*\***

This group is currently studying the book of **John**.

\*FRC Fireside Room\*



## **Consistory Highlights for May:**

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. Church use granted for the MacKenzie Beyer family to host a Bridal Shower on May 25 from 6:30-9 in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen.
2. ARC Network meeting will be held on May 20th and will receive our application to join.
3. Cookout/Hymn Sing to happen on Sunday, June 8 at 5pm at the parsonage.
4. By-Law changes were approved. With a more comprehensive discussion to be had at the June Meeting.
5. Pastor Brian will be on vacation from Jun 15-21 and will attend a Dallas Willard Conference from July 13-19.

### **PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH**



### **SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO DO WHAT YOU KNOW IS RIGHT, BUT IT'S ALWAYS WORTH TRYING.**





# Celebrations

## ~~Birthday's~~

- |  |                                       |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Jessica McDyer<br>Kimberlie Alexander<br>Travis Boeke      | 19 Gabe Bevers                        | 26 Karissa Hulstein<br>Merlyn Janssen          |
| 2 Kalen Heronimus  | 20 Lois Van Diepen                    | 28 Jarred Brouwer<br>Jaxton Loerts<br>Ken Huls |
| 3 Alexis Van Diepen  | 22 Charles Kruger<br>Chelsea Hulstein |  |
| 6 Sandy Lamfers  | 23 Joel Van Gelder<br>Mike Block Sr.  |  |
| 8 Abby De Zeeuw<br>Kelsey Joseph<br>Jena Ver Steeg           | 24 Stan De Zeeuw<br>Colt Klaassen     |  |
| 9 Lawrence Wiersma<br>Kelsey Doorenbos                       |                                       |  |
| 10 Addison De Zeeuw  |                                       |  |
| 11 Dale De Boer<br>Nancy Dykstra                             |                                       |  |
| 12 Georgia Hisek   |                                       |  |
| 13 Donna Kleinwolterink                                      |                                       |  |
| 14 Kimberly Alsip<br>Grace Bevers                            |                                       |  |
| 16 Chris Hurlburt  |                                       |  |
| 18 Janelle Van Drunen<br>Mark Langstraat<br>Joselyn De Zeeuw |                                       |  |

*I have found*  
**THE ONE**  
*Whom my soul Loves*  
SONG OF SOLOMON 3:4

## ~~Anniversaries~~

- |                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 4 Marlin & Kathy Runia -          | 37 years |
| 9 Jarred and Tracee Brouwer -     | 25 years |
| 10 Ed and Jan Harskamp -          | 61 years |
| 11 John & Sharon Bartels -        | 59 years |
| 11 Dr. Brian and Heidi Sayler -   | 31 years |
| 12 Loren and Deb Hulstein -       | 40 years |
| 15 Collin & Alexis Van Diepen -   | 6 years  |
| 20 AJ and Jenny Weg -             | 10 years |
| 22 Cody and Kristen Hurlburt -    | 6 years  |
| 23 Charles and Katha Kruger -     | 41 years |
| 25 Brad and Sarah Loerts -        | 20 years |
| 26 Junior and Imogene Rasmussen - | 61 years |
| 27 Ron and Nancy Dykstra -        | 50 years |
| 27 Curt and Peg Van Kley -        | 33 years |
| 28 Mark and Tanya Dykstra -       | 28 years |

BE A  
*Prayer*  
WARRIOR

## Our Missionaries

Dr. Bernadeth Kelly &  
Adrian Bobb  
Sayuri Kist—Okazaki  
Brian & Donna Renes  
J.J. & Tim TenClay  
Rowland & Jan Van Es  
Grace Covenant Ministries  
Jeff and Chelsea Lampen

Helen Vander Veen

---

[illegible]





## PRAY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

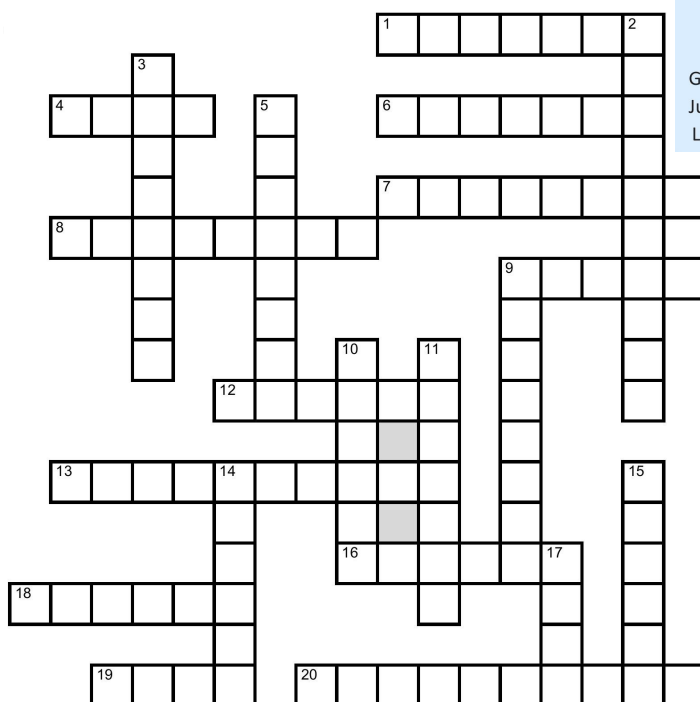
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Pray for our Church  | 16. Rod Hulstein  |
| 2. Ken and Sandy Heronimus                                    | 17. Scott and Jamie Hulstein; Karissa, Alexis             |
| 3. Jo Hielkema  | 18. Chris and Teresa Hurlburt                             |
| 4. Melissa Hisek; Sofia, Georgia                              | 19. Cody and Kristen Hurlburt;<br>Braelyn, Adelyn, Caelyn |
| 5. Cole and Kayla Hoekstra; Amelia, Grace                     | 20. Mike and Mary Hustoft                                 |
| 6. Dale and Karen Honken                                      | 21. Pray for our College Students                         |
| 7. Pray for our College Students                              | 22. Pray for our Church                                   |
| 8. Pray for our Church  | 23. Roger and Carol Iedema                                |
| 9. Anita Hoting   | 24. Merlyn and Julie Janssen                              |
| 10. Ashilyn Hulstein  | 25. Jeannette Juffer                                      |
| 11. Loren and Deb Hulstein                                    | 26. John and Jan Juffer                                   |
| 12. Mark and Rosie Hulstein                                   | 27. Alan and Lacey Julius; Witten, Sayla                  |
| 13. Michael and Chelsea Hulstein;<br>Addison, Aubrey, Bennett | 28. Pray for our College Students                         |
| 14. Pray for our College Students                             | 29. Pray for our Church                                   |
| 15. Pray for our Church                                       | 30. Dennis and Dar Jurgens                                |

<b><u>College Students:</u></b>			
Elliot Daiker	Grace Beavers	Marissa Ackerman	Carter Brouwer
Cole Dykstra	Michael Block Jr.	Halle Block	
Sofia Hisek	Ella Bruxvoort	Tayler Bremer	Grant Brouwer
Alexis Hulstein	Aiden De Zeeuw	Madison Brouwer	Ryan Van Marel
Alyssa Jacobsma	Karissa Hulstein	Regan Crichton	
Addysen Langstraat		Keegan De Zeeuw	
Parker Loerts		Maverick Elser	
Kaylee Maxwell		Emma Langstraat	
		Gannon Rockman	
		Mackenzie Beyer	
		Teddy Van Gelder	

ALEXANDRITE	GARDEN
BARBECUE	GEMINI
D-DAY	GRADUATION
DIPLOMA	HONEYSUCKLE
FATHER'S DAY	JUNE
FLAG DAY	JUNETEENTH
LEMONADE	SOLSTICE
LONGEST DAY	STRAWBERRY
OUTDOORS	SUMMER
PEARL	THIRTY DAYS
PICNIC	VACATION
ROSE	WEDDING

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

# HELLO JUNE



Barbecue	Outdoors
Cancer	Picnic
D-Day	Rose
Diploma	Sixth
Father	Solstice
Fishing	Strawberry
Flag	Summer
Gemini	Thirty
Graduation	Vacation
Juneteenth	Wedding
Lemonade	

## DOWN

2. Ceremony marking the end of the school year.
3. Time off from school.
5. Drink made from a yellow citrus fruit and sugar.
9. Longest day of the year: Summer \_\_\_\_.
10. Meal eaten outdoors.
11. Sport using a rod and a reel.
14. Number of days in June.
15. Season that begins in June in the Northern Hemisphere.
17. Birth month flower for June.

## ACROSS

1. Marriage ceremony.
4. Celebrated on June 14th in the US: \_\_\_\_ Day.
6. Certificate presented at a graduation ceremony.
7. Cook outdoors on a grill.
8. Opposite of indoors.
9. June is the \_\_\_\_ month of the year.
12. Astrological sign for the start of June (twins).
13. Celebrated on June 19th to commemorate the ending of slavery.
16. Astrological sign for the end of June (crab).
18. He is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.
19. June 6th, 1944.
20. Red berry that is in season in June.



Dear Friends & Supporters,

Another semester is almost over, how time flies! Final exams were held this week. Classes are wrapping up and students are finishing their assignments. Some students are ending their internships. A lot is going on—so we wanted to share a quick snapshot of two recent weeks.

The first week of April, the Reformed Group led the University Chapel service again. Rowland was the preacher on the assigned topic: What happens to Christians when they die? Two students who are already ordained pastors (Moses and Daniel) celebrated communion, two other divinity students, (Dorcas & Dovestart) helped lead the service, and another student from the Reformed Church of East Africa studying education (Elisha), read scripture. One of Jane's counseling students, Michelle, was part of the praise and worship team and led several songs.

Another one of Jane's students, Anita (2nd from left), was selected to be Miss St. Paul's during cultural week. She was part of a group that welcomed the Senator of our Province who came to campus to induct our new student leaders.

The second week of April, during our Thursday Fellowship at the School of Theology, the finishing students were leading the service. Peris led the service, then two finishing Diploma of Theology students shared their journey. Vitalis, who is turning 25, gave his testimony from Sunday school to primary school to secondary school and now getting his diploma at St Paul's. Anne, who is 19, shared about her first days and weeks at St Paul's and how far she has come and how much she has learned and grown here.

Then Peris, who is finishing her bachelor's program praised God for how far God has taken her as well. She was one of our praise and worship song leaders, now ready to serve the church and her community. It was refreshing to hear how much they appreciated their courses and how much they gained from St. Paul's.



*Left to right: Michelle leading worship and Anita (second to the left) selected to be Miss St. Paul's*



*Left to right: Theology group and the RCEA group.*



Hello First Reformed Church,



Last month I spoke about the importance of having your children be engaged in their faith, meaning to be active in their faith. I spoke some hard truths about sacrificing certain things for your children's faith, or even making their faith a priority in their lives. Here is how I know this is an important fact, and how I know that making faith a priority is a proven fact. I would like you to bear with me in this article as this may seem a little bit like a research paper, but don't worry, at the end I will give you practical advice. Here we go. In 2018 a study was done at Stanford University which revealed that "adolescents who practice religion on a regular basis do better in school than those who are religiously disengaged." This is obviously generally, it is not the case for every single student, but your child's conscience and cooperation goes up if they are engaged in religion, more specifically with Christianity, but I will get to that in a minute. Another study that was conducted found that, "Religious 12<sup>th</sup> graders in the US have significantly higher self-esteem and hold more positive attitudes about life in general than their less religious peers." Again, this is not the case for everyone, but generally if your child is engaged in their faith they have a far fewer chance of being depressed or negative about the world. Now of course these studies conducted were saying that ALL branches of religion played a role in these findings, not just Christianity, so the question remains, why Christianity? I want to quote R.C. Sproul who wrote a compelling article titled, "Should I force my teen to go to Church? He writes:

*"The Bible tells us that we ought never to neglect the assembling together of the saints, which is corporate worship on Sunday morning. I take that to mean that it is my obligation as a Christian, as a member of the covenant community, to be in worship on Sunday morning with my household. So it is my responsibility to see to it that my children are in church. It is also my responsibility to be sensitive and gentle and not tyrannical, so I have to somehow find that fine line of being **firm but loving**, gentle, and kind in that firmness."*

What does this reveal to us? Should you "force" your children to come to church? Yes, but in a loving and kind way. Hebrews 10:24-25 is one of the key passages in this discussion of corporate worship. It is important for your children to be involved on Sunday morning, youth programming, Sunday School, etc. Here is the hard part for us to grasp, it's important for us as parents as well. If our kids do not see us engaging in our faith, why should our kids? I encourage you to go and read these articles that I cited here because they are very compelling and interesting to read. Finally, it is reported that the generations that are significantly more anxious and depressed are Gen Z and Gen Alpha. Gen Z are individuals born 1995-2012, Gen Alpha born 2013-2025. Over 60% of Gen Z people reported that they are suffering from depression or anxiety. I want to be clear there are considerations in these numbers, however we can all agree that our kids are very stressed, depressed, anxious, nervous, scared, etc. In some way or another our kids are being affected by something. This is where our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ redeems us from these things. Parents, our children are at serious risk of major mental health disorders and issues, and what is the cure? It is not more activities, it is Jesus. Jesus needs to be a priority in our homes, communities, and churches. Take the time to study together, do a Bible study as a family, pray for one another, attend worship together, get them to youth group, encourage them that these things are not optional because they are important. In my next article I want to give some practical resources that will help in the goal to minister to our children and to get them to take their faith seriously. Thank you for taking the time to read my article and I would love to talk with you if you have questions or concerns. God bless all of you!

Blessings,  
Josh

# Sportsmen's Devotional

Today's Photograph . . .  
He Shall Cover You With His Feathers

## Bible Study Verse

Psalm 91:4

He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

## Thoughts

Hiking is peaceful, long walks in God's creation. I feel closest to God when I'm hunting alone. His majestic creation is all around me--from the tiny flowers below to the towering trees above me. A rabbit scurries past, and there is a turkey with her new hatch, all in the high country of the forest.

Life is to be lived to the fullest: love of family, neighbors, and good friends reaching out to do God's work by serving. We are God's eyes, ears, and hands while we serve Him here on His Earth. As I walk through life, I feel God's shadow of protection all around me. Well, an elk is still walking free today, but there will be another day for hunting.

## Action Point

As we read through the first chapter of Genesis, we witness everything God created. Genesis 1:31 tells us, "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day." (NKJV).

Everything that God made is indeed good and we should take the time to get out and enjoy His creation. Jesus did it from time to time to refresh Himself and to pray. We need to take the time to follow His example.

## Sportsmen's Tip of the Day

Whenever you are out in the field, make sure to take care of God's creation. Always leave your camp cleaner than when you found it.



## **Deuteronomy Trivia Time Answers:**

1. Beth Peor in the valley 2. Pronounce curses 3. Two Hours 4. Moses 5. Fruit Trees 6. 38 years

-----Sources-----

<https://ed.stanford.edu/news/religiously-engaged-adolescents-demonstrate-habits-help-them-get-better-grades-stanford-scholar#:~:text=Research%20Stories-,Religiously%20engaged%20adolescents%20demonstrate%20habits%20that%20help%20them%20get%20better,for%20being%20conscientious%20and%20cooperative.>

<https://youthandreligion.nd.edu/related-resources/preliminary-research-findings/sociologists-find-that-religious-teens-are-more-positive-about-life/>

<https://www.crosswalk.com/headlines/contributors/guest-commentary/should-you-make-your-teen-go-to-church.html>

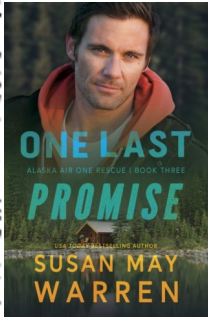
<https://nationalsocialanxietycenter.com/2024/08/19/social-anxiety-in-generation-z/#:~:text=Dubbed%20%20the%20anxious%20generation%20and, and%20anxiety%2C%20including%20social%20anxiety.>

## **Dad Jokes with Josh:**

I was out walking my Jack Russell terrier dogs, and someone stopped me and asked, "Are those Jack Russells?" I replied, "No, they are mine."



## From the library--



There are two mysteries this month, the first one is the third book on the "Alaska Air One Rescue" series, *ONE LAST PROMISE* by Susan May Warren. "Moose (Arlo) Mulligan's biggest grief propelled him into the world of Search and Rescue. After years as a Navy rescue chopper pilot, he returned home to start Air One Rescue—and made a name for himself. He loves his job, his life, and his routines...which include breakfast at the Skyport at the table of Tillie Young. She's sweet and pretty, but Moose has no room in his life for anything more.

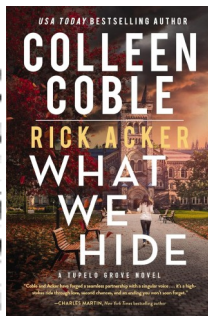
And then Tillie shows up, beaten and desperate...and needing his help.

Tillie Young never thought her ex would track her to Alaska—but somehow he's found her, and when he kidnaps her daughter, she'll do anything to get her back. Even enlist help from her favorite grumpy rescuer at table three, Moose Mulligan.

But Moose is no match for a former MMA boxer and possible child trafficker, right?

Maybe, maybe not, but he's not going to let another child go missing on his watch. Worse, when Moose finds himself accused of a crime, there's no way back. Now he must find the girl, keep Tillie safe, and outwit a man fueled by revenge. It will take all of Moose's Alaskan savvy to protect them and keep them alive...but who is going to protect him from the love he never saw coming.

Set in the treacherous Alaskan backwoods, it's a heart-pounding tale of survival, love, and the family Moose never anticipated."



The second book is *WHAT WE HIDE* by Colleen Coble and Rick Acker, a 'Tupelo Grove Novel.' "Savannah Webster is trying to find her way forward. She and her husband, Hez, have been separated since tragedy tore them apart and he began numbing his grief and guilt with alcohol. She returned to Tupelo Grove University, which her family helped found over a century ago, to teach history.

When Hez turns up in her classroom asking for a second chance, she rejects the idea immediately. But twenty-four hours later she's under suspicion for murder, and since Hez is the best attorney she knows, she reluctantly asked him for help. They suspect the murder is tied to someone selling off the university's pre-Columbian artifacts, but the secrets go much deeper than they realize.

The only hope they've got is each other, and they're going to have to put their past behind them if they're going to stay alive long enough to uncover all that's hidden."

The library is always open, stop in to select a book soon.

Jeannette Juffer



## *Random Musings Devotional*

By Brenda Sandbulte

I've always been an active person, a busy beaver, a go-getter. If I was to be completely honest, I've taken a lot of pride in my ability to get things done.

At a recent marriage conference, I learned I was a Controlling Perfectionist. Now that might sound negative, but it's not. It simply means that if something needs to be done, I don't struggle with being the one who gets it accomplished, and whatever the task, I try to do it well. (Someday I'll have to share with you what Craig's qualities were...It's a miracle we've been married for nearly 40 years!)

This morning I woke up, jotted down my to-do list for the day (weekend), and then sat and read my devotion. Like so many times, God had something to share with me through my morning's quiet time.

The devotion's author asked the reader to contemplate the pace of Jesus' life. Look at all he accomplished in his thirty-three years on this earth; to put it in perspective, look at all he accomplished during his three year ministry. Now that was a to-do list.

He turned water into wine, called the twelve, healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, raised people from the dead, drove out demons, preached, died, and rose again. And all of that wasn't in the same community (Nazareth, Cana, Caesarea Philippi, Bethan, Capernaum, Jerusalem), so he walked everywhere.

Despite this mammoth, eternity-changing to-do list, he spent time in prayer. All. the. Time. It was a priority for Him. "But now even more the report about him went abroad, and great crowds gathered to hear him and to be healed of their infirmities. But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray" (Luke 5:15-16).

I've always been so proud of my to-do lists. I make a paper copy, then transfer it to a sticky note for my computer screen, and then I duplicate it for my phone. If it goes on the list, it gets done. I don't throw that list away until everything is crossed off. (I've even been known to put things on my list that I've already completed, just for the joy of crossing it off.)

But this morning, God put on my heart, "What if your list looked differently Brenda? What if your list was more about Me and less about you?"

What if my list had only one task - prayer? Or meditate on his goodness? Or share the impact of Jesus with one other person today? One task - one focus.

Think of all Jesus accomplished in his three year ministry, the impact He had on the world in such a short time. I've lived over 60 years and although I'm not trying to heal the sick or turn water into wine, my tasks should be the same - know and do the Father's will.

Now that's a task worth accomplishing.



**VBS Dates and Times:**  
**Sunday, June 1 from 4-8pm**  
**Mon-Wed, June 2-4 from 5:30-8:30**

## 2025 Annual Men & Boys FRC Fishing Trip



**When:** July 10-13

**Where:** Hidden Hill Lodge, Roslyn, SD  
([HiddenHillLodge.com](http://HiddenHillLodge.com))



**Who:** Invite your grandkids, friends or any want-to-be fisherman for this fun filled weekend of fishing and discovering God's Creation. Sign-up at the Information Center if interested! Contact Dan Heilman, Dave McDyer or Chris Wynia with questions.

## Cookout and Hymn Sing

**When:** June 8 at 5:00 pm

**Where:** Parsonage Backyard

**What:** A fun time of food, fellowship and hymn singing

\*\*\*\*\*

Meat and beverages will be provided! The congregation is asked to help out by providing the rest:

Last Names A-H - Sides  
(salads, chips, beans etc)

I-Z - Desserts!

