

Shepherd's Staff

May 2016

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.

Spring

Many of us look forward to the coming of Spring. We love to see the return of the flowers, both on the trees and the early blossoms like the tulips and daffodils as they announce the growing season has begun. It is also a busy time with the preparations for planting the farm fields as well as the gardens in the hopes that a harvest will follow (wishfully without weeds). The warming temperatures are also a welcome after the cold of winter as the days lengthen and the sun moves more over head with all its warming beauty. No wonder so many claim that Spring is their favorite time of the year.

Still as with any good thing, there always seems to be trouble lurking just around the corner. If you are an allergy sufferer, you know what I mean. With the beauty of Spring comes the pollens that cause our sinuses to go crazy, our throats to gunk up, and our eyes to water. For many of us the season change means antihistamines to be able to function without all the seasonal discomforts. Still the beauty of Spring outweighs the discomforts of Spring time allergies.

Life is also like the symptoms of Spring. We enjoy life with all the beauties it has to offer, thanking God for the richness we receive. The blessings of life are so numerous that we often take many of them for granted. Still we grumble about the allergies of life, the minor discomforts that come our way. We wonder how is it that allergies can cloud our vision and our enjoyment of the beauty of the flowers when they are so perfectly praising their Creator.

In life we become aware of the "allergies" that are disturbing to God. Let's face it, sin can be very much like the pollen that causes both the flowers to reproduce and to give us the symptoms we wish we could avoid. God has given us the freedom to choose our own path in life. What God has given is the ample opportunity to be living witnesses of praise for His glory but also to be the detrimental pollen that causes others to be repulsed because of how we act in life. Living as the children of God should have us walking in humility and with the grace through which we came to be saved. While God chose us we needed Him more than we could have imagined.

When we present the life changing power of God through the Gospel, the Good News, do we bring the life-giving grace so desperately needed or do we, like the pollen that irritates, get in the way of the beauty of God's love? Life is what God brings through His holy Word. Still many view this invitation as the will of an angry God. How can we live lives of praise to God's praise so that others will come to know Jesus as our brother? Perhaps we must take the time to realize that God loved us in spite of who we were and continues to love us even though we never deserved it. It takes humility to stand in the power of grace just as it takes a humble attitude to enjoy the beauty of Spring with all the blessings when allergies make us sneeze and cough.

Allergies are no fun for those who suffer from the symptoms. Still the promise of new life brings hope that summer will soon be here. Sin, on the other hand, can be much more potent, hiding the truth from those who need the glory of God's grace when we become the irritant standing in the way of hope for others. Let's work on being the blessing God wants us to be.

Pastor Rus

Thank you!

The 125th anniversary committee wishes to sincerely thank every one of you for making the week-long celebration a time to remember!!

There is a long list of people who helped create a week of memories from our past while looking forward to what the future holds for the Parkersburg CRC. That list includes those of you who helped with getting the directory completed, those who helped with getting and putting up the decorations, and those who worked serving the salad lunches, Wednesday's brownie night and the Sunday evening coffees. It also includes those who helped set up the fellowship hall, those who provided music or took part in any of the services, those who provided technical support, those who did the bulletins, and those who housed and entertained our guests. It also includes those who invited their families to come and share some time with the rest of us, and finally, those who were so generous financially that there was **more** than enough to cover the expenses.

It was so gratifying to hear all the conversations and to see all the smiles on everyone's faces each time we were together.

The committee had a great time getting everything ready for the celebration. We admit there were times that we did not get all of our "i's dotted and t's crossed" as much as we liked but there were also times that we could not have anticipated, like the Draisma brothers, that added so much to the festivities! We are pleased with the attendance at every service.

To the Lord, who is our light and salvation, be the praise, glory and thanksgiving forever and ever for the great things He has done!!

National Day of Prayer is May 5th

The theme this year is "Wake Up America" and is based on Isaiah 58:1, "Shout it aloud. Do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet". "The National Day of Prayer has a rich history dating from the first declaration of prayer and fasting by George Washington and also Abraham Lincoln's call for prayer during the Civil War. In 1988 President Reagan signed the current law marking the first Thursday in May as "National Day of Prayer". Also in 1958 and 1969 the "Acts of Synod" urged all Christian Reformed Churches to observe a yearly day of prayer.

P= Praise

R= Repent

A= Ask

Y= Yield



May Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

5/3	Steve Kramer
5/4	Dale Meester
5/5	Bernice Freemon
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	Dave Mulder

Happy Anniversary

5/14	Steve & Charlene Kramer
5/16	Delbert & Sharon Cordes
5/23	Lloyd & Frances VanEllen
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. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.



CRC Service Schedule

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
5/1	Marlyn & Marcia (N) Rollyn & Kathy (S)	Delbert Cordes	John & Jodi
5/8	Gene & Janet (N) Ken & Janet (S)	Ken Meester	Ken & Jan
5/15	Pat & Deb (N) Bernie & Herm (S)	Ken Johnson	Mike & Kayla
5/22	Don & Annie (S) Henry & Kathy (S)	Ken Kramer	Graduation – Sunshine Cirlce
5/29	Mark & Lanae (N) Irv & Amy (S)	Ken Mehmen	Gene & Janet

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

So Blessed by You, Mom

A mother who always cares,
A mother who's always there.
A mother who always prays,
A mother who always stays.
When things get rough,
When life gets tough,
When all is just too much to bear,
God's Word she shares.
God's light she shines.
So blessed God made this mother mine.

Author Unknown

BRING THE BOUQUET

TO MOM

