

# Shepherd's Staff

November 2012

*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.*

## Random Thoughts

As I am sitting at my desk, we are rapidly approaching the day we remember the heroic efforts of the Reformation. We limit ourselves to one specific day to recall the world changing events that shaped many lives and perhaps the world. Many in those days lived in fear yet with an undying hope in the resurrection. Many did surrender their lives rather than surrender to the schemes of the sinfulness of the age.

Today we live our lives in relative comfort and security as we have "laws" that protect us from oppression, at least in this country. Still we learn of fellow Christians who face the very real threat of death for believing in Jesus as Lord and Savior! We have in many ways grown comfortable living in society in part because we have shaped our belief system to fit the modern world's framework. While this is good for our physical well being, we should ask ourselves one simple question: "How well is our spiritual life doing today?"

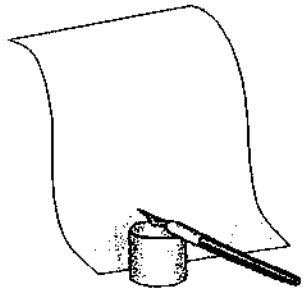
Many of us are not challenged to stand up for what we believe. But what would our walk look like if we lived in a country where the simple act of owning a Bible could be reason for being locked in prison? If we would be observed in prayer, would we pray anyway if it meant severe penalty could come from it? These are tough questions to contemplate while we live in our comfortable homes with safeguards in place insuring our "right" to religion. What is scary though is that while we may have not been looking our religious rights have been in decline! In many of our schools in this country founded on religious freedom we deny our children the privilege of prayer! We have removed God's Law from our judicial system, even throwing out judges that refuse to remove the Ten Commandments from the courthouse. God's will for holy living has been made into a mockery through judgments from our court system. How many more times will we turn away without considering the consequences?

We may not be facing execution for declaring our faith but in many places in our world this is already happening. Can we live with our heads buried in the sand or is there something we should be doing? While our nation is currently in the heat of the political season, we as Christians must stand up for those who will hold to the truths of God. How we vote should be one area that defines who we are. While I am not endorsing any candidate, is this even a factor in whom we choose? I know we all become weary of the political process but failing to take a stand should not be our option. The Reformation was a difficult time in human history so let's do what we can to prevent a second time from being needed.

Stand strong in your faith! Let nothing keep you from following the will of God and know that no matter what may happen to the body, our faith can stand secure. The time to take action may very well be here and now. Are we ready, as the reformers were, to risk shame and even injury or worse to maintain the integrity of what we believe? If not us what will we be leaving to our children and grand children? We must resolve to leave them a world where God is still known and where we can worship without compromise. We can if we are willing to stand and be counted for the cause many have already died for. Together we, with Christ as our head, make a difference in this world.

Pastor Rus

## Missionary Letter Writing Schedule

	<b>Larry &amp; Ann Vanderaa</b> C/O CRWM 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49560	<b>Michael &amp; Victoria VanDerDyke</b> C/O CRWM 2850 Kalamazoo Ave SE Grand Rapids, MI 49560	
<b>Week of:</b>			
11/4	Al & Sharon DeVries	Cory Shepard Family	
11/11	Amy Swanson-Haan Family	Brenda Brown Family	
11/18	Lloyd Van Ellen Family	Gene Venenga Family	
11/25	Don Allspach Family	Doris & Naomi Allspach	

**When writing to Missionaries, do not ask about their work (do that when they come here) or mention missionary because it could put their lives in danger. Tell them about yourself, your family, our town and that you (we) are praying for them, etc.**

### We Gather Together

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
 He chastens and hastens his will to make known;  
 The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
 Sing praises to his name: He forgets not his own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
 Ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;  
 So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
 Thou, Lord, wast at our side, All glory be thine!*

*We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,  
 And pray that thou still our defender wilt be.  
 Let thy congregation escape tribulation;  
 Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!  
 Amen*

*--Traditional Thanksgiving Hymn*

As we gather together to give thanks, please also remember to give thanks for the veterans in our lives—past and present...



Some Veteran's Day Quotes:

"When our perils are past, shall our gratitude sleep?" - George Canning

"Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die." - G.K. Chesterton

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." - Elmer Davis

"But the freedom that they fought for, and the country grand they wrought for, is their monument to-day, and for aye." - Thomas Dunn English

"Lord, bid war's trumpet cease; Fold the whole earth in peace." - Oliver Wendell Holmes

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." - John Fitzgerald Kennedy

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude." - Cynthia Ozick



## November Birthdays/Anniversaries



### Happy Birthday

11/3 Erma Aswegan  
 11/3 Lois Mennen  
 11/3 Dennis Schipper  
 11/6 JoLynne Husz  
 11/8 Rus Boersma  
 11/13 Jean Trey  
 11/14 Wendy Mulder  
 11/14 Brooke Merrill  
 11/14 Diana Mulder  
 11/17 Annie Allspach  
 11/19 Leah Stam  
 11/19 John Husz  
 11/22 Kayla Stirling  
 11/25 Nancy Mehmen  
 11/26 Matt Meether  
 11/28 Ryan Siems

### Happy Anniversary

11/6 Kevin & Shelly Meester  
 11/10 Dennis & Lois Mennen



**Reminder:** If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Mulder by the 20<sup>th</sup> 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>
11/4	Henry & Kathy (N) Mark & Lanae (S)	Ken Johnson	Marlyn & Marcia
11/11	Delbert & Sharon (N) Pastor Rus & Mary (S)	Ken Kramer	Ken & Jan
11/18	John & Karen (N) Jean Trey (S)	Mark Kramer	Gene & Janet
11/25	Ken & Rhonda (N) Cory & Kamie (S)	Clarence Karsjens	Mike & Kayla

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

# Thanksgiving Word Search

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

cook  
corn  
dinner  
fall  
family  
feast  
food  
gravy  
harvest

maize  
pilgrims  
pumpkin  
relatives  
settlers  
squash  
stuffing  
thanks  
turkey

