

Shepherd's Staff

November 2014

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.

Two Words

Mary and I recently returned from a week long stay at a retreat in Colorado. While there we were treated to a time of rest and reflection. This time was spent being served wonderful meals and time to simply unwind from the business of ministry. At the wrap up of the week the leaders asked what we took away from the time at the retreat. I was able to give my thoughts with two words, "Selah and shalom."

The first word, as you may know is found in Psalms and used as a musical direction, meaning "pause" and consider what came before. In ministry this is something that should be done from time to time to simply take time to look back to see where God has shown up. Seeing where God brought grace when it was unexpected or removed challenges is important for seeing his faithfulness in all things. Pausing to remember helps to link the pieces together.

Many of us are also familiar with shalom. We know it means peace in a powerful way. This shalom is even more amazing when we seek it in the light of pausing to reflect on God's faithfulness. Knowing the past gives us reason to trust that we can trust God with our future with confidence. This is the power of shalom, God's peace through grace.

These two words describe the week we had. A time to clear the mind and seek the quiet solitude where trust is strengthened and energy renewed. This time is important for pastors from time to time, even without spending a week at a retreat. How about all Christians?

When was the last time you paused from the business of life for even an hour or so to reflect on how God has blessed you in your walk with him? Looking back is a wonderful way to see the blessings we often are too busy to see. When we have the clarity of vision to see because of the unmistakable presence of God in our lives can we have the light of undarkened hope for the future.

We all desire shalom. The most complete peace comes when we have our faith strengthened through our memories of grace in the past. The goodness of God never changing is the promise he makes us, so what are we waiting for? Make time this day or at least this week to pause and then find peace. The selah and shalom of being in God's care.

Pastor Rus

They Did Their Share

On Veteran's Day we honor
Soldiers who protect our nation.
For their service as our warriors,
They deserve our admiration.

Some of them were drafted;
Some were volunteers;
For some it was just yesterday;
For some it's been many years;

In the jungle or the desert,
On land or on the sea,
They did whatever was assigned
To produce a victory.

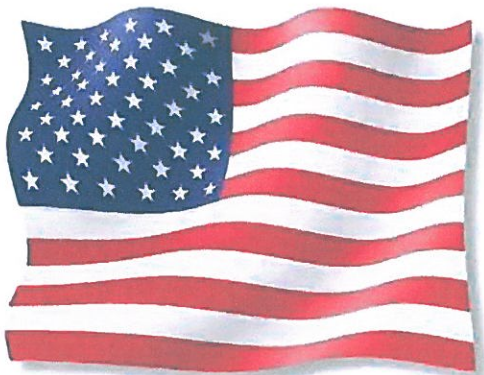
Some came back; some didn't.
They defended us everywhere.
Some saw combat; some rode a desk;
All of them did their share.

No matter what the duty,
For low pay and little glory,
These soldiers gave up normal lives,
For duties mundane and gory.

Let every veteran be honored;
Don't let politics get in the way.
Without them, freedom would have died;
What they did, we can't repay.

We owe so much to them,
Who kept us safe from terror,
So when we see a uniform,
Let's say "thank you" to every wearer.

By Joanna Fuchs



Did you know? WORLD KINDNESS DAY: Thursday, Nov. 13th is World Kindness Day. Make someone happy with a smile or some other form of kindness.



FOOD PANTRY NEWS: Milk in one of the items that is rarely donated. The Great American Milk Drive campaign makes it easy. Just go to <http://milklife.com/give>. Donations go to the local food bank based on your zip code and are distributed in the form of "milk coupons."



Congratulations to our High School Students. WOW---They have been busy this fall in **addition** to their studies, other activities, and part time jobs!!

Laura Edeker - National Honor Society, Student Government President, Homecoming Queen, Falcon Cheerleader, Drill team, Fall Musical

Nolan Prier - National Honor Society, Homecoming Court, Falcon Football

Rebecca Mulder - National Honor Society, Flag team, All State Music, Fall musical

Andrew Haan - Falcon Football, Academic Decathlon, Band & Jazz Band, All State Music





November Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

11/3 Erma Aswegan
 11/3 Lois Mennen
 11/3 Dennis Schipper
 11/4 Brandy Reints
 11/6 JoLynne Husz
 11/8 Rus Boersma
 11/13 Jean Trey
 11/14 Diana Mulder
 11/14 Brooke Merrill
 11/14 Wendy Mulder
 11/17 Annie Allspach
 11/19 John Husz
 11/20 Noah Merrill
 11/22 Kayla Stirling
 11/25 Nancy Mehmen

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 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>
11/2	Cory & Kamie (N) Ken & Rhonda (S)	Mark Kramer	Ken & Jan
11/9	Kevin & Shelly (N) Sylvia & AnnaMae (S)	Gaylen Mulder	Gene & Janet
11/16	Larry & Mary (N) John & Karen (S)	Ken Johnson	Mike & Kayla
11/23	Ryan & Stacy (N) Steve & Charlene (S)	Gerald Haan	Steve & Charlene
11/30	Ken & Nancy (N) Clarence & June (S)	Delbert Cordes	Dennis & Sharon

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

Thanksgiving Word Search

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

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

Word Bank

AUTUMN	FEAST	GOD	LEFTOVERS	PRAISE	TRADITION
BAKE	FELLOWSHIP	GRATITUDE	LOVE	PRAYERS	TURKEY
BLESSINGS	FRIENDS	GRAVY	NAP	PUMPKIN	WORSHIP
CHRIST	GATHERING	HARVEST	NOVEMBER	SHARING	YUM
CHRISTIAN	GIVING	JESUS	PARADE	TABLE	
CHURCH	GOBBLE	LAUGHTER	PIE	THURSDAY	