

# Shepherd's Staff

November 2020

*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.*



## Just Leaves



When the fall weather started to come our way I had a question come to mind regarding the trees in our yard. Perhaps it is simply that I dread the thought of having to rake up all the leaves that will fall, but I think it is more. After all we do live in a state where the wind seems to be a normal part of our lives. This wind helps me with the leaf population in my yard by blowing them into the corn field around my house. But the question that came to mind was, "Does God know about each leaf that falls from the trees?" This may seem like a silly question but it does have some consequence to how we see ourselves in the light of God's love.

The Bible tells us that God cares for every sparrow that flies in the sky and that if he cares for the sparrow we can be sure he cares for us even more. If this is true for sparrows, does God care for the plants and trees as well? While some may think that caring for creation is overdoing the care aspect of God, it should give us comfort to the extent that God is willing to go through to care for us.

Jesus tells us that not a hair can fall from our head without the will of our Father in heaven. As one where a few of my hairs have fallen away, it is reassuring to know that God cares for me so deeply. This can be comforting in the times we find ourselves in right now. We live every day in the shadow of the pandemic that is spreading both fear and impatience across our land. We live in the upheaval of the political unrest that is plaguing our land in this election year with both sides claiming doom if their opponent wins in November. Add to this the uncertainty of the weather events that have been devastating many parts of our country and we can find it easy to be discouraged.

This is where the idea of the leaves comes to play. If God cares about the creation he has made, then it should stand to reason that he cares more about the crown of creation, humanity, even more. I know that God is aware of the falling leaves in general, at least, because he does care for the creation. If each leaf is special, I can only speculate. But with the intensity for detail God puts into every snowflake which is not alive I can think that each living plant has God's attention. If God cares for the leaves that emerge in the spring and die in the fall how much more will he continue to care for us?

With all that is happening now, we have peace that nothing will come our way without God at least knowing about it. We can also rest in the grace that is ours knowing that when trials come God is never far away. We do not see the entire picture, but God who holds our tomorrows as well as our yesterdays will walk with us no matter what life throws at us. We can always be confident that God is bigger than all our troubles and is able to take us through or to take us home in any trial that comes our way.

Pastor Rus

Dear Congregation:

During our last congregational meeting, I raised an issue with you that is quite important to me. I asked you to think about the issue, pray about it, and (hopefully) be willing to discuss it before our December congregational meeting where we plan to accept or reject a proposed budget. The issue deals with the role of women in the office of elder and deacon in our Parkersburg Christian Reformed Church. This topic is not new and has been argued within the church for several decades. This issue became more "real" to me as the council considered the recent nominations for the positions of elder and deacon. I discovered that, on occasion, a woman's name was submitted by the congregation for these positions and I wondered if the congregation had ever been given an opportunity to voice their support or opposition to this idea of women in church office.

I learned that Classis Northcentral Iowa had decided that women were not to hold the office of pastor in the churches of Classis. It is my understanding that each church was given the opportunity to decide whether women could be considered for the leadership roles of elder and deacon. Has our church ever been asked how we should deal with this issue or were we going to deal with this issue when we had to?

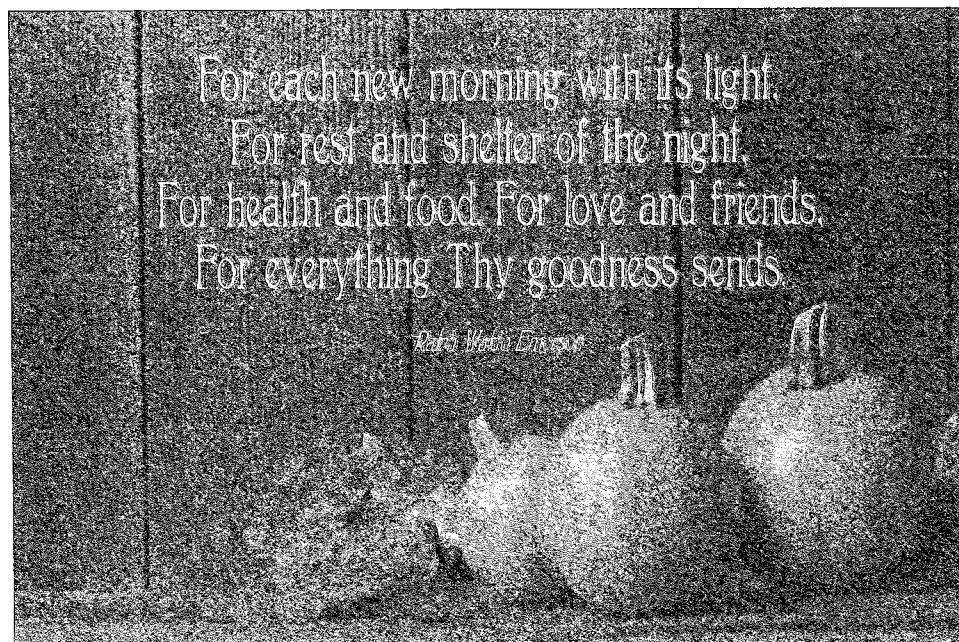
As you are aware, we live in an environment of "cultural fairness" where everyone must be treated equal and have an opportunity to hold all offices in society. Does this attitude apply to women holding the office of elder or deacon in our church? We describe ourselves as believing that the Bible is "the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God"—what does Scripture say about women serving in the office of elder and deacon?

In our church, women already play an important and vital role, such as planning and leading Sunday School, Life Plus and Women's Bible Study. Everyone will agree that these positions are important and that the leaders perform a wonderful service in the church. I would like to invite discussion of this issue before our next congregational meeting where I hope to have a single ballot which will give you the opportunity to share your views: Should women be considered for the office of elder? Should women be considered for the office of deacon?

You are encouraged to share your ideas in the Church Newsletter, in letters to the Council, or in notes shared with me. I intend to share my ideas on this issue before the December congregational meeting. Remember, the final decision rests with the Council, but your input is valued and important.

Thank you.

Darrell Druvenga



November 3rd

MY FAITH  
VOTES

MyFaithVotes.org

2020

My vote keeps faith at the heart of  
a free America.

Your vote is the first line of  
defense for biblical values. Together,  
let's make sure we VOTE to elect  
Godly leaders who protect our  
constitutional freedoms.

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

MyFaithVotes.org



# November Birthdays/Anniversaries



## Happy Birthday

- 11/3 Lois Mennen
- 11/3 Dennis Schipper
- 11/4 Brandy Reints
- 11/6 JoLynne Husz
- 11/8 Rus Boersma
- 11/14 Wendy Armstrong
- 11/17 Annie Allspach
- 11/19 John Husz
- 11/22 Kayla Stirling
- 11/25 Nancy Mehmen
- 11/29 Diane Roberts

## 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 Armstrong by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.



## Thanksgiving Word Scramble

ntnkavshgiig \_\_\_\_\_

utraiedtg \_\_\_\_\_

sevhtra \_\_\_\_\_

lssesgbni \_\_\_\_\_

orcoucniap \_\_\_\_\_

ndiinsa \_\_\_\_\_

rlipsimg \_\_\_\_\_

oembenrv \_\_\_\_\_

pkpmnui \_\_\_\_\_

snftgfui \_\_\_\_\_

hftnkual \_\_\_\_\_

tratdiino \_\_\_\_\_

rkteuy \_\_\_\_\_

fstea \_\_\_\_\_

ahgetr \_\_\_\_\_

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