

Shepherd's Staff

April 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.

Windshield or Rear View Mirror

While in school, a classmate described history as looking in the rear-view mirror. As we celebrate the anniversary of our church this month, we too are experiencing the wonder of God's grace on our church family through the years we have been given to be the shining light to our community. This is indeed a wonderful opportunity we have. We are able to see the results of our faithfulness to God's will in our history in the way lives have been changed and how troubles have been weathered. We are able to see the steadfast outlook in spite of what "life" has thrown our way. Still, we must not get so caught up in looking backwards that we lose sight of where we are going.

If we consider the size variation of the two, the windshield and the mirror, we see a model for our lives. The vastness of the windshield, which even holds the mirror, should be our focus. We are the living church! As a people filled with the life given us through the power of resurrection, we must not focus solely on where we have been but on where we are going. We should be asking ourselves why God has placed us here and look for what He has in store for us as we move on in faith.

God has not lost the world even though as I write this, the morning headlines speak about another terrorist attack that has left many dead and many more wounded. We live in a world in which hatred and violence still try to defeat the love we are supposed to have as children of God. It is no wonder that we prefer looking in the rear view mirror than through the windshield. Still the world needs the followers of Christ to march into the darkness, bringing the light which is in us through Christ. If we do not see the importance of being light it may be because we stopped looking!

We are at a pivotal point in history, it seems. Many are claiming this is the time when Christ must be returning because of the darkness that covers so much of the world. Still there are many places where the light is shining brightly. We hear of many coming to Christ around the world through the work of Christians just like us. The work of bringing the lost to faith is not complete until ALL are safe in the Savior's fold. We cannot do this day's work if we are so pre-occupied with yesterday.

Still we are called to remember the blessings of the past. This is the tension we experience with life today. The promises of God are still real and we clearly can see them when we study what God has given in His Holy Word. We are to look forward while being reminded of the past or the temptations of yesterday may come back to life. The examples of faith lived out in troubling times, persecution, famine, wars and rumors of wars that were endured by the previous generation will not end until Christ returns. Seeing the grace to get us through from examples in scripture and in our history will strengthen us.

Only a windshield will leave us vulnerable to the lessons of the past. Only looking into the mirror will leave us weak for the evidence of what God is doing today. Being open to God's leading takes the balance of walking forward in faith with an eye on the blessings of the past. This is the peace that our risen Savior has given us. Hope for the future based on the promise of the past.

Pastor Rus

It's Friday, But Sunday's Comin'

It's Friday. Jesus is praying. Peter is asleep. Judas is betraying. But Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. Pilate is struggling. The council is conspiring. The crowd is vilifying. They don't even know that Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. The disciples are running like sheep without a shepherd. Mary's crying. Peter is denying. But they don't know that Sunday's a comin'.

It's Friday. The Romans beat my Jesus. They robe Him in scarlet. They crown Him with thorns. But they don't know that Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. See Jesus walking to Calvary. His blood dripping. His body stumbling. And His spirit's burdened. But you see, it's only Friday. Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. The world is winning. People are sinning and evil is grinning.

It's Friday. The solders nail my Savior's hands to the cross. They nail my Savior's feet to the cross. And then they raise Him up next to criminals.

It's Friday. But let me tell you something: Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. The disciples are questioning: What has happened to their King? And the Pharisees are celebrating that their scheming has been achieved. But they don't know it's only Friday. Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. He's hanging on the cross. Feeling forsaken by His Father. Left alone and dying. Can nobody save Him? Oh, it's Friday. But Sunday's comin'.

It's Friday. The earth trembles. The sky grows dark. My King yields His spirit.

It's Friday. Hope is lost. Death has won. Sin has conquered. And Satan's just a laughing.

It's Friday. Jesus is buried. A soldier stands guard, and a rock is rolled into place.

But It's Friday. It is only Friday. Sunday is a comin'.

~~Attributed to S.M. Lockridge (1913-2000).
Longtime Pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego. *Decision* (April 2015)

Funny Church Sign Sayings

- *Prayer—Wireless access to God with no roaming fee
- *Why page for GPS? Jesus gives directions for free.
- *People use duct tape to fix everything...God used nails.
- *Honk if you love Jesus. Text while driving if you want to meet him.
- *God's will is perfect. People make mistakes.
- *Gardening for God brings peas of mind.
- *Need a lifeguard? Ours walks on water.
- *Don't make me come down there. ~God
- *Tomorrow's forecast: God reigns and the Son shines!
- *What on earth are you doing for Heavens sake!
- *If the devil is knocking at your front door, let Jesus answer it!
- *When you throw mud at someone, you're the one losing ground!
- *The 10 Commandments are not multiple choice!
- *ATM inside: Atonement, Truth, Mercy
- *Adam blamed Eve. Then Eve blamed the snake. Then the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.



April Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

4/4 Kevin Meester
 4/5 Shelly Meester
 4/8 Marjorie Siebenga
 4/8 Mary Johnson
 4/10 Michael Allspach
 4/22 Paul Bruns
 4/22 Ida Folken
 4/23 Betty Pott

4/8 Arnie & Kay Swanson
 4/30 Rollyn & Kathy DeGroot



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>
4/3	Steve & Charlene (N) John & Jody (S)	Ken Mehmen	Ken & Rhonda
4/10	Mike & Kayla (N) Ken & Nancy (S)	Dale Meester	Mike & Stacy
4/17	Clarence & June (N) Paul & Darlene (S)	Gerald Haan	Dale & Angie
4/24	Arnie & Kay (N) Dennis & Sharon (S)	Mark Kramer	Marlyn & Marcia

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

Spring Flower Word Search

Can you find all the names of the Springtime flowers?

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

ANEMONE
BLOSSOMS
CALLALILY
CAMELLIA
CROCUS
DAFFODIL
DAHLIA
FORSYTHIA
HYACINTH
LILAC
LILY
MAGNOLIA
MAYFLOWER
NARCISSUS
PEONY
PHLOX
SCILLA
SNOWDROPS
TRILLIUM
TULIP
VIOLETS

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