

Shepherd's Staff

August 2024

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. ~ Church School 10:45 a.m

It's Fair Time!

We are well into the summer of 2024 which has kept many of us busy with various activities – sports, swimming lessons, vacations, driver's education, summer jobs, baling hay, lawn mowing, Bible School, picnics, family reunions, and county fairs to name a few.

I've had the opportunity the past few weeks to visit a couple county fairs which I hadn't done in a while. I visited the exhibitors' and vendors' halls, viewed the machinery, listened to the laughter coming from the rides, smelled all the different fair foods, but my favorite part of any fair is still the animals.



I watched sheep and goats line up for their turn in the show ring, many very certain they were in no way going into that ring OR back to their pen in the livestock barn. I had to chuckle at one young man whose goat balked, sat, got down on its front knees, and finally laid down in defiance. As a last resort, the young man finally had to pick up his goat and carry him back to the barn.

It made me think of how we often act when God asks us to do something. It would be so easy for us if we would just let Him lead us, but we balk, sit down, and often refuse to do the simple tasks God asks of us. Sometimes we are goats, not a GOAT – Greatest Of All Time, but stubborn ol' creatures.

When I walked through the barns of cattle, swine, and other animals such as birds, chickens and rabbits, it again amazed me how many breeds of each animal type God has created, and how no two animals are ever made exactly alike. The county fair livestock buildings contain but a tiny sampling of God's magnificent wisdom and ability to fashion and form pets, domestic and wild animals, birds, and creatures of the water.

The second fair I attended with my sister and her kids. Her 9-year old daughter and I visited the horse barn, our favorite! Except for the few stalls that had notices posted to not pet its occupant, we stopped and rubbed the soft noses, pet the faces, and scratched the neck of every horse, pony, and donkey.

As we were petting one small donkey, I asked my niece if she had noticed what was on its back. "Fur?" was her first answer. I said, "Yes, but look again at the dark brown fur in the tan fur. What is that?" She studied the donkey again and realized what she was looking at. "A cross!"



"Yes!" I replied. Then I told her to think about what had carried Mary to Bethlehem before Jesus was born. "A donkey." And what had Jesus ridden into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday? "A donkey!"



So we talked about how even so many years later, we can still see a cross on a donkey's back to keep reminding us of Jesus and how he made his humble entrances into Bethlehem and later into Jerusalem. We decided it was pretty special that God gave donkeys this symbol and how it made them so unique!

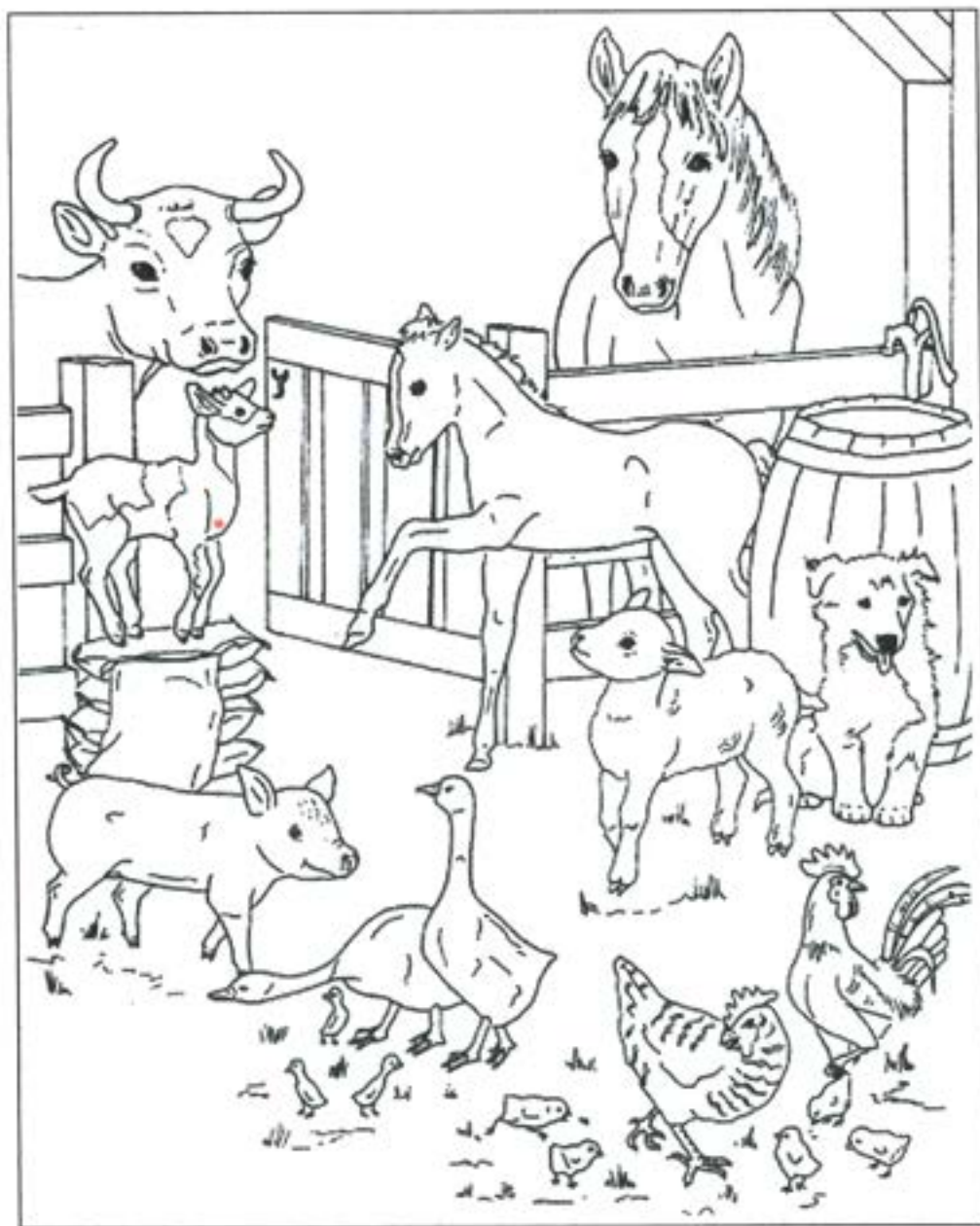
I hope that in all the busyness of summer, you will take some time to see and learn from the places you go and activities in which you participate.

Remember! God is still in everything, whether it be a ballgame, a family reunion, or even a county fair!

Angie Meester



COUNTY
FAIR





- 8/11 Kathy Heeren
- 8/12 Donald Allspach
- 8/18 Charlene Kramer
- 8/24 Pearl Reints
- 8/24 Lanae Kramer
- 8/24 Lilly Stirling
- 8/26 Karen Oltman
- 8/30 Mike Pott
- 8/31 Stacy Edeker



Let's Celebrate Our Friends!



- 8/6 Joel & Brandy Reints
- 8/6 Ryan & Stacy Edeker
- 8/6 Ken & Diane Roberts
- 8/23 Paul & Darlene Bruns
- 8/27 Ken & Nancy Mehmen



Reminder: If you have anything you'd like included in the Shepherd's Staff, please try to have it to Wendy Armstrong by the 20th of the month. The goal is to have the newsletter in your mailboxes on the last Sunday of the month.



WHY COULDN'T THE PONY SING A LULLABY?
She was a little horse.

ANSWER
ART
BINDER
BIOLOGY
BLACKBOARD
BOOKS
CAFETERIA
CALCULATOR
CHAIRS
CLASS
CLOCK
COMPOSE
COMPUTER
DESK
DICTIONARY
EDUCATION
ERASER
FOCUS
FOLDER
FRIENDS
GLOBE
GLUE
GYMNASIUM
HISTORY
LEARN
LESSON
LIBRARY
LISTEN
LUNCH
MAP
MATH
MUSIC
NOTEBOOK
PAPER
PENCIL
POSTERS
PROJECT
PUPIL
QUESTION
READ
RECESS
RESPECT
SCHEDULE
SCHOOL BUS

HUGE

BACK TO SCHOOL WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY. Find and circle each word.

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

SCIENCE
STUDENT
SUBJECT
TAPE
TEACHER
TEST
TUTOR
WRITE

