

Shepherd's Staff

January 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.

Is It Time Yet

It was a long wait for the kids this Christmas. The presents were under the tree for such a long time without being able to open them. 'Is it time yet' was the thought on their minds, but they knew they had to wait until Christmas. We don't like waiting for much of anything these days so it should not surprise us that children have learned that trait. But waiting is part of life so we must learn to deal with the problem. After all, Christmas did come! So what else must we wait for that seems to be taking so long? It may just be me, but I think we have lost the urgency of waiting for the return of Christ.

In biblical times the early church was looking for the return in the first century after Christ ascended to return in their lifetime. It was with great expectation that many lived as if the world would come to a sudden end and eternity would begin. Some even worried that those who died would miss out on the miraculous event. This is what Paul needed to address in the church of the Thessalonians.

It seems that the early church was not the only group of people looking eagerly for Christ to return. The prophecies about the end and the state of world have had many think throughout history that the time was near. Some self-proclaimed experts have set time and date for the end of time but time keeps on moving on.

So what are we thinking today of the coming of Christ? I think that is part of the trouble, we are not thinking about the return. This, it seems, has changed the way we live. We are more focused on the here and now than on the great Day of Judgment. We live as if tomorrows will never stop coming which alters our thinking process. There was a time when any long range plans would include the phrase "if the Lord tarries." Now we seem to be caught up in retirement planning, long range goals, and other long term agendas. While we must plan for a future we must not forget that God has the time set for the return of the Savior.

The question then comes, should we step back in time to where we were more concerned with the second coming or are we safe, since it has been so long? Watching the decay of morality in the world today along with the technological advances that allows us to see events happening around the world in nearly real time, could it be that we are close to the end of time as we know it? After all we watched the event of 9/11 happen before our eyes as the towers fell. We see the horrors of war from the safety of our living rooms in live reports. Has the world advanced to the point that the time is ripe?

If the end is near we need not be worried though. When we believe in the Savior and eagerly look for his return we will be swept into glory and all pain and suffering will end. But are we ready? Having our lives in order may not have been first on our lists of things to do. Putting God first is the place to start. When we have this done, the rest of life will find the proper order. Maybe this year we would do well to challenge ourselves to order our lives so that we are fit for the coming of Christ. Then we will not be surprised if it actually is the time for his return.

Pastor Rus

The Trinity SNOWMAN

When you see a snowman
Three snowballs round,
He is reminding you
That in God, Three in One are found.

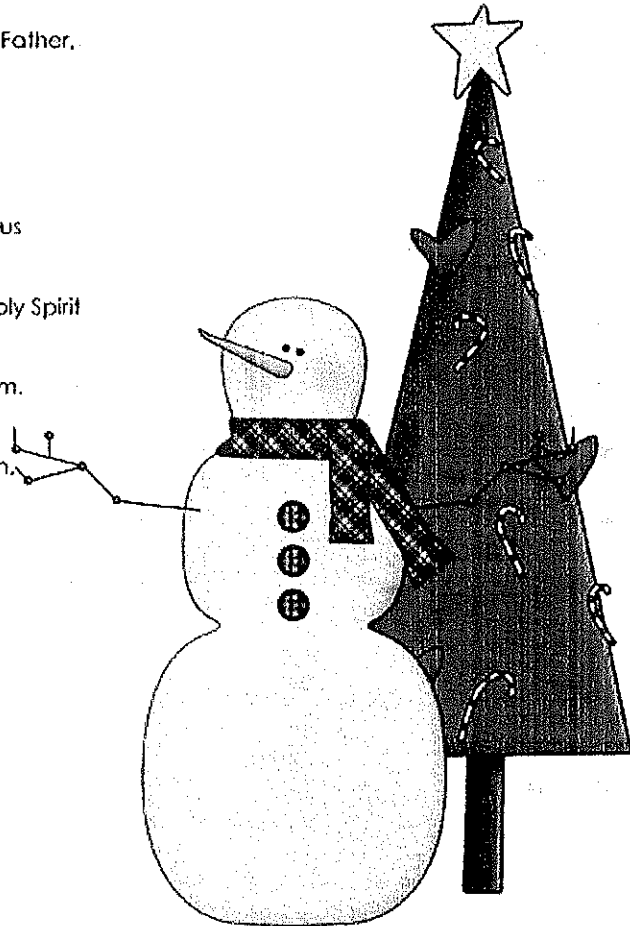
The bottom reminds us of God the Father,
Our strong rock and foundation,
The Creator of all living things,
People, tribes and nations.

The middle shows us God the Son
With His arms spread open wide,
Who died on the cross for each of us
Our sins Jesus' blood did hide.

The head reminds us of God the Holy Spirit
Who is our counselor and friend,
He speaks to our hearts and minds
Transforming us in the likeness of Him.

So when you see a snowman
In the midst of all the wintertime fun,
Listen carefully and he'll tell you,
"Remember God is Three in One"

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January Birthdays/Anniversaries

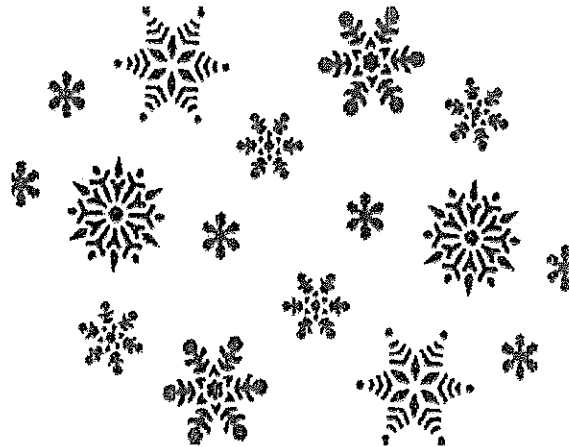


Happy Birthday

1/2 Mel Riebkes
 1/6 Lila Reints
 1/11 Dennis Mennen
 1/16 Gerald Haan
 1/17 Lauren Husz
 1/18 Hermina Everts
 1/24 Arnie Swanson
 1/28 Mary Boersma
 1/30 Harold Coplen

Happy Anniversary

1/13 Larry & Mary Johnson



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.

	Greeters	Ushers	Sunday School Teachers[†]	Coffee*
1/5	Pastor Rus & Mary - S Delbert & Sharon - N	Gerald	Ryan & Stacy	Kevin & Shelly
1/12	Ryan & Stacy - S Mark & Lanae - N	Ken Meester	Shelly & Kayla	Mike & Stacy
1/19	Irv & Amy - S Paul & Darlene - N	Ken Mehmen	Stacy	Clarence & June
1/26	Frances & Mary - S Duane & Darrell - N		Joel & Brandy	SS

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

†The teacher schedule will be in the bulletin. You can always check the website as well- the bulletin is always on there (even before Sunday!!) www.parkersburg-crc.org If you need to change a Sunday, please call one of the teachers.



Winter Word Search



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

BLIZZARD

BOOTS

COAT

COCOA

COLD

DECEMBER

EARMUFFS

FEBRUARY

FIREPLACE

FROSTY

HAT

ICE

ICICLES

JANUARY

MARCH

MITTENS

PLOW

SCARF

SHOVEL

SKIING

SLEDDING

SNOW

SWEATER

WINTER

