

Shepherd's Staff *We gather to worship, we go to serve our Lord.*

October 2017 "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.

Unity

This month we will be celebrating five hundred years since the Reformation. It struck me as I was contemplating this milestone anniversary that what was sought was not what was gained! Martin Luther was seeking to unite the church under the truth of scripture, faith, grace, and Christ as the only means for salvation to God's honor and glory. What occurred instead was troubling to Luther. The church of Christ was divided!

Church History tells us how the church had fallen from the tenants of grace by faith in Christ alone. The weakness of the priesthood, with some unable to read and understand scripture was one of the failures in the church. Of course we cannot forget the greed that developed in the church with goals of large, ornate, and beautiful structures where we cannot be sure that they were built for God's glory or man's. Greed and an ambition for power in the hierarchy even against the civil governments cause much trouble.

Yet still in this situation we find that God was still head of His church! The troubled conscience of the reformers and the hunger for true peace from the burdens and guilt of sin brought about a powerful action as seen through the heroes of the Reformation. And heroes they are! Many faced tremendous hardships and persecution for the stance for truth they took. We are blessed to be living in a time when we are free to worship without fear.

Today we find faith under assault. The freedoms we once had are in jeopardy of ending if they have not already been severely curtailed. We find the truths of scripture challenged with work and other activities on the day of rest the new norm. We are challenged not only as churches but in many ways we are challenging God and His authority. We teach that scripture is the authoritative word but then society overrules the teaching of the Bible. We teach we are saved by grace through faith and yet try to earn our salvation by being "good enough." Science has even questioned the reliability of scripture regarding Christ Jesus!

Then we also have the matters of unity. When the church excommunicated Luther, a new church was formed. Today we have so many choices for worship, with new denominational and non-denominational churches springing up whenever we disagree on a point of doctrine or practice. We were called to be the body of Christ. That body was given on the cross, unbroken! What have we done to the body of Christ in the world today?

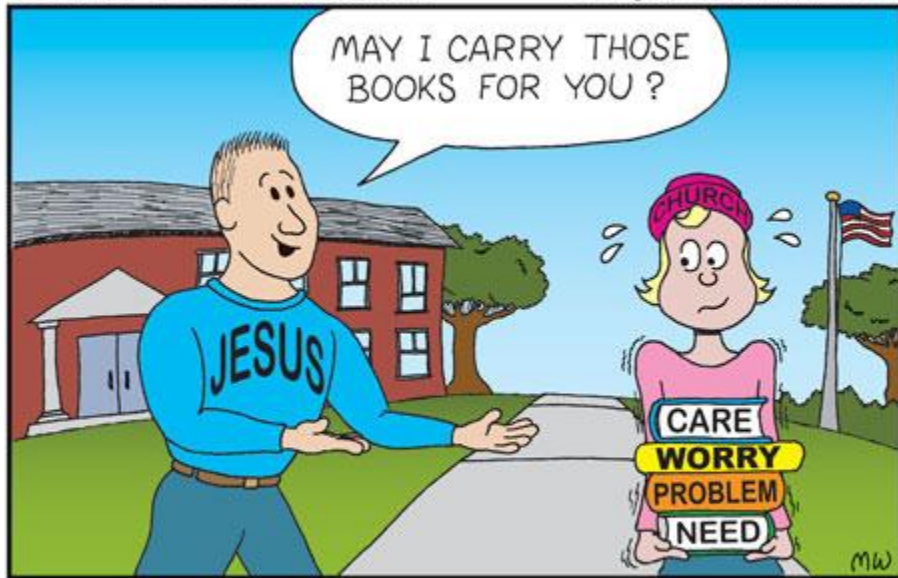
Perhaps we should be asking ourselves what we can do to unify the body of Christ today. The fundamentals of the Reformation are still held by many denominations. The differences come in our practice. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put aside our differences and live the truths renewed in the Reformation? We are saved by grace, through faith, in Christ, as taught in scripture, to the glory of God alone. To see the united body of Christ on earth before the resurrection would be awesome. God is able, but it seems we people keep getting in the way.

Let's get out of the way and see what God not only can, but will, do in and through us when we follow His will.

Pastor Rus

CARRY YOUR BOOKS?

A Joyful'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

-1 PETER 5:7 KJV

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

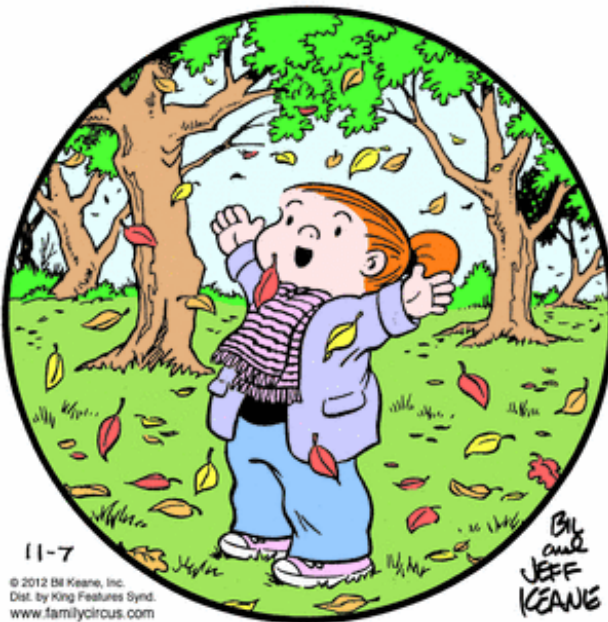
By Bil Keane



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"Heaven is a great big hug
that lasts forever."



11-7

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Bil
and
JEFF
KEANE

"All our summer shade
is falling down!"



October Birthdays/Anniversaries



Happy Birthday

10/7 Twila Jansen
 10/8 Janet Venenga
 10/15 Jodi DeBerg
 10/21 Aiden Merrill
 10/21 Tyler DeBerg
 10/23 Abbie DeBerg
 10/23 Ken Mehmen
 10/23 Chet Hay
 10/24 Madeline Geiken
 10/24 Ken Kramer
 10/28 Ivadell Primrose

Happy Anniversary

10/15 Ken & Rhonda Meester



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.

	<i>Greeters</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Sunday School Teachers[#]</i>	<i>Coffee*</i>
10/1	Jean Trey (N)	Mark K.	Ryan & Stacy	Mary V. & Mary B.
	Ken & Tracie K. (S)		Deb	
10/8	Cory & Kamie S. (N)	Ken J.	Kayla & Shelly	Ken & Rhonda
	Dennis & Lois M. (S)		Stacy	
10/15	Kevin & Shelly M. (N)	Ken M.	Amy & Kay	Marlyn & Marcia
	Ken & Rhonda M. (S)		JoLynne	
10/22	Mike & Stacy A. (N)	Ken K.	Kamie & Nancy	John & Jodi
	Sylvia & AnnaMae (S)		Brandy	
10/29	Larry & Mary J. (N)	Marlyn A.	Stacy	Ken & Jan
	Dave & Betty M. (S)		Kamie	

*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.

Fall Is Here

BY LINDA MAHOOD MORGAN

This family is celebrating the arrival of fall. See if you can find and color these items hidden in the picture: adhesive bandage, balloon, banana, bowling pin, candy corn, feather, fish, football, heart, hot dog, ice-cream cone, kite, ladder, maze, mitten, ruler, safety pin, sailboat, toothbrush, traffic signal, wishbone, and worm.

