

Pastor's Corner

Well, here we are in the midst of summer although we might sometimes wonder with the temperatures being a little on the cool side. What do we do with our summer? Well, we should do some of the same things we would do in the fall, spring, or even winter.

I find myself as usual struggling to write something for the newsletter that will be helpful, encouraging, challenging, and most of all authoritative from God's perspective for all of you. For some reason I find myself drawn to the book of Ecclesiastes to start my thought process whether I end up in this book or another.

The author of Ecclesiastes reflects on the meaning of life, but he does it as a philosopher rather than as a simple believer who trusts in God. My Bachelor of Arts degree from Edinboro University was obtained by majoring in the study of Philosophy. This perhaps is the answer, but I cannot reason that as a 100% truth. What is for certain is that I do enjoy the study, the searching, the reasoning, about all that life has for us. In the end, the author of Ecclesiastes concludes that humans must trust God because there is no other way. But in the midst of life with all its joys, concerns, problems, and grief, we as humans may find it hard to define the meaning of existence.

The preacher (author) claims to have acquired great wisdom. But when he applies his skill to the problem of the meaning of life, he discovers that "in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow." Unfortunately his philosophical musings seem to lead him to pessimism. His conclusion of his reasoning though is given in the last two verses of the book and I believe he is right on the mark. "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man (woman). For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Summer is my favorite time of the year as most of you know. I wait impatiently during winter for spring and summer to arrive. So, what do we do with our summer, our lives? Earlier the preacher proclaims: "Here is what I have seen: It is good and fitting for one to eat and drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labor in which he toils under the sun all the days of his life which God gives him; for it is his heritage" (Ecclesiastes 5:18). Yes, let us enjoy the summer, our lives and fruit God has provided for us. But let us also remember this should happen all through the year, every second, minute, hour, day of our lives because we must not forget his conclusion: "Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man (woman). For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14).

Jesus left us with the great commandment: "Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself." He also left us the great commission: "Go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We are to enjoy life even though there will be times of despair. We are never told to retire from our worship and serving God to enjoy our fruits of labor. In my own conclusion then I understand scripture to say that if we are still breathing, no matter what our age, God's gift(s) to each one is still useful and should be used to help the Body of Christ, the Church.

Examine carefully then the continuing season of life. How can they be turned to benefit? Enjoy!!! See you in worship. In Christ's service, love Pastor Les

Pastor's Corner

Something To Think About!

JOY OF SALVATION

Dan is a pastor's son, pastor's brother, and pastor's brother-in-law who taught Sunday School, sang beautiful solos and led music in his church for many years. But he lost his joy after a difficult divorce. After several years away from the walk with the Lord, he met and later married Laurie. Laurie was raised in a fully dysfunctional family, and was twice divorced.

Dan and Laurie, a non-believer, attended church when visiting family members. While not openly against Christianity, she had no desire to pursue the relationship with God that other members of the family cherished. When Dan's job transferred him to a new community, the pastor of a church in this community soon made a visit in Dan and Laurie's new home. His witnessing added a dimension that others had failed to express-the joy of salvation.

His family members were well intentioned, but all they talked about was his sinfulness. No one talked about the joy of salvation. Within a few months, a transformation began in Laurie and Dan's lives. Laurie prayed to receive Christ and was joined with Dan's rededication.

The change in Dan and Laurie's personal lives was immediate. Laurie redecorated the house with religious pictures and framed verses. Their two children joined them in Sunday School, worship and becoming fully involved in the Christian life. She took a part-time job in the Christian School, became a helper in Vacation Bible School, and then Sunday School. Dan returned with a new fervor in music leadership and performances. Christian music floods the house and the cars when they travel. The joy of salvation was renewed in Dan's life and added to Laurie's.

Laurie's question for the family was simple to ask, but difficult to answer. "Why didn't someone tell me about the joy of knowing Jesus sooner?"

Psalm 51:12 KJV "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

1 – Janet Schultz	8 – Ronald Figura	30 – David Harris
6 – Drew Carney	12 – Amiee Schultz	30 – Christopher Andrasik
7 – Chuck Willis	21 – Nancy Hillman	30 – Terra Lederhouse

Ransomville

1 – Becky Slipko	15 – Julie Willis	26 – Dick Kennedy
6 – James Blanchard	16 – Justin Randal	29 – Larry Trank
8 – Jacob Maacks	18 – Robin Jenneve	29 – Ellen Truesdell
11 – George Mayer	19 – Amy Hauser	30 – Jennifer Spring
11 – Jacob Jaskula	23 – Ruth Kennedy	
13 – Ann Kennedy	24 – Sharon Hoste	

Anniversaries

Fillmore Chapel

17 – James & Anna Jane Michel	28 – Charles & Patricia Stojak
20 – Mike & Kim Sembart	29 – David & Donna Johannes
26 – Shawn & Rebecca Leenhouts	

Ransomville

2 – Stephen & Carol Diez	25 – Harold & Sue Barnes
6 – Richard & Elizabeth Wade	27 – Marvin & Jayne Spring
20 – Tom & Rosanne Moje	29 – Alan & Jenny Spring
25 – Mike & Janet Fedak	



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

4 – Fred Lederhouse	8 - Katey Fleckenstein	25 – Kimberly Chase
6 – Jordynn Koroschetz	15 – Dara Johannes	29 – Ruth Stewart
8 – Becky Fleckenstein	25 – Tammy Roberts Seick	29 – Emily Sembert
		30 – Brenda Johannes

Ransomville

1 – Charles Michel	12 – Monica LaRock	23 – Earl Steiner
4 – James Piva	15 – Dylan Proper	25 – Katie Jacobs
6 – Doug Diez	18 – Christian & Lauryn Proper	30 - Reta Hanson
8 – Al Strasburg	19 – Shane Gamble	



Anniversaries

Fillmore Chapel

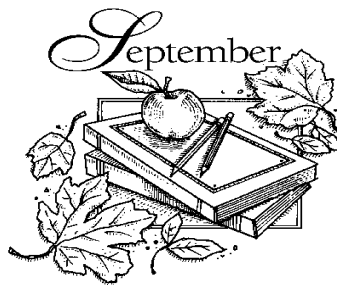
29 – H. Bruce & Sue Lederhouse

Ransomville

2 – Clyde & Sue Burmaster

25 – Earl & Patricia Robins

31 – George & Charlotte Mayer



Birthdays

Fillmore Chapel

6 – Darlyn Orzetti

6 – Jennifer Jordan

6 – Jordynn Tweed

8 – Ann Lederhouse

8 – Kim Sembert

10 – Kenneth Robert Zimmerman

13 – Karen Jordan

15 – Jessica Senek

15 – Isabella Grace Standish

16 – Carol Gailard

19 – Claudia Fleckenstein

20 – Leo Hillman

21 – Daniel Roberts

22 – Evelyn Peters

22 – Jessie Jesson

23 – Chris Markelonis

24 – Kenneth Schultz

28 – Georgia Lochren

Ransomville

3 – Rev. Les Drayer

5 – Nancy Meyer

5 – Dana Hartchett

11 – Paul Manchester

16 – Carol Houwaart Diez

19 – Jenny Spring

24 – Liz Maacks

25 – Katie Jacobs

27 – Adam Roberts

29 – Kristen Olsen

29 – Bev Chauvin

Anniversaries

Fillmore Chapel

13 – Michael & Karen Jordan

15 – Jeff & Shelly Wilkinson

20 – Terry & Debbie Skellen

25 – Bernard & Evelyn Peters

Ransomville

1 – Roger & Patricia Poette

6 – Rich & Bev Chauvin

8 – Paul & Betty Manchester

11 – Tom & Pam Jacobs

15 – Charles & Jessie Michel

23 – David & Linda Randall



RANSOMVILLE FREE CONCERTS IN THE COUNTRY

July 2: **Street Dance – Electric Rodeo** – *Classic Country and Rock Tunes*

July 9: **Chaz Baz** – *Country Classics*

July 16: **Colt 45 Country Band** – *Classic Western Music at its best*

July 23: **Penelope Band** – *Classic Rock*

July 30: **CRS Band** – *60's & 70's Classic Rock*

August 6: **Route 66** – *Party Time Rock-n-Roll*

YOUNGSTOWN FREE CONCERTS IN FAULKNER PARK

July 3: **Mackenzie Highlanders** - *A Veteran's Tribute*

July 10: **Ange Rizzo & The Neapolitan Knights** – *Traditional Italian Music*

July 17: **Waterstreet Quartet** – *Light Jazz*

August 7: **Frank Furters** – *Traditional German Music*

August 14: **Custode & Parisi** – *Sophisticated Jazz & Swing*

August 21: **Parkside Avenue Brass Quintet** – *A Special Brass Sound*

August 28: **The Jerry Andres Band** – *Standards from the Great American Song Book*

September 4: **Alex Rene's & His Big Swing Band** – *Nostalgic Big Band Music*



2009 Graduates

Christopher Andrasik: Wilson High School - grandson of Charles & Pat Stojak

Brian Heasley: Purdue University - great grandson of Charles & Pat Stojak

Kristen Olsen: Niagara Wheatfield High School - daughter of Steve & Amy Olsen

Jamie Forsyth: Lockport High School – great niece of Beatrice Linton

Brittany LaJoie: Barker High School – great niece of Beatrice Linton

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

The task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

The best mathematical equation I have ever seen: 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Father, bless the person reading this in whatever it is that You know they need.

RANSOMVILLE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

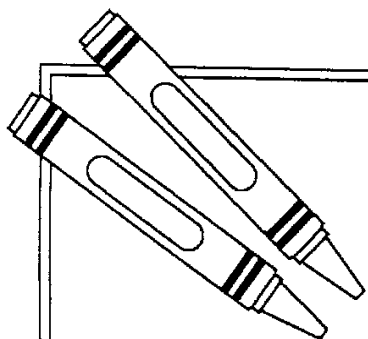
The Tea & Quilt Show held on May 2nd was a big success! The women raised \$900.00. The church was filled with beautiful quilts.

On June 13th the women sold pies at the Community Faire and raised \$404.00

A spaghetti dinner is being planned for September 12th. Watch for more details.

Meetings for July and August are to be announced. Nancy Trank will host September 17th meeting, devotions will be Erva Graf and Teresa Trank will provide refreshments.





Just for **KIDS**

For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

Whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. **N** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **W** he gave his one and only Son, that **E** he gave his one and only Son, that **S** whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.