



FROM THE PASTOR...

A few weeks ago, on my way to see my father (he is still in rehab, but doing much better. Thank you for the prayers!), somewhere between Memphis and Little Rock an old hit from Simon and Garfunkel, *Homeward Bound*, came on the radio: “*Homeward bound, I wish I was, Homeward bound...*” I have been thinking of “home” as of late. But what does that mean? The home where I grew up? The home I am in now? The various places I have lived and called “home” throughout my life?

When I was about Matthew’s age, my family moved to Arkansas. Within a year or so, we had built a log house on a small lake. It was our new home. The accents of the locals were interesting. Within a couple of years, the 17-year-cicadas emerged from the ground, strange black bugs with red eyes that in large numbers made lots of noise. This is our home!? Of course, as time went on, I made friends, my dad established his business, mom was a fixture at the business office at the local hospital, and I am pretty sure my sister was around too... Arkansas eventually became our home! I enjoyed my time there.

The feelings that come with moving to and living in a new place are almost certainly universal: fear, uncertainty, and surprise, but by God’s grace there can eventually be familiarity, peace, and joy.

There is another song, older than Simon and Garfunkel, that speaks to our true home being not in Arkansas or New Jersey or Alabama or anywhere in this world.

I’m But a Stranger Here (LSB 748) by Thomas R. Taylor speaks of heaven being our true home. The first stanza acknowledges that life in this world can be a challenge: dreary, dangerous and sorrowful. Yet our true home – provided by the shed blood of Christ and received in faith – is heaven.

*I’m but a stranger here,
Heaven is my home;
Earth is a desert drear,
Heaven is my home;
Danger and sorrow stand
Round me on every hand;
Heaven is my fatherland,
Heaven is my home.*

The second stanza echoes that life can be wild and cold, but also short. The idea that life all too soon passes, can be a sobering reminder of our own mortality, but also a comfort

Hurricane Michael Relief Update

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11.01 Brenda Payne
11.01 Travis Hardy
11.08 Abigale Hardy
11.13 Jalyn Hamilton
11.16 Susan Anderson
11.20 Amber Kisner
11.21 Sean DeBruzzi
11.22 Katie Bessler
11.24 Kelly Ryun
11.26 Kaitlyn Ramsey

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11.03 Steve and Linda Meyers
11.28 Bill and Brenda Payne

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Callaway

- Landscape, chainsaw, and cleanup crews. Groups forming daily. Please coordinate through Pastor Kevin by calling 850-240-3753 or email pastorkevin@gracedestin.com. If you are going, it would be helpful to bring: leaf blowers; hoses; heavy push brooms; heavy-duty dust pans; rakes; garden/outdoor gloves; hat; sunscreen; your own cleaning rags that you can take back home to wash to keep from taxing staff.
- Hands-on setup to open Early Childhood Center by November 12!
- A vinyl siding/soffit company to button up the preschool's damage at the soffit area and small areas of siding
- Minor metal roof repairs
- Interior drywall repairs - mostly patching busted joints and popcorn finish
- Wooden walk-bridge repair

Redemption Lutheran Church, Panama City

- Donation Needs: diapers, baby wipes, and infant food are growing in demand
- People to bring food and grill to cook meals and distribute on-site, providing food and water to anyone hungry, prayer for the distressed, and the comfort Christ gives in Scripture.
- Volunteer Needs: People to do general clean up on-site
- A mobile home or portable bldg. installer
- A licensed Electrician for "New Service" to the building and hookup
- A licensed plumber for the plumbing hookup
- A licensed HVAC contractor
- UPCOMING - A Sunday building dedication and celebration

Trinity Lutheran Church, Panama City

9-3 Monday-Saturday, 12-3 Sunday, CLOSED Wednesday

- NOW - Canned (fruit, vegetables, soup, ham, tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, juice, jelly, milk)
Fresh (fruit, bread)
Baby food, Pedialyte, formula, baby wash, diapers (sizes 3-6)
Juices, Gatorade, water (gallon jugs)
Trash bags, chips, pasta, rice, fruit snacks, Lysol wipes & spray, body wash, soap bars, alcohol wipes, razors, deodorant, maxi pads, tampons, tissues, toilet paper, first aid kits, Band-aids, antibiotic ointment, paper plates, plastic ware
Bleach, cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer
- People to help distribute food 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily
- General facility clean up and repairs
- **NEXT YEAR** - Volunteers housed at an on-site camp to aid in long-term recovery

Continued on page 6

in trial and grief, that this too shall pass...

*What though the tempest rage,
Heaven is my home;
Short is my pilgrimage,
Heaven is my home;
And time's wild wintry blast
Soon shall be over past;
I shall reach home at last,
Heaven is my home.*

Stanza 3 guides us in answering, "What we can do in light of life's pain and struggle, in light of God's presence and forgiveness, in light of both bane and blessing?" Look to Jesus to provide the strength, courage, and determination, the compassion, comfort and encouragement needed to stand in faith.

*Therefore I murmur not,
Heaven is my home;
Whatever my earthly lot,
Heaven is my home;
And I shall surely stand
There at my Lord's right hand.
Heaven is my fatherland,
Heaven is my home.*

Perhaps you are in a time where life is good, plenty of money and time and friends and activities. Maybe you are in a time more "wintry" and you feel the cold blast of isolation and loneliness. Know that God is with us in these times and at all times, he will never leave nor forsake us.

The author of *I'm But a Stranger Here*, Thomas R. Taylor lived for only 28 years and died in 1835. His poem was first published a year later in 1836 and has been used by the Lord to bring comfort to hurting Christians for over 182 years. May it be a blessing to you as well!

In His Name,
Pastor



"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,"
Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

PRAYER CHAIN

Those who mourn:

Mize, Pye, and Kozik families

Military: For all service people stationed overseas and those at home

Those at care facilities or at home

Illness/Recovery:

Jayln Burnice, Caleb Cunningham, Cecil Eldridge, Shirley Eldridge, Ed Endrihs, Richard Fine, Anna Handgen's mother, Don Havercroft, Susan High, Frank Judy, Traci Keeton, Gina Klang, Helga Klang, Maria Kubiak, Rex Mayhair, Jamie Mize, Matt Morehead, Johnathan McNeil, Wendy Patton, Lindsey Phillips, Ralph and Jackie Reed, Georgia Rodney, Lotus Schiller, Scott Sorquist, Grace Marie Strasbourg, and Ron Williams

General: Margo Coffman, Jessika Cunningham, Barbara Dicus, Phyllis Endrihs, Helen King and family/friends, Alice Messerly, Rafael Piñeiro, Catherine Rickmers, Jimmy Storm, Laura Weiler, and John Weisbecker

The Persecuted Church and Those Affected by Disaster

THE NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE IS THE
25TH OF THE
PREVIOUS MONTH.

GIVING SUNDAY: our food pantry is running low again. We need ready to eat dinners, such as soups, ramen pastas, or other canned or boxed microwavable meals, granola bars, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned fruit, and pasta/rice with sauce would be great additions!

✂ ✂ ✂

CRADLE OF THE REFORMATION GERMANY TOUR

Have you ever wanted to travel to Germany and see the sites of Luther? Have you ever wanted to see the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany, which has been held since 1634? Pastor Obersat (Esther's nephew, who speaks fluent German and English) of Ebenezer Lutheran in Manheim, TX and Pastor Jacobs of Grace Lutheran in Brenham, TX, are hosting an 11-Day Cradle of the Reformation Germany Tour, visiting the footsteps of Luther and the Oberammergau Passion Play. The dates for the tour are May 20-30, 2020. Please contact Pastor Obersat (402-570-2180) if you have any questions or would like to know more of the tour.

OUR FAMILY COOKBOOK: NIGELLA LAWSON'S CHOCOLATE RASPBERRY PAVLOVA

For the chocolate meringue base

- 6 egg whites
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 3 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder, sifted
- 1 tsp balsamic vinegar
- 2 oz bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped

For the topping

- 2 1/4 cups heavy cream
- 1 very full pint raspberries
- 2-3 Tbsp coarsely grated bittersweet chocolate

Preheat the oven to 350F and line a baking sheet with baking parchment. Beat the egg whites until tiny peaks form, and then beat in the sugar a spoonful at a time until the meringue is stiff and shiny. Sprinkle over the cocoa and the vinegar, and the chopped chocolate. Then gently fold everything until the cocoa is thoroughly mixed in. Mount onto the baking sheet in a fat circle

approximately 9 inches in diameter, smoothing the sides and top. Place in the oven, then immediately turn the temperature down to 300F and cook for about one to one and a quarter hours. When it's ready it should look crisp around the edges and on the sides and be dry on top, but when you prod the center you should feel the promise of squidginess beneath your fingers. Turn off the oven and open the door slightly, and let the chocolate meringue disk cool completely.

When you're ready to serve, invert onto a big, flat-bottomed plate. Whisk the cream till thick but still soft and pile it on top of the meringue, then scatter over the raspberries. Coarsely grate the chocolate so that you get curls rather than rubble, as you don't want the raspberries' luscious color and form to be obscured, and sprinkle haphazardly over the top, letting some fall, as it will, on the plate's rim.

November Altar Guild: Caryl Welch

November 4 Ethel Piniero, counter
Dan & Daniel Dicus, sound
Dan Dicus, reader
The Dicus Family, greeter/usher

November 11 Dan Dicus, counter
Matthew & Cherie Endrihs, sound
OPEN, reader
OPEN, greeter/usher

November 18 Ethel Piniero, counter
Randy Welch, sound
OPEN, reader
OPEN, greeter/usher

November 25 Dan Dicus, counter
Dan and Daniel Dicus, sound
OPEN, reader
OPEN, greeter/usher

Those Who Serve in Novem- ber

**We need
greeters and
readers for
the month of
November!
The sign up
sheet is on
the bulletin
board next
to the office.**



LADIES' CORNER

Your LWML district needs YOU!

The 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, from June 20-23, 2019, promises to be an exciting, busy, and faith-enriching experience. If you haven't made your plans to go to this marvelous gathering, you need to do so at www.lwml.org. There are numerous opportunities to get involved in the planning and operation of the convention as you will find if you check your LWML district's website. On the Call for Workers form you will see duties such as decorating, childcare, ushering, transportation, and hospitality, to name a few. As an LWML member in a hosting district, YOU are being called on to serve. Putting on the convention is an endeavor that "takes a village," and your help can truly make a difference!

Hurricane Michael Update, Cont.

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Panama City Beach

Currently there are no immediate needs.

Ascension Lutheran Church, Marianna

Awaiting updated needs.

Living Water Lutheran Church, Mexico Beach

ACCESS TO MEXICO BEACH RESTRICTED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

General

ONGOING: People to join Response Teams from Hope and/or Grace to help with cleanup. Please email Pastor Kevin at pastorkevin@gracedestin.com if you can help.

NOW - People to make periodic runs to retrieve needs list items from Sam's Club in Fort Walton Beach or your nearby Walmart and to deliver to Hope Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa Beach OR Grace Lutheran Church, Destin. Call Kristie Scheler at 850-520-0900.

NOW - Forward this information, share our Facebook posts, and pray!

Christmas Cookie Sale!

December 8

\$6/pound

Volunteers and cookies needed!



Mission List

For your information, these are the missions that our church typically focuses on and when.

January	Lara's blankets	Local (Dothan Doctor office)
February	Journey to the Cross	In house
March	Lent/Camp Dixie	District (LCMS camp)
April	Gifts of the heart	District/National
May	Mom/Daughter Banquet	Local (Christian Mission)
June	Vacation Bible School	In house/National or International
July	Lebanon (Christmas in July)	International
August	Youth/Hands Up Enterprise	In house/Local
September	Orphan Grain Train hygiene kits	National/International
October	Reformation/Fall Rally (Gifts of the heart)	In house or Local
November	Food baskets (Thanksgiving or Christmas)	Local
December	Cookie Sale	In house/Local/National

On going:

Food Pantry

In house/Local

Benevolence Fund

In house/Local

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you all so very much for remembering me and my family this October. Your gift for "Pastor Appreciation Month" was generous and well received! Thank you for taking the time to sign / write in the card and thank you for your prayers for myself and family and even extended family during this time of transition. While we were surprised by the turn of events this last October, God was not. He knew all along what would occur and how he would give us wisdom and strength to meet the challenges of the day. Thanks be to God!

Thank you, again.

*God's Blessings!
Pastor, Cherie, and Matthew*