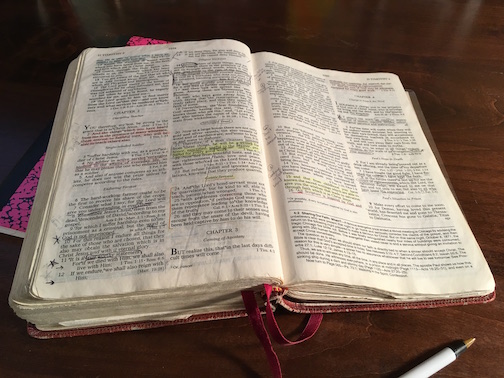
The Bethlehem Star

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10

June 2018



*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”*

Psalm 119:105

The Scripture Lessons for June:

**Second Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Deut. 5:12-15

Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:5-12

Gospel Mark 2:23-28

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Gen. 3:8-15

Epistle: 2 Cor. 4:13-5:1

Gospel Mark 3:20-35

**Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Ezek. 17:22-24

Epistle: 2 Cor. 5:1-10

Gospel Mark 4:26-34

**Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Job 38:1-11

Epistle: 2 Cor. 6:1-13

Gospel Mark 4:35-41

**What do you have to say about the Word of God?**

This month’s newsletter is a collection of quotes from well-known people in history about what they thought about the Bible. Let’s start with what the 18th century philosopher Voltaire had to say. He predicted in 1776 that “One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible on earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seeker." Two hundred and forty two years later, Voltaire could not have been more wrong. Proving God truly has a sense of humor, after his death Voltaire’s house was used by the Geneva Bible Society to distribute Bibles. Furthermore, one hundred years after Voltaire’s prediction his original works were selling for eleven cents in Paris, France, whereas the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

Andrew Jackson our country’s seventh President said this about the Bible “That Book is the rock on which the republic rests.” He is not the only President to esteem God’s Word so highly. John Quincy Adams who served right before Andrew Jackson said “The first and almost only book deserving of universal distinction is the Bible. I speak as a man of the world to the men of the world and I say to you, 'Search the Scriptures.'" Could it be that our nation is suffering such unthinkable evil because we have moved away from such a sentiment as a nation?

Sir Walter Scott, Scottish novelist, playwright and poet, on his deathbed said “Bring me the Book!" When asked what book he replied, "There is but one book." Regarding the Bible and the death bed Daniel Webster said, “The Bible fits man for life and prepares him for death."

The Bible has been challenged in every century, yet has stood the test of time against all its enemies and the corroding influences of time.

Next page………………

In Christ,

Pastor Patrick Lohse

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122

**May Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

1 Randy & Denise Hauge2 James Leonard

Shirley Leopold  
3 Dorothy Pilch

4 Kirsten Siron

Brian & Cindy Johnson

6 Greg Narvick

Rose Thorson  
7 Jacob Daggett

10 Jeanette Langebartels

11 Dona Grieff  
 Samuel Jacobson

14 David Hexdall

Scott Sampson

16 Terri Cryder

17 Wilma Gehrke  
18 Randy Hauge

Kristine Jacobson

19 Rebecca Perini  
 Katie Daggett21 Roman & Jackie Smyk

Kacen Johnson   
23 Laura Holman   
26 Richard Stump, Sr.

Ken & Joanne Torkelson

28 Brad Hexdall



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**A Beautiful Sunday Morning**

**By Sandra Timmons**

(continued….) Though a traumatic experience

for a teen, I guess it was time

The men checked for a pulse… to witness first-hand,

then carried him out the door. that death can come suddenly!

The pastor went right on praying. In fact, many would call it merciful.

When he finished, he preached. We must always be ready,

No one told him about the singer. walking with the Lord each day,

I wanted to, but didn’t. trusting in Jesus and what He did on the

cross

I don’t know about the other worshippers for us.

but I never heard one word of the remaining prayer,

and I don’t think I concentrated The guest pastor that Sunday

on any of the sermon, either. was very saddened no one had told him.

Even though I had never watched anyone die, He was elderly and hard of hearing,

somehow, I knew the man was dead. and just didn’t realize

But like the others in church that day, the trauma that was taking place

I hoped I could be wrong. while his eyes were closed.

Our human nature always hopes

My young mind was whirling with questions. someone else will speak up.

“Why no warning? Why no goodbyes?

Why, God?

No one should die on such a beautiful day. Whether my own death comes quickly or

Why would You take away someone not,

who was using his wonderful God-given voice I truly pray that I

to bring glory to Jesus? can be found serving the Lord

Wasn’t he witnessing in a special way? in some meaningful way

His singing was spreading the gospel, wasn’t it?” like that gentleman did,

on a beautiful Sunday morning

I heard other say, “It was a good way to go”. so long ago.

It was? And I hope that is your heart’s desire, also.

The questions lingered in my mind,

but walking home in the bright sunshine,

hearing the birds sing,

I began to lose the negative thoughts

as the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart,

and I actually began to realize

how blessed the singer was…

right now.

He was in the presence of God, met by Jesus,

surrounded with peace and beauty

beyond anything I could see or hear this day.



If you would like to “ask the Pastor” a question you can write it down on piece of paper and hand it to me or email me at ([lohs0016@umn.edu](mailto:lohs0016@umn.edu)). Your name will not be printed with your question.

“*Pastor, what is soul sleep?*

Soul sleep is the thought that upon death a person’s soul sleeps until the resurrection. This concept is not Biblical. Let’s look at what the Bible says about a person when they die. For believers, to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. The Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:6-8:

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

In Philippians 1:23 Paul says something very similar: “I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.”

What happens to the soul of an unbeliever? Again the Bible is clear on this point as well. In the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus Jesus says:

The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

Upon death a person’s soul does not sleep. It goes to be either with the Lord in heaven or it is sent to hell. When Jesus comes back to this earth a person’s soul and body will be reunited. For the believer, they will receive a glorified body and live in eternal paradise with the Lord and all other believers.

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“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

**FFHM Orphanage Mission Project**

We are no longer collecting items throughout the year for the Baja Mission. **Instead, we are going to collect items during the month of August.**

For more information about the Foundation For His Ministry Baja Mission please check out their website at ffhm.org.

**Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue**

**sticks, balloons, stickers, & backpack sticks, balloons, stickers, backparkers (Sharpie permanent; Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue sticks, balloons, stickers, backp** Socks Underwear (boys & girls size 3-5)

**Mark your calendar for the following Sunday School/Youth Group Activities in June:**

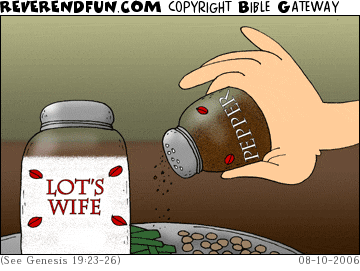
* **Sunday School/Congregation Picnic is Sunday, June 10th after church. There will be plenty of food and games for all. Come and enjoy!**
* **Vacation Bible School is June 11-15th. Please get those kiddos registered. Call the church at 815-942-1145 or fill out a registration form at church.**





Holy Humor

“A time to laugh” Ecclesiastes 3:4



**Here is some fathers of the Bible trivia:**

* Who was the father of David?
* Who was the father of Aaron and Moses?
* In the story of the Prodigal Son, what was the father’s reaction when his rebellious son returned?
* Whose sons earned the nickname “Sons of Thunder?”
* This father was dumbstruck when he found out he was going to have a son.

Answers:

Read 1 Samuel 17:12; Exodus 6:20; Luke 15:20-24; Mark 3:17; Luke 1:18-20.

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**Financial Update for the Month of May**

General Fund Missions

Needed to meet monthly budget: $16,849.00 $942

Offerings Received: $15,050.00 $1020

Net difference needed: $1799 $

***Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7**



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**June Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

1 Olivia Terry

2 Benjamin Lohse

Beth & Collin Claypool

Fran Coop

Kora Ochoa  
6 Kathy Hoge

9 Len Terry

10 Paul & Char Fruland

11 Nancy & Larry Marchesi  
13 Jeannie & Jim LeFevers

15 Larry Thorson  
 Ashley Walker

17 Scott & Holly Daggett

David Granstrom  
18 Walter & Esther Reinbacher

19 Larry Cooper

20 Rich & Judy Stump, Sr.

23 Mason Thompson

26 Ellen Hanouw

27 Dean Siron

28 Larry & Ruth Ann Cooper

Dean & Alice Jacobson

Terri & Mark Cryder

30 Jack & Denise Enger



Continued………………………

In 303 A.D. the Roman emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and the Bible. Over a burned Bible Diocletian built a monument on which he wrote *"Extincto nomene Christianorum"* (the name Christian is extinguished).

Twenty-five years later, Diocletian was dead and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense. Truly the “Word of the Lord endures forever.” (Isaiah 40:8; 1 Peter 1:25).

The Bible is not just a good book -- it is the Word of God! Consider what the Apostle Paul says about the Bible: "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). And may we never forget what Jesus says: “The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.” (John 12:48).

So, what do you have to say about the Word of God? Don’t let your Bible collect dust at home. I don’t think there is anything more sad in this life than an unused Bible. Pick it up and read it. Be changed by it, just as so many people throughout history have.

Happy Reading,

Pastor Patrick Lohse