

May 2025

Greetings from the Pastors

One day after Easter of 2025, Pope Francis passed away and went home to the Heavenly Father. The funeral was attended by world leaders and thousands of Christians. For sure the 1.4 billion Catholic constituents are aware of this event as it went live on television.

The message of death always reminds us that this world is not our permanent home. Christ came down on earth to do a show and tell of what life and death means. On earth we shall all could become servants of God. The church that Christ established is the means for the world to learn Christ's example. Christ himself served by feeding people, healing people and saving people. Christ lived a sacrificial life on earth and a sacrificial death that earned him the Lordship in Heaven.

Pope Francis was a good servant. His intention was clear. He chose the name Pope Francis because he wanted to be a servant and champion of the marginalized sector such as the poor and homeless. He lived up to his name. He was simple in living and in dying. He chose to be buried in Sta Maria Maggiore. He is the first pope after 300 years to be buried outside of Vatican. He teaches a message forever. His burial signifies that he aimed to be with the people whom he wanted to serve.

It would be appropriate to whisper at this time the blessing that Christ wanted to say to his avid follower, "Well done, good and faithful servant." It's amazing that God blessed one person who wants to be a blessing unto many. This must be salvation. Since sin is about self-serving, the outward intention of a blessed pope shows the world what salvation is. His life and death is a message to all the World Leaders and Monarchs that were present in the funeral. Here is the man who forsakes self-serving mentality and embraces outward servanthood. God gives a blessing to a man and then the blessing gets multiplied and blesses thousands of other people.

It is earthly to seek to be blessed. It is salvation to seek to bless others. Those who chose the latter are not focused on making this world their permanent home. Their focus is their permanent home in heaven. It's a complicated subject because the human predicament is complex and constantly changing. The Lord promised that the Holy Spirit would come to start the church and bring visions and dreams. The life and death of Pope Francis has contributed much to the role of the Church in this world so that many would also find their way toward the permanent home in heaven.

I join the universal church in saying, "Praise be to God for the life of Pope Francis. May we all be inspired by the vision that he pursued. He received God's blessing, and he became a blessing unto many. Thanks be to God for raising such servant leader of the world. May God raise more world-class servants like him. Amen."

Pastor Moody & Pastor Emelyn Colorado

Lay Leader Notes

By Cindy Morse



Greetings to my St. Paul church family-----

We completed the Holy Week activities, and it was a busy week. Maundy Thursday was a presentation on the 12 disciples as well as serving communion. We now look forward to May with recognizing Confirmation youth, Mother's Day, graduations to name a few happenings. We all have busy lives and busy activities with our families. Following is a Conversation with God. This conversation might be something that you have experienced in the past, the questions might be a little different, see what you think.

A Conversation with God

Me: God, can I ask you a question?

GOD: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

GOD: I promise.

Me: Why did you let so much happen to me today?

GOD: What do you mean?

Me: Well, I woke up late today.

GOD: Yes

Me: My car took forever to start this morning.

GOD: Okay

Me: At lunch they made me the wrong sandwich, and I had to wait.

GOD: Hmmm

Me: On my way home, my phone went dead, just as I went to pick up the call.

GOD: Alright.

Me: And on top of it all, when I got home, I just wanted to soak my feet and relax, but the foot massager would not work, nothing went right. Why did you do that?

GOD: Let me see, the death angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of my angels to battle him for your life and I let you sleep through that.

Me: OH !

GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route to work that would have hit you if you had been on the road.

Me: I'm so ashamed.

GOD: The first person who made your sandwich was sick and I didn't want you to catch that, you can't afford to miss work.

Lay Leader Notes Continued:

Me: Okay.

GOD: Your phone went dead because the person calling was going to give false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them, so you would be covered.

Me: I see God.

GOD: Oh, that foot massage machine, it had a short, that was going to throw out the power and I didn't want you to be left in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry God.

GOD: Don't be sorry; just learn to trust me-- in all things good and bad.

Me: I will trust You.

GOD: And don't doubt my plans for you day to day.

Me: I won't God, let me just tell you, thank you for everything today.

GOD: I love looking after my children.

Several scriptures back up this reading from the Old Testament comes, Psalms 68: 19; Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up, God is our Salvation.

From Jeremiah 31:3; it says " The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you".

Lastly in 1Peter 5:7; "cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

Stay safe, stay strong, stay healthy and have faith.

**BLACKHAWK COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE AT
HAWKEYE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
4-10 PM. THEME THIS YEAR IS "WILD ABOUT A
CURE"**

I will be accepting donations on behalf of TEAM FROG (Fully Rely on God). Our group of family and friends have participated in Relay for Life for 23 years beginning in Henry County, Iowa.

A donation of cash or check can be made to American Cancer Society.

I have Luminaria bags if you want to make a \$10.00 donation in honor or memory of someone. These bags will be decorated and placed around sidewalks at Hawkeye Community College during the event.

In 2004 after several types of chemotherapy were used on my husband, doctors recommended a bone marrow transplant which he had a sister who was willing to provide this.

Thank you in advance for any donation you can provide to help those fighting cancer to celebrate another birthday.

THANK YOU
Cindy Morse and TEAM FROG

Outreach Opportunities



Thank you for celebrating your birthday by contributing to the Birthday Box. In communicating with our friend Kelly in Malawi, Africa, we learned they are in the midst of a drought. People around him are going hungry. We sent a good donation to him to be able to buy food.

Please continue to bring clothing, Tylenol, and empty pill bottles that will go to Philippine Church on Wheels.

We are making plans for Summer Food for Kids.

May God bless you
as you bless others.



Finance Update

March 30	\$4079.66
April 6	\$5124.00
April 13	\$2124.00
April 20	7336.00

Thank you for your faithful giving. We need \$15,500 each month to meet our budget needs.





United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH MAY 2025

Congratulations to Ruby Parson and Lily Lorenzen on receiving our United Women of Faith Scholarships this year. They were presented April 27 during church as we celebrated Senior Sunday. Our prayers go with Ruby and Lily as they close their High School Career and open a new door to their future.

May is the month that we honor our mothers for all the love she has shown us each day.

Mothers in the Bible are depicted as honorable beings worthy of the love and respect of their children and the entire community. A woman, Mary, brought the savior, Jesus Christ, into the world, and in this regard, every woman in the world is believed to be connected to Mother Mary.

“When God Created Mothers” By Emma Bomback...

When the Good Lord was creating Mothers, He was into His 6th day of “overtime” when the angel appeared and said, “You’re doing a lot of fiddling around on this one.”

And God said, “Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic. Have 180 moveable parts....all replaceable. Run on black coffee and leftovers. Have a lap that disappears when she stands up. A kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointed love affair. And six pairs of hands.”

The angel shook her head slowly and said, “Six pairs of hands ...no way.”

“It’s not the hands that are causing the problems,” God remarked, “it’s the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.”

“That’s on the standard model?” asked the angel. God nodded.

One pair that sees through closed doors when she asks, ‘What are you kids doing in there?’ when she already knows. Another here in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn’t but what she knows, and of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he goofs up and say, “I love you, without so much as uttering a word.”

“God,” said the angel touching his sleeve gently, “Get some rest tomorrow...”

“I can’t, said God, “I am so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one who heals herself when she is sick...can feed a family of six on one pound of hamburger...and can get a nine-year-old to stand under a shower.”

The angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. “It’s too soft,” she sighed.

“But tough!” said God excitedly, “You can’t imagine what this mother can do or endure.”

“Can it think?”





United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH MAY 2025
Continued

“Not only can it think, but it can reason and compromise ,” said the Creator.”

Finally, the angel bent over and ran her finger across the model's cheek.

“There’s a leak,” she pronounced. “I told You that You were trying to put too much into this model.”

“It’s not a leak,” said the Lord, “It’s a tear.”

“What’s it for?”

“It’s for joy, sadness, disappointment, pain, loneliness, and pride.”

“You are a genius,” said the angel.

Soberly, God said, “I didn’t put it there.”

Our Bible verse for this month is found in Isaiah 66:13.

“As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.”

Happy Mother’s Day to all mothers everywhere! Give your mother an extra hug if you can, if you can’t do that, say a prayer for her.

Blessings to all of you and to your loved ones!

Pat and Charlene



Congratulations!



Senior Graduates

Congratulations to Ruby and Lily on their high school graduation.

Ruby is the daughter of Mindy and Justin Parson. Lily is the daughter of Jennie and Cory Lorenzen. *May God bless you and guide your path as you embark on this new chapter. Wishing you all the best in your future endeavors."*

Psalm 20: 4 "May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed."

EDUCATION NEWS!

May 4th

Confirmation Sunday

May 11th

LAST day of Sunday School for 2024-25

June 16th – 19th








VBS!

During our Vacation Bible School, the children will be surrounded by God's Word! They'll have an amazing time trying out new games, songs, awesome science experiments, tundra treats and more!





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 National Day Of Prayer	2 Friendship Day	3
4 Worship 10:00 a.m. Confirmation	5 Membership 10:00 Bible Study 1:30 pm	6 Worship Mtg. 9:00 a.m. Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m.	7 SPRC 5:00 p.m. Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day Festival of the Christian Home Last day of Sunday School	12 Bible Study 1:30 pm	13 Finance- 10:00 a.m. Shawl Ministry 2:00 p.m. Trustees -5:30 AD Council- 6:30 p.m.	14 Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18 No Sunday School Worship 10:00 am Heritage Sunday	19 Bible Study 1:30 pm	20 Shawl Ministry- 2:00 p.m.	21 Joy Circle 9:00 a.m. Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	22 Care Facility Worship- 10:00 a.m.	23	24 Aldersgate Day
25 NOISY SUNDAY	26 Memorial Day	27 Shawl Ministry- 2:00 p.m. Meekness Circle- 7:00 p.m.	28 Jubilation 6:30 p.m.	29 Ascension of the Lord	30	31
						

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