

The Cloud

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News and Articles from the St. Cloud Circuit of the LCMS

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The Prayer/Anniversary Issue

By Rev Joshua Reber (Trinity, Clear Lake; Faith St. Cloud; SCSU Campus Pastor; Editor of the Cloud)

Happy Anniversary! *The Cloud's* first issue was released a year ago. You, our readership, have helped us become *the most popular circuit newsletter* in the district! Okay, there's only one circuit newsletter in the district (country???), but the Crookston Circuit is starting one this fall. The Editorial Board at *The Cloud* discourages anyone from reading *The Crooks* (its name since they stole our idea), and we will publish any meme that makes fun of the Crookston Circuit. We've got a great anniversary issue inside. The theme is prayer, with particular attention to the petitions in the Lord's Prayer. I tell my shut-ins all the time that even if they can't get out of the house, they can still do the most important work of the Christian - they can still read the Bible

and pray. Do you believe what Jesus says, **“Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (Jn 14:13)**. If we believe that, we’ll pray without ceasing with all boldness and confidence!

Intro and 1st Petition

By Rev Joshua Reber (Trinity, CL; Faith SC)

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.” Jesus says that evil parents know how to give good gifts to their children (Lk 11). How much more than will God, the *heavenly* Father, give us good gifts! When we approach God in prayer, we’re not approaching Him as some far off deity or some estranged step-father. He invites us to approach Him as Abba, which could be translated as Daddy. Nothing melts my heart more when my 1 year old says, “Daddy.” My love for her is big, but imperfect. God’s love for you, dear baptized child, is enormous and perfect. He wants to give you everything, and in His Son Jesus, He has given you everything.

The Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer sets the foundation for how we approach God. 1 John urges us throughout the letter to approach the Father in confidence because of the Son’s payment for our sins. When you pray, expect that God has already said yes! It’s like when you ask your parents for something for Christmas only for them to have already bought the gift. Every morning is like Christmas. God’s mercies are new every morning, and now we get to search the house to find the presents. Often we pray like it’s a Hail Mary in football - just maybe God will hear our prayers. No, God hears your prayers. James says it plainly. **“You do not have because you do not ask” (Js 4:2)**.

I’m not advocating for the prosperity Gospel. Often God does say not yet or no. But when He says no or not yet, it’s a gift! He says, “Not yet” to Mary when she asks Jesus for more wine. Jesus said that it wasn’t His hour yet, but the

wait was worth it, for not only did He provide Cana with vintage wine, but He gave the world His blood to drink. In Gethsemane, Jesus was told, “Not yet.” He had to wait to be delivered, and Jesus waited 3 days and being told not yet caused Him to pray even more fervently. God says, “No” for the sake of giving you something better. Paul prayed for deliverance from the thorn of the flesh, but God said no and gave Him something greater - the assurance of grace. Moses wanted to enter the earthly Promised Land, but God said no and brought him into the heavenly Promised Land. The Prodigal Son prayed that he would be received as a servant, but the Father said no, you’re my son. God sometimes says no when you ask for an earthly palace, but He says no to things which are passing away so that He can instead give you an eternal kingdom, which will never pass away.

Which brings us to the 1st Petition - God has given you His name; it’s a name that never passes away. When we pray, “Hallowed be Thy name” we’re praying that God’s name would be holy, but God’s name is already holy! What we’re really praying for is that it would be holy among us.

My favorite thing about names is something I picked up from Origen (an early church father). In baptism, not only do we receive God’s name (we’re baptized *in the name* of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), but God also takes on our names. He is known as the God of Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob. He relates to His saints to such an extent that He takes on their names!

God has taken on your name, and written it in the book of life. God hallows our name, and now we pray that He would give us the Holy Spirit so that we can keep His name holy. Do you think God will say no to that prayer? **“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Lk 11:13)**

4th Petition – A Prayer for Here and Now

By Rev Ben Hollingsead (St. Paul's, Eden Valley)

“Give us this day our daily bread.” When our Lord Jesus Christ says, **“And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you” (Lk 12:29-31)**, I feel guilty. Like many other faithful Christians, I struggle with worry.

When I look at what is happening in the United States, I get worried. Inflation is crushing us! Household goods, gas, and automobiles are unaffordable. The economy alone can cause the mind to cycle with worry. Then we add on the uncertainty that comes with an election year, wars raging around the world, and the moral decline in our schools, cities, our government, and even in neighboring churches waiving the LGBT flag. These external fears can bog down my mind, and I imagine the minds of others that are troubled and ultimately affect how we conduct our lives as Christians.

What is typical for me, and I imagine many others, is that we try to handle the problems we cannot control rather than focusing on the issues we can. That is why the fourth petition is essential for us to reflect on. Luther’s explanation in the Catechism explains that we’re praying for far more than just bread. Daily bread refers to all our physical and spiritual needs, including food, drink, clothing, work, self-control,

good government, peace, good weather, friends, family, spouse, faithful Pastors, and church. When we pray for daily bread, we are not just asking for physical sustenance. We are asking for everything we need for a meaningful and productive life. To all these things, our Lord gives a resounding yes! He will provide our daily bread. This knowledge should bring us immense relief and reassurance, knowing that the Lord will provide all we need.

It’s problematic when we think like the rich fool in Luke 12:16-20. Often, we do not just want daily bread, but we want storage units packed with food and bank accounts with large sums of money as reassuring signs. Some sadly push off marriage and children and tithing to help their churches make budget because they fear they won't have enough money for retirement.

Our Lord Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread, guiding us to focus on the present. By doing so, He is empowering us to take control of our lives. We have enough things to manage today that require our attention. We may not be able to control the economy, presidential elections, or global conflicts, but we can certainly manage our lives using the gifts and talents our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us.

Rather than hours spent on social media that draw us into the frenzy of world problems that seem impossible, we could spend time in God's Word and Catechism. These sources remind us that our

Heavenly Father is in control and that no matter what today may bring be it be joy or death we are going to be ok. In Jesus, we do not just have all we need for today, but we also have all we need through the bread of life, Christ Jesus our Lord, for our eternal life through His death and resurrection.

The fourth petition keeps our focus on the here and now. If we trust God today, we can undoubtedly trust He will provide for us tomorrow and all the days to come. We can pray for our presidential candidate to win if they do great, but if they lose, the good news is that Jesus is the King of Kings and the Lord of all! Investing in the stock market is a risk for your family's financial future, but attending church weekly, tithing, and investing time in God's Word is never a waste. Your retirement might not look too secure in this life. But as a baptized Child of your Heavenly Father, your future is eternally secure in Christ Jesus. Trust in God's provision is the key to overcoming worry and anxiety.

Thanks to God, our future as Christians is bright. Our Lord supplies our daily bread and has given us His Church, the bread of eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. This assurance should fill us with hope and optimism for the future, knowing that we are in His loving and capable hands.

Forgiveness Will Kill You A homily on the 5th Petition and Matt 18:21-34
By Rev Bruce Timm (Redeemer, St. Cloud, MNN VP)

Maybe Andrew was a pain as a brother. Maybe that's what prompted Peter's question. How often should I forgive my brother? Andrew was a jerk. He was mommy's favorite, and he knew it. He knew right where to hit Peter. He knew Peter's faults and fears and could plunge his dagger sharp words precisely into Peter's weak spots.

Isn't that the case with forgiveness? Who sins against you most? The person closest to you – wives it's your husbands, brothers it is your brother, parents it is your children. You don't need

to worry about the neighbor three doors down. He doesn't sin against you. It's people in your own house that hurt you the most.

Peter was learning from Jesus that the Kingdom of Heaven is forgiveness. Life with God is forgiveness – His forgiveness of your sins. Without the forgiveness of sins, you have no hope before God. There are no second chances. The moment you die, the moment Christ appears in the Eastern sky to usher in God's eternal day of life, that's it. You're either in by forgiveness or out by refusal of forgiveness.

But what exactly is forgiveness? Peter's question and Jesus' answer give us the knowledge that strengthens our faith, keeps us humble, and enables us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

How many times must I forgive my brother? Remember, Andrew might have been a jerk. Andrew told the same embarrassing story about Peter every time the 12 got together at Capernaum Craft Brewery. Seven times? Seven is a godly number. Seven days in creation. Revelation is full of sevens – seven churches, seven lampstands, seven angels. The Easter season is seven sevens.

Seven is a lot of forgiving. Would you forgive your child for not picking up his room after you told him seven times? Would you forgive your husband for looking at another woman seven times on a dinner date? Would you forgive your father for getting into a drunken rage seven times?

Seven is a practical number. You could keep track of seven. Once a day for seven days. Sin against me that many times and I'm going to stop forgiving you. Even a child could count to seven.

Peter's question and his limit on forgiveness reveals the reason forgiveness is hard. Forgiveness requires you to die. Every time Peter forgave Andrew, he gave up his right to justice, pay back, vengeance. When he chose to forgive Andrew, he took one in the gut – or better soul. He put himself

under Andrew. Forgiveness will cost you what you love the most – yourself.

The definition of forgiveness is Jesus. Every sin of every man and woman and child is against Jesus, for He is the Son of God. He was there at creation. He is the Word by which the Father spoke all things into existence. Man and woman were made through Him. Marriage was instituted through Him. The gifts of the garden, of work, of food, of children were created and bestowed through the Son of God. When Eve ate the fruit, she sinned against the Word. When you get angry with your wife you sin against God because she is His gift to you. When you neglect your children to do your thing or idolize your children over God you sin against Him.

What does God do with your sin? Let's be clear these aren't mistakes or weaknesses. You are God's creation. You are accountable to Him. There is absolute truth. There is righteousness and there is wickedness and God set the standard. What does God do with your sin? He forgives you by dying. He forgives by paying the debt you owed out of His pocket, with His own flesh and blood. The Son of God becomes man to die for man and to accomplish your forgiveness.

Jesus tells Peter that he should forgive more than seven times – His answer is somewhat ambiguous. It can be either 77 times or 70 times 7 or 490 times. I think you get the point. Jesus says throw away your calculators and spreadsheets and die even as you have been died for.

That's the message of the parable Jesus tells. **Therefore, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.** (vs. 23) There is an accounting and you're the first servant. How do I know? Because you're the worst sinner in this congregation. You know the evil you've thought – wishing someone dead, some perverse fantasy with that man or woman over there. You know the sins you've committed that no one knows about. Stand before the Divine Judge. It's time to balance

the scales of God's justice. You owe 10,000 talents. That's 38 billion dollars according to Pastor Reber – if you trust his skills at math. Since I can't balance a checkbook, I'll go with Pastor Reber's calculation. 38 billion dollars and the King knows exactly what you make per hour in his stable feeding the horses and shoveling manure. I don't want to overload you with statistics, but if you never incurred another debt, it would only take you 13,700 years to pay off what you owe.

Do you get the point? Jesus isn't giving us numbers to calculate and figure. He's telling us that our debt is beyond our means. It can never be paid. Hence when the servant in the parable promises to pay – it's a lie. He's still in unbelief. He doesn't get it. The King is going to write off this debt by writing off the man, his wife, and his children, selling them into slavery.

But the Kingdom of heaven is not the kingdom of this world. This parable isn't economic advice for the world. Don't act like this King in your small business. You'll lose it all and won't be able to support the church, your family, and yourself. This parable is God's economy. This is how He runs the Kingdom of heaven. **And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.** (vs. 27)

You know this King. You know this forgiveness. This is the Son of God become man. This is Jesus of Nazareth. Forgiveness isn't erasing your debt – it is paying your debt. Your 38 billion sins hanging on Jesus. All of them. Every last one of them. He takes the hit, the hell, the eternal suffering until it is truly paid, until it is finished. Forgiveness isn't free. It costs Jesus' life. He died that you might be free of sin, that His Father might reckon you righteous. Debt cancelled. You're forgiven. You're free. He doesn't see your sin. You're not going to die, but live. Satan can't lock you up in that debtor's prison of hell. When you hear the Word of Absolution on Sunday morning – you should sound more like Baptists than Lutherans. There should be a hearty "Amen" to your freedom.

You know what's next. You leave here and before you get home, perhaps in the Narthex, or Bible Study, or in the car, you are sinned against. It hurts. You're angry (and you should be because sin is evil), and what are you going to do? Grab that fellow servant of the Lord by the neck and demand your \$4611. (That's Pastor Reber's number too.) 38 billion has been forgiven you and you're going to demand a measly four grand.

Now, I know you're asking all sorts of questions, but what if he doesn't repent, what if it keeps happening, what if? What if God asked those questions before He forgave you. Have you sinned the same sin more than once? Are you heartily sorry for your sins or hardly sorry? Have you sought forgiveness without any effort to amend your sinful life?

The first servant did not trust the King's forgiveness. He put himself in the King's place and demanded payment from his fellow servant. He couldn't let go of his rights even after the King had given up His right and set His whole family free. The greatest enemy to forgiveness and life is your old sinful self. He just doesn't want to die. He doesn't want to humble himself under anyone else. He thinks life comes by justice and might and right.

If you need a reason to come to church (and I have about 38 billion) this is one. **And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.** (vs. 34-35) Why do you need to go to church every Sunday? Why do you need the Lord's Supper for forgiveness when you've already heard the absolution? Why do you need the Word and Supper when you have been baptized for the forgiveness of sins?" 38 billion pronouncements of forgiveness are not too many for our faith or life so that we can forgive the little amount of sins against us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Family Devotions: How to Devote Yourself

By Rev David Buchs (Concordia Fairhaven, CV)

Let's start with a thought experiment. Suppose that you wanted to teach your children to despise God's Word. How would you do that? What's the best way?

You might think that simplest and best would be to ignore God's Word all together. Don't go to church, throw out the Bibles, act as if God does not exist. But is that really most effective? If you want your kids to hate something, they need to know what it is. Ignorance means indifference, but we're in pursuit of contempt for the purposes of this experiment. So let's try a little harder.

Here are some suggestions: Take your kids to church and be miserable while you're there. Don't talk about God's Word, don't explain why you're going, and don't let any desire for the forgiveness of sins seep into your conversation. Instead, take your kids to church and make it clear that you're just going through the motions. This is something that we have to do but hate doing, like going to the DMV or cleaning the toilet. That'll set them up for contempt.

Or better still: Drop your kids off at church. Make them go to Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, and all the rest, while you skip Bible Study and show no interest in what they're learning. Treat their time at church like their time at school. It's just another subject that we know you won't use in real life, like social studies or macroeconomics or French. You have to take it to graduate, so just get through it.

If you want to teach your children to despise God's Word, you must absolutely, under no circumstances, read the Bible together at home. And don't even think about praying. It's one thing to hear the Bible read at church and to listen to the pastor pray where you can all feel like you're just along for the ride, but if you do it at home, it shows

initiative. It makes it seem like this is important. It makes it seem like it's not just something that somebody is making you do, but something that you want to do, and that is a failure if you're teaching contempt. Don't ever let them see that you love God's Word.

I originally thought about writing this whole article tongue-in-cheek, like Jonathan Swift's *Modest Proposal*, but it was coming out way too snarky, and I don't want to be discouraging. Quite to the contrary, I'd like to encourage you with this marvelous truth: home devotions are kind of like a silver bullet. Time together at home reading the Bible and praying is like a good, strong weld that takes various separate chunks of metal and makes them an unbreakable whole. It binds you together as a family. It is a bond that is unlike other bonds because it does not depend on changing interests or seasons of life. It doesn't depend on sentiments, and it transcends even death and the grave. It is the one solid foundation upon which a house may be built to withstand the wind and the flood.

Here's a few tips on doing devotions and then a couple words on the benefits.

I believe that the devil does not want to work harder than he has to (where did we learn our laziness but from our father, the devil?). That means that the obstacles he's going to put in your way first are going to be the lightest, easiest obstacles while making them appear insurmountable. The first one is time.

You give the devil a big kick in the teeth and you communicate to your whole household (and friends and family and neighbors, at that) the priority of God's Word in your home if you have time that is always set aside for devotions. I've found that it doesn't need to be precisely the same time every day, but it is helpful to have it connected with something else that occurs every day. Like dinner or before it is time to start getting ready for bed.

You give the devil a big old kick in the teeth when you reclaim your time. There's only so much time, it is true, but the more glorious truth is that time spent together in God's Word is **never** wasted. You can't be so sure about anything else. Or rather, you **can** be sure that time spent doing lots of other things **is** wasted. But not so with devotions. It is always fruitful because you're invoking the Holy Spirit to strengthen you in faith and love. That is always a win.

Once the time has been set aside, now you can treat it a bit like exercise. Start easy, and add weight and repetitions. Start with the Lord's Prayer, and then add a chapter of Scripture, and then add another chapter, and then add a hymn, and then add another chapter of Scripture, and then add individual prayers. Just keep building and building and gradually those 5 minutes will have become a substantial amount of time and the devil won't know what hit him.

Don't fret about understanding everything or everyone paying perfect attention the whole time. Dad should lead, and his leadership hinges on his willingness to do it even when he doesn't feel like it. And he should make the effort to engage everyone where they are. Ask questions, make observations, and bring things up later. Recognize that once you've reclaimed your time, the devil will come along and try to make the perfect the enemy of the good. "Oh, so you're doing devotions? Too bad you're so awful at them." Laugh in his face and reply, "Joke's on you, loser. I may be awful at them, but when I am weak, God is strong." Be confident that God will bless your labors.

Among those blessings are these two benefits that everyone can appreciate.

First, and most important: forgiveness reigns in a home where God's Word is central. And where forgiveness reigns, there is peace. A home that gathers around God's Word as the one indispensable part of life learns together to be forgiven by God and thereby to forgive one

another. And that is what your home needs more than anything.

Second, your joy in one another increases. Too many people live life trying to hold on to their family with a feeble kind of grasping, knowing that time and age and finally death separates them. Not so for the Christian family gathered around God's Word. You don't need to go searching for quality time together – it's built into devotions. You don't need to worry about good things coming to an end because God has guaranteed you eternity through the blood of your Savior and the promises of his Word. Instead, you simply get to enjoy one another.

None of us wants to teach our kids contempt of God's Word. None of us want to despise it. We want to treasure it and hold it fast and hand it down as our great heritage. So let's get at it. Let's do the simple things that make the biggest difference. Let's be busy with the most important things that the world laughs at. Let's love what God loves and watch our families grow up into maturity in his kingdom.

Book Review by Rev Bruce Timm

Pillar of Iron by Taylor Caldwell

Do you want to read a political thriller? In which you can learn the difference between a republic and a democracy? Where there are attempted assassinations and riveting speeches meant to inspire the crowds? Where lawsuits are brought against the powerful in the hopes of bringing them down? Where the hero is a flawed man who pursues the love of women not his wife? Where a few stand up for the truth and noble purposes in order to save the nation?

It sounds like 2024, but the story takes place from 106 BC to 43 BC. The hero is Marcus Tullius Cicero, the place is Rome, and the republic is dying as democracy and dictators take over. The book is A

Pillar of Iron by Taylor Caldwell. My wife Valerie rediscovered this author whom her parents enjoyed reading. Taylor Caldwell wrote several historical books, including three Biblical novels on St. Luke, *Dear and Glorious Physician*, St. Paul, *Great Lion of God*, and Judas, *I Judas*.

Cicero was a lawyer, philosopher, orator, author, a politician, and a man who loved Rome. The book is filled with wisdom.

Wisdom like Ecclesiastes: *Is life nothing but anticlimaxes, therefore? Shall all our years be spent in expectations, to arrive at nothing but another dawn, another lesson to be learned, another vexation to be overcome, until the final day arrives when we are gathered to our fathers?* (Cicero's friend Noe)

Wisdom on Politics: *We are fast approaching the day when Rome will not be swayed by the temperate middle-class but by the rich, who will preside over whining and bottomless bellies, and slaves. Each serves the other, satisfies the other's appetite, in an evil symbiosis. For the rabble's votes the powerful man will betray Rome.*

And remember, above all things, that never was a government but that was a liar, a thief and a malefactor. When power lies only in the people, and their government is restricted, then that people flourish and no wicked man can conquer them. (Cicero's grandfather)

Wisdom on having an identity and purpose: *Man must have a frame of reference. Once Rome had a firm frame of reference compounded of God, country, and just law. So she became strong and mighty, upheld by faith, patriotism and justice. The nation which drives out God drives out its soul, and without a soul a nation cannot survive. We have a Republic, but the Republic is declining. The evil heads of plotting men are already outlined against the sunset of our life and their swords are visible. What is it that Aristotle said: 'Republics decline into democracies, and democracies degenerate into despotisms.' We have approached that day.*

I also appreciated the wisdom of Cicero when he thought about his mother: *"Why is it I never really appreciated her before but accepted all she did for me as my due? Did I think my comforts sprang automatically out of the air? Did I think invisible hands wove my garments and cooked my food? ... a world where women neglected their duties would be a world without neatness and overcome with chaos. Women were the balance wheel of life, and if that balance were no more men would revert to beasthood.*

This is a novel, but the story resonates with reality in this fallen world. Cicero is a gifted lawyer who wins impossible cases, but in the process loses friends and his life is threatened. His father is a weak man, but his grandfather and mother are strong. He is lifelong friends with Julius Caesar, but Caesar continually uses the friendship to his own advantage. There are a few true and noble characters who love Rome and want her to be restored to greatness, but most serve themselves.

Cicero is a hero whose passion and love for Rome gives him the courage to stand up to evil and to fight against the odds for the good of Rome. However, he is no superhero. More than once, he succumbs to melancholy and despair. Today he would probably be diagnosed with depression and anxiety. Sometimes his own passions lead him astray and blind him to evil. He has mistresses while married. He divorces his wife late in life and marries a young girl. His daughter whom he loves dies at a young age and his son, whom he hopes will love Rome as he does, only loves himself. The most exciting chapters in the books are the assassination attempts on Cicero's life. Cicero was saved more than once by an act of God, although being a Roman he would probably credit the gods.

Speaking of "gods" the author writes that Cicero was very interested in the promised Messiah of the Jews. One of his best friends through the book is a Jew named Noe. He has many conversations with Noe. In his darkest days Cicero is cheered and given hope when Noe recounts the prophecy of the Messiah. The author tells of how the Jews are

certain the Messiah is very near. Every birth of a son among the Jews is hailed as possibility that their Messiah has come. The author concludes the book with reference to the birth of Christ just four decades after Cicero died. As I read the book, I hoped Cicero believed. I would love to have a conversation with him in the resurrection.

Finally, the book will give you a glimpse into the Roman Empire on the cusp of Christ's birth. You will recognize the names of Julius Caesar, Mark Antony, and Cleopatra. You will hear the famous line, "Et tu Brute" from Caesar. Although you might not make the connection, Caesar's nephew Octavius is Emperor of Rome by the book's end. He would take the name Augustus, a familiar name to all who hear the Christmas Gospel from St. Luke, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed."

An Introduction

By Rev Joel Kosberg (Love of Christ, St. Cloud)

Hi, I am Joel Kosberg. I am the new Senior Pastor at Love of Christ Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona as the youngest of three boys. I have been married to my wife Becky for 8 years and we have 4 kids -- a 5 year old, twin 2 year olds, and a 6 month old baby. We have lived in the southwest suburbs of Chicago for the last three years. I really enjoy reading, playing basketball, and spending time outside with my family. My favorite thing about being a pastor is listening to people's stories and speaking with them about all that God has done for them in Jesus. It is a thrill to be able to speak God's grace to people in personal and meaningful ways. I'm looking forward to life in St. Cloud!

News and Memes of Grace

INSTALLATION OF REV JOEL KOSBERG

September 15 at 3pm at Love of Christ in St. Cloud. We're happy to have you!

CIRCUIT FORUM

November 3 at 12:30pm at Concordia Fairhaven (in person or zoom). We'll have to elect a circuit visitor and vote on overtures to submit to the 2025 District Convention. Contact Rev David Buchs (Circuit Visitor) for more details.

A Poem Dedicated to Our Favorite Boomer (written by ChatGPT)

In a cloudy town where stories hum,
Lives Pastor Bruce Timm, a baby boomer, a bum?
With two first names that dance in the mist,
And no one's sure which name first to list.

Is Bruce the first, or does Timm hold sway?
This puzzle baffles in a charming way.
He grumbles and grouses with a furrowed brow,
Yet his grumpiness somehow endears him now.

A relic of days when life was slow,
He often scowls at progress's glow.
But behind those frowns and curt replies,
Lies a heart that loves and never lies.

He'll grumble at the latest trends,
But with a spirit that defends
The values he holds close and dear,
Even if his methods aren't always clear.
Yet we adore him, grumpy and wise,
For beneath the surface, love never lies.

In every sermon, every sigh,
He's a beacon who helps us reach for the sky.
So let Rev Bruce Timm be grumpy, we say,
For in his own way, he lights our way.
Two first names or none, it's all the same.
We love him dearly, and that's the name of the game.