

Lucas Link

Lucas Christian Reformed Church

July, 2020

“God met me more than halfway, He freed me from my anxious fears.”

Psalm 31:4

The Finger Trap

“You most likely came into contact with one as a child: a small, colorful cylinder, made of woven bamboo. Instructed by snickering friends to insert your index fingers into each end, you discovered to your dismay that your fingers were now trapped inside. The more you pulled outward, the tighter the aptly named Finger Trap became. After a good laugh your friends told you the secret of breaking free. Instead of pulling in the outward direction, you surrender to the inward direction. The taut cylinder then relaxes and the captive fingers are loosed. *Ta-da!*”

Faith Check

At times, most of us resort to running away from our problems. But rather than run, we should press in to God. In lieu of tensing up, we should relax and quit fighting so hard to break away in our own strength. We can make the impossible work to our advantage by trusting in the God of the impossible to help us.”

Upcoming events: (these dates could be subject to change so please double check before attending.)

- July 7, Tuesday, Tentative Autumnwood Singing @7:00 p.m.
- July 12, Sunday, Raise Up Global Ministries Sunday - The Lord's Supper!
- July 19, Sunday, Tentative Jail Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.
- July 24 - 26, Annual Camping Weekend @ Camp Cadillac
- July 25, Saturday, Private Event @ Church in Fellowship Hall all day
- On going, Lucas CRC Booster Club Pop Can Donations, contact Ally Brinks @ 878-1807

***Job Opportunities: NMCS is looking to hire a “T.R.I.P. Co-Coordinator, a Route Bus Driver, a Food Service Director, and a Custodian. Please Contact Scott Curell...**

scurell@nmcs.us

Hey Campers...This sounds delicious!

Cake & Berry Campfire Cobbler

2 cans (21 oz. each) raspberry pie filling (or whatever flavor you wish)
1 pkg. yellow cake mix (reg. size)
1 1/4 cups water
1/2 cup canola oil
Vanilla ice cream, optional

- Prepare grill or campfire for low heat, using 16 - 20 charcoal briquettes or large wood chips.
- Line an ovenproof Dutch oven with heavy-duty aluminum foil; add pie filling. In large bowl, combine the cake mix, water and canola oil. Spread over pie filling.
- Cover Dutch oven. When briquettes or wood chips are covered with white ash, place Dutch oven directly on top of 8-10 of them. Using long-handled tongs, then place the remaining briquettes on pan cover.
- Cook until filling is bubbly and a toothpick inserted in the topping comes out clean, 30-40 minutes. To check for doneness, use the tongs to carefully lift the cover. Serve the cobbler with ice cream if desired.

“Thank you, Lord, for summertime...

For daylight and warmth
For sunsets and breezes
For trees and flowers

Thank you, Lord, for families and friends...

For laughter and games
For personalities and talents
For patience and love

Thank you, Lord, for faith...

For Your Word
For Your forgiveness
For Your presence

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for life--here and now and forever!

July

The Sun is High, Gardens are Growing. Pour a cool glass of lemonade and celebrate the peak of summer!

“Summer is a special season that reminds me how blessed I am to live in this Great Country of Ours. When I see the Blossoms of Red Poppies, Blue Bachelor Buttons and White Daisies, I think of the Colors of our Flag!” - Kathe Sommer Bryant

She Rises

“A woman who fears the Lord will not run away from God to satisfy her longings and relieve her anxieties. She will wait for the Lord. She will hope in God. She will stay close to the heart of God and trust in His promises. The prospect of departing into the way of sin will be too fearful to pursue; and the benefits of abiding in the shadow of the Almighty too glorious to forsake.” - John Piper

“My boss drove a luxury car everyday and it was my duty to greet him and to open the gates for him, as I worked as a watchman in his villa. But he never responded back to my greetings.

One day he saw me opening the garbage bags outside the villa in search for any leftover food. But, as usual he never even looked at me, it was like as if he never saw anything!

The very next day I saw a paper bag at the same place, but it was clean and the food inside was covered well. It was fresh and good food like someone had just brought it from the supermarket. I didn't bother as to where it came from, I just took the paper bag and I was so happy about it.

Everyday I found this paper bag at the same place with fresh vegetables and all that we needed for home. This became my daily routine. I was eating and sharing this food with my wife and kids. I was wondering who this fool could be?! To forget his paper bag full of fresh food everyday.

One day there was a big problem in the villa and I was told that my boss had died. There were too many guest coming to the villa that day and I didn't get any food that day, so I thought that one of the guest must have taken it. But the same thing happened the 2nd day, the 3rd day and the 4th day.

It went on like this for a few weeks and I found it difficult to provide food for my family, so I decided to ask the wife of my boss for a raise in my salary or else I would quit my job as a watchman. After I told her, she was shocked, and asked me, how come you never ever complained about your salary for the last 2 years? And why is this salary not enough for you now? I gave her so many excuses but she was never convinced!

Finally in the end, I decided to tell her the truth, I told her the entire story of the bag of groceries, and as to how it was my daily provision. She then asked me as to when this stopped? I told her after the death of her husband. And then I realized that I stopped seeing the paper bag immediately after the death of my boss. Why didn't I ever think of this before? That it was my boss who was providing this for me? I guess it was because I never thought that a person who never replied to my greetings could ever be this generous!

His wife started to cry and I told her to please stop crying and that I'm really sorry that I asked for a raise. I didn't know that it was your husband who was providing me with the meals, I'll remain as a watchman and be happy to provide my service. His wife told me, “I'm crying because I've finally found the 7th person my husband was giving this bag full of food. I knew my husband was giving 7 people everyday, I had already found the 6 people, and all these days I was searching for the 7th person. And today I found out.

From that day onwards, I started to receive the bag full of food again, but this time his son was bringing it to my house and giving it to my hand. But whenever I thanked him, he never replied! Just like his Dad!

One day, I told him THANK YOU in a very loud voice! He replied back to me to please not be offended when he doesn't reply, because he has a hearing problem, just like his dad!

Oh! We have been wrong so many times judging others without knowing the true story behind their actions. Be kind and courteous in dealing with others, for everyone is fighting a hard battle. Be careful, not everything is about you. Before you assume, there is this thing called ASKING. Don't just jump to conclusions, because that is truly not an exercise, it may cause you more harm at the end of the day. Many of our problems are caused by how we process what happens around us. Don't judge a situation you have never been in. Be humble enough to learn. You do not know it all. Lets change the way we feel about ourselves and others. Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. God bless you!”

Memory Verses:

“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word.
I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Praise be to you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.
With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.
I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.
I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.
I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.” Psalm 119:9-16

Special and Continued Prayers:

Our Church Families and *Community Families:

*Laurie Koning & family
Denise Yonkman & family
Kim Kuiper & family
Courtney Box & family
Brian Brunink & family
Amy Shaarda & family
Dereck Kamphouse
*Kids Hope!

Loved ones who may be straying from God
Our **Missionaries**,...many prayers for all.
Collin Schierbeek & family
*Larry & Nita VanSingel & family
*Harper Smith & family
*Levi, step grandson to Curt & Shirley
Our elderly in Assisted living: Grace Pluger,
June Bazuin, and Sarah Hoekwater

*Prayers and Sympathies to Jim & JoAnne Benthem in the passing of their sisters. May God grant you and your families His Peace.

*Reminder to send cards and letters to our elderly who may be extra lonely right now with still no visitations allowed in our nursing homes and long time care facilities.

“Let your cares drive you to God.
I shall not mind if you have many of them if each one leads you to prayer.
If every fret makes you lean more on the beloved,
it will be a benefit.” -Charles H. Spurgeon

“Are you walking through a season of sorrow with no end in sight? When it feels like we can't stop crying and relief from our heartache is nowhere in sight, we can find comfort in God's tender care for us.

Psalm 56:8 promises us, “You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle, You have recorded each one in your book.” God sees us in our tears. He keeps track of our sorrows. Our heartache and pain is not meaningless in His eyes.

This season of sorrow won't last forever.”

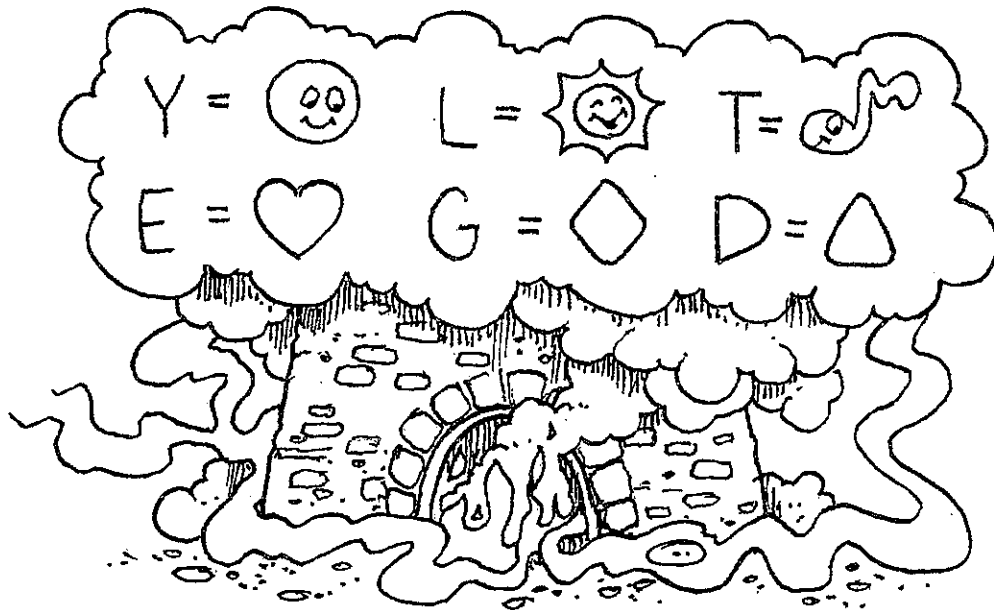
___ H ___



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"Everyone must worship my idol," said the king,
"or they will be thrown into the fiery furnace."

But three men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow down.

Why?

Use the code to fill in the blanks.

Then read the answer.

Children Learn What They Live by Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D

“If children live with criticism,
They learn to condemn.
If children live with hostility,
They learn to fight.
If children live with ridicule,
They learn to be shy.
If children live with shame,
They learn to feel guilty.
If children live with encouragement,
They learn confidence.
If children live with tolerance,
They learn to be patient.
If children live with praise,
They learn to appreciate.
If children live with acceptance,
They learn to love.
If children live with approval,
They learn to love themselves.
If children live with acceptance and friendship,
They learn to find love in the world.”

“People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyways. If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway. If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.” -Mother Teresa

Bible Trivia:

During the famine in Egypt, to whom did Pharaoh send people for food?

Over which Empire was Esther a queen?

What did a woman touch to cure twelve years of bleeding?

What could a prophet tell?

Who really took Jesus' life?

(Joseph; Persian; Jesus' hem or clothing; The future; No one, (he chose to die for us.)

Six Ethics of Life

Before you Pray - Believe.

Before you Speak - Listen.

Before you Spend - Earn.

Before you Write - Think.

Before you Quit - Try.

Before you Die - Live!

“Sometimes people think I look like a criminal.”

That’s what I told my daughter the other day. We had the “Race Talk”, and I said “I don’t look like a criminal to everybody. Just to some people. And it’s usually if I don’t smile.”

I told her “I wish this was a world where people didn’t judge us by the color of our skin. But right now, it isn’t...So I smile more often.”

“The Race Talk” wasn’t just about racism...It was teaching her how to become an Authentic Leader in 2020. We’re teaching her that even though people may be suspicious of her, she needs to learn not to rush to judge others. We’re teaching her that she won’t always be treated fairly, because of her gender and her race, so she needs to learn to forgive.

We’re teaching her that she has privileges that others don’t have...The system may work for her, but it does not work for everyone. So she needs to learn to empathize with others, and fight for people less privileged. We’re teaching her that she will have black and white people in her life who are amazing and loving. These same people may also say inexcusable stupid things sometimes. She must learn to confront ignorance with candor...without destroying relationships.

We’re teaching her that because her mom is white, and her dad is black, she can identify with whichever race she wants to. But she must learn that her identity goes beyond race and rests in her status as a child of God.

We’re teaching her that police officers are there to protect and serve her, and most do a terrific job. And a few are racist, and should lose their job. She should learn to love all the racist cops anyway.

Above all, we’re teaching her to keep her focus on Jesus. That she is strong, and should work to help as many people as possible. That some days her country, her neighbors, her friends, and even her family will let her down. But Jesus never will.

We will do our part to address injustice. Vote. March. Serve. But our goal isn’t just to build a better world for our girls. It’s to build better girls for our world.” -Dan Owolabi

*“For us to hate those who are in error, or talk of them with contempt
or wish them ill, or do them wrong, is not according to the Spirit of Christ.*

You cannot cast out Satan by Satan,

nor correct error by violence, nor overcome hate by hate.

The conquering weapon of the Christian is love.” - Charles Spurgeon

Esther, the Queen

Read Esther's story in Esther 3—7 in your Bible. Then find the words below hidden in the puzzle. Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

M W A L L P G O L D R O D K C
O U I J R E E E D E G G E B J
R E D A N R B S R Z N A M A H
D R H K W S O T A Z L T D I Z
E O F I O I R H Y E J Z L N U
C Y A N D A B E T Z M T F L Y
A A S G D E K R R A P K A R F
I L T X E U I C U A R E B E Q
D S Y E M Z W R O A P W M N W
I E Y R L M J E C P C R F O R
N A A X A I S Q A B O W U R V
N L R E C R E N A S H E S H Z
E E P S O D E I F I R R E T F
R B I H S W E J T S E R C T V
S P A R E M Y P E O P L E K E

ESTHER

HAMAN

MORDECAI

KING XERXES

JEWS

PERSIA

ROYAL SEAL

LAW

LIED

ASHES

CRIED

FAST

PRAY

THRONE

COURTYARD

GOLD ROD

DINNER

APPEAL

ROBE

HORSE

CREST

SPARE MY

PEOPLE

TERRIFIED

BEGGED

CALMED DOWN

Lucas CRC Historical Notes from 101 years ago:

Thanks to Brenda Benthem for translating from Dutch notes.

Evidently there was a problem with the horses walking on the church property... can't imagine why! After months of trying to acquire one acre from another parishioner, he sold it for \$5 to the church. Problem solved? Not totally... water needed to be hauled from the windmill for the horses. Still another parishioner agreed to cut the hay on the church property and get it into the shed.

It was a busy summer of 1919; with a new pastor moving in. The parsonage was checked for repairs and cleanup. Projects included painting; fixing fences; and getting some gravel around church.

Things were progressing, but there was still the wood to cut and haul to the parsonage and the basement in church... wood and coal furnaces.

Also electric lights were going to be installed in the parsonage and the church. It was not an easy job, and they had to figure out how to pay for the electricity.

Notes from Consistory Meeting 50 years ago (6-29-1970):

A letter was received from the Cadillac Evening News, along with a \$10 check, which was won by Mrs. Maxine Meekhof in the "Know Your Church" Contest held in the Cadillac paper. A thank you card will be sent to her for donating this money to our church.

Our Christian School Association appeared before the Consistory requesting the use of our Church Basement for one classroom every forenoon of the coming school year: 1970-1971.

A Church Picnic Committee was appointed: Evert Helms, chairman; Kelly VanHouten; Ron VanderTuuk; Calvin Sikkema; and Russ Nederhood. The Picnic will be July 22.

Closing prayer was by Don Bosscher.

Reverend Netz / Harvey Loeks, Clerk

<u>CEF Fund - Amount paid toward the 2020/2021 School Year:</u>	\$ 32,277.47		
June Deacons Report			
Budget Goal:	\$ 16,003.60		<i>Special Collections:</i>
Actual Given:	\$ 15,600.40		CEF Fund \$ 17,959.00
Difference:	\$ (403.20)		Lucas CRC Building Fund \$ 303.00
			Missionary Support \$ 50.00
YTD Goal:	\$ 104,023.40		World Renew - Disaster Relief Services \$ 529.00
YTD Actual:	\$ 96,666.15		Zachary Pluger Fund \$ 50.00
YTD Difference:	\$ (7,357.25)		
**Disclaimer = This is tentative Report, and has not been officially approved, because the Full Council did not meet this Month.			

JULY WEEKLY WORKERS:

Week 1 -	Ushers	AM	Dan Tacoma (NE), Dan Zuiderveen (SE), Dave Zuiderveen
	Nursery	AM	Cindy Schierbeek, MaryJane VandenBerg, Sydney Heuker
	Greeters	AM	West – Diane Kortman East – Darrell & Kim Kuiper
	Coffee Servers		Sharon Van Houten, Emilie Kuipers, Ron & Bette Dick, Nick & Denise Ochampaugh
Week 2 -	Ushers	AM	Jim Plugger (NE), Doug Benthem (SE), Curt Van Houten
	Nursery	AM	Juli Tacoma, Sharon Van Houten, Jenna Kuperus
	Greeters	AM	West – Emilie Kuipers East – Patrick & Erin Lavender
	Coffee Servers		Jim & JoAnne Benthem, BJ & Molly Plugger, Dave & Joyce Zuiderveen
Week 3 -	Ushers	AM	Garrett Prince (NE), Den Heuker (SE), Kathy Spoelma
	Nursery	AM	Faye Lutke, Patti Brouwer, Madison Ochampaugh
	Greeters	AM	West – Faith Lawson East – Ken & Judy Kamphouse
	Coffee Servers		Curt & Shirley Van Houten, Doug & Vonn Benthem, Joey & Heidi Roberts
Week 4 -	Ushers	AM	Darrell Kuiper (NE), Becky Nicholas (SE), Patrick Lavender
	Nursery	AM	Erin Lavender, Denise Yonkman, Mason Heuker
	Greeters	AM	West – Garry & Lorraine Martz East – Mike & Rose Nederhood
	Coffee Servers		Ken & Judy Kamphouse, Faith Lawson, Kraig & Jennifer Van Houten
Week 5-	Ushers	AM	Howard Prince (NE), Rocky Schierbeek (SE), Paul Taylor
	Nursery	AM	Talli Bode, Brenda Benthem, Sydney Heuker
	Greeters	AM	West – Steve & Becky Nicholas East – Dave & Carol Nielsen
	Coffee Servers		Rog & Deb Hoeksema, Ron & Patti Brouwer, Mike & Rose Nederhood

Sound Booth Operators:

July 5: Rog & Deb Hoeksema
 July 12: Ryan Kuperus & Renee Kuperus
 July 19: Rog & Deb Hoeksema
 July 26: Kraig & Jennifer Van Houten
 August 2: Jim & Karen Plugger

Children & Worship:

July 5: Danielle Plugger, Sandy (L) Plugger
 July 12: Erin Lavender, Mason Heuker
 July 19: Karen Benthem, Sydney Heuker
 July 26: Talli Bode, Madison Ochampaugh
 August 2: **Off For Communion**

Praise Team:

July 5: Green
 July 12: Yellow
 July 19: Red
 July 26: Blue
 August 2: Green

Piano & Organ Players:

July 5: Lori Hemmes
 July 12: Carol Nielsen
 July 19: Marcia Smith
 July 26: Carol Nielsen
 August 2: Michele Kuperus

Nursery Toy Cleaners:

July: Cindy Schierbeek & Ally Brinks

August: Faye Lutke & Talli Bode

September: DeAnn Prince & Jennifer Van Houten

Letter Writers:

July 5: Dan & Amy Shaarda
July 12: Marcia Smith
July 19: Kathy Spoelma

July 26: Loren & Diane Stahl
August 2: Shane & Carrie Stahl
August 9: Dan & Juli Tacoma

Disclaimer: Due to the uncertainty of when we will begin using regular Coffee Servers/Ushers/Greeters, and resume having Nursery Attendants, the Weekly Workers list will currently just have week numbers, instead of actual dates. When these positions begin being used again, we will start with 'Week 1', and go from there. At that time, actual dates will be attached to each of the Groups. Children & Worship, Piano & Organ Players, Sound Booth Operators, and Praise Team Schedules will remain unaffected, and will merely skip over the dates that were missed. Thanks!

July Celebrations!

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
5	6	7	8 Rylan Brinks	9 Ken Nederhood	10 Dave Eling	11
12	13 Rocky Schierbeek	14 DeAnn Prince Ryan Stahl	15 Don Meekhof 88th B-day Matt Pogue Toni Schierbeek	16 Jared & Susan Benthem	17 Amy Eling Hilda Fransen Kraig VanHouten	18 Mary Gibson Paul & Brenda Benthem 51st Anniv. Rose Nederhood
19 Nancy Prince	20 Boaz Buning	21	22 Kregg Schierbeek	23 Kim Kuiper Sharon VanHouten	24 Max Eling	25
26	27 Avery Schnitker	28 Bob Zuiderveen	29 Erin Lavender	30 Nick & Denise Ochampaugh	31 Lydia Shaarda Sadie Roberts	Aug. 1
2 Cassie Hardy	3 Dan Tacoma Dave Lawson Jesse & Amber Schnitker Ken & Judy Kamphouse 58th Anniv. Steve & Brenda VanHouten	4	5 Karen Pluger Ken Kamphouse	6 JoAnne Benthem Kevin Pluger	7 Devon Kamphouse	8 Bernie & Linda Mulder 51st Anniv.

Words to Live by...

*"Freedom is not a gift bestowed upon us by other men,
but a right that belongs to us by the laws of God and nature." -John Webbe*