

# THE HERALD

July & August 2021

## Running Through the Thistles

Roy Oswald is a great storyteller. A senior consultant for The Alban Institute, he is an awesome resource for counseling ministers. Listen to his sermon illustration which has for me...become a great guidepost for pastor and people.

When I was a young boy growing up in rural Saskatchewan, my two older brothers and I would often walk home from school over the fields, rather than along the road. It was shorter, but occasionally we would come upon enormous thistle patches.

Those thistle patches sometimes used to extend for a half mile or more. In places the prickly patches would be 50 feet to 100 feet wide -- in other places 10 to 20 feet. We rarely wore shoes to school in the summertime, hence our dilemma: how to cross these thistle patches in bare feet. We did have the choice of walking around but, since it was the end of the day, we were tired and hungry. Mother usually had a snack treat for us to tide us over 'till supper.

To walk around the patch would take us way out of our way. The other option was to back up and run through the narrowest part at full speed. Being the youngest -- with the least speed and the smallest leg span -- I always objected. I was usually over-ruled, however, by my two other brothers, who would then each take me by one hand and run me through the thistle patch.

I can still vividly remember the experience: running full speed in bare feet across 20 feet of prickly thistles, yelping in pain all the way. When the three of us reached the black soil on the other side, we would immediately hit the dirt and start pulling out the thistle ends that stuck in our feet.

"I had four briars get me -- how many did you get?" was a sample of our post agony conversation.

Question: are there any uncomfortable parts of "church" ...for you? And ***how can we lovingly talk about them?*** How can we 'do church' in such a way we 'speak the truth in Love'?

Honestly, beloved: I cannot tell what God has in store for Heritage? I do believe that...the best is yet to come. But to get there....will, I am certain, take a leap of faith.

It is going to take more than the few (hardly any) visitors who happen in our doors of a Sunday....to grow. And without more members, or more income, the future looks...destined to be bleak. There are ways...around that, to new life: mission. A mission so daring it jars us out of our comfort and jolts us out of any ruts. A vision and plan which gets us out there so people cannot help but see and 'behold, how these Christians love one another!' .... A service so daring people are compelled to join us for the love within our congregation.

But to grow, to insure New Life happens here....I dare say, nay...I prophesy....a bold, new leap of faith....is necessary. Something which will nudge us out of our comfort zones. Something which shows the world (our neighbors around us as well as each other)....something strangely Wonderful is happening here!

Do you have such a vision? Want to share it?

And, 'til tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow...let us love faithfully. Daring the thistles and briar patches we face.

Amen.



### **JULY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

03 – Kay Schweitzer  
07 – Lew Sieber  
07 – Lariah Smith  
07 – Dave Thompson  
16 – Barbara Queen  
18 – Larry Baker  
23 – Loretta Neill  
24 – Katrina Kendle  
29 – Adam Bahr  
30 – Ray Meester



### **AUGUST BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

02 – Bruce Snyder  
05 – Kay Traudt  
07 – Alan Shuman  
09 – Eunice Sintek  
11 – Scott Minks  
16 – Lori Helvie  
17 – Freddie Bonnett  
17 – Dean Smith  
18 – Bill Bahr  
19 – Matthew Crouch  
19 – Kate Singaas  
20 – Ilah Harmon  
24 – Finn Singaas  
26 – Tristen Singaas  
28 – Marilynn McDonald  
31 – Danny Broeder



### **JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

05 – Norm & Pat Zink  
11 – Wade & Deb Kendle



### **HERITAGE BIRTHDAY CLUB**

Anyone may join or renew their membership in Heritage's Birthday Club. Donations (usually 1 dollar per year of life) is made to our endowment fund.



### **AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

01 – Jeff & Patty Wahlgren

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Oct 10: CROP Walk  
– join the Heritage Team to walk to raise funds to fight hunger in our community and around the world.



Please contact Karen Griffin Sieber if you are interested in joining us as a “walker”.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR RANDOLPH

Now that school will be back to in-person, let’s help resupply Randolph Elementary with school supplies! Take advantage of the back-to-school sales for the following items: #2 pencils, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, spiral notebooks (wide or college ruled), loose leaf paper, yellow highlighters, crayons – we will accept donations through the month of August.



## FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS



Help us support small farmers around the world with a purchase of Equal Exchange products. We recently received a shipment of olive oil, dates, mini-chocolates and some coffee. Check out the displays in the narthex!

The following products are available:

- Teas (\$2.50/box): Mint Green, English Breakfast, Irish Breakfast, Peppermint, Green tea with Ginger, Earl Grey, Chamomile, Chai
- Coffees: French Vanilla, Toffee Caramel, Breakfast Blend, Cozy Cup Decaf, Hazelnut Crème Decaf (price varies \$6.50 - \$7.50)
- Chocolate bars: Milk or Dark chocolate minis (5/\$1)
- Olive Oil: \$12.00/bottle
- Medjool Dates: \$12.00/17.6oz box

## BAPTISM OF JETT HENNINGS – JUNE 20, 2021



Left: Matt, Emily & Jett Hennings; Jeff Hopson; Jan Crouch; Liz Thon; & Matt Crouch



# THE HERALD

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[www.HeritagePres.org](http://www.HeritagePres.org)

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
NEXT HERALD**

**August 25, 2021**

Items received after this  
date may not be included!

Heritage Presbyterian  
 880 South 35th Street  
 Lincoln, NE 68510  
 402-477-3401  
[pastorheritagepc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorheritagepc@gmail.com)

# AUGUST 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:30 AM Worship	2	3	4	5 2:00 PM Piano	6 10:30 AM Al-Anon	7
8 10:30 AM Worship	9	10	11	12 2:00 PM Piano	13 10:30 AM Al-Anon	14
15 <i>Congregational Meeting</i> 10:30 AM Worship	16	17	18	19 2:00 PM Piano	20 10:30 AM Al-Anon	21
22 10:30 AM Worship	23	24	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	26 2:00 PM Piano	27 10:30 AM Al-Anon	28
29 10:30 AM Worship	30	31	1	2 2:00 PM Piano	3 10:30 AM Al-Anon	4

Please refer to the online calendar for updated/changed events.