

THE HERALD

June 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.



JUNE BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

04 – Jeanne Bonnett
 11 – Jan Crouch
 12 – Jessica Broeder
 12 – Mora Singsaas
 16 – Robyn Mason
 16 – Liam Tomas
 19 – Corinne Crouch
 21 – David Crawford



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

02 – Danny & Tamra Broeder
 06 – Scott & Lori Helvie
 11 – Ray & Ramona Meester
 12 – Dave & Dawn Thompson
 21 – Bill & Missy Bahr
 28 – Larry & Sharon Baker



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.

COME JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

Join us as we open to New Life here at Heritage... Sunday, June 6th at 10:30 a.m..... Come along and find friends and family (vaccinated and/or socially distant/masked) as we worship together for the first time in months in our sanctuary!

There will be sanitizing stations throughout the building; we will also provide masks if you need them. Offerings will be put in a basket on your way out (or in).

DONATIONS TO LLCHD HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAM

The mission committee is moving this donation drive from Mother's Day to the month of June. Please help mothers in our community who need a little extra help and encouragement through donations to the Healthy Families Program. Items in need include breastmilk storage bags, infant/toddler sunscreen, sippy cups, toddler silverware, diaper creams, diapers (cash is always welcome too).

WELCOME BACK ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The Mission Committee would like to invite everyone to join us for an ice cream social after worship on Sunday, June 6. Weather permitting, we will celebrate our return to in-person worship – if not, we will be in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see everyone there!



FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS

As we transition to in-person worship, the mission committee would like to encourage everyone to 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

SPECIAL THANKS...

To all who donated to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering -- \$190.00 has been donated to date. Thank you for supporting others in our country and around the world when natural disasters strike.



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021!

- Belle Kendle, Southeast Community College, Associate of Applied Science Human Services degree
- Adriana Miller, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bachelor of Arts degree (Psychology & Sociology)
- Michael O'Brien, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bachelor of Music in Education degree
- Gina Meester, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy degrees

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**DEADLINE FOR THE
NEXT HERALD**

June 25, 2021

Items received after this
date may not be included!

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 402-477-3401
pastorheritagepc@gmail.com

JUNE 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 10:30 AM Worship	31 <i>Memorial Day</i>	1 <i>First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month</i>	2	3 2:00 PM Piano	4 10:30 AM Al-Anon	5
6 10:30 AM Worship & Ice Cream Social	7	8	9	10 2:00 PM Piano	11 10:30 AM Al-Anon	12
13 <i>Session Meeting</i> 10:30 AM Worship	14	15	16	17 2:00 PM Piano	18 10:30 AM Al-Anon	19 Juneteeth
20 <i>Father's Day</i> 10:30 AM Worship & Baptism	21	22	23	24 2:00 PM Piano	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 10:30 AM Al-Anon	26
27 10:30 AM Worship	28	29	30	1 2:00 PM Piano	2 10:30 AM Al-Anon	3

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