



SEPTEMBER 2018

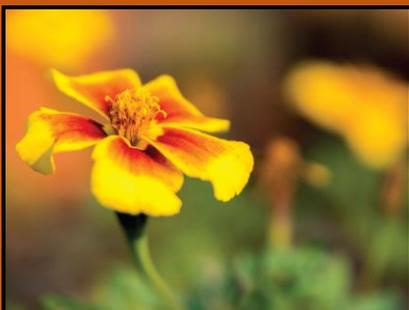
A publication of Crown of Life Lutheran Church, Sun City West, AZ

Worship (thru December)

Saturday Worship – 4:00 PM
Sunday Worship – 9:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class – 10:15 AM

Pastor Phill Leads New Member Information Class

Beginning Sunday, October 7, Pastor Phill returns to lead the Bible study designed for people desiring to join our church as members. Current members are invited to attend this “Christian basics” refresher. As Lutheran Christians we have a unique view of scripture that informs our practice and theology, and the eight classes will introduce those topics. December 3 will be New Member Sunday for those “graduates” who desire to become members of our church.



Friendly? by Pastor Phill, Senior Pastor

Greetings in the name of our Risen Savior Jesus, the Christ!

Recently I was told by a retired pastor who visited Crown of Life together with his wife that after the Greeter and the Usher, not a single person in the worship service they attended greeted them. I was embarrassed by that report, of course, and mentioned the situation in my message for that weekend. Since then, I’ve been contacted by no less than 4 other people – sadly, a couple of them anonymously through hand-written notes – who have said the same thing. When they visited, no one before or after the service said hello, introduced themselves, or otherwise interacted with them.

In talking about this with the folks in Sunday Bible study, more than one person suggested that visitors must take the initiative. I get that both sides, visitors and members, have a role in this matter but – I confess that I am hesitant in a crowd unknown to me to initiate conversation. Aren’t you? I do believe the onus is on us, as members in a place most of us consider to be “friendly”, to actually be friendly. I’m making a big deal of this as I believe it is a big deal. It is a part of this column as fully half of our full-strength membership did not hear the story, as so many travel away this time of year. We seem to take for granted that our parish will always be here. I assure you, it won’t be if we send visitors away with the impression we don’t care if they were here or not. So please – if you see someone you don’t know, make an effort to say hello. You might even (!) introduce yourself. And if the other person says “Harumpf! I’ve been a member here twenty years!” your response might be something like, “Well, I’m happy to finally make your acquaintance!”

One last thing on all this: there is no need to send me an anonymous note. I don’t bite. Please do, when contacting me on any subject, let me know who you are. You get to have opinions/objections/observations. Mind you, this is not to say I promise to fix or change any situation – but I’ll listen.

continued on back

Be Your Best by Carol Steficek, Parish Nurse

A new class will be starting in October. “Be Your Best” will begin on Tuesday, October 8 in the Chapel. The sessions will be from 1:00-2:00 PM and run for 6 weeks, finishing on November 12. This class will focus on being your best for God. It will cover how to make healthy food choices, some great recipes, painless exercising (sitting/standing plus Sign Chi Do), and boosting your spiritual growth with devotionals and prayer.

You’ll need to sign up for this class in September at the Information Center in order that materials can be prepared for you. Plan on this great program so you can tune-up just before the holidays! Come and bring a friend!

From Your President

Are we "all-in"? Jesus was!

Definition of the term "all-in" –

- fully committed to or involved in something
- in poker, to bet everything on a hand
- wholly, entirely, completely
- a person's whole interest, energy or property

You and me, when are we "all-in"? When placing a bet in a poker game, purchasing a new car, raising our children, cheering for a NFL team, or saving for retirement? How about the Bible, the cross, and the risen Savior?

The Gospel costs nothing. You can't earn it or buy it. It can only be received as a free gift of God's grace. It doesn't cost anything, but it demands everything. It demands that we go "all-in", a term that simply means placing all that you have into God's hands. Pushing it all in. Do we get stuck here in "no man's land"? Are we afraid that if we go "all-in", we might miss out on today's world offerings? Not true, but we will miss out on everything God has to offer. God won't hold out on you.

"All-in" is all or nothing. It's "all-in" now or never. Kneeling at the feet of the cross of Christ and surrendering to His Lordship is an act of surrendering yourself and enthroning Christ as King. Nothing belongs to you, not even you. Be fully committed to the Lord.

God's love and grace is waiting for our commitment. Jesus went "all-in" for us. Are we capable and willing to go "all-in" with the Triune God?

Say Nelson

SALVATION

is nearer to us now than when we

FIRST BELIEVED.

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

Finding Comfort, Guidance and Strength to Move Forward After the Loss of a Loved One

by Christine Escobar, GriefCare Coordinator

We know that in this world we are going to experience pain and loss, and we will have to hurt through these losses. When this happens, our choice is not whether to hurt or not to hurt, but what to do while we are hurting.

God's church is uniquely equipped to help His hurting children find solid footing and strength to move forward with their lives after experiencing crushing pain, loss and disappointment. Only God's church can call on every resource God has put at our disposal to heal from the blows we experience by living in a broken world.

Here at Crown of Life Lutheran Church, we offer several care ministries to support and walk alongside you as you strive to heal and recover from emotional, spiritual, and physical wounds. These ministries include our GriefCare Ministry, Stephen Ministry, and Nurse Carol's special programs. Our pastors are also always on hand to provide support and guidance.

- This fall the GriefCare Ministry will present our "Loss of a Spouse Seminar" **Wednesday September 5, 2018, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM** in the Chapel. If you are grieving the loss of your spouse, please join us for this encouraging seminar. At this seminar you will gain insight into:
 - How to handle overwhelming emotions
 - Where to find the strength to go on
 - What to expect in the days to come
 - How to grieve in a way that's healthy and suited to you
 - Biblical principles that help you deal with your grief.

Our 13-week GriefCare program "Your Journey from Mourning to Joy," will start the following **Wednesday on September 12, from 9:30 to 11:30 AM.** This program will provide ongoing support to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. This program covers every aspect of grief Christian professionals, counselors and experts deem necessary to address in order to fully heal and move forward.

In each session, we will view a video that features the advice of Christian counselors and pastors and hear the stories of others who have lost loved ones and what encouraged and helped them to heal. Following the video we will have a group discussion focusing on what we learned from the video that we can apply to our own recovery efforts and discuss any questions and concerns we may have. *There is no requirement to share. Those who do not wish to share can benefit greatly from listening to others in the group.*

You will receive workbooks in both the Loss of a Spouse Seminar and our 13-week session that will help you place your life into perspective and determine priorities as you work through this difficult, overwhelming and often disorienting time. The workbooks contain helpful and encouraging exercises for you to read, work through, and apply to your personal situation.

For more information and to register for these sessions, please call Christine Escobar at 623.218.6793 or email griefcare@colchurch.com.

New Florist – New Price by Florella Denzin

We have a new florist! The office and I are hearing great comments. Our new florist is Four Seasons Flowers & Gifts at 6630 W. Cactus, Suite B-104, Glendale. Their phone is 623-878-2740. Barbara is the owner who is a child of nursery parents. She and staff are excited to please everyone. Our committee feels the arrangements are beautiful and fantastic!

Please remember to sign the monthly flower chart. **The new cost is \$45.00 per arrangement.** The arrangement may be taken home following our Sunday Worship service.

What's YOUR Liability? *by Carol Steřicek, Parish Nurse*

Our society today is a very litigious one. Everyone needs to be careful extending a "helping hand" to friends and even family members if you have siblings involved with care of a loved one. Stay within the boundaries of what is a "reasonable" way to help. It's OK to pick up someone to take them to church or to a doctor's appointment. It's OK to do shopping and pick up prescriptions for someone. It is NOT OK to do something which, to use a nursing term, is not within your scope of practice. **DO NOT:** 1) pour medications for someone as you will be help responsible if there are wrong doses or the person takes something incorrectly, 2) do dressing changes which should be done by a licensed professional, 3) pick someone up after surgery and simply drop them off at home where they may be confused regarding taking medications, or be in danger of a fall, 4) ever give someone your medications, even if they are taking the identical prescription and have run out, 5) do not attempt to help someone up after a fall. Call 911 as there may be a serious injury you are not aware of. These are just some of the DO NOT's you need to be aware of. I know as good Christians we want to reach out to help people in any way we can. But don't put either yourself or the person you love in jeopardy with your good intentions. Be smart—watch YOUR liability.



Our congregation has an opportunity to help Surprise Christian Preschool in Surprise, AZ. It is a new state licensed preschool that is serving 3, 4, and 5 year olds. The teachers are passionate about and committed to providing these preschoolers with an exceptional educational experience strongly rooted in Christian teachings. Our own Mission Board also supports the preschool. If it touches your heart to help these children and teachers with some every day supplies please check out this list of items. There will be a box in the Narthex by the doors that you may place your gift beginning September 16 until October 9. If you would prefer giving a gift card: Target, Sam's Club, Supermarket (Fry's etc.), Dollar Store, or Walmart Cards would be helpful. If you prefer giving a check **please make it payable to** Surprise Christian Preschool.

<i>Paper napkins</i>	<i>Goldfish Crackers</i>	<i>crayons</i>
<i>Paper towels</i>	<i>Cheerios</i>	<i>markers</i>
<i>Swiffer mop replacements</i>	<i>Individual cups applesauce</i>	<i>pencils</i>
<i>Kleenix</i>	<i>glue sticks</i>	
<i>Mini paper cups</i>	<i>paints</i>	
<i>Baby wipes</i>	<i>card stock</i>	
<i>Quart and gallon baggies</i>	<i>reward stickers (any kind)</i>	

Our next LWML scheduled meeting is at 1:00 PM, October 9 in the Chapel. Please plan on coming to hear about Surprise Christian Preschool and help plan activities for the coming year. We look forward to seeing you on the 9th of October.

2018 PSWD - LCMS Convention Report

by Gene Axelson, Voting Lay Delegate
 Thank you for the opportunity to attend the 2018 PSWD convention June 27-29, 2018 held in Irvine, California. The theme of the gathering this year was "Rejoicing with the Nations" based on Rev.7:9-10; "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Highlights included the retirement of President Larry Stoterau after 18 years of serving as the District President, and then the election of Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson as the new President from Christ Lutheran Church and School, Costa Mesa, CA. First Vice President elected was Rev. Vince Harman from Christ Lutheran Church, Yuma, AZ. A number of other officers and Board members were also elected. Several resolutions were also addressed to be forwarded to the National LCMS convention for their consideration. The key note speaker was Rev. David Maier, President Michigan District.

A meaningful communion service was held Wednesday evening where a special offering was taken for the benefit of a "restart" mission congregation in Long Beach, CA, called the Gathering Lutheran Church.

continued below

LCMS Convention *continued from above*

One disappointment, with over 300 congregations in the District there should have been close to 600 clergy and lay delegates, however there were only 354 total voting delegates in attendance. It was interesting to note that 83 congregations in the District do not hold services in English on Sunday mornings, rather, they use one of 16 other languages each week. It was also pointed out that over 90 Korean pastors have been ordained in the past 30 years and that over 30 still practice in the District.

There are 8 Lutheran High Schools in the District, 49 elementary schools, and 98 early preschools; with a total of over 20,000 students being taught by 2,208 teachers; and one major university - Concordia Irvine with over 4,000 students.

Christ Caring for People through People

by Ken Grover, StephenCare
“Encourage one another and build each other up. Just as in fact you are doing.”
 1 Thessalonians 5:11

September is here. Summer is almost over. Cooler weather is just around the corner. Vacation is a fond memory. Schools are in session. The winter visitors - snowbirds - will be arriving soon. We have or will be returning to the old, familiar routines. “Bear one another’s burdens, and this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ”. Galatians 6:2

The Stephen Minister’s motto, “Christ caring for people, through people” captures the core truths about what Stephen Ministry is all about. Stephen Ministers bring Christ care to their care receivers. Stephen Ministers are the care givers, and Christ is the cure giver. Stephen Ministers trust God to bring about the healing and wholeness that God promises. Stephen Ministers value prayer as an essential element of their caregiving. They are well trained care givers. They trust God to work through them to bring the love of Jesus to their care receivers. Stephen Ministers provide spiritual and emotional one on one Christian care to people undergoing challenges and difficulties in their lives. Do you need a Stephen Minister to help you get through the tough times?

Please contact Pastor Gary at 623-546-6228 or Gloria Michel at 623-544-4569 for more information.

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps”
 Proverbs 16:9

May God continue to bless, protect, and keep you in His Grace.

“This is the day the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it.”
 Psalms 118:24

Thoughts by Pastor Gary

Have you ever wondered if your prayers are always answered? I know that I have. All proper prayers have the promise of God’s answer, as declared by the prophet Isaiah when he says, “Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear” (Is. 65:24).

Although it may not seem so to our human hearts, God gives special attention to prayers of intercession, request, appeal, and pleading for our fellow human beings, that’s us, whether friends or foes. We see this from many instances in Scripture. We see Abraham praying for the people of Sodom in Genesis 18. We see it in Moses interceding for the people of Israel in Exodus 32. And what about the Canaanite mother pleading for her demon-possessed daughter in Matthew 15. Or what about Paul making his request in behalf of the converts in Philippi. These great intercessions where pleasing to God. They were powerful and effective as James tells us, because they conformed so closely to the intercessory prayers Jesus, particularly in His high priestly prayer in John 17. What is more, not only the example of Jesus but, above all, His reconciling work in giving up His life for the world both prompts and enables us to pray for others.

Our intercessions have the promise of God’s audience and answer because they are an expression of the divine will that we love our neighbor. Such prayers, spoken in love, put selfish interest aside and instead focus on the needs of people around us. Knowing God will answer encourages us to follow our intercessions with thanksgiving for the blessings God has shed on the lives of others.

Answered prayers are a tribute to the love of God which prompts the caring and sharing love of Christians. How different from Truman Capote’s book which focuses not on prayer but on the evils people do and try to hide. While it is shameful to publicize “what the disobedient do in secret,” it is honorable and edifying when we speak for others “with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs” and in our prayers as well.

Two quotes I’ll leave you with here regarding prayer. Luther said, “What the pulse is to the physical life, prayer is to the spiritual life, to cease to pray means to cease being a Christian.” And C.F.W. Walther stated, “As crying is the first sign of life in a newly born child, so prayer is the first sign of life in a reborn Christian.”

Take time to include others in your daily prayers.

Treasurer’s Report

by Arlin Bates, Treasurer

The July financial statement shows budgeted year-to-date income of \$488,553 and actual income of \$523,826. Year-to-date budgeted expenditures were \$466,667 with actual expenses of \$447,974. Here’s where we stood at the end of July:

	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
Receipts	\$ 56,730	\$ 60,223
Expenses	\$ 64,250	\$ 71,060

Greeting Cards for Sale *by Pat Petersen*

You will find greeting cards for sale in the Chapel. These include birthday, anniversary, sympathy, get well, and others. The cards are sold individually or by the box. Prices are marked. Cash or checks accepted. Please make your check payable to Crown of Life Lutheran Church.

COL Book Club *by Judith Brodzeller*

The Book Club is returning from summer break. Our next gathering will be on Monday, September 10th at 10:30 AM in the Conference Room. All are invited to join us for a lively discussion on our monthly selection. Bring a friend who likes to read. They do not have to be a member of our church.

2018 BOOK LIST

September 10 *The Paris Wife* by Paula McLain

Also bring another book you read over the summer to share with the group. The October selection will be determined at this meeting so come with ideas.

First Aid Kits *by Carol Steficek, Parish Nurse*

Are you all aware we have two first aid kits available for use anytime? One is located in the ParishCare office and the other in the Kitchen. In these kits you'll find anything you need for minor injuries, plus glucose tabs for diabetics having a low blood sugar reaction, and Ibuprofen. Near the kits you will also find eye wash and peroxide. I keep everything stocked but if a kit runs out of something, please drop a note on my desk and I'll replenish the supply. Thanks!

9 - 13



Crown of Life Choir
Enjoy the Inspiration, Fellowship and Fun
of Choir Membership.

First Rehearsal
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 at 3:30 in the Music Room

Altar Flowers

- 1 & 2 Arlin & Lynn Bates, in celebration of their 51st wedding anniversary
- 1 & 2 Jerry & Florella Denzin, in celebration of Florella's birthday
- 1 & 2 Walter & Phyllis Sullivan, in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary
- 15 & 16 Ed & Liz Crabbe, in celebration of their wedding anniversary
- 22 & 23 Emil & Jan Seaman, in celebration of their 38th wedding anniversary
- 29 & 30 Larry & Nee Hieb, in celebration of their 45th wedding anniversary

We've Got Mail!

I wish to acknowledge the support and love our church family at COL have conveyed with visits, cards, calls, etc. over the past week following my heart attack. As I now have to rest and heal from the stent procedure, our faith family has given me assurance, encouragement and strength to meet challenges that lie ahead. For that I am blessed. God's hands hold me with caring love and will be upon the hands of the surgeon and his staff. Special thanks to Pastor Phill and Nurse Carol for their visits.

*A faithful COL servant,
Dean Braatz*

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Christmas Choir Opportunity *by Roger Hicks, Choir Director*

Additional singers are invited to join the short term Christmas Celebration Choir. First rehearsal and introduction to the music of "What Song Shall We Sing?" is Thursday, September 27 at 4:00 PM in the Music Room. A schedule of rehearsals for the preparation of the December 8 & 9 Musical Christmas Celebration services will also be distributed.

September Servants

Senior Pastor Rev. Phill Robbins
Assisting Pastor Rev. Gary Smith
Pastoral Assistants
Rev. Vern Ermeling, Rev. Roland Kroll,
Rev. Ron Luedemann, Rev. Ray Mirly

ELDERS

(Sat) Gerry Harpt, Ed Kristof, Harry
Bernhardt, Duane Rawson
(Sun) Gerry Harpt, Marty Irwin,
Harry Bernhardt

TRUSTEES

(Sat) Reg Trevisan
(Sun) Bob Hammann

ALTAR GUILD

(Sat) Arline Orchowski,
Nada Workman
(Sun) Kathy Beilstein,
Ginger Stribling

GREETERS

(Sat) Louise Fountain, Vicki Mork,
Karen Sheppard
(Sun) Byron & Gisela Brown,
Margaret Irwin,
Carol Kleinschmidt

GUEST BOOK

(Sat) Dianne Parent
(Sun) Florella Denzin

FLOWERS

Florella Denzin, Jan Drake, Pat Fronk,
Vicki Jolin, Sheila Mecham, Karen
Murphy, Darlene McAfee, Denise
Tearrow, Jan Tvinnereim, Cora Weiss

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Paul Stuempfig, Coordinator
(Sat) Joe Jellison, Dave Sawyer
(Sun) Bruce Borchert, Dave Brodzeller,
Gerry Harpt, Tom Mertins,
Ron Schumann, Paul Stuempfig

SCREENS - Tom Mertins, Coordinator

VIDEO TECHNICIANS

Bob Murray, Darlene & Wiley McAfee

USHERS

(Sat) Ron & Nora Mara,
Duane & Cookie Rawson
(Sun) Byron Brown, Marsh Froland,
Larry Hieb, Marty Irwin,
Carol Kleinschmidt, Bob Larson,
Willie Lundquist, Ed Michel,
Duane Neal, Dorian Pfeifer,
Gordy Rieck, Dave Roberts,
Al Stoudemire

Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Donna Dempsey | 19 | Ron Christ |
| 1 | Florella Denzin | 19 | Bob Kamps |
| 1 | Audrey Harpt | 19 | Jerry Roe |
| 1 | Jan Knutsen | 20 | Kathleen Johnson |
| 1 | Gene Koester | 21 | Lane Landercasper |
| 1 | Jay Nelson | 22 | Geraldine Hastings |
| 1 | Lorry Neuman | 22 | Maurine Longstreth |
| 1 | Melvin Nicholson | 23 | Pat Achtenberg |
| 2 | Lynda Frankeberger | 23 | Jean Majka |
| 2 | Bob Labus | 24 | Karen Stine |
| 2 | Marlene Peterson | 25 | Joyce Hassan |
| 2 | Don Rasmussen | 25 | Sherrie Jessen |
| 2 | Lawrence Strohschein | 25 | Kathy Labus |
| 2 | Merv Tvinnereim | 25 | Jean Lange |
| 3 | Susie Tomaszewski | 25 | Doris Leibbrandt |
| 4 | Teri Ziert | 25 | Marian Smith |
| 5 | Dick Anderson | 26 | Jean Ohlde |
| 6 | Jan Rittmaster | 27 | Dewitt Hoopes |
| 6 | David Toepel | 27 | Jan Tvinnereim |
| 7 | Jim Haar | 28 | Carolyn Ziegler |
| 7 | Merle Huff | 30 | Ron Majka |
| 7 | Mike Krischler | 30 | Vicky Mork |
| 8 | Earle Denny | 30 | Jan Seaman |
| 8 | Joyce Lundquist | | |
| 8 | Merv Schmidt | | |
| 9 | Deb Christ | | |
| 9 | Joann Jones | | |
| 11 | John Obradovich | | |
| 12 | Dave DuRocher | | |
| 12 | Elizabeth Gomez | | |
| 12 | Sue Hood | | |
| 14 | Marv Dietrich | | |
| 14 | Steve Franke | | |
| 14 | Dave Jones | | |
| 14 | Joyce Nance | | |
| 14 | Carolyn Obradovich | | |
| 15 | Ilene Kuebler | | |
| 16 | Jim Bor | | |
| 16 | Jeffrey Grover | | |
| 16 | Wes Horen | | |
| 16 | Donna Koelling | | |
| 16 | Shirley Koester | | |
| 16 | Joe Natale | | |

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----|---------------------------|
| 2 | Arlin & Lynn Bates |
| 4 | Paul & Martha Plapp |
| 4 | Blaine & Barbara Seyferth |
| 4 | Walter & Phyllis Sullivan |
| 5 | Dan & Mary Mehner |
| 7 | Willie & Joyce Lundquist |
| 7 | Joe & Connie Rau |
| 9 | Don & Marlie Abrahamson |
| 11 | Paul & Sue Stuempfig |
| 19 | Ed & Liz Crabbe |
| 20 | Ben & Joan Stepanian |
| 22 | Jack & Pat Coyle |
| 23 | Emil & Jan Seaman |
| 25 | Merle & Carol Huff |
| 26 | Gene & Judith Axelson |
| 27 | Leonard & Shirley Swartz |
| 29 | Dave & Donna Roeker |

We've Got Mail!

I want to thank my church family for the many prayers and cards during the sudden death of my oldest granddaughter, Keisha. And then in July my Mom finally walked with Jesus into Heaven. Thank you Pastor Phill and the funeral committee for all you did for me after the service for Keisha. This has certainly been a challenging summer for me with yet another empty feeling in my heart. Stephanie, my granddaughter, who had been staying with me for the past three months moved out to follow her dreams the week I returned from California. God has His special plans for all of us. We need to keep the faith and pray.

Marilyn Goodnight

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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September 2018

Friendly? *from cover*

In Sunday Bible study this month, while Pastor Luedemann enjoys a little summer respite, we've been talking Creation. The Creator was pretty specific, wasn't He, as to the pattern of His work, the duration of His creative efforts, and the resultant impact on His created beings. The pattern of our lives was determined by Him, as He set out a seven day week, the last day of which He exemplified as Rest that we might remember to come to Him in worship and hold a day as Sabbath rest.

We New Testament types hold that Sabbath as the day Jesus arose from the dead and strode forth from the tomb. Think Old Testament for a moment. For them, the Israelites to whom God gave the creation story through Moses, what we call Sunday was the first day of the week, the day on which all Creation was set free to function as God designed it, after He had rested. The sun and the moon were set in motion to mark our days and weeks and months and years. Jesus rested in the tomb the same day of the week in which God rested from Creation – and on that ancient first day of the week, Sunday, He revealed to us finally the completion of His plan for our salvation in the resurrection of the Christ.

We so take for granted the weeks and years in which we live, without thinking about God's plan in all of it. The very cycle of our lives was established in those creative days described in Genesis 1, and into that cycle of days God fitted His promise of redemption and salvation in Jesus. We honor that promise as we gather in worship – see you there.

Pastor Phill