



April 23, 2023

Pastor Note:

What comes to your mind with the following?

- **Return**
I only order stuff with free returns. Oh, that reminds me, I need to return Rick's Sawzall. I am praying for her safe return. I love it when my kids return home.
- **Sure thing**
There is no such thing. But if you wake up tomorrow, you will be a day older. What goes up, will come down? You will act stupid if you get drunk or high? What's the catch?
- **Promise**
Only as good as the one making it. Seen too many of them broken. Are hard to keep. Be very careful making one. Never promise what you can't or don't intend to keep.
- **Anticipation**
Wow, that smells delicious. Only two more weeks until ... I can't wait till the first rain. I just want to get this surgery over with. When is this baby going to come?
- **Faithfulness**
Loyalty. Fidelity. You can count on me. What you do when one is looking.

Return, sure thing, promise, anticipation, faithfulness, are important words for Christians, and they are all connected.

- **Return**
Jesus Christ will return for all who have recognized. And trusted Him to be their Savior and Lord. **“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also”** John 14:1-3 (ESV).
- **Sure thing**
There is no if or might when it comes to Jesus' literal and physical return, it is only a matter of time, of when. **“After Jesus had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven”** Acts 1:9-11 (ESV, italics mine).

- **Promise**
Only God can guarantee every promise, every prediction, and every prophecy. Only the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are eternal omnipotent, and infinitely wise. Not a single word of God will fail, all His promises can be fully trusted. **“The sum of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous ordinances is everlasting”** Psalm 119:160 (NASB). **“Your word is truth”** John 17:17 (NASB).
- **Anticipation**
It is wise to continually look forward to Jesus' return. The surety and promise of Jesus' second coming are a wellspring of hope for all who Believe in Jesus. He will come! Nothing and no one will prevent Christ from returning. Not a single sheep of His flock will be lost, Jesus will **Will come to take us home. “The Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words”** 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NLT2).
- **Faithfulness**
Since we wait with certainty for Christ's return but do not know the day, our waiting needs to be filled with faithfulness to Christ, His instructions and commands, His kingdom, His will, and what He has entrusted and assigned to us. **“Therefore You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes”** Matthew 24:44-46 (ESV).

These pastor's notes are dangerous, you know. From now on you will never be able to say that no one has ever told you about Jesus' return. Make sure you are prepared. Feel free to contact me if you want help with that – dergermanshepherd@gmail.com

To God be all glory. Love you, Pastor



Lord Hear Our Prayers

Sermon Notes:

PRAYER REQUEST

Health: Karen Souza, Shirley Wolfenbarger,
Mabel Mayes, JoEllen, Rickie Jeffers,
The Family of Genevieve Alldrin as they mourn her passing
Family and Friends, Our Church's Ministries,

SALVATION

Nick, Greg, David, Phillip, Luke, Skip, Demetrius McCray,
Farney, John Boykin, Peter, Mariah Ellis, Jimmy,
Shyrlee Stagner, Dan, Josiah, Amanda, Jim

Military And Those Serving

Michael Berger, Austin Downing, Mike Sharland,
Noah Martin, Rebekah Wilhelmy, John Michael Chavez,
Chris Kelly, Austin Kroeker, Dylan Werner, Brian Sula,
Michael Thomasson, Thomas Hoffman, Joel Thelen,
Clayton Brown, Jonathan Grinols, Joshua Grabowski,
Christopher Sula

A Memorial Service for **Genevieve Alldrin** will be help
12 noon, April 29th
Lakewood Cemetery & Memorial Park
900 Sante Fe Ave.

Prayers:

Being a Church that Cares Well

Why?

“The American church is facing an abuse crisis. Is your church doing all it can to be safe for survivors and safe from abuse? Churches should be a refuge for those who have experienced abuse. But, too often, survivors haven't found the protection they deserve and the care they need from the church. Are you ready to join us in changing that?”

Yes. We are committed to being a safe place for everyone from babies to elderly and we will continue to keep ourselves educated and trained in order to be able to love, love, love. In order for that we will have once-a-month trainings for 4 months for our church staff, Deacons, Board, Children and Youth Leaders, Women's Leaders, Men's Leader, and Food Basket Leaders, and any other adult that may be interested in attending. Each meeting will be at the church from **6:00-8:30 pm.**

Meeting 1: 2/13/23

Meeting 2: 3/13/23

Meeting 3: 4/17/23

Meeting 4: 5/08/23

The videos are survivor stories, educational training, and explaining why the church's response to abuse is a Gospel issue (meeting #1).

In addition to providing these monthly meetings, our leaders and administration will commit to protecting our children and church by training as Mandated Reporters and have a live scan background check.

If you would like to join our monthly meetings, please let Susie Frei know so there is a seat for you (skfrei@gmail.com or 209-247-9234) or let Jannett know.

April Announcements

Upcoming Events

- Men's Gathering - Tuesdays @ 6:00 P.M.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study for all ages - 7:00 P.M.**
- Food Ministry - 1st Wed. & 3rd Tues. @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 A.M.
- Communion Sunday - Today
Deacon Board Meeting every 4th Sunday after service

Fellowship Time Snacks
were provided

By - *Merle's Class*

Thank you

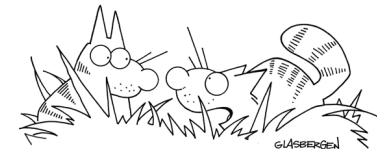
Next week Hans' class is up!!

If you are interested in Church Membership,
please see the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

The church is looking for someone experienced in
Accounting. If that's **you** please get your name
to Jannett in the office or see Pastor Hans.

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A Bit of
Humor
Corner



"The Lord causes me to lie down in green pastures
because that's where all the fattest mice are!"

Giving

April 16, 2023

Offering:
\$1,168.00

Food:
\$10.00

Facilities:
\$20.00

Annie Armstrong:
\$560.00

Books & Material:
\$100.00

Attendance:
100

Weekly Events

Sunday School/Small Groups:

9:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship Service:

10:30 AM

Sunday Evening Worship Service:

6:00 PM

Tuesday: Men's Gathering: 6:00 PM

1st Wednesday & 3rd Tuesday

Food Ministry:

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Wednesday:

Women's Bible Study - 10:00 AM
Bible Study/Small Group - 7:00 PM
Grief Share - 6:30 PM (On Hiatus)

Thursday: Chicken Foot - 1:00 PM

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S H A R E



1 Timothy 6:18



April 24th - April 30th

DAY 1 - Acts 11
(Psalms 52)

DAY 2 - Acts 12
(Psalms 53)

DAY 3 - Acts 13
(Psalms 54)

DAY 4 - Acts 14
(Psalms 55)

DAY 5 - Acts 15
(Psalms 56)

DAY 6 - Psalms 57
DAY 7 - Psalms 58

Welcome all of you who are guests with us today. Our desire is for you to relax and be blessed by worship, God's Word, and fellowship. We, the members, have committed ourselves to underwrite the church financially. We do not expect you to contribute to the offering, but you are free to participate. We would like to get to know you and for you to know us better.