



MOTHER'S DAY THOUGHTS

By John Kester, Pastor

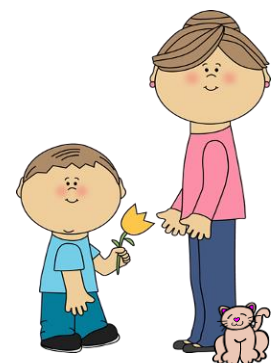
2016 is a strange year for me. As Mother's Day approaches I am reminded of a new reality. For the first time in my life I do not have any parents. I am an orphan. Coming to this realization, I have had a lot of different ideas running through my head.

The first thought that occurs to me is that I was very blessed to have a mom like I did. I was blessed because I never once, in my 54 years, questioned whether my mom loved me. She made it clear in words, but maybe more significantly, she made it clear in the things she did. She taught me the things I needed to know. She supported me in the things I chose to do. She encouraged me to be a better husband and father and pastor. She loved my wife and my children. She was committed to doing whatever she could to make my life better. It is a blessing to have a mom like that. The blessing went beyond her loving me, though. I was doubly blessed to have a mom who not only loved me but she loved Jesus too. The best gift my mom ever gave me was when she shared her love for Jesus with me. To know His love by means of her love were blessings I can hardly describe with words. She used to say it all the time and it is true. She was blessed and I am blessed because she was my mom.

The second thought that occurred to me was how difficult it must be for people who either do not have a mother or do not have a mother that loved them. Sometimes we judge people harshly for the way they behave or maybe the things they say. It occurs to me that maybe the reason people act like that is they never had a mom who taught them a better way. Instead of being hard on people who behave badly maybe we should be more sympathetic to them if they did not have the blessings of a loving and godly mother in their life. Having a godly, loving mom can make all the difference.

The third thought that came to my mind is how often I missed the chance to share my life and love with my mom. In the last sermon my brother preached, a funeral service, he said this, "*Death came so suddenly. There was no time to prepare, no time to say good-by, no time to say I love you. Sometimes we think, if I had only known, 'I would have called...I would have gotten over to see him,' but we never know. None of us knows how many days we have. Death reminds us not to waste the opportunities we have. So, don't wait until tomorrow to say, 'I love you.'*"

Let me conclude by offering two pieces of advice – one to mothers and one to children. If you are a mother, don't lose sight of the fact that no one has the ability to influence your children to live for Jesus like you do. Whether your kids are 4 or 14 or 44 you have the chance to impact their lives with your love and the love of Jesus. Don't miss out on the chance. For those who have mothers I offer this advice: don't take your mom for granted. Remember the days are limited and the hours short when you can share your life with her. Cherish the moments you spend together and let her know how much you love her. Don't leave the door open to regrets.



Happy Mother's Day



CALENDAR OF EVENTS MAY 2016

All events are at the church building unless otherwise noted.

* Indicates an article is elsewhere in this newsletter.

- May 1 – High School Graduation Recognition *
- May 1 – Hour of Prayer 4:30-5:30pm
- May 1 – PHCA Youth Early Bird Registration ends *
- May 4 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:30pm
- May 5 – National Day of Prayer for America
- May 6 – Crossroads College “Dream Banquet” at Rochester MN
- May 8 – Mother’s Day
- May 8 – Monthly Building Offering
- May 11 – Ladies Bible Study at 6:00pm
- May 12 – Set up for Free Clothing Give Away *
- May 12 – Elders Meeting at 7:30pm
- May 12-14 – PHCA Work Weekend at PHCA *
- May 13-14 – Free Clothing Give Away *
- May 19 – June Newsletter articles due
- May 27-30 – PHCA Fishing Weekend at PHCA *
- May 30 – Memorial Day



LONG RANGE PLANNING

- June 1 – CHS Baccalaureate Service at CHS *
- June 3 – CHS Commencement at CHS *
- June 10 – Dorcas Fellowship at 1:30pm
- June 10 – Church Board Meeting at 7:30pm
- June 12 – Monthly Building Offering
- June 17-18 – Cleveland Cherry Creek Days *
- June 19 – Father’s Day
- June 19-25 – PHCA 11th-12th Camp at PHCA *
- June 23 – July Newsletter articles due
- June 26-July 2 – PHCA 9th-10th Camp at PHCA *
- July 24 – Vacation Bible School starts *
- Sept 11 – Our annual FRIEND DAY

BIRTHDAYS: May 1- Bruce Oles; 2- Nell Vossmeier; 3- Will Vossmeier; 9- Kim Miller; 13- Lana Filter; 22- Mark Nyamutora (son of missionary to Zimbabwe); 25- Brian Heckler; 31- Meranda Filter



ANNIVERSARIES: May 5- Jeff & Vanessa Jaster; 23- Dave & Merilee Burch; 28- Will & Nell Vossmeier; 31- Larry & Lana Filter



2016 CHURCH FAMILY GRADUATES

We want to congratulate members of our congregation and our extended church family who are graduating from High School this year. Amy Den Herder, daughter of Steve & Mary Den Herder and Alec Rogers, son of Jim & Karen Rogers is graduating from Cleveland High School. We will honor Amy & Alec on Sunday, May 1.

Three grandchildren of Darlene Schmidt are graduating this year also. Joston Schmidt, son of Lenny Schmidt, is graduating from LCWM; Jacob Schmidt, son of Jerry & Channin Schmidt is graduating from LCWM; and Alissa Schmidt daughter of Jim & Jessica Schmidt is graduating from Maple River.

CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL BACCALAUREATE & COMMENCEMENT

Will be held on Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00pm and Graduation will be held on Friday, June 3 at 7:00pm. Both will be held in the High School Auditorium.

CLOTHING GIVE AWAY - MAY 13-14

The Cleveland Church of Christ is hosting a FREE Clothing Give Away on Friday & Saturday, May 13 & 14. We need volunteers to help set up the tables on Thursday, May 12. If you can help, talk to Shelly Will or Pastor John.

Free Clothing Give Away

Friday, May 13 2:00–5:00PM
Saturday, May 14 8:00–11:00AM



Church of Christ
900 State Hwy 99
Cleveland, MN



ALL items will be FREE!

Anyone / Everyone is invited to browse through gently used clothing of all sizes.



clevelandchurch.net

507-931-5924

LAWN MOWING

A lawn mowing sign up list has been posted in the foyer. We need people who are willing to mow the church lawn beginning immediately.



2016 Summer Camp Schedule

Pine Haven Christian Assembly

www.pinehavencamp.org

The 'Early Bird' rate for youth campers concludes on May 1.

Based on grades going into Fall 2016

Cleveland is in Zone A

Work Weekend	May 12-14
Fishing Weekend	May 27-30
Ladies Retreat	June 10-12
11th-12th Grade	June 19-25
9th-10th Grade	June 26-July 2
Family Week	July 3-8
5th-6th Grade Zone A	July 17-22
Adult Weekend is 75th PHCA Anniversary HOMECOMING WEEKEND	July 22-24
7th-8th Grade Zone A	July 24-30
Deeper Life	Aug 3-7
Greenhorns (3rd-4th Grade)	Aug 7-10
Family Weekend	Aug 11-14
Motorcycle Weekend	Aug 19-21
Ministry Leadership Retreat	Aug 21-23
Last Chance Camp	Sept 2-5
Weekend Craft Retreat	Sept 15-18

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

We will pay half the standard tuition for any child from our church who wants to attend Pine Haven Christian Assembly. A registration code is needed to indicate that our church is supplying a scholarship. Please check with Pastor John for camp information and code details. Some of the people of our congregation have been greatly blessed by the ministry of PHCA. If you would like to continue that legacy and send a child to camp you can earmark a check PHCA and place it in the offering plate.

CHERRY CREEK DAY FLOAT

It is our goal to have a float in the Cherry Creek Day parade again this year. If you would be willing to help design a float or help with the construction, please talk to Pastor John. The parade will be held on Saturday, June 18 at 2:00pm.

VBS 2016



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Summer is just around the corner and we are excited to announce that dates have been chosen for Vacation Bible School. Our VBS will start on July 24 and continue through that week in the evenings. It takes a lot of people to put on a successful VBS. If you would be interested in teaching, leading singing, working with crafts or games or working in the kitchen please let Pastor John know. Many hands make light work.

CONGRATULATIONS



to Kimberly Swedberg and Daniel Ciarrocchi who were married on April 23, 2016 in Minneapolis, MN. Kim grew up in our church family and is the daughter of Doug and Annette Swedberg. Kim & Dan will be living in Richfield, MN.

CHURCH LOAN



We are so grateful to those who consistently give to help pay off the churches indebtedness. A large gift was received recently, part of which was used to pay off the remaining balance of about \$21,000 on the parking lot loan. Generous donors have continued to give to our regular building fund offering. That fund now stands at about \$80,000. In the past 11 years that amount has dropped from over \$450,000 to the current total. Thank you to all who give so generously. The end is in sight.



30 HOUR FAMINE REPORT



We are excited to report that 9 youth and 3 adults participated in the 30-Hour Famine in April. Through the effort of these folks and the assistance of our kitchen breakfast crew we were able to raise over \$1,350.00 to help with hunger issues around the world. The first \$420 goes to support a little boy in Columbia that we have been sponsoring for 3 years. The rest goes to help feed hungry people in other places around the world.

During our time together we learned about difficult choices that many people face who live in food scarce regions of the world. We also played games that helped us understand how difficult it is to live when you do not have food and other resources we are so used to enjoying.

We also had the chance to pack meals with "Feed My Starving Children" in Eagan. In a little over an hour we were able to join with over 100 other people to pack over 30,000 meals.

In the years we have been participating in the famine here in Cleveland over \$13,000 has been raised by teens to help alleviate world hunger. Efforts of teens like ours have helped in reducing the number of hunger people in the world by over 100 million in just the last 5 years.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Cleveland, MN 56017 www.clevelandchurch.net

OUR HEAD: Jesus Christ
PASTOR: John Kester
CHURCH SECRETARY: Lisa Koppelman

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am – Bible Classes for Kindergarten - Adults
10:00 am – Fellowship Time
10:30 am – Worship Service

Link to prior monthly newsletters
http://www.clevelandchurch.net/index.php?p=1_212



Church of Christ, Cleveland, MN, USA

"Like" and "Follow" us for the latest pictures & happenings with occasional "blasts from the past."



PHOTOS

47 Famine pictures + 11 other pictures from the month of April have been posted on our church website and on Facebook account. Our church website has all of 2016's pictures as well as all posted pictures from years of the 1890's to the present. Wow, that's a lot of years! Check out what is going on in our church family in pictures.

OLD PHOTOS ??? Do you have old photos of Cleveland church events or people and you wish to share them, please contact our webmaster Betty L via the church website or on Facebook.