

Judith will be celebrating with us on the 29th.

THOUGHTS FROM MO. JUDITH

August 19, 2021

Looking back at the calendar, five days after chemo, I have a BLAH day. I can't complain about a specific pain (headaches are normal) Being nauseous without hurling isn't a valid complaint. But just feeling BLAH, in every way, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. Today is such a day. Some days I feel like a nut, some days I don't. Some days, I awaken with joy in my heart and a garland of praise around my neck; other days, I awaken with the array cord wrapped around my neck and a garland of grumbles and complaints. Where is the joy that comes in the morning?

The Lord is MY Shepherd.

*Today, I need my shepherd. For today, He is **MY** shepherd, not Our shepherd, our father who art in heaven. today He is Mine. For you see today, I am a bummer lamb, seeking solace and comfort. What is a bummer lamb? One that has been rejected by its mother and no other ewe will take her to the breast or into her heart. (I am not abandoned, in fact, if you ask my sister, she will tell you that I was the favorite, and the spoiled one). A shepherd knows every sheep, old or young, and gathers in his arms, a bummer lamb. Takes the lamb into his home, bottle feeds it, and cradles it close to his heart. With every beat, the bummer lamb hears and feels the rhythm of the shepherd's heart. The bummer lamb feels secure in the shepherd's arms. He knows his voice, knows his smell, and feels his caresses. And as the shepherd rubs the wool of the lamb, searching for ticks, wounds, trigs and other debris, then pours oil over the bummer lamb, cleansing and healing all the wounds that happen with daily living. That is MY SHEPHERD today.*

I shall not be in want.

He meets all my needs, and he will meet me today where I am, grumbles and no praise. What more do I want? I want more of Him, all of Him.

He makes me lie down in green pastures.

And as I lay in those green pastures – which is really a fantastic blanket with words such as Hope, Love, Bear Hugs, Positive thoughts, healing I am in awe of His creation, all of his creation, the clouds, the wind, blowing gently reminding me how the Holy Spirit renews our spirit each day, with a gentle breeze, but on the days we need a boost, she can literally knock us off our feet. More Lord, more my Shepherd.

And leads me beside still waters.

So that I may quench my thirst in the Living water.

Living water that becomes bubbly, and rapid as the Spirit swells within me. Splashing in the streams of life.

“They (the redeemed) are before the throne of God: And serve him day and night in his temple.

And he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.

Never again will they hunger;

And never again will they thirst.

The sun will not beat upon them,

Nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd;

He will lead them to springs of living water

And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. (Rev. 7:15-18)

He said to me: It is one. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son. (Rev 21:6)

He revives my soul

And guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Worship brings me into His presence. Thank you, Lord, for Hallelujah in the presence of my enemies. I will sing a little louder, a little louder.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

For you are with me;

You rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Your rod will keep the demons at bay and thy staff will right me when I have fallen. Keep me on the path, O Lord.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those

Who trouble me;

I can't wait to take a seat at the banquet table with my Lord, my Shepherd, breaking the bread and blessing the cup. Take, Eat. Drink. Bless.

You have anointed my head with oil,

(Remember I am a bummer sheep today)

And my cup is running over.

(Oh, I remember my ordinations. Surely my cup is running over)

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all these days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Yes, one day in His courts is better than a 1000 elsewhere.

MASKS

Due to the rise of positivity rates in Davenport, we are asking that you wear a mask during worship. It's a huge pain, especially if you have been vaccinated and free of the mask for the past several months. But it is designed to protect those around us, even though we are not sick. Especially for those with compromised systems, we would feel terrible if it was one of us who made someone else sick just because we didn't want to put a mask on for 1 hour.

MARY JANE ANDREWS

Some of the longer time members knew Mary Jane and Robin Andrews who were members of this church for many years. They moved to Bettendorf and started attending St. Peter's. Mary Jane passed away on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 from complications from a fall. Robin passed away several years ago. The memorial will be Saturday, August 28th, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bettendorf, IA. Visitation will begin at 12:30 p.m., with a celebration of life at 2 p.m., also available online via Facebook Live (google search @SaintPetersIA). Please no flowers. Memorials may go to St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Bettendorf, Davenport's Figge Art Museum, or the Davenport Schools Foundation. Should you attend the service, please wear bright colors in celebration of her life.

HOST FAMILY NEEDED

Elise Ireland is a French teacher at Alleman High and has accepted a position of International Student Coordinator for Alleman. She is looking for a host family for an incoming student this fall.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Alleman Catholic High School has enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to bring the world to our door steps by welcoming international, diploma-seeking students, this fall. We are looking for host families who will join us in the mission to support advancement of global diversity in our school while simultaneously sharing faith. Host families play a vital role in the life of an international student by providing a safe and loving home to these brave students. Hosting also provides you the opportunity to open your heart, share your family and faith, and expand your worldview as you experience first hand about another culture. Host families receive \$500 monthly to help defray the cost of hosting. The students are financially responsible for tuition and all extra-curricular activities; they also carry health and liability insurance. This is a wonderful opportunity for families, singles and empty nesters. Students will arrive around the around August 14th and return home the end of May. Please prayerfully consider if this is an opportunity for you and your family. For more information, please contact Elise Ireland 319-499-7139, or by email at eirelan@allemanhighschool.org

COMMUNITY MEAL STARTS BACK UP, SORT OF...

We will be able to those in need again, on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month at Zion Lutheran Church, 8th and Marquette. We are “sharing” Wednesdays with Zion’s volunteers because that’s the only night that they would have a bigger turnout for volunteers. Churches United is requiring that bagged lunches be prepared and served outside the doors of Zion. Masks and gloves required and no one is allowed inside. The recipients will take the food back to their vehicles or dwellings to eat. CU is trying to work out providing vaccinations at the meal site. In the cold months, they hope to resume indoor service, or at least handing out bags inside and maybe letting them eat in, but it depends on the positivity rate in the future. If you would like to contribute, it would be more than appreciated. We will have what we gave those in hotels last summer: a sandwich, chips, treat, fruit, water and a napkin. It’s pretty expensive to go that route and to keep it uniform, we will purchase supplies and put everything together the day of distribution. I’m going to call Zion after their first serve in September and see how it went, what they did, anything they would do differently, etc. Then we should be pretty set for our turn in October. Hopefully, when we serve in December, we can have our typical prime rib w/the works! What a celebration! If you would like to donate \$\$, put Comm. Meal in the memo line and/or if you would like to help assemble, give Robin a call.

SEXTON

Now that we are fully open, we are being cleaned regularly and would like to reinstate the practice of designating a donation specifically to “Sexton”. Please list that in the memo line of your check.

OFFSET COST OF COMMUNION VESSELS

The practice of individual vessels of wine and wafers are a great invention for the Covid era, however, it is costly compared to “normal” sacraments. The cost (depending on order numbers) is from .40 - .50 per unit. If you would like to help offset the cost, please state in the memo line your intention. Thank you!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS – AUGUST

~~8/01 1st reader/psalm: Vern M / 2nd reader: Kim F / PoP: Robin S / ushers: Kent & Julie
Altar: Robin S / Flowers: Showers~~

~~8/08 Readers: to be announced / ushers: Kent & Julie W / Altar: Loretta / Flowers: Dalmasso~~

~~8/15 Leader: Robin S / Preacher: Sue M / 1st reader/psalm: Charlie R / 2nd reader: Sherry R
PoP: Nicole G / Ushers: Marshall C, Loretta R / Altar: Robin / Flowers: Linda E~~

~~8/22 Leader: Sherry R / Preacher: Robin S / 1st reader/psalm: Karrie D / 2nd reader: Rob D
PoP: Sue M / Ushers: Michelle D, Jon I / Altar: Sherry / Flowers: Curtis~~

8/29 1st reader/psalm: Nicole G / 2nd reader: Michelle F / PoP: Laura S / Ushers: Scott S, Laura S
Altar: Sue M / Flowers: Watt

REMEMBRANCES NEXT WEEK

Birthdays: 8-23 Karen Kanakares / 8-24 Emily Craven / 8-28 Laura Showers
Memorials: 8-23 Alma (McCoy) / 8-26 Nelle (Sade) / 8-27 Donald (Curtis)
Anniversary: 8-23 Grant & Cathy Curtis