

SUMMER PLANS.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

(Jeremiah 29:11-12)

Do you plan out your day or do you live each day as it comes? Have you made plans for next week, for next year or for your retirement? There is an old adage that says that people do not plan to fail, they just fail to plan. If you have made plans, have you set those plans in motion? Solomon said, "Whoever watches the wind will not plant, whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." (Ecc. 11:4)

God has a plan for your life. He said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." (Jer. 1:5) Clearly, God made plans before He created the universe. Before He set the world in motion He had considered everything from the creation to its destruction, including the cost to His one and only Son Jesus. Amazingly, knowing all the problems beforehand, out of His love for His creation, He formed the world anyway.

God also included you in His great design. His desires for your life are good and beneficial. He has a purpose for everything that is going on in your life, your home, place of employment, your children, your neighbors, where you shop, the friends you have and especially your soul. Saint Paul tells you in Romans, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose."

God placed you in this time of history for His purpose, but He does not force Himself upon you. You can reject His plans for you but in doing so, you run the risk of losing out on His blessings. He has given you a future and a hope of everlasting life through the work of Jesus on the cross, but you can fail to plan for your eternal life by getting caught up in your worldly life.

In these last days, Jesus Christ is soon to return and He is trusting in you to worship Him and carry His message of salvation in every facet of your life. Saint Paul said, "Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." Have you made plans for His unexpected return? Why not plan for your eternal future by calling on the Lord in worship and prayer.

For the sake of Jesus, Amen.

Pastor Wayne

HUGGING is healthy; it helps keep the body's immune system, it cures depression, it reduces stress, it induces sleep, it's invigorating, it's rejuvenating, it has no unpleasant side effects and hugging is no less than a miracle drug. Hugging is all-natural, it is organic, naturally sweet, has no pesticides, no preservatives, no artificial ingredients and is 100% wholesome. Hugging is practically perfect; there are no moveable parts, no batteries to wear out, no periodic checkups, low energy consumption, high energy yield, no monthly payments, no insurance requirements, it is inflation-proof, non-fattening, theft proof, non-taxable (yet) and of course, fully returnable.

† † †

Vacation Bible School:

Hometown Nazareth has come to a close and what an amazing week! Both the kids and the team took the journey by holding on to God's hand and trusting in Him. When He calls you, all He wants to know is your level of FAITH – He never tells us it will be easy! And the FELLOWSHIP – I don't know who had more fun, the kids, the youth or the adults. During this week, we came to know each other and God just a little more and will be blessed by the journey. Thank you for all your prayers, support, time and talent! – Nancy Watkins

† † †

PRISCILLA CLUB:

Next Meeting: July 14, 12:00 Noon
Where: VALI
Hostess: Carol Mallett
Devotion: Concern for Our Country
Sketch: Return to Give Thanks
Human Care: Prayer for local, state and national leaders

There will be a Priscilla Club meeting on Thursday, July 14, 2011. We will meet at VALI for our annual Picnic to be served to the residents at 12 noon with the luncheon at 12:30 pm. The luncheon food will be coordinated by Carol Mallett. After the luncheon, we will adjourn to the church basement for our general meeting. The devotion entitled, "Concern for Our Country" will be led by Sue Poehlein. DeDe Riddering will lead our Bible Study, "Freedom in Christ" and our Sketch will be "Return to Give Thanks." We are

asked to spend this month in prayer for local, state and national leaders and not to criticize any of their actions. If you disagree with their programs, pray more. Look forward to seeing you there!

† † †

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED TO THE 56 MEN WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE?

- 5 signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.
- 12 had their homes ransacked and burned
- 2 lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had 2 sons captured.
- 9 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.
- All signed and pledged their "lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor".
- 24 were lawyers and jurists.
- 11 were merchants.
- 9 were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.
- Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.
- Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.
- Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.
- At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.
- Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.
- John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more

than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July (formerly known as Independence Day) holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: freedom is never free!

I hope you will show your support by this Holiday. It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics and baseball games.

† † †

Applying Bible Principles

Suppose that God allowed you to have one wish. Without limit, you could have anything you desire. You could have unlimited wealth. You could have perfect health and live 1,000 years — or more. You could — like Solomon — have great wisdom. Whatever you want, you may have it. But you only get one wish. What would you choose?

Sad to say, many people would choose great wealth and material possessions. Unfortunately, that would not be a good choice. Listen to the counsel of God as expressed in this contemporary translation of Proverbs 27:20 through Solomon, one of the richest people who ever lived — "The eyes of man are never satisfied." The behavior and attitude which always wants more has a name: Greed, and it demonstrates itself in our lives as though we were at an auction. If we have \$5, we want \$10; if we have \$10, we want \$20; if we have \$20 we want \$30. Solomon went on to say in Ecclesiastes 5:10, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income."

A better choice would be to ask for God's perspective on life and all that life entails. When we see life as God does, we realize that everything belongs to Him, that we are just managers and stewards, and that only what is done for Him will endure for eternity. When we have God's perspective, we will be able to say with the Apostle Paul, ". . . I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

When we have God's perspective, we will accept with a spirit of peace and restfulness whatever He entrusts to us. And when we have God's perspective, we will put into practice the truth of Hebrews 13:5 — "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'



Evangelism Board
Growing Spiritually

As we enjoy our vacation this summer, let's pray and ask God to help us exercise our faith. Faith is a gift from God that strengthens our Spiritual life and inspires us to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Living Fully In Christ means that we find a community of faith and enter into a fruitful relationship with others in the church.

The unique gifts we have been given are meant to be used for the good of others as well as for ourselves. In turn, the gifts of the whole church community strengthen, support, and challenge us to grow in abundant life that Christ promised to all of us. We need each other.

My commandment is this: "Love one another, just as I love you". John 15: 12.

With God everything is possible. Go with God in prayer.

Carmela Searight, Linda Kaufman, Melisa Carey

- 02 Bucky Marshall
- 03 Shaw Davis
- 04 Roger Camper
- 04 Nancy Watkins
- 06 Susan Kattnig
- 06 Dean Bradburn
- 07 Schaeffer Ware
- 08 Robert Mallett
- 10 Kenneth Schuff
- 11 Doris Porth
- 11 Wyatt Aldrich
- 13 Monica Luikart
- 14 Gary Miller
- 14 Rick Ferron
- 15 Doug Tyler
- 16 Cathy Wacker
- 16 Eliada Scheiwe
- 21 Kristen Olquin
- 22 Myrtle Schulze
- 23 Amy Perschbacher
- 23 Richard Henderson
- 25 Jim Shapland
- 25 Lyn Nagel
- 28 Vickie Patterson
- 30 Kathy Koon

Happy Anniversary!

- 07/01/1973 Wayne & Deanna Riddering
- 07/01 Larry & Monica Luikart
- 07/02/1994 Joe & Jennifer Riskie
- 07/07 Jim & Paulette Shapland
- 07/18/2009 Rick & Beverly Ferron
- 07/23/1996 Harald & Lisa Frank
- 07/24/2010 Derek & Bethel Pearl

Ushers:

- 03 Dan & Lori Fox
- 10 Dale & Gertie Falske
- 17 Chuck & Phyllis Kastendieck
- 24 Bob & Carol Mallett
- 31 Chuck & Sue Poehlein

Lectors:

- 03 Doug Tyler
- 10 Lisa Frank
- 17 Jeanene Comerford

Happy Birthday!

- 01 Travis Olquin
- 01 Carol Mallett
- 02 Cindi Flower

- 24 Russ Ware
- 31 Richard Henderson

Acolytes

- 03 Sara & Grace
- 10 Marshall & Hunter
- 17 Wyatt & Ryan
- 24 Emma & Katie
- 31 Ian & Hunter



Announcements:

The church calendar is in the kitchen downstairs. If you have an event scheduled, please put it on the calendar to avoid conflicting with other activities. Thank you!!!

The Church Newsletter is posted on the Hope Lutheran Church web site. If you don't have internet and would like to receive the newsletter by mail, please call your elder.

Seventeenth Annual Older Adult Gathering:

New Testament Leadership for the 21st Century with Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. The Estes Park Center, YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colorado. September 13-15. Details on the church kitchen bulletin board.

Thank you for your gift of \$489.00 for Military Biblesticks. What a blessing to know you are providing hope and comfort to 17 men and women in uniform and their families who face pressures and dangers few of us can imagine, through Christ and His word.

Are you looking for a way to get together with like-minded men to enjoy fellowship and spiritual refreshment? Then join us the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays for Men's STP (Study, Testimony and Prayer) at 7:30 am in Lange Hall.

"You've Got the Time" will be on July 10th during church. This is a program to encourage Scripture study and raise funds for record new translations of the Bible.

The Westcliffe Community Men's Prayer Breakfast is July 15th at 8:00 am in Cliff Lanes. Meet Christian men from the other churches and

join in prayer and the Word. For reservations call Coy Plunkett, 783-9311.

You are invited to a presentation July 19th at 6:00 pm in Lange Hall by Pastor Riddering entitled "Bring Back the Real King", regarding our nation's heritage under God.

Thrivent members of Hope will be hosting a quarterly meeting of our local Fremont-Custer branch on August 14, 2011. Everyone is invited to a cookout. Burgers and drinks will be supplied. Just bring a side dish! More details will be coming. Mark your calendar!!

* * *

John Stuart Mill penned his thoughts and prophetic brilliance: *"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things; the decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks nothing worth a war, is worse. A man who has nothing which he cares more about than he does about his personal safety is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself."*

