



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



The Reality of the Reformation

In the early 1960's my father became the Controller of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation. He held that position for nearly a decade until J&L was bought by the Texas-based conglomerate LTV. At the time of the purchase, in addition to being an aerospace company, an electronics company, a pharmaceutical, meat packing, sporting goods, company, LTV became the third largest domestic steel producer and the second largest domestic producer of flat-rolled steel.

One day, my father's boss entered his office with an offer. "Don," he said, "LTV wants you to work for them, but not your staff. So, let them go and come work with us." It was a simple directive, one that happens all the time in corporate America. But my father said no. The truth is, his refusal was more than one word. He said, "I can't fire them, we're in a Bible study together every Friday morning before the work day begins."

508 years ago, this month, the Protestant Reformation began with the posting of 95 declarations violating Roman Catholic doctrine. Any the heart of the protestations was the solid, biblically-based contention that it's not by any human merit that anyone is reconciled to Holy God. Rather, it is by the full, finished work of Christ alone that such reconciliation occurs. In fact, it's the "alone" truth that underlies every single contention of the Reformation. The Reformers said it this way, it's by faith alone, by grace alone, in Christ alone that anyone is redeemed.

Every century since the Reformation that singular truth has inflamed Bible believing Christians. However, the shocking reality is that it's not always easy to keep Christ Alone as the operating principle of our life and work.

Nine years ago, I had the unenviable task of having to fire the executive director of a growing ministry. This was a man who unabashedly maintained that he was more in love with Jesus than anyone he knew. However, judging from his tepid response to several years of godly counsel, attempted mentoring, and a myriad of second chances, he proved otherwise. Rather than being willing to be teachable, he dug in his heels and refused to change positions, or step aside unless forced to. Finally, when that day came. As he was being terminated, he declared that "his ministry" had been stolen from him. Further, he maintained that he would never again step foot on the grounds of the ministry or give anything in support of it.

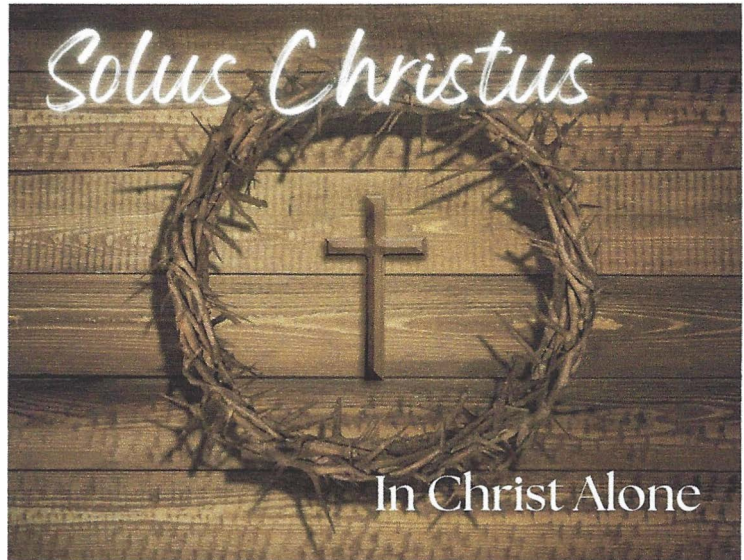
Throughout more than four decades of ordained ministry I have witnessed scores of similar stories. Sometimes I have only to look in the mirror to see a life being lived in a way that's opposed to Christ alone. Whether it's a positive diagnosis, a steady paycheck, a respected reputation, or an unencumbered path to do what we want to do, all of us are in jeopardy of making ourselves a full partner in the leadership of our life. Instead of "Christ

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alone," it's "Christ plus me," and that's a danger worse than death.

The result of Luther's willingness to live out "Christ alone" was an excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church and a spiritual revival that is mirrored only by the Book of Acts. The result of my father's willingness to live out "Christ alone" was the loss of a job, but untold blessings throughout his life and the lives of his family members. The reality of the Reformation is living with only One who's in charge and that's Christ alone. And that makes sense since He has no successful rival. May we live out "Christ Alone," all our days.



2025 - 2026 Youth Deacons

"Here I am, Lord! Send me!" -Isaiah 6:8

10 outstanding young people joined the ranks of "Youth Deacon" to serve in the body of Christ. To be a deacon is an honor and a blessing. They will serve alongside the elected deacons and give of their time and talents in service to the Lord. Many blessings to them!

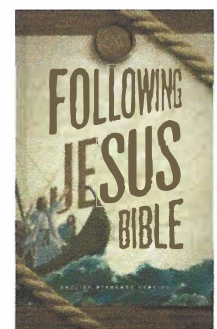
Andrew Baker
Braden Dynys
Addison Farrah
Isabella Farrah
Landon Gheen
Myla McCabe
Isabella Novicki
Randi Riazzi
Mackenzie Schock
Ryan Schoemer



Pledge Report

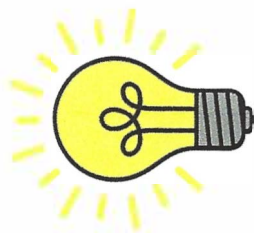
At the time of this writing, we have received considerably less pledges for the Operational Budget than we did two years ago. As of September 26th, we have received a total of 82 pledges, as compared to nearly 130 pledges in 2024. Therefore, we are encouraging all of you who have yet to turn in a pledge to do so as soon as possible. A pledge total that more closely approximates next year's giving will enable us to set a far more realistic Operational Budget. Thank you for your help with this important matter.

New Bibles Presented



New Bibles were presented to our 3rd Graders and 2 other friends who joined us after 3rd grade this Family Sunday:

Bryce Harmon	Ashlyn Redmond
Jacob Illar	Johnathan Rochford
Samuel Meade	Brady Umeikai
Sullivan Novicki	



TRIVIA

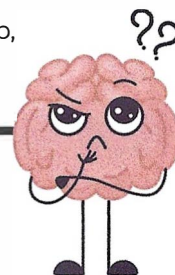
BOWS & ARROWS

Fill in the blank.

From *3,285 Bible Questions & Answers*
by Emily Filipi

1. _____ was an archer, Genesis 16:15, 21:20.
2. _____ was wounded by archers, and he asked his armour bearer to kill him with a sword, 1 Samuel 31:3-4.
3. _____ shot an arrow to warn David to flee from Saul, 1 Samuel 2:33-42.
4. _____ was hit by an arrow shot at random, and the king died, 1 Kings 22:34.
5. _____ was hit by archers and died in Jerusalem, 2 Chronicles 35:23-24.
6. _____ likened his condition to being compassed round about by archers, Job 16:13.
7. _____ was angry when Joash struck the ground only three times with an arrow, 2 Kings 13:17-19.
8. _____ prophesied that the king of Assyria would not shoot an arrow in Jerusalem, Isaiah 37:33.
9. _____ lamented over Saul and Jonathan and taught the children of Judah to use the bow, 2 Samuel 1:17-18.
10. _____ sent his son with his bow to get venison, Genesis 27:1-3.
11. _____ reminded the people assembled at Shechem that hornets, not bows, had defeated their enemies, Joshua 24:2, 12.

1. Ishmael, 2. Saul, 3. Jonathan, 4. The king of Israel (Ahab), 5. Josiah, 6. Job, 7. Elisha, 8. Isaiah, 9 David, 10 Isaac, 11. Joshua



BODIES OF WATER

Match each of the bodies of water with their corresponding verse.

1. A blind man washed in this pool and received sight, John 9:6-7.
2. Naaman "dipped" in this river and was healed of leprosy, 2 Kings 5:14.
3. Daniel saw a vision of a ram in this river, Daniel 8:2-3.
4. Ezekiel saw visions of God here, Ezekiel 1:3.
5. Elijah slew the prophets of Baal near this brook, 1 Kings 18: 40
6. Moses led the Israelites through dry land at this sea, Exodus 14:16
7. Another name for the Sea of Galilee, Hon 6:1
8. A river which flows out of Eden, Genesis 2:10-11
9. The water at this place was bitter, Exodus 15:23.
10. Seraiah was commanded to read a book and cast it into this river, Jeremiah 51:60-63.
11. Jesus taught in a ship in this body of water, Luke 5:1-3.

- A. Marah
- B. Gennesaret
- C. Kishon
- D. Tiberias
- E. Euphrates
- F. Pison
- G. Red
- H. Siloam
- I. Chebar
- J. Jordan
- K. Ulai

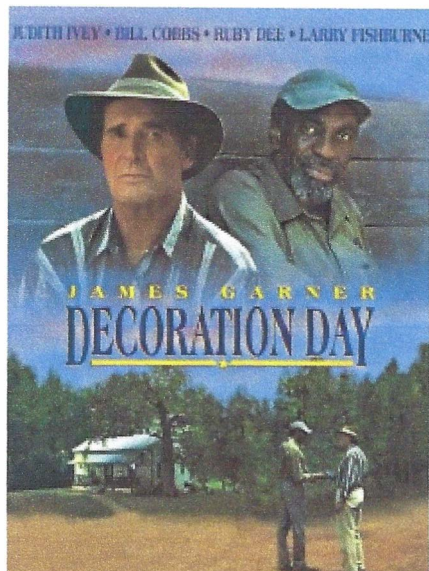
Answers: 1 – H, 2 – J, 3- K, 4-I, 5-C, 6-G, 7-D, 8-F, 9-A, 10-E, 11-B



ATTENTION VETERANS!

We are looking for photos of our veterans in uniform to make a Veterans Day Display. Please bring your photos to the Church Office by November 1st. All photos will be returned at the end of November.
Thank you!

October Event Highlights



Fellowship Movie Day

Decoration Day
Friday, October 17
6:30 PM

Albert Sidney Finch (James Garner) is a retired judge who has lived in relative seclusion since the death of his wife. He is forced out of his isolated existence when asked to find out why a friend (Bill Cobbs) from his childhood refuses to accept a Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during World War II. While investigating, he also gets involved in the lives of his family for the first time in years, including his troubled godson Billy (Norm Skaggs).



Family Hayride

Goodman Family Farm
Sunday, October 12
Meet there at 1:30 PM

Join us for an afternoon of fall family fun!

We are booked for a group hayride at 2:00pm. Cost is \$5 per person. There is a "boo barn" and large corn maze which are also each \$5. (They accept cash/checks ONLY)

Local family owned and operated farm in Ruffs Dale. Even if you are not a hayride person, come out and support local! They have lots of fall decor, lavender, mums, hay bales, pumpkins, etc. It will be a fun day!

October Events

- 10/1-4 - Norwin Art League Art Show
- 10/1 - Norwin Men's Prayer Fellowship
- 10/5 - World Communion;
 Confirmation Class BEGINS;
 Confirmation Meet Your Mentor;
 Cheapest Lunch
- 10/6 - Worship; Evangelism
- 10/7 - M Team
- 10/8 - Stewardship & Finance
- 10/9 - D Team
- 10/11 - Confirmation Retreat;
 HME Distribution
- 10/12 - Munchkins;
 Hayride at Goodman Farms
- 10/13 - Christian Ed
- 10/16 - Session
- 10/17 - Movie Night - Decoration Day
- 10/17-19 - TCA Fall Fix-up
- 10/19 - Family Sunday; Cookie Sunday;
 Youth Choir Sings;
 Lance's Heartstrings
- 10/21 - Circle 1; Redstone Fellowship
- 10/22 - HME Distribution
- 10/25 - Blessing Board Pickups;
 The Brick Squad Lego Build
- 10/26 - Reformation Sunday;
 Deacons Meeting
- 10/28 - Circle 3

A Few Photos from Last Month!



let
Lance's
LIGHT
 Shine
In memory of Lance Frye
 All proceeds used for gift cards for
 Children's Hospital patient families.

Lance's Heart Strings Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, October 19
 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM
 Rainbow Firehall in White Oak
 Adults - \$12
 Children 3 and over - \$5
 Basket Raffle

Prayer Requests

Fred Aggers, Marge Anke, John Anker, Jan Antos, Mark & Karen Beardmore, John & Joy Benedek, John Carlson, Duffner, Ron Durika & Family, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, Betsy Frye, Gerry, Betty Comer, Noelle Daniels, Kristin DiMazio, Dian, Megen Harmon, Richard Himler, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joy Kalina, Wilbert Kelley, Larry & Sharon Kramer, David Long, Beverly Maloberti, Chad Manendo, Bill Martin, JoAnn Martz, Dan McCay Family, Dan McCready, Kate McCorkle, JoAnn McKnight, J. Alan Minter, Bryce Matthew Patrick, Kayli Payne, Pat Plues, Matt P., Connie Steck Schade, Shirley Schmidtke, Frank Sherako, Addy Spehar, John Smith, Sherry Smith, Larry Stamford, Karen Stepanik, Gale Truman, Clara Vana, Vanna Family, Bob Vaughn, Dane Wakeman, Stella Waltemire, Bill Wiegand, & Jeff Youell

Praise and Thank You

All God's People

Our Service Personnel

Staff Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Vaughn Estepp, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sgt. Noah Rady, Dominic Duke, Jeff Cmar and Connor Ramage

Church Outreach Programs

Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Church Food Pantry. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.



To Janet Bentz, Betty Harvey, Ella Filson, Diane Johnston, Phyllis Neral and Bev Sowash for their help with a bulk mailing.

To Rick Burdelski, John Devlin, Sam Hensell, Keith Johnston, Earl Kiser, Joe Smola, and John for their tireless work in our bell tower.

To Glen Harmon and Jim Schlosser for painting the Jumpstart Classroom Room 306 so it was refreshed for the children meeting there.

To the Fellowship Committee for serving Cheapest Lunch September 7th.

To Skip Majiros and Iceburgh Bistro for their donation of the pizza oven.

A Fond Farewell...

It is with a lot of sadness that we will be saying, "Goodbye," to Gary Vamos who has tenured his resignation due to his wife, Roseanne's, growing medical needs. As most of you know, Gary has been our faithful church treasurer for the past three years. During Gary's tenure we have built a new building and have witnessed a sizable increase in the scope of our ministry budget. Through it all, Gary has been an integral part of the staff and has handled all of his responsibilities with professionalism and class. All of us will miss Gary's camaraderie and friendship.

The Finance and Personnel Committees of the Session have developed a job description for a new position: Treasurer/Administrative Assistant that will incorporate the existing treasurer's functions along with the program functions of the AA position. In the time between Gary's departure and the arrival of this new staff member, Dan Miller will be assuming the treasurer role with the oversight and help of several members of the Finance Committee. For the past year Dan has cross-trained with Gary in all areas of accounting. Rest assured that the job will continue to be done with professionalism and confidentiality.

NATHAN LAURENCE PLETZ

son of Sam & Carly Pletz
was baptized on September 7, 2025



Congratulations to Sara and Matt Peterson on the arrival of their youngest daughter,



Athens Ann.

who was born on September 5, 2025!

Athens joins her big sister, Salem. The proud grandparents are Rick & Mary Ann Burdelski.

Welcome Ginger Conley, Chris and Jen Cooley, and Noelle Daniels to First Presby membership!



Love and sympathy to the family and friends of Nancy Wahl who died on September 14, 2025

Love and sympathy to the family and friends of Doreen Barclay who died on September 22, 2025



*Thank you
for reading!*