

Another Word October 27, 2020

To our friends and family of First Christian Church

It's spooky how fast October has flown by. And speaking of spooky, this Thursday is Trick or Treat in Ashland. If you happen to be out and about, please be a little extra careful and mindful of the "ghosts and goblins" as they search for candy and other treats.

As a reminder: This Sunday is the start of day light savings time. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday. We would hate for you to wait an extra hour in the parking lot for the start of the service.

This Sunday is All Saints Sunday. We will be honoring and remembering those, who over the past year have gone on before us.

Our card ministry to the four nursing homes in Ashland is in full swing. Cards collected last Sunday are now in the hands of residents at The Good Shepherd. Remember, if you can't bring in a card on Sunday, you may leave them in our mailbox. The response from these homes is very heartwarming.

The Head Start program has asked us to provide a Thanksgiving meal for 10 families. We thank you for your willingness to participate. We have already received enough food for 5 of the families. If you can't make it to the store and would like to help, just send us a donation marked "Thanksgiving Meals", and we will take care of the rest.

We will have an Advent Bible study every Tuesday of December at 10:30 am and 6pm. Look for more information next week.

Please remember in your prayers this week: John Myers, David Franklin, Arlene Whitmer, Joyce Bradley, and Jim and Wanda Bateson.

Let us pray. Gracious and loving Father in Heaven. Our hearts cry out to you with joy and wonder. We are in awe of your power and devotion to us. May we always be found worthy in your eyes. There are many challenges facing us and we ask for your wisdom to guide us safely through the dangers of life. Please be with those who are answering the call to help, placing other's safety before their own. There are so many who are lost, confused, under stress or facing physical ailments. May they feel hope and peace by calling out to you. We raise these prayers to you in the name of Jesus, our Savior, Amen

I just learned about something today, and I would like to thank Sandy Hockenberry for the thought.

Have you ever heard of a "bummer lamb?" Every once in a while, a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. If the lamb is returned to its mother, she will kick it away. She wants nothing to do with it and will not change her mind.

These poor lambs, being ignored by their mother hang their heads low to the ground, because they feel they have nothing to live for. Their spirits are broken. They are called "bummer lambs." These rejected lambs will die unless the shepherd intervenes.

When this happens, the shepherd will take the lamb to his home, hand feed it, keep it warm, and wrapping it in a blanket, holds it close to his chest so the lamb can hear and feel his heartbeat.

Once the lamb grows and is strong enough, it will be placed back in the field with the flock. The lamb, though now on its own, will never forget the care given by the shepherd.

When the shepherd calls his flock, guess who is the first to come running? You guessed it, the bummer lamb. He knows the shepherd's voice. (John 10:4) And, he is no longer hanging his head; no longer has a broken spirit. Why? Because he now knows he is treasured and cared for by the one who intimately knows and loves him. (John 10: 9a)

I think many of us are like bummer lambs. At times, we may feel rejected, broken, and afraid. But, we can take heart in one wonderful truth: Jesus is our good Shepherd. (John 10:14)

Jesus lifts us up from our despair. He comforts and holds us close, so we can hear the beat of his heart. We may be broken, but we, like the lamb are protected by the one who cares deeply for us. The Lord is "our" Shepherd, and loves us unconditionally. (Psalm 23, With my sincere apologies to King David)

So, from one "bummer lamb" to another, I love you, as He first loved me.

In His Peace,

*Rich*