

## Another Word June 24, 2025

### To our family and friends of King Road Christian Church

Fourth of July and fireworks are just around the corner. Also, the balloon fest at Freer Field. It's a great week to celebrate our wonderful country and the freedoms we have. We will again be hosting a parking lot full of spectators watching the fireworks display. And of course, we will be handing out water and ice cream bars. Thanks to all who have donated to make this night even more special as we show our Christian love and hospitality to our community!

Our Bible study, Christian Beliefs will begin on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> with classes beginning at either 10:30 or 6pm. There are still a few books available so we hope to see you there. This will be a 6-week study.

The recent vandalism at The Ashland Cemetery is now expected to reach a staggering \$250,000. The repairs and replacements will take time to complete. We at King Road Christian will be donating \$1,000 toward the repair efforts and will be challenging the 100 plus churches in the county to do the same. Please pray for the families who have been hurt by this heartless act, and pray that the perpetrators of this crime are caught and brought to justice.

Our scriptures for the next few weeks are:

June 29- Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20 and Acts 8:26-40.

July 6- Psalm 30 and Acts 9:1-21.

July 12- Psalm 82 and Acts 10:34-43

As we go to prayer please know that Ken Bee is home, Bev Zimmerman is in Wasen Rehabilitation Center, and Marcia Gallaway is now a resident of Lutheran Village.

May we be in prayer;

O merciful Father, You are the great creator, and we bow before You in gratitude for all that Your hands have made. May we never take for granted the gifts of life and freedom You so lavishly pour out to us. And may we, with Your strength, reach out to our brothers and sisters who are in need, and bring peace to all who are oppressed. Please bless and guide those who unselfishly stand in the way of danger with the goal of obtaining peace. May we always see the good in others, have the courage to forgive, and to spread Your love to a hurting and wayward world. In His perfect name we pray, Amen.

One of our favorite board games we would play in the neighborhood where I grew up was Chutes and Ladders. Actually, it's a game that has been around for many years. A game, played with a dice, that was created to help little ones learn to count. The first player to reach square 100 was the winner. But, the genius of the game was that it gave you the thrill to skip ahead of your opponent if you landed on one of the ladders. Up you would climb. But watch out! There were chutes that if landed on, would cause you to slide back down. The longest chute started on square 98, just before victory, and took the player all the way back to the beginning.

This children's game was also created as a beginner's lesson as to what life holds for each of us. Let's face it, don't we all have ups and downs in

life. One moment you are on square 97, feeling great, and the next moment we can find ourselves down and almost out of the game.

There is a scripture in the book of John that I think addresses these ups and downs perfectly. Jesus says in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." In other words, we will face trials in our lives, but we are not to worry or be shaken by them. Why? As Jesus said, He has overcome the world! We never have to face our troubles alone for He is always with us, and His power will be there so we can face the world with His mighty strength.

So, do you see? Life is a lot like Chutes and Ladders. Sometimes life gives us a ladder to climb, giving us a feeling of achievement, happiness, even joy. But then with the very next move, life can cause us to slip and slide back down. However, we don't ever have to play the game of life alone and without hope. Jesus is with us and we have His power to help us overcome, yes, even the world.

In His Peace,

*Rich*