

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble."

Psalms 9:9

Sometimes people going through struggles try everything else they can think of to avoid the pain. We need to remember to seek God first and healing will truly begin. May we surround ourselves with our brothers and sisters in Christ in our ALC community that will remind us that Jesus will bring healing. May we witness our resurrection faith as individuals and as a community of believers.

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

with Pastor Judith
May 5
[God's Endless Love](#)



WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 8:30 am
Sunday 10:30 am

GROUP STUDIES

Pastor's Bible Study
Tuesdays 10 am
In-Person
in Fellowship Hall
and/or Conference
Call 339.209.5700

Men's Bible Study
Thursdays 8:00 am
In-Person in
Education A/B
and/or Conference
Call 339.209.5700

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson: 1 John 5:1-6
Psalm 98
Gospel: John 15:9-17

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

May 5, 2021

Happy Mother's Day!

1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and Love. But the greatest of these is love."

I chose this verse today as I think of Mother's Day and my mother. Love is the best gift she gave, and it is her legacy of love that motivates me. Mother's Day is a secular day where we honor the woman who gave birth to us. When we are involved in loving others, we are involved in the greatest commandment God has given us, so therefore it becomes a sacred act.

Whether we can still communicate with our mother here on earth or we honor her memory, may we always remember that the greatest gift of and for our mother is LOVE.

But Mother's Day is not the only day we are to remember the gift of birth that God created. If we dishonor our mothers and others, we dishonor God. Let us pray that as we search the scriptures, we realize the importance of staying faithful to the commandment of love. There is no shortage of Bible verses to help us focus on the true meaning of Mother's Day. Perhaps a special gift would be to share some scripture at this special time that reinforces our commitment to love the one who, along with God, gave us life.

Praise be to God for all the mothers. I get very emotional each time I remember Mother Mary at the foot of the cross. I cannot begin to imagine her sorrow at the death of her son, Jesus or her joy at his resurrection. May our Resurrection faith lead us to honor our mothers and all of God's creation by all we say and do.

Blessings this day and always,
Pastor Judith

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT on BRYAN COOPER-KEEBLE

By Toni Molck, Operations Coordinator

Bryan is one of the dedicated ALC volunteers with an incredibly interesting story!

Bryan volunteers for several ministries within the church. He has been a Stephen Minister for three years, sings in the Virtual Choir, is a Lay Reader for Worship and is the Cleaning Crew Coordinator (Captain) or CCC, as he jokingly refers to it.

When I first asked Bryan if he would possibly have time or interest in helping Dave with the disinfecting efforts for Covid precautions

needed for re-opening the Church in September, I will never forget what he said: "I will. I want to do this job for the members of the Church as it is the most like Jesus when he washed the disciples' feet." Bryan has faithfully carried out his commitment by organizing and working with a cleaning crew each week, assuring that the church and other buildings in use are properly disinfected before and after each service. **We can't thank him and the other Cleaning Crew volunteers enough for this extremely important work.**

Bryan said that his favorite thing about volunteering is putting a smile on someone's face. "For example, this January when many ALC members weren't going out much due to the virus outbreak, I had the idea to deliver their offering envelopes to them, using the neighborhood group list. Lori, our Wellness Coordinator, helped organize as well. It was extra special to me to receive the appreciation and thanks from our dear friends since they couldn't come to Church themselves. A small thing that meant a lot to others. Volunteering through the years has made me realize that there are many ways of doing God's work. I encourage you to prayerfully consider what God would have for you do within the Church or Community. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people, to get to know their personalities and problems and to be able to pray with them. Through volunteering, I have found a new way to live each day. I've learned to expect nothing, but to anticipate everything!"

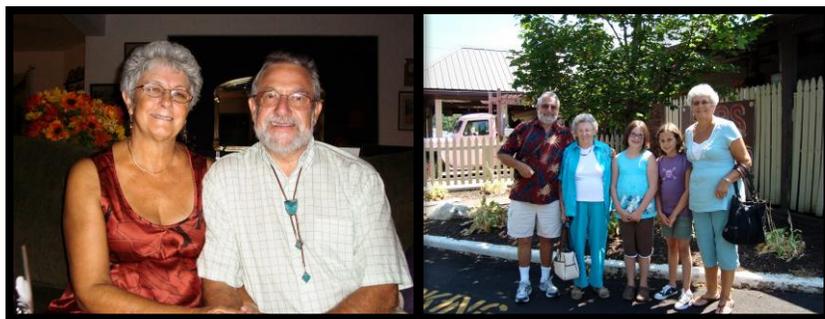
A look into Bryan's early years:

Bryan was born in 1935 before World War II in the small seaport town of Harwich Essex England, population about 8,000. His family was evacuated from the town due to German bombing and was relocated to another town about 50 miles away. At age 5, he remembers seeing cursive writing in the sky. He later realized that he was actually watching the airplane dogfights in the Battle of Britain! After Sunday School one week, he and his friends went to a nearby local park where there was a German Messerschmidt fighter that had been shot down and they went to play in it, not knowing....At age 9 until 18, he was a member of the Salvation Army where he learned to play the bombardon (small tuba). He learned to pray with the drunkards in the local pub on Friday nights while selling the Salvation Army newspaper "War Cry." His father was in the Air Force during the war and his mother was in the Salvation Army.

Bryan married his first wife Wendy in 1956 and they had two children, Mark and Sam. He worked for Sperry selling airline/military equipment for 15 years and then took a job transfer to Arizona in 1979. He worked another 15 years for Sperry which eventually became Honeywell. In 1977, Bryan became a free mason in England and went on to be the Master of a Masonic Lodge in Paradise Valley, AZ.

In 1992, Wendy died of kidney cancer. Honeywell offered Bryan a sales territory which included all the Middle East countries and Africa! While out traveling for work, Bryan needed someone to tend to his house and his best friend and his wife agreed to help with the house. Five months after Wendy

died, Bryan's best friend died of stomach cancer. His wife, Drinda, and Bryan were able to help one another during this time of grief and developed a special love for each other. Drinda and Bryan married two years later. They attended Resurrection Lutheran Church until retirement when they moved to Ventana Lakes in Sun City. In 2005, they became members of American Lutheran Church. Together,



they happily have six grandchildren and three great grandchildren!

Bryan shared that he beat cancer in 2013, "...by eliminating sugar, eating lots of green veggies and walking 6-8 miles daily."

In closing, I asked Bryan for a fun fact about him. He said, "It's not difficult to make me laugh. I'm perhaps too happy in life. I can always see the funny side of things." I asked him what he would like to share with his ALC family and he said, "I love the Lord and I love all the people I come in contact with at American Lutheran Church."