



## The Vulture and The Hummingbird

July. There's always a lot going on in the month of July. Celebrating our independence. Vacations. Summer travel always reminds me of one of my favorite quotes. "Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us or we find it not" (Ralph Waldo Emerson). True beauty radiates from the transcendentals of being (beauty, truth, goodness) of the Triune God, who dwells within and raptures us with life.

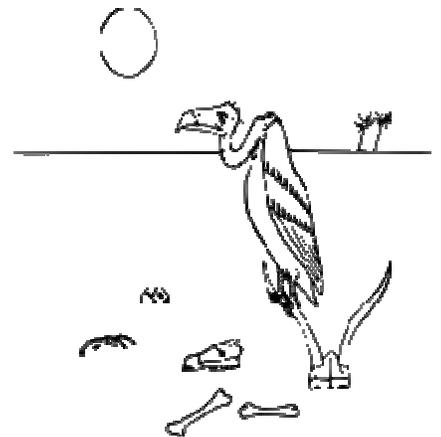


This is an old parable but it always touches me and reminds me that we find in life what we are looking for.

Two birds that fly over the desert are the vulture and the hummingbird. All the vulture can see is rotting meat because that is all it looks for. It thrives on what died. But the hummingbird ignores the carcasses and the smelly flesh of dead animals. Instead, it looks for the tiny blossoms of the cactus flowers. It buzzes around until it finds the colorful blooms, almost hidden from view by the rocks. Each bird finds what it is looking for.

What are you looking for on the highway of life?  
The ugly or the beautiful?

Peace in the Risen Christ,  
Pastor Chris



3:40

In late May, I went for a week to San Antonio to attend a national preaching conference called the "Festival of Homiletics." It was sponsored by a Lutheran seminary and brings in some of the best preachers in the country to preach, teach, and inspire. I listened to (nearly) non-stop sermons for 5 days, for a total of 38, 1-hr sermons/presentations/times of worship. I heard 2 or 3 sermons throughout the week that were so good, so connected, so relevant, and so challenging, that I couldn't even *imagine* ever getting to a professional level where I could preach that well. And in the words of Han Solo, "I can imagine quite a bit." There were others that were educational and others which were...you know. So I was immersed in this culture for a week of my life, surrounded by *thousands* of pastors from all over the country, hearing sermon after sermon, considering

(continued from "3:40" page 1)

how I might incorporate some of my learnings back here, the week's emotional fatigue had caught up to me and... all of a sudden, it's Friday, and therefore time for me to catch my flight home. It's a 5:15am flight which meant, I was being picked up at the hotel by a cab at 3:35am by a driver named "Dan."

Dan was tall and friendly and surprisingly chipper for 3:35am (*I secretly hoped for a silent/snooze-filled cab ride to the airport*) as he took my bags and opened the door for me. He had an accent so I asked him about who he is and where he's from. He was born and raised in Afghanistan ("Dan from Afghanistan", I know), served in the US military for 8 years and now lives in Texas. (*cue Verb-Tense Change!*)

*I ask him how he likes America and he replies that he loves it and has found it so welcoming and full of opportunity. Admittedly, I'm surprised at his choice of wording. It sounds like a line the Customs Office would coach an immigrant to say if asked such a question, so I press further. I ask how long he has lived here. 1 year. I ask how long he's been driving a cab. 11 months. I ask if he has any family. (Silence.) Shoot. I look out the window, wishing I had that moment back. Maybe that was rude of me to ask, maybe he's recently gone through a tough relationship transition, or maybe something had happened to a family member. I turn away from the window and lean forward again towards the front seat. With a scrunched up face and a bottom lip tucked underneath the other, he's crying. With a bobbing head in the dark 3:40am cab, illuminated only by the rhythmic street lights, I see tears on his cheek. I say softly,*

*"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to..."*

*"My family is not here...they are waiting" he interrupts louder than before. I wait to see if he elaborates. He tells me about his 2 sons whom he's so proud of and misses every day, his 26 family members who all live together in 2 conjoined apartments back in Afghanistan, and his wife who told him to "go" with "love behind her eyes" when he first asked about trying to make a life in America for them. The plan was that Dan would move here, find work and make enough money to bring his wife and boys over in 6-8 months. Multiple logistical blocks have occurred since then. He hasn't seen his family in over a year. He doesn't sleep well, America is far more expensive than he thought; he's lost his daily joy but lives for what could be in the future. He knows it's worth it, he "knows it's worth it, he knows it's worth it." He says this quietly under his breath, not meant for me to hear. I tell him that I can't even imagine how amazing that reunion will be; perhaps more memorable than his wedding day or births of his kids. The day he is reunited with the ones he cherishes will be a joy-unspeakable. He replies, "There could be nothing more glorious." For the next 25+ minutes, he shares with me, openly, intimately, without considerations, like water gushing from a newly burst dam. I doubt I said more than 6 words. When we got to the airport, I meet him at the trunk and say, "I'm a man who believes that Hope is always possible; could I say a prayer with you?" More tears. We hold hands, and not in a manly way, but in a "curled-fingers-interlocking-at-the-knuckles, tender, yet with shuttle buses and hurried business people scuttling by" sort of way. He thanks me and I promise to you, Church, it was a holy moment. I give him all the cash I had left in my wallet as a tip and go to catch my plane.*

The preaching conference was good; it focused often on issues of "justice" and "welcome." I was told all week about the various techniques I could employ to facilitate messages of bringing God to people in new ways. But none of the sermons compared to the one I heard while sitting in the pew of a taxi at 3:40am in the morning on the way to the airport. I felt God in Dan's words, his story, his crying eyes, as he was willing to do *anything* to be back with his family. His sermon connected all the dots for me on what it means to live faith in the present moment. As a husband and father, I got it. As a pastor, I got it. As a servant of God who knows that God's pursuit of me to come Home never ceases and is exhibited through continual sacrificial love, I got it...and I'll never forget it.

I want to love in a way that always seeks unity; I want to live in a way that understands how precious people are, and I want to preach in a way that breathes Hope into our darkest moments.

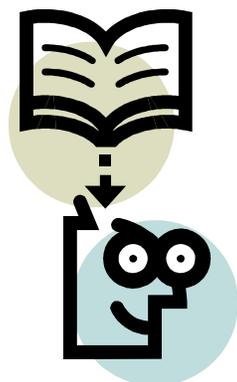
*Love your hearts,  
Pastor Will*



## CELEBRATE THE SUMMER Worship and Pool Party

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, July 16.**

Our 8am service will be held here in the Worship Center and the Ignite 10:15 service will be held at the pavilion in Lindendale Park. A pool party and a light lunch will follow. Come join us for a fun day. What a great way to bring us together as a church family during the summer. Invite your friends!

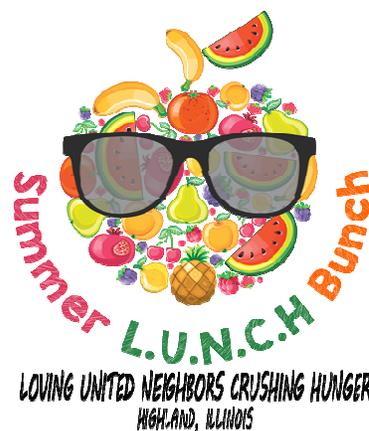


## BOOK CLUB STARTING SOON

If you are a reader, you are invited to gather at Lisa Cleveland's house from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Thursday, June 29th for some light refreshments and lively discussion. No need to read a specific book. Come prepared to discuss your ONE favorite book you've read in the past year. Even if you HAVEN'T read anything but are interested in finding something that peaks your curiosity, you are welcome to join in. This is a great way to find other titles for our personal reading. Lisa's address is 11542 Ellis Road, Saint Jacob - a mere 7 minutes from church!

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us for more hero fun at summer Sunday school where we will be Learning about heroes from the Bible through hands on activities. Summer Sunday school is from 9 to 10 am every Sunday except July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> (pool party). Hope to see you!!!



L.U.N.C.H. Bunch Update! Thanks to all of the hard work of our volunteers and the generosity of our church members and community, we have served 795 lunches to school aged children in the first 2 weeks of our program!

We will continue to collect boxes of plastic sandwich bags as well as boxes of 100% Juice. Just bring some in if you can and drop them off in the GIANT juice box in our Lobby!

## Vacation Bible School was a Super Success !!!

Hero Central VBS had over 90 children every day that discovered how to seek strength in God. Our own super heroes were our class leaders and helpers, our craft, science, snack, game, and music leaders who all met the challenge of helping those 90 some children realize qualities that make them truly heroes of God and explore God's mission for their lives. Our mission project raised dollars which met our goal so the children were allowed to apply makeup and help shave Pastor Will's head.

**Thanks to all who donated to our mission project, helped supply craft materials, helped lead and work with the children and supported VBS in any way !!!!**



### WANT TO HELP?

**NURSERY HELP NEEDED** - We need volunteers to serve in our nursery from 9 – 10 or 10 – 11. Our immediate need is for the fourth Sunday of each month from 10 – 11, but we are also looking for people for our sub list. Please let the church office know if you are interested.

**Sunday School Teacher Needed**— We are in need of a CO-teacher for our 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class starting in September. If you are interested in helping teach, please contact Darlene Nagel or the church office.



### CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF SERVICE:

**CORRECTION:** The Thank you to the Investment Management Team last month inadvertently left out Bob Kruse and Tom Wehrle. We do appreciate your hours of work and dedication on this team as well! Thank you!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make this year's Vacation Bible School so successful again this year! Your hard work and creativity was evident throughout the building with lots of laughter and smiles!

Thank you to the CLEAN-OUT CREW! Dwain Chapman, Dennis Foehner, and Steve Thiems spent hours cleaning out the lobby and basement closets making room for "The Nook" (formerly known as the Hospitality Nook)!

## THANK YOU Notes Received

THANK YOU to Katie Henricks who has faithfully served in our Nursery as the Nursery Staff Attendant since January 2012!! We will miss you, Katie!!

Thanks to all who donated items (toiletries, bath robes, flip-flops, etc.) for Sunshine Ministries during the month of May.

These have been delivered and were much appreciated by the residents staying there. Your generosity in helping those less fortunate is heart-warming.

Gene Redman

### We Celebrate the marriage of...

Briana Knackstedt and Jesse Eller who were married on May 20th. Briana is the daughter of Rodney and Kelly Knackstedt and the granddaughter of Maurice Knebel.

Lauren Kuhn and Drew Loyet who were married on June 10th. Drew is the son of Matt and Missy Loyet and the grandson of David and Judy Loyet .

### Please Continue to Pray for...

Verna Abert, Connie Louer Abert, Terry Bell, Denis Bellm, Deborah Byers (Harold and Nancy's daughter-in-law), Warren Clayton (son of Rich), Florence Collmann, Jeanne Dankenbring, Viola Deibert, Gene and Debra Dilley (Marsha Rinderer's sister and brother-in-law), Marlene Dickerson, Jared Emig (nephew of Jerry and Karla Zurliene), Ellen Gelly, Robert Goth, Cheryl Grant, Ronnie Green, Maurie Henricks, Chrissy Knebel Hoeflinger, Carol Hoffman, Dorothy Johnson (Aunt of Ron and Kathy Schneider), Betty Kamm, Jon Kamm (Betty's great-grandson), Kathy Kessels, Gloria Klaus, John Klueter, Don Koersterer, Ben Krauz, Rev. Jim Langdoc, Betty Legier, Traci Luitjohan, Marion Marcus, Wayne Marcus, Joe Michaelis, Daniel Morris, Morris Moser, Verla Moser, Colleen Poss, Alicia Rayner (Al & Shirley Flath's daughter), Robert Reeves, Sandra Reinacher, Ruth Reker, Don Rinderer, Russell Rinderer, Sandy Rinderer, Don Shimer, Ron Shownes, Tyler Simpson, John Snider, Doris (mother of Barb Stallard), Gloria Stuckwisch, Ken Sudbring, Nancy Sudbring, Elva Tucker, David Towell and Alvin Whitsell (Florence Collmann's brother-in-laws), Dale Wiesemeyer (Niala Keilbach's brother), Barb Winters and Shirley Zbornak.

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY

### We Rejoice in the baptism of....

August Comrie baptized on May 21. August is the son of Chris and Stephanie and the brother of Olivia and Colin.

Braxton Dale Dunnagan baptized on June 11. Braxton is the son of Devin Dunnagan and Ashley Jones and the brother of Addisyn.

### We Extend our sympathies to...

The family of Eldon Kiraly. Eldon passed away on May 27th.

The family of Betty Klaus. Betty passed away on May 30th.

The family of Martha Reeves. Martha passed away on June 4th.

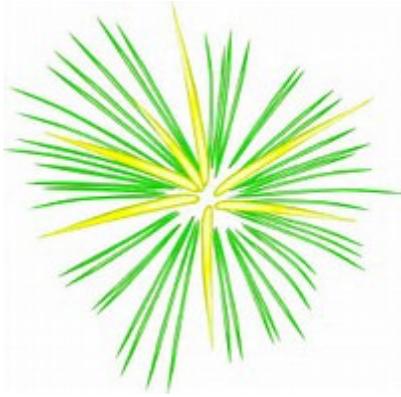


## EVANGELINES

## July Service Calendar

Date	Time	Ushers		Time	Lay Readers	Time	Nursery
July 2	8:00a	Stan Giffhorn Bob Kruse Tom Wehrle Rodney Zobrist	Denise Rhines Janet Kruse Merle Wernle Debi Zobrist	8:00a	Stan Giffhorn	9:00a	Dena Henricks
	10:15a	Gene Redman Brad Grohmann	Paula Redman Beth Grohmann	10:15a	Dennis Foehner	10:00a	Dena Henricks
July 9	8:00a	Bob Sudhoff Amy Sudhoff	Jane Sudhoff Brian Sudhoff	8:00a	Dennis Foehner	9:00a	Jane Sudhoff
	10:15a	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	10:15a	Alicia VerDuin	10:00a	Ruthie Shownes
July 16 Pool Party	8:00a	Dennis Calvert Margaret Rowold	Paula Shea Calvert Shirley Sackett	8:00a	Jeanne Meyer	9:00a	Tracey Zobrist
	10:15a	Worship at Lindendale Park  Picnic and Pool Party to Follow	Worship at Lindendale Park  Picnic and Pool Party to Follow		Elaine Fenton		
July 23	8:00a	Marilyn Fickbohm Barb Gifford	Vicki Clayton Jim Gifford	8:00a	Kay Whitecotton	9:00a	Donna Brendel
	10:15a	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	10:15a	Beth Grohmann	10:00a	TBD (need a volunteer)
July 30	8:00a	Gay Rinderer Sherry Fletcher	TBD TBD	8:00a	Debi Zobrist	9:00a	Karla Zurliene
	10:15a	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	Sign-up on WWJD Board in lobby	10:15a	Nancy Ramsey	10:00a	TBD (need a volunteer)





## JULY BIRTHDAYS



<p><b><u>July 1</u></b> Kerry Federer Cassie Fuller Cheryl Johns Amanda Johnston Dennis Nagel</p>	<p><b><u>July 8</u></b> Katie Jansen Eunice Rogier Nick Schmollinger</p>	<p><b><u>July 12</u></b> Jay Boulanger Eileen Chen Donna Koch Jana Zurliene</p>	<p><b><u>July 19</u></b> Bill Carriger Michael DeNap Colten Knebel Sharon Moss</p>	<p><b><u>July 24</u></b> Koralyn Ernst Robert Iberg Melanie Steiner</p> <p><b><u>July 25</u></b> Matthew Rench</p>
<p><b><u>July 2</u></b> Mary Hanna Joel Rinderer Dustin Shires</p> <p><b><u>July 3</u></b> Drew Galbiati Liam Goldman Logan Jones Jim Schmitt</p>		<p><b><u>July 13</u></b> Gene Augustin Linda Collman Charleen Ann Downs Jodi Frey Brett Heinz Ashleigh Jones Julie Mason Darwin Reinacher</p>	<p><b><u>July 20</u></b> Marla Baer Nancy Byers Caden Fears Robynn Flamm Cathy Hill Joshua Schmitt</p>	<p><b><u>July 26</u></b> Bree Etherton Benjamin Haberer</p> <p><b><u>July 27</u></b> Kaylee Baer Sheila Byers Emmalyn Dickey Colin Duft Tamie Heichelbeck</p>
<p><b><u>July 4</u></b> Richard Clayton Katelyn Cunningham Amy Stoff</p> <p><b><u>July 5</u></b> Darrel Landolt Dennis Rinderer</p>	<p><b><u>July 9</u></b> Mitchell Cunningham Noah Haukap Luke Schwarz Jitinder Singh Jennifer Wagner</p>	<p><b><u>July 14</u></b> Justin Hug Jim Johns Taylor Pinkel</p> <p><b><u>July 15</u></b> Sharon Rinderer</p>	<p><b><u>July 22</u></b> Jessica Arcynski Cindy Johnson Valerie Kimmle Robert Reeves</p>	<p><b><u>July 28</u></b> Brody Cunningham Christian Hoeflinger Tyler Kimmle Janet Scott</p> <p><b><u>July 29</u></b> Kelly Knackstedt Jacob Massa Priscilla Plocher</p>
<p><b><u>July 6</u></b> Sophie Kreher</p> <p><b><u>July 7</u></b> Bill Baer Laura Foerster</p>	<p><b><u>July 10</u></b> Dawn DeNap Mackenzie Schoeck</p> <p><b><u>July 11</u></b> Brian Dugan Tracy Kustermann</p>	<p><b><u>July 16</u></b> Jane Carrillon Joshua Rinderer Rita Rinderer</p> <p><b><u>July 17</u></b> Clinton Tompkins Jeffrey Wolf</p> <p><b><u>18</u></b> Dylan Knebel</p>	<p><b><u>July 23</u></b> Ethan Augustin Sophia Hartlieb Alice Hegger Harold Knebel Lynn Rivas</p>	<p><b><u>July 30</u></b> Brett Mallard Danielle Zobrist</p> <p><b><u>July 31</u></b> Clint Reilson Christian Zuccarelli</p>

**EVANGELICAL UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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AT EVUCC.ORG**

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RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED

Articles Due	Assembly Date	Mailing Date
July 17	July 20	July 24



**EVUCC'S "CELEBRATE THE SUMMER" POOL PARTY  
JULY 16th**

10:15 worship at Lindendale Park

10:45 to 12:45 am Pool Party

Children must be accompanied by an adult

Bring your family, friends, and lawn chairs

**FUN MUSIC FUN REFRESHMENTS FUN FRIENDS**