Socialism: The Right of Talent for Gain

This message was preached on 10 February 2019 from the historic pulpit of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel as “Socialism: The Right of Talent for Gain”... based on St. Matthew 25:14-30. This sermon was one-of-seven in a sermon series entitled – “De-Bunking Da-Bumper Stickers with Scripture.” It, along with over 550+ other titles, is available on CDs and DVDs.

Many recent polls, plus the popularity of Sen. Bernie Sanders, indicate that young people prefer progressive socialism to that of free-market capitalism. I can only hope it is a result of their ignorance and indoctrination during their school years — from kindergarten through college. For the most part, neither they nor many of their teachers and professors know what free-market capitalism is.

Perhaps they never heard this explanation:

• In socialism you have 2 cows: the government takes 1 cow and gives you to your neighbor.
• In communism you have 2 cows: the government takes both and gives you a portion of the milk.
• In nazism (in Hitler’s Germany) you have 2 cows: the government takes both of them ... and then shoots you.

In a bureaucracy you have 2 cows: the government takes both, shoots one, milks one and pours the milk down the drain.

In capitalism you have 2 cows: you sell one, and buy a bull.

Listen: Free-market capitalism — wherein there is peaceful voluntary exchange — is morally superior to any other economic system. Why is that? Let’s start with this initial premise:

All of us own ourselves. I am my private property, and you are yours. Murder, rape, theft, and the initiation of violence are immoral ... because they violate self-ownership.

Similarly, the forcible use of one person to serve the purposes of another person — for any reason — is immoral ... because it violates self-ownership.

Tragically, two-thirds to three-quarters of the federal budget can be described as Congress taking the rightful earnings of one American to give to another American — using one American to serve another. Such acts include: farm subsidies, business bailouts, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, welfare ... and many other programs.

Free-market capitalism is disfavored by many Americans — and threatened — not because of its failure; but, ironically, because of its success. Free-market capitalism in America has been so successful in eliminating the traditional problems of mankind — such as disease, pestilence, hunger, and gross poverty — that all other human problems appear both unbearable and inexcusable.

The desire by many Americans to eliminate these so-called unbearable and inexcusable problems has led to the call for socialism. That call includes: equality of income, sex, and race balance; affordable housing and medical care; restricting markets; and many other socialistic ideas.

Let’s compare capitalism with socialism by answering the following questions:

• In which areas of our lives do we find the greatest satisfaction?
• In which do we find the greatest dissatisfaction?

It turns out that we seldom find people upset with and in conflict.

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Light Overcomes Darkness

Our nation is going through very dark times as the foundations of our Republic are being shaken—and on top of that—we have been going through a worldwide pandemic. Many people in our country have lost their way. Many have succumbed to the pandemic.

Our Chapel congregation has remained firm with Christ and has shown a bright light—overcoming the darkness all around us. Our Chaplains preach the Word of God—without compromise—unlike many other churches. We also have kept our Livestream broadcasts very active and have opened the Chapel—where others continue to be shuttered. This has resulted in our membership actually increasing during the pandemic. Also, our plate offerings are up over $10,000 year-over-year. The Livestream viewership has also tripled during these times. There have been no Covid-19 victims in our Chapel family—as a result of fellowship with one another.

Quite frankly our Chapel membership has been blessed. We are a cohesive group of believers—a part of the remnant for Christ.

I believe the following Proverb apt for our Chapel faith group and the reason the light of Christ has overcome the darkness of the world:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." (Prov. 3:5-6)

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Offering Envelopes ... or Give On-Line

If you are blessed by this ministry 'beyond the walls' of the Chapel (i.e., Livestream, bi-monthly newsletter, CDs/DVDs, e-mails, and/or pastoral care), PLEASE consider calling our Foundation office at 952/888-1525 and request the pre-addressed envelopes to mail-in your plate offerings. Be sure to leave your name/mailing address so that we may send the envelopes to you.

OR—If you are home-bound, traveling, relocated or just appreciate this ministry, PLEASE consider making your contributions at our website at http://fortsnellingmcf.org/makea_donation.php Thank you.

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The Board welcomes input from members. If you have an idea or suggestion, please feel welcome to contact the appropriate Board person.

Remaining Board Meetings in 2021:

Saturdays ... @ Foundation Office
18 September (9:00 a.m.)
20 November (9:00 a.m.)

Sunday ... @ the Chapel Sanctuary
19 December (1:00 p.m.)

If you would like a copy of the 2020 Annual Report, please secure one in the Fellowship Hall or call the Foundation Office at 952/888-1525 and leave your name/mailing address that we may send you a copy of this impressive report.
The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-ff) ... told by Jesus in today's Scripture reading ... addresses the matter of good stewardship – that we must not waste what has been given to us, and must invest it to show a return for it. This is an extraordinary lesson that Jesus gave; and He did this to show us exactly how the Kingdom of God operates (financially).

Let me clarify: The "talent" in the passage is not exactly what we mean by the word (today). Back in Bible times, a talent was a measure of weight. It meant about 75-pounds ... in weighed coins. So it was 75-pounds (of possible gold) equivalent to about $1,000. A talent was about 15/20-years' worth of work ... for a laborer. So, the master in the story gave one of his servants about $5,000 to invest or 75/100-years' worth of earnings. He gave another about $2,000 to invest or 30/40-years' worth of earnings. And to the last, he gave about $1,000 to invest or 15/20-years' worth of earnings. The master had entrusted his servants with something very valuable. He expected them to take care of it; and even more than take care of it, he expected them to use it and increase it.

Jesus goes into quite some detail in this passage of Scripture—because He wants us to understand what is expected from us (financially) without any ambiguity.

We are given resources according to our individual abilities. We are all different. It is a fact that some people are more talented than others. However, we are responsible for those things God has given us. In this passage of Scripture, each individual was not given spiritual things, but physical things (like money) ... that they had to work with.

When God gives us money, we have to take responsibility for it and invest it and produce a return on what He has given to us.

Not only does the Bible tell us we are given resources, but tells us that each person was given a long time in order to conduct business. God gave them ample time and, therefore, those who did not perform had no excuse. Time is a valuable resource. Many people waste their time with things that do not glorify God and when they are old, it is too late to start accumulating Godly equity ... because they do not have many years left. To be a good steward, you must use your time here on earth to build equity and invest in every area of your life.

In this passage of Scripture, two of the three individuals started trading with what they had been given. They started wheeling and dealing. Sadly, the third individual made no effort to invest what he had been given; and instead, buried it.

Don't most of us act like the 3rd servant? I like how The Message words this passage. "The servant says this to the master: 'Master, I know you have high standards and hate careless ways, that you demand the best and make no allowances for error. I was afraid I might disappoint you, so I found a good hiding place and secured your money. Here it is, safe and sound down to the last cent.'" He thought that the master would be okay with his in-action; but instead, the master was furious. The master said: "That's a terrible way to live! It's criminal to live cautiously like that! If you knew I was after the best, why did you do less than the least?" The servant did not use what was given to him. He was entrusted with something (not his own), and he dropped the ball. He didn't use it or multiply it or make the world a
(Continued ... from page three)

better place with it. He buried his treasure.

Clearly: God expects profit. That means God has an expectation of receiving more than what He has given us (initially). God expects us to take what He has given us and make a profit. We must spend money on things that increase in value. That is the way the Kingdom operates and God will bless us based on our profitability. Notice that the master blessed the profitable servants at their levels of profitability. The most profitable was blessed the most. The moderately profitable was moderately blessed. In similar fashion, God will bless us in proportion to our profitability.

But the Scripture text doesn’t end there: God will punish the lack of profit. The individual in our passage of Scripture had his money taken from him and he was severely punished. God is a merciful God; but at some point, justice requires that sin is dealt with.

Listen: We must learn to apply these financial stewardship principles so that we can be profitable and blessed ... instead of being unprofitable and punished. It is a sin not to use the talents and gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts are on loan from God. They are to be used to build God’s Kingdom. But, God wants a return on His investment and stewardship is the way God gets such a return. It is not simply giving things away or keeping them safely in trust, but wisely investing them in contexts in which they will do some good and multiply.

The difference between God’s Kingdom and worldly kingdoms is that God’s Kingdom is everlasting. Organizations will come and go, but God’s Kingdom will remain forever. Choose to invest your time and talents in God’s Kingdom and be a good steward of everything He has entrusted to you. Do not waste your time building the kingdoms of this world. We come into this world with nothing and we leave with nothing. Our reward is God’s gift of everlasting life.

Listen: In reference to our text, Jesus is the Master and we are His servants. Now, I’m not presuming that the entire world serves God. I’m not even presuming that all Christians make it their soul ambition to please God. But the truth still holds: Jesus has the right to be our Master, and He deserves each of us to serve Him. He gave us life and breath. He loves us even when we are stubborn, selfish, and mean. He forgives our sins when we don’t deserve to be forgiven. He gives us the hope of a better day, even when we make mistakes that could ruin our lives. He picks us up, dusts us off, cleans us up, and sends us out. The Bible says He loves us with an everlasting love, and showed that love for us by dying for us. While we were still sinners, He died for us. He gave us His life. You never have to wonder if He loves you. Of course He loves you — He settled that 2,000-years ago by giving His life as a sacrifice and a ransom, to set you free.

In light of all He has done, He asks us to live for Him. It’s not too much to ask, because He did it for us (first). He asks us to live for Him, and to serve Him, and to give Him everything. He doesn’t demand it, but He certainly deserves it. Because of His love and because of who He is, He deserves our love and our service. Clearly, Jesus is the Master and we are His servants.

You’ve no doubt heard what Edmund Burke once said: “Those who don’t know history are doomed to repeat it.” Let me illustrate that with this fitting portion of our American history:

Back in the 1600’s those from Europe, who colonized America, had different visions of what kind of nation this was to be. To the South, one of the first settlements by Europeans was in what is now known as Jamestown, Virginia. You can still visit that settlement today. It is a beautiful and well-kept memorial to the experience of those first few settlers. But what few people know is that the settlement was a failure for years. For 40-years the settlers there were almost entirely dependent upon England for their survival. And there were two very basic reasons for this:

1. God wasn’t that important to them. There was ONLY one church and it was rarely well attended.

2. Work was considered beneath many of those settlers. The Europeans of that day held to the idea that work was degrading. The rich and powerful rarely stooped to dirty their hands with common tasks ... because it just wasn’t done by them— those duties were reserved for the lower classes. In fact, this idea of a powerful and privileged class of individuals who didn’t need to work was reinforced by the teachings of the church (of that day). Many of the original settlers at Jamestown were aristocrats of the favored classes. Thus, they were accustomed to expecting others to do work for them. That might have worked out, had there been enough ‘others’ to do those common tasks; but (as it was) there weren’t enough workers to plant sufficient crops to support everyone who lived there. As a result, little got done ... and food was scarce. So, what did they do if there wasn’t enough food from what they planted? Where would these Europeans get

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enough to live on? ... from the Native Americans. The settlers at Jamestown would often steal from the Indians, and sometimes even kill to get what they needed. As you can imagine, this didn't make them real popular with the surrounding tribes.

Now to the North, there was another colony at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. This colony was made up of pilgrims that had been forced out of Europe ... because they refused to accept the teachings of many of the churches (in Europe). The Pilgrim settlement in Plymouth nearly failed ... as Jamestown did. The reason? ... because the first two years their contract as a colony called for a socialist form of government. There was no private property. Everyone was required to work together for the common good. All goods and food were shared by everybody. Because of the social makeup of Plymouth, many of these colonists began to realize they didn't have to work very hard in order to be eligible for sharing from the common stocks ... and so they didn't work very hard. And sometimes they didn't work at all. After two years of socialism, their little community was on the verge of collapse. Food was scarce, hunger was common, and morale was low. By the third year, Governor Bradford began to realize things weren't working, and so he ordered a change in the rules:

- Each colonist was given their own plot of land to work (private property).
- They could keep what they grew, or sell to others.
- And if a colonist didn't work ... they didn't eat.

Almost immediately the Pilgrim colony began to prosper ... because unlike the aristocrats at Jamestown to the South – the Pilgrims were willing to work.

But the Pilgrims had another advantage over Jamestown. Unlike the citizens of Jamestown, God was at the center of Pilgrim society. And because God was at the center of their theology — so was the Bible. The Bible taught that work was a good thing ... and something that honored and pleased God. The Protestant Reformation – from which the Pilgrims came – had long before discovered that the Scriptures approved of manual labor. By just going back to the Bible and asking questions ... they discovered that:

1. Work was ordained by God. In fact, in Genesis 1 & 2 they found that God Himself worked. He created the world in 6-days ... and on the 7th-day He rested. And on the basis of this, God taught that His people should also work 6-days ... and rest on the 7th. Thus, if God worked at creating the world ... then work had to be a good thing.

2. They also found that the Bible taught that work was not a punishment. While it is true that God brought punishment on Adam (and all mankind) by saying that — because of his sin — our work would often be harsh and fraught with difficulty. Ecclesiastes 2:24 teaches — "A person can do nothing better than that he should eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God..."

3. God believed work was so important that He even instructed the Christian on how we could serve our employers so that we honored Christ. Ephesians 6:5 reads — "Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ ..."

Once the Biblical view of manual labor was put into practice by the Pilgrims they developed what became known as "The Protestant Work Ethic." The Protestant Work Ethic was a dedication to work that was based on their theology. And that work ethic (in turn) led to what we now call "capitalism." It's hard to understand (now), but back in that day the concept of capitalism was virtually unknown. Granted, there were those who could make money (as they do today), but it was a much rarer phenomenon. The middle class (such as it was) was a fledgling concept, and the poor rarely had the opportunity to dig their way out of their poverty. But once capitalism took root, the middle class grew rapidly and wealth was easier for the lower classes to create wealth for themselves and their families.

But listen: Capitalism without a Christian influence becomes an empty shell. When Christianity is taken out of the picture of capitalism— greed and selfishness take over. Capitalism without Christianity can result in all kinds of evils:

- You can end up with crooks like Bernie Madoff who steal vast amounts of money from investors, because they believe in capitalism— but not in Christ.
- You end up with large companies who misuse their workers and the environment because money is more important than anything. Capitalism is their god— not Christ.
- You can end up with labor unions that care more about money and power than the workers they represent because they often believe in capitalism— rather than Christ.

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- You end up with workers who care nothing for the company they work for; they don’t care if it makes any money, or if it even survives ... just so long as they get their large raises and better benefits they feel they deserve. They deserve the advantages of capitalism, but rarely want the restraints of Christ.

- And you end up with politicians who see successful businesses, businessmen, and workers as a constant source of bigger and more intrusive taxes which (in turn) results in fewer jobs for the unemployed, because they feel government has a right to its share of capitalist pie. And we could go on and on and on complaining about the weaknesses of capitalism. But when you get right down to it, capitalism’s greatest weaknesses are the same things that plague every aspect of our lives: greed and selfishness. That’s because greed and selfishness are powerful motivators. If there’s money or power to be had someone will find a way to cheat, or steal, or sue to get at it. That’s just the way it is in this world — because this world is filled with sin.

But God says:

- I called you to be different.
- I’ve called you to be salt and light in a world that is often foul tasting and dark.
- I’ve called you out of selfishness and greed to be My people.

And that means He calls us to live in such a way that these sins don’t control us.

Of course, the most obvious people to have problems with selfishness and greed would seem to be the rich. So God tells rich people — “Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.” (1 Timothy 6:17-19) What God tells the rich is this: Use your money for ME. After all wealth comes from Him anyway ... it’s His. 1 Chronicles 29:12 tells us that “Both riches and honor come from [God] ...” Use your money for ME (says God to the rich); and you can control your selfishness/greed.

You see: Money isn’t the problem. It’s the love of money. So if money is causing you to stumble in greediness and selfishness: Get rid of it! Give it away!

But I hasten to add: Dealing with selfishness and greed isn’t just a problem for the rich. Ephesians 4:28 says — “Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need.”

A thief is the ultimate example of greed. If you have something valuable — he wants it. But then — that thief becomes a Christian. How can he change a lifetime of selfishness? How can he overcome the power of greed that has controlled him for so long? Well, he should go out and get a job. But why should he get a job?... so he can SHARE.

You see: The remedy is always the same ... because the problem is always the same. It doesn’t make any difference whether you are rich or poor — God calls you to live your life differently. And one of the most significant areas of your life (you can do that in) is where you work. Ephesians 2:10 says — “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” 1 Peter 4:10 says — “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

In the church we so often talk about tithing — the 10% return of our earnings to God. I hope (today) that you see that God is not just concerned about the 10% of your money, but (as this text reveals) He’s equally concerned about the rest of it (the 90% as well). For those of you who are not tithing — now you know you are accountable to God for the 100%.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we have heard Your Word (this day) and (now) seek to be obedient to it. As we work diligently at the job You have given us to do in this season of life — at the end of the day, may we look back with joy and pleasure and pride, receiving as our reward Your smile of approval for a job well done. May we hear Your words, “Well done, My good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities ...” — to the honor and glory of the God to whom we serve. Amen.

Serving God and Country,
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The Remaining Chaplain’s articles for 2021 include:

Sep/Oct — “Karma: Do Not be Deceived”

Nov/Dec — “Immigration: The Righteous Judge Rules”
Seasons of the Faith — Time After Pentecost

This season follows Easter and goes by a variety of names including Ordinary time in the Roman Catholic tradition, Kingdomtide in the United Methodist denomination, Sundays before Advent in the Anglican tradition and Time of the Church in the Lutheran tradition.

The period following Pentecost fills the remainder of the church year and usually runs 23 to 28 weeks beginning with Holy Trinity Sunday in late May and continuing through November just prior to the first Sunday in Advent. The focus of this season depends on the religious tradition but for Protestants, is normally the life and mission of the church in the world.

The color associated with this time period is green which symbolizes Jesus’ victory over death and also the growth of the church. The church lives out her vocation in the midst of the world remembering that every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As we pass through this season of faith, let us recall the gift of the Holy Spirit received by the church at Pentecost and the hope we have in our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ!

— Submitted by: Eva Zorn

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” (I Peter 1:3)
Fundamentals of the Faith — The Sabbath

“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done.”

(Genesis 2:3)

In the Old Testament, the Sabbath was the seventh day of the week and set apart from the other days of the week in order to rest and serve God. The Sabbath was a sign that the Israelites belonged to God and reminded them of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites were expected to cease all labor and concentrate on their spiritual life in an effort to honor God. This commandment was given by God to Moses and the Israelites as recorded in Exodus: “Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work ... For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but He rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” (Exodus 20:8)

In the New Testament, Jesus maintained the practice of the Sabbath—but clasped with the Pharisees over their scrupulous interpretation of the law. In Luke, we read that the disciples were criticized by the Pharisees for “breaking the Sabbath” by picking and eating grain from the fields when they were hungry. Jesus answered, “Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the House of God, and taking the consecrated bread, he ate what is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions.” (Luke 6:3-4) Later, Jesus is criticized by the same group of Pharisees when He chose to heal the shriveled hand of a man on the Sabbath. Jesus responded, “I ask you, which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to destroy it?” (Luke 6:9)

Jesus never abrogated the principle of a day of rest, only the misuse of it by Jewish leaders. In these passages from Luke, Jesus demonstrates that the Sabbath observance must not degenerate into a ritual to be kept at the cost of the essential needs of humans. Believers must not view the commandments as a system in which through our own efforts we earn our salvation. Rather, the Sabbath should be used as a special day of rest for our spiritual and physical well-being. In addition to rest, the Sabbath provides an opportunity for communion with God and fellowship with other believers—“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another...” (Hebrew 10:25) Believers meet together regularly to hear the Gospel, to pray and encourage one another. However if worship on Sunday is not possible, we are free to find another day in which we set aside time to rest and worship. Here at the Chapel, we are fortunate to have live-streamed services which permit us to participate in worship when we cannot attend church in-person. Regardless of which day we choose to rest, Christ is the Lord of the Sabbath and it is to Him that we give all praise, honor, and glory!

— Submitted by: Eva Zom

Editors note: The third paragraph of this article was inadvertently left out in the previous Snelling Spirit. The article is presented here in its entirety.
Great Hymns of the Faith — “To God Be The Glory”

The hymn To God Be The Glory, was written by Fanny Crosby—one of the most prolific writers of hymn texts sometime in 1870. Fanny lost her eye sight at the age of six weeks due to an eye infection and poor medical care. Despite this impairment, Fanny studied and memorized scripture and later enrolled at the New York Institute of the Blind where she studied literature and music. The Institute recognized Crosby’s talent as a poet and encouraged her to write texts for hymns that could be set to music. Fanny went on to write the words to more than 1,000 hymns—many of which are still sung today. Crosby was one of the most respected women of her era and the friend of many prominent persons including several Presidents and Senators.

The tune to the hymn was written by William Doane and first appeared in his hymnal Songs of Devotion. However, it was the singing of this anthem at the Billy Graham Crusades beginning in 1954, that popularized it with both British and American audiences.

In contrast to other Gospel music, this hymn focuses exclusively on God and His perfect glory. The first verse directs us away from personal experience to the attributes and nature of God.

To God be the glory,
great things He hath done;
so loved He the world
that He gave us His Son,
who yielded His life
an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate
that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father,
through Jesus the Son,
and give Him the glory,
great things He hath done.

It is “To God” that we direct our “praise” for the “great things he has done!” There are several scripture references for this hymn including John 3:16—

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

God not only “gave us His Son” but offered Him to the world as an atoning sacrifice so that “all may go in...” This wonderful gift of eternal life reveals the heart and purpose of God—that His love is wide enough to embrace each and everyone of us. But first, we must repent of our sins and accept Jesus as our personal Savior as stated in the hymn, “the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives...” We have no other response than to “let the people rejoice!”

— Submitted by: Eva Zom

“To God Be the Glory” words and music by Crosby and Doane
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Book Review

This book is about the women who served during WWII as Army nurses in combat zones throughout the European and Mediterranean Theaters of War - from the D-Day in North Africa, through the campaigns in Italy and France to VE-Day in Germany. As odd as it may sound today, no one kept records of these women - not the military, not the US Veterans Administration nor any historical society. After their return from war, women veterans were not allowed membership in veterans groups such as the American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars. This history remained a largely untold story until 1985, when Rosemary Neidel-Greenlee was appointed the first Women Veterans Coordinator and set out with Evelyn Monahan - Women Veterans Coordinator at the VA to sponsor a salute to Women Veterans of WWII. The authors reached out to women veterans by placing ads in several magazines such as VFW Magazine, Retired Officers Magazine, Purple Heart Magazine etc. The response was overwhelming and in the first week alone more than 1,000 letters were received from women veterans and their families! It took over 12 years, but the authors went on to interview and record hundreds of women who served as nurses during WWII which resulted in this powerful tribute to an untold part of our nations history.

Over 350,000 American women volunteered to serve in the armed forces during WWII, and 59,000 of those women volunteered with the US Army Nurse Corps. More than 30,000 went on to serve in overseas war zones with 16 killed as a result of enemy action and another 70 held as POWS of the Japanese for more than three years. Approximately 1,600 were awarded decorations including: the Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. In addition to individual stories, the authors include information regarding battle strategy and troop movements that provides a dramatic backdrop for the army nurses and personnel who staffed the field hospitals. The title to the book is taken from the Bible, when Queen Ester made a vow to speak directly to the King regarding the plight of her fellow Jews in Persia. She recognized that the risk of direct communication with the King could result in her death but responded, “And if I perish, I perish...” The superintendent of the US Army Nurse Corps, Colonel Florence Blanchfield expressed the commitment of US Army nurses during WWII well when she wrote— "...The nurses are like that in this war. They fear nothing. They beg to go forward as far possible because they feel they are needed so urgently.”

This book is highly recommended for persons with an interest in WWII and the contributions of the US Army Nurse Corps during WWII both at home and overseas.

— Submitted by: Eva Zom
**Special Patriotic/Veterans Events...**

Sun, 4 July 21 — Independence Day — celebrating the 245th birthday of our nation... culminating in an ice cream social.


Sun, 12 Sept 21 — U.S. Constitution Sunday — remembering our founding document.

Sun, 19 Sept 21 — POW/MIA Remembrance — remembering those who are prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Sun, 26 Sept 21 — Gold Star Day — recognizing the families of those service members who paid the ultimate price on the altar of liberty.

Sun, 7 Nov 21 — Veterans Day Remembrance — recognizing U.S. veterans of all branches of the armed forces.

Sun, 5 Dec 21 — Pearl Harbor Remembrance — recognizing survivors... with the tolling of the ship bell for those who have passed away since last year.

Mark your calendar with these dates... and join us at 11:00 a.m.

— Your Worship Committee

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**Chapel Picnic**

Plan now to join us for the 20th Annual FSMCF picnic on **Sunday 18 July (1:00 p.m.)**

The food is always great and the fellowship is even better.

It's held at Veterans Park in Richfield which is very fitting since our motto is "where the veteran is remembered."

There's always plenty of good food and an opportunity to make a donation to New Life Family Services. Needed incl: All toys and equipment must be new — toys (newborn to 4T), baby monitors, potty chairs, bathtubs, infant carriers, pack-n-plays, car seats (convertible if possible), bouncy seats, highchairs, strollers

Clothing may be new or very gently worn — maternity clothing, children's clothing (newborn – 4T), receiving blankets, crib sheets & bedding (no bumpers)

Other items — diapers (all sizes, including pull-ups), wipes, formula, gifts for Birth Mothers (journals, candles, coffee gift cards, etc.), gift cards to Wal-Mart, etc., books (1-4 yrs)

Don't miss this opportunity to get together with fellow Christian's in God's great outdoors, rain or shine. We look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to all those whose volunteered their time and efforts to make this year's Chapel picnic a success.

— Your Fellowship Committee

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**Social Media**

If you are under the weather or out of town, you can still attend worship services at this site [http://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164](http://new.livestream.com/accounts/3709164). A link to this address can be found on the Chapel website [www.fortsnellingmcf.org](http://www.fortsnellingmcf.org) where you can download a pdf of the weekly worship bulletin. Just click on that link and you will be able to watch LIVE or revisit previous services from the archive. Remember: We love to have you in-person at our services, but in the event that is not possible please join us via Livestream.

You may also ‘Like’ the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation on Facebook to view news of upcoming events.

If you have an e-mail address and are not currently receiving the mid-week ‘Chapel Chatter’... providing you with what you need to know about the coming Sunday at the Chapel, please send an e-mail to the Chapel Foundation [info@fortsnellingmcf.org] and request to be added to this [Constant Contact](http://constantcontact.com) distro list.

— Your Publicity Committee
Creation Corner

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20)

WHAT’S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT QUESTIONING THE SHAPE OF THE EARTH?

(Part 4)

(Please re-read Parts 1, 2 & 3 in the Jan/ Feb, Mar/Apr, and May/June 2021 issues of The Snelling Spirit—archived on our website)

In Part 3, we took an unplanned side trip back to the first century and then whisked our way over to the Renaissance times where we peeked through the knothole of time, to see how some of the known writers of times-gone-by interpreted, or “filtered” what they had read in the first few chapters of Genesis ... hopefully without the influence of the “prescripted-science” overlords, who influence and censor much of the knowledge of our time. Of course, after all is said and done, the only difference, since human nature rarely changes much over time, is which century ... and which group is writing the “prescription”?

Ten years ago, if someone had asked me on the street: Where does God live? Where is His throne? I would have thought a bit and said "Out there somewhere!" (pointing ... out there ... somewhere.) Since we are told, starting with Disney at age two, that we live in a universe that is unimaginably vast — even approaching infinity — and since “nothing” exploded, this “universe” has been expanding ... even now as the seconds tick by. I can even remember Walt Disney (a whole other story) and Werner Von Braun (former decorated Nazi SS officer) holding model rockets and talking of travel to the moon and beyond... while innocent, trusting kids like me with hungry minds, sat with gaping eyes, while we gobbled up every word like a bowl of buttered popcorn. In first grade, your teacher said, "Johnny, while I hold this globe that we "live on," why don’t you point to, and show the rest of the class where we are living right now? ... Well, as time goes by, we grow up and discover TV (Star Trek / Battlestar Galactica / Cosmos (Carl Sagan) / 3rd Rock From the Sun / Big Bang Theory / NASA rocket launches) and movies (Universal Pictures' glittering and rotating ball logo / Star Wars / 2001 A Space Odyssey / Apollo 13) and we see and hear a barrage of reinforcing "hype" to bolster the message that we first heard in grade school ... all drumming to the same tune ... and with plenty of "dazzle" ... and all void of any proof whatsoever! Well, let's get to it: Why would I, or anyone else, want to question where we live? Well, let's just toss that ball into the air and see where it falls ...

Well (1) maybe because I've flown airplanes, and I understand what level flight is, and I know beyond all doubt, that my friend Kermit who flew KC-135 tankers, knows very well what it means to fly absolutely level while refueling a plane that is flying directly below at matching speed... and I don’t know any pilots who continually dip the nose of their airplane down every so often in order to continue to fly around the "globe" and to prevent flying away at an upward angle from the "globe" and off into "outer space"! No, they just trim the elevator up a tad, flip on the autopilot and sit back and fly level across the level plane below. (Airplane: A device that is capable of air travel over the plane of the earth? ... my definition.)

(2) Maybe because I’ve driven across Kansas and Nebraska and seen the Rockies off in the haze and then arrived there 2 or 3 hours later, and guess what … the mountains are not appearing from over some curve, pointing away from me, and then as I get closer, pointing straight up ... they are just there! Directly across the flat plains! This might be a good time to bring up "the horizon". No matter how high we go above earth's plane, the horizon rises to our eye level! Ever stop to imagine how amazing that phenomenon is — and how telling? We'll go into that more later, but basically, when on a flat plain, our perspective view of the horizon is a line at the limit of our vision that is level with our eyes at all times. The sky above and the earth below, both extend out to that same level horizon line. (You will see this effect when you look down a railroad track that is laid out on a level grade with telephone poles to the side. Vertically, the telephone poles get smaller and converge at a dot at the horizon; in this same picture, we see the tracks getting narrower until they converge at the same dot, level with your eyes.) Now, just to contrast that against the physics of living on a globe: On a globe, or sphere, as we rise up, the land at the extent of our vision would begin to curve down and away, and so the horizon must begin to fall and continue to fall as we rise to higher altitudes (remember, last time you flew, what it looked like out your airplane window when the big Boeing bolted ahead on the takeoff ...)
(Continued ... from page twelve) roll—the horizon rose with you). Ah, but if you live on a rounded sphere, things are very different ... the land has to begin curving down from your position at 8° for each mile squared. That means at just 3 miles away (3 x 3 = 9, 9 x 8 = 72, or 6 feet) you would see a curve drop of 6 ft! Realize that every time you look 3 miles away (think driving across Kansas) there must be a downward drop of 6 ft. And at 10 miles, there must be a drop of 66.6 ft (there’s that interesting number again). Now let’s get real wild and say you’re headed toward the mountains and they are 50 miles away. The base of those mountains must be curved down (hidden) 1,666.6 ft below your present sight level, so please explain how it is that you see them (around the hump of a curve, a third of a mile high)! (This grade school math does not lie ... how do we miss it?) That means that every time you look around you, you would have to see a long, tapering vista out there as the distance increases. And back to Kansas, on a clear day, with very little haze in the atmosphere to limit your distance vision, you would have to at least see the prairie curving downward around a supposed globe—a far cry from what we actually see out on the plains! Ok, but realize that we all pretty much take our surroundings for granted, so, just for grins, let’s say you have lived for most of your life on a ball-shaped “planet,” oddly, with a diameter of 8,000 miles named “Sonnus” (the Roman god of sleep ... z-z-z). After living there for, say 40 years, where everything curves down and away from you at 8°/mile2, you suddenly get the opportunity to travel to a place called earth to the Uyuni Bolivian Salt Flats (one of the flattest, if not the flattest place on earth, spread out for 3,900 miles)—do you think you would be in awe (remembering you just came from the globe you lived on)—as the horizon now, instead, rises to your eye level rather than curves downward and the level salt plane goes on absolutely flat for miles (after rains, the salt flats is covered for miles with a layer of rainwater, which makes this area “one humming mirror.” Here’s the math of it all. The salt flats is said to be flat within 3 feet over the span of 80 miles. HOWEVER: When we put 80 miles into our curve calculator, there would be a curve drop from one end to the other of, not 3 ft ... but 4,266.6 ft ... (1000 ft. short of a mile) with certainly no possibility of ever getting nicknamed “The World’s Largest Mirror!” (Ever hear about that in school?) There are two competing models of the shape of the earth, but only one can be correct. Your eyes and senses should be able to sort out the details. In studying cosmology, we have to remember to not park our reasoning and common sense at the door! Oh yes, I had to learn that, too. I have to share an interesting finding: In my research of names of Roman gods to use for our fictitious ball-shaped “planet.” I discovered something I hadn’t realized before: The “planets” of the “solar system” are all named after Roman pagan gods. (Wonderful tribute to our Creator, eh?) We are told the earth is a “planet” like the others, but for some reason, it is just called “earth”!? (Why is it different)? I wonder if this is a leftover from the days when earth was believed by some, to be the center of the universe, and the sun, moon and “planets” orbited around earth (that belief was around during the 2nd century and ran up to the 16th century when this form of Geocentrism (earth-centered cosmology) was overcome by the new “science” belief in Heliocentrism (sun-centered or sun-worshipping—solar system cosmology). (3) Maybe because your teacher mentioned one bright sunlit morning ... “This might be a good time to talk about the source of our daylight and our warmth: “The sun,” she goes on ... “the first thing that I want to bring out is that the sun is not just up there in the sky where it appears to be—it’s mili-lllllllions of miles away from earth” (a little Carl Sagan humor). “It’s many, many times larger than the earth, in fact, 1,300,000 (interesting number) “earthballs” would fit inside the sun! Our earth travels around the sun in a huge elongated circle that takes exactly 365 days to complete. Oh by the way, when you see the sun coming up in the morning, it’s not the sun that’s moving ... the sun is actually standing still, and we, on our globe, are spinning around toward it so don’t trust your senses ... it’s only an optical illusion of relative motion ... but we just call it ... ‘sunrise,’ because that’s the way it seems to us!” (This provides us a believable explanation for the sun’s coming up in the east). The globe supposedly spins eastward at 1,037 mph or about Mach 1.3 (interesting number) ... we’re talking bullet and fighter jet speeds, here—don’t be thinking the earth is moving in terms of a carousel ride ... There’s another ride at the fair called the Meteorite, where you line up against a circular cage-like wall, and you get plastered against the wall such that you can’t move ... now that’s the kind of ride we want to think about when we talk in terms of a spinning globe! (Continued ... on page fourteen)
Ok, let’s pause for a second to see if any of this lines up with Scripture: 1 Ch. 16:30: “Fear before Him, all the earth: the world also shall be stable, that it be not moved.”

STABLE — BE NOT MOVED! (In case you think this is an isolated concept, there are 5 more verses, that agree with this point: cannot be moved, shall not be moved, etc.). Ok, to continue, now let’s see, we’re spinning toward the east—that would mean that we could logically expect a constant wind in our faces of Mach 1.3 *“appearing” to blow from the east to the west... makes sense to me—oh and by the way, I’ve lived close to the equator, where all that Mach 1.3 spinning action takes place in case you were wondering... and aside from the typhoon that I went through, where I thought I might need to nail down my boots, the spin they tell us about is the same effect as it is here, nonexistent! But “whoah,” hold those horses for a bit, don’t we get both the wind and the weather usually from west and going east? I can almost count on the direction the clouds will move as they predictably float from west to east over my yard on a sunny afternoon, sometimes at a lazy pace and sometimes downright movin’ on! When it snows in Rapid City, doesn’t it usually mean we might get snow in about 24 hours? West to east? — oops, wrong way... and wrong speed, to boot! I just want to make one more point: For the clouds to drift from west to east, they would have to overcome a natural wind (due to the “spinning globe”) rotating from east to west, of Mach 1.3* so the prevalent wind from the west must have to be blowing at least Mach 1.3* just to overcome the constant “wind from the spin” and even faster, since the clouds still mainly move from west to east!

*1,037 mph, or Mach 1.3, we are told, is the angular velocity of the so-called “spinning” earth at the equator (the greatest diameter of the ”globe”). The “spin” is less in magnitude as you leave the equator (0°) and go toward 90° North or 180° South, where the speed, we are told, decreases to ~0 mph.

I wonder if ol’ Neil or that “Science Guy” could help us straighten out all this “funny business”? (After all, they do wear those cool, white lab coats!) Naw, they pretty much just know how to give out the “stock” answers... (it's that “atmosphere” that is magically “drug along” with the spin, by friction... and we go on our merry way, settling for that flimsy bit of hogwash! They have three “magic” answers that handle most questions that are raised:
1. Boats disappearing over the “hump” in the water, 2. The atmosphere, and 3. Gravity. (Oh, you’re not alone, I bought into a lot of the “stock line” too, before I saw that I was following a trail of bull droppings!) Here's a fun one: What about when you look up on a sunny late afternoon, when the sun is starting to set, and you can see both the sun and the moon up in the sky (God’s firmament) at the same time. Look up at the moon and visualize where the sun would have to be to shine on the moon to produce the exact display of illumination that you are seeing on the moon (like holding a ball and shining a flashlight on it at the same angle). Then look where at the sun is and you will see that the sun cannot be lighting the moon! The angle is never quite right! (Now to be truthful about this simple experiment, by the laws of perspective, the setting sun is actually higher than where it appears to be, and is also the reason we have sunsets... visualize (this is very important) a row of hot air balloons trailing off in the distance and appearing to almost touch the ground, way out at the horizon, just as the far distant clouds do—when, in reality, the clouds and the hot air balloons are the same height that they were when close to you). To continue on with our list of “maybes” that we are working on.

(4) Maybe because we’ve taken a telescope or hi power telescopic camera up to “Gitchi-Gumi” or to the ocean, to watch the ships go over the, so called, “hump in the curvy water” and disappear. Except... What happens when we zoom in on the ship and find it’s still there. it had just exceeded our eye’s resolution... let’s do it again as the ship goes even farther away... let’s zoom in and bring it back into view again... what does this tell us? The ship did NOT go over a curve and disappear; it went out of range of our eye’s power to see though the refraction that always takes place over water. The same phenomenon is involved directly with the sunset over water also.

(5) Maybe because of the “gyroscope;” the flight instrument you wouldn’t want to be without, along with your settable altimeter. That wonderful gyroscope is truly a Godsend for air travel. As long as it is functioning correctly, it is incapable of lying (aside from minor drift due to precession). In my stint in the Air Force, I was responsible for the flight simulation of the back seat instruments in the F4 Phantom Jet. That means I was responsible for initializing the gyro and inertial navigation system (INS). The gyro is reset to the flat plateau of the runway and referenced to North before takeoff. Why? Because the place where you will be landing will also be on the same earth and thus also, a horizontally parallel, flat plateau of a runway, somewhere else in the world. Because the entire world is a flat plane (with mountains and valleys) and every runway in the world is flat (with some remote exceptions), the gyro lets us know—regardless of whether we can see through the haze or not, that we can set up the proper angle of attack for landing on any runway in the world, provided we first, set our altimeter to that runway’s elevation (so we don’t, heaven forbid, land “into” the earth, as in, when flying from Miami to Denver... oops)! If we lived on a ball, the gyro would be totally useless (unless our only intention was to land back at the same runway from which we took off). This one device alone, proves that we live on a flat plateau of land, and that every other city in the world exists on the very same plane as we do. (Note: there are websites that say the plane’s attitude indicator is referenced to the “natural tendency to pull toward the-center-of-the-earth” (referred to as “gravity”). This would be a convenient “out,” since then a plane could safely fly from, say, Minneapolis to Germany, where, on a “globe”, the runway would be tilted sideways, but with the instrument referenced to “gravity”, it would be safe to land anywhere on a “globe”, due to the magic...
of gravity (allowing us to live both sideways and upside down)! This is from https://www.cfinotebook.net: The attitude indicator, originally called the Artificial Horizon Indicator, is a type of instrument used to reference the aircraft's pitch and bank against an artificial horizon. Functioning off the vacuum/gyroscopic system and operating on the principal of rigidity in space, the instrument gives immediate and direct indication of the aircraft’s orientation. The gyro is mounted in a double gimbal, which allows the aircraft to pitch and roll about the gyro as it remains fixed in space. A horizon disk is attached to the gimbals so it remains in the same plane as the gyro, and the aircraft pitches and rolls about it.

If you really doubt that we live on a flat plateau of land called Earth, drive west across Kansas (the state that was proven to be “flatter than a pancake” in a university study) ... and then back east across Nebraska. Then re-read your Bible and be amazed when you see verses suddenly “light up” and “make sense” due to the new “zetetic glasses” you are now wearing. This was my experience. Even though I was receptive to reevaluating our cosmology, it still took me 8 to 10 months of intense, almost daily study to come to the conclusion that we live in a created, fixed, enclosed world that matches to the jot and tittle, the world as it is described in God’s Holy Word.

Your homework: I had only sufficient space to cover five reasons why we might want to question our cosmology. If any of this has stirred your interest, you might want to pull up the following (lengthy, but loaded) 2hr, 10min video: 200 Proofs Earth is Not a Spinning Ball (HD Remastered). This is the Classic Eric Dubay expansive video that opened the eyes of thousands of burgeoning cosmology researchers from 2015 on. http://www.flatearth101.com/ will get you to the printed version of 200 proofs, so that you can take in the huge volume of information presented at your own speed. Watch the video first, so you get some idea of how much evidence is involved in 200 proofs! Caution: Although Eric Dubay, who is not a Christian, has done some wonderful work in the field of flat earth vs. globe earth cosmology, I do not recommend his recent ventures into other areas. Just stick to his cosmology proofs!

One final nugget, let me introduce you to a new term that gets thrown around quite a bit in the study of our true cosmology—“Zetetic.” It refers to the strict method of approaching and evaluating scientific phenomena. From the classic book: Zetetic Astronomy: Earth Not a Globe: An Experimental Inquiry Into the True Figure of the Earth, 1881, by “Parallax” aka Samuel Birley Rowbotham: the term Zetetic is derived from the Greek verb Zeteo, which means to search, or examine; to proceed only by inquiry; to take nothing for granted, but to trace phenomena to their immediate and demonstrable causes. This outstanding, classic book (above) is available for purchase, but can also be downloaded for free (they accept donations): www.globalgreyeyebooks.com.

— Submitted by: John Kruse

Sources:

WHERE ARE WE?
Earth According to the Bible
Chad Taylor
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200 Proofs Earth is Not a Spinning Ball
By Eric Dubay
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Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation

This is a non-denominational Christian church founded in 1967. We invite you to join us for worship each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at this historic Chapel.

The Fort Snelling Veterans Memorial Chapel is a unique Minnesota memorial — a splendid monument to the patriotism, the moral earnestness and the convictions of the people of this state — a shrine to commemorate those who have died for their country. Weekly Sunday worship is sponsored by the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation and is not subsidized by the state.

For Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation information call the Foundation Office at (952) 888-1525, or write to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation 9031 Penn Ave So Bloomington, MN 55431 or e-mail to info@fortsnellingmcf.org or check our website at www.fortsnellingmcf.org

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The Snelling Spirit is a bimonthly publication of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Foundation. We welcome your input, your letters and your suggestions.

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<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>Worship Service</td>
<td>Sermon: “Oxymoron: Pro-Choice Christians”</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Oxymoron: Illegal Alien&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music: Singleton Street Band, Bluegrass/Gospel Trio</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Fellowship Comm Mtg.</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. Worship Comm Mtg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 12th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 Senior Citizen's Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Testimonial: Set Free&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music: Raymond Berg, Vocal/Guitar</td>
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<td>6:30 p.m. Membership/Publicity Committee Mtg.</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 13th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sermon: &quot;Hope&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music: Ross Hackenmiller, Vocal/Guitar</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. Safety Comm Mtg.</td>
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