



# The Good Tidings

Arena Congregational Church

May 2018

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

## Thoughts from here and there...Remembering to Learn and to Honor

History for many people is boring, so boring that they do not even think about history nor do they desire to study history. Bah, Humbug, History. We have a history with our mothers. It is a history that we may not recognize. Unless something intervenes, we are apt to think like mother, to act like mother, to parent like mother.



History has much to teach us. When you are faced with a current problem and don't know quite what to do about solving it, your history may provide clues to a solution. Did you face a similar situation in the past? What did you do to resolve it? The circumstances may not be the same, but there is a thread of past success that may be helpful to create current success. History helps us to remember and learn from Mother's Day.

Mother's Day is a day to pay honor and respect to our mothers. In a sermon in Homiletics Magazine for May 13 there is a list of TV's best and worst moms.<sup>1</sup>

"These lists include the likes of Clair Huxtable from 'The Cosby Show,' Carol Brady from 'The Brady Bunch,' Lorelai Gilmore from 'Gilmore Girls,' Marge Simpson from 'The Simpsons,' Elyse Keaton from 'Family Ties,' Sophia Petrillo from 'Golden Girls,' Lynette Scavo from 'Desperate Housewives,' Ruth Fisher from 'Six Feet Under,' Peggy Bundy from 'Married With Children,' Marion Cunningham from 'Happy Days' and others.

"Perhaps not surprisingly, these lists also prompted one site to produce a roll of the 10 worst TV moms. It's populated by mothers like the Dowager Countess from 'Downton Abbey,' Colleen Donaghy from '30 Rock,' Claire Matthews from 'The Following,' Lois from 'Malcolm in the Middle' and other charmers. Here's how that list presents Lucille Bluth from 'Arrested Development':

"Jessica Walter's Lucille Bluth is just ... perfect. Scarily perfect. Michael Bluth may be 'the one son who had no choice but to keep his family together,' but Lucille arguably is the one who actually does it: with scare tactics, guilt-tripping and a bucket of lies. And, oh yeah,

<sup>1</sup> Homiletics On Line May-June 2018, A Mother's Comfort Sunday, May 13, 2018

she adopted a Korean child to make her youngest child jealous. Then lost him in the walls."

It really makes no difference if mother was a genuine jewel or a phony one. We honor living moms or the memory of our mom because it is beneficial for us. Our children need to learn what it means to honor, To honor is to recognize the value of a person and to provide as much as is possible to the person's needs. To fail to honor is shameful for our children and often for the child's parents.

Paul writes in Ephesians 6:1-3 (NLT2): Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." This is said with qualification. Good words and easy to remember on this Mother's Day, May 13.

### SERMON



### SCHEDULE

## Sermons for May

May 6 Nurses Day: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 25-26, Sermon Title: First Moves

"Or say you're out on the street and an old enemy accosts you. Don't lose a minute.

Make the first move; make things right with him. After all, if you leave the first move to him, knowing his track record, you're likely to end up in court, maybe even jail. If that happens, you won't get out without a stiff fine. (The Message, Eugene Peterson)

May 13 Mother's Day, Ascension Sunday: Lesson: Ephesians 6.1-3, Sermon Title Honor

Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, "so you will live well and have a long life."

May 20 Pentecost: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 27-28, Sermon Title: Preserving Virtue

"You know the next commandment pretty well, too: 'Don't go to bed with another's spouse.' But

don't think you've preserved your virtue simply by staying out of bed. Your heart can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your body. Those leering looks you think nobody notices—they also corrupt. (The Message, Eugene Peterson)

May 27 Memorial Sunday: Lesson Matthew 5.1-2, 29-30, Sermon Title: Tough Life

"Let's not pretend this is easier than it really is. If you want to live a morally pure life, here's what you have to do: You have to blind your right eye the moment you catch it in a lustful leer. You have to choose to live one-eyed or else be dumped on a moral trash pile. And you have to chop off your right hand the moment you notice it raised threateningly. Better a bloody stump than your entire being discarded for good in the dump.

June 3: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 31-32, Sermon Title: Legal Pretense

"Remember the Scripture that says, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him do it legally, giving her divorce papers and her legal rights'? Too many of you are using that as a cover for selfishness and whim, pretending to be righteous just because you are 'legal.' Please, no more pretending. If you divorce your wife, you're responsible for making her an adulteress (unless she has already made herself that by sexual promiscuity). And if you marry such a divorced adulteress, you're automatically an adulterer yourself. You can't use legal cover to mask a moral failure.



## Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

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May, Christian Home Month

May 1, May Day

May 3, National Day of Prayer

May 8 National Teacher Appreciation Day

May 10 Ascension Day

May 12 Mother's Day Breakfast, 8:00 A.M., at Grandma Mary's small dining room.

May 13 (S) Mother's Day, Ascension Sunday

May 19, Armed Forces Day

May 20 (S) Pentecost

May 27 (S) Trinity Sunday, Memorial Sunday

May 28, Memorial Day Observed

May 30, Memorial Day, Traditional

## A Promise and A Prayer

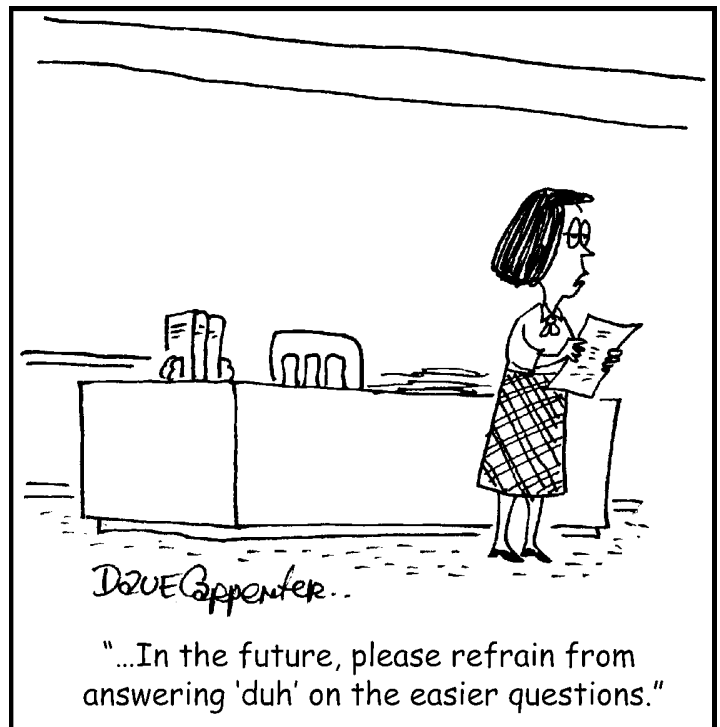
### A Promise

For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you, (John 13:15, NRSV).



### A Thought

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Jesus Christ sets the example. He encourages us to emulate it to the fullest. Jesus would have his sisters and brothers to be a people who are zealous for good works, standing firm for principle among the pollution of this present age. We can be a people who hold so fast to the divine strength that we will be proof (Continued on [page 3](#))



against every temptation to compromise our faith and standing with God.

## A Prayer

God, help me to be strong; to be a good example of how faith and grace can create strength of character and faithfulness in the performance of good deeds. Amen.



## Spotlight on the family

### How to tell children, "I Love You!"<sup>1</sup>

Ask yourself what situations made you feel loved as a child. Are you doing things like that for or with the children who come into your care?

Lisa Hart, author of, "The Winning Family," (LifeSkills Press), gives these how to communicate love tips.

**Put Aside Business.** Drop what you are doing to just be there for the child, especially in a crisis. The child will conclude, "I must matter. I'm loved."

**Take Children Seriously.** Put yourself in a child's shoes and value what is told you.

**Really listen.** Look interested. Face the child and lean forward a little. Let the child finish first. Avoid thinking

of what to say next. Notice the child's body language such as posture, sighs, tears, and inflection of voice.

**Give nonverbal messages.** Make the child feel important by giving the child positive facial expressions, eye contact, loving touches, and attentiveness.

**Speak positive words.** Children want to hear good things about themselves. Use a balanced approach. Be sincere.

**Enjoy the child.** You never outgrow your need of contact with children. They help to keep us young. Children are very good at reading our attitudes. When you have fun, everyone wins.

### What Makes Kids Popular?

The kind of parent you are may make a difference between having popular or unpopular children, according to a Louisiana State University study of 3-to 5 year-olds. When you set limits, explain consequences, and encourage good judgement, you'll probably have popular kids. On the other hand, if you're short-tempered, you may produce unpopular kids who yell, threaten, and hit to get their way.



## Officers for 2018 - 2019

### Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

### Officers

(Continued on [page 4](#))

<sup>1</sup> Copyright © 1996 Children's Ministry Magazine, Used by permission. Adapted

## Recipe of the Month

### Delicious Brownie Cookies (one of our favorites)

#### From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

2/3 cup shortening	1 1/2 cups flour
1 1/2 cups light brown sugar	1/3 cup unsweetened baking cocoa
1 tablespoon water	1/4 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon vanilla	1/2 teaspoon salt
2 eggs	2 cups (12 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips

Combine shortening, brown sugar, water and vanilla in large bowl. Beat at medium speed until well blended. Beat eggs into mixture.

Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt. Mix into creamed mixture and add chocolate chips.

Drop by tablespoon onto ungreased baking sheet.

Bake at 375 for 7 to 9 minutes, or until cookies are set. Do not OVERBAKE.

Cool slightly before removing from cookie sheet.

Makes about 3 dozen cookies.



Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



### Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship room at the church.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's. We will not meet again until Fall.



### Greeters

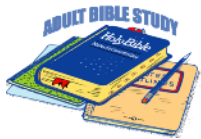
May 6 - Jim Favreau Family

May 13 - Joyce Reimann

greeters May 20 - Ray and Colleen and Family

May 27 - Joe and Carol Hodgson

June 3 - Judi Salava



### Adult Study Group

We are meeting at the home of Steve and Karen Wilkinson, 817 Brown St., Arena. Our study guide is "John: The

Way to True Life" by Douglass Connally. The Gospel of John has much to reveal that helps us explore the teachings and the divinity of Jesus.



### Worship On Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



### Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. If you would like to donate canned or dried food products you may put them in the barrel in the entry. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.

### Something to Think About



Lord Spirit, pour love - real love - into my heart. Take out my earthly heart and replace it with a spiritual heart - a heart free of all selfish motives - a heart that can do nothing but love - a heart that

knows no greed, or selfishness, or lukewarmness, or coldness.

~Mother Angelica



### THINGS TO REMEMBER ON MEMORIAL DAY

### MEMORIAL DAY

A day of tender memory,  
A day of sacred hours,  
Of little bands of marching men,  
Of drums and flags and flowers.  
A day when a great nation halts  
Its mighty throbbing pace,  
And by its need of gratitude  
Shows love with willing grace.  
A day to keep from year to year  
In memory of the dead;  
Let music sound and flowers be laid  
Upon each resting bed.

—Emma A. Lent



Teacher Appreciation Week, or National Teacher Appreciation Week, is a week-long celebration in recognition of teachers and the contributions they make to education and society. It is held in the first full week of May of every year and provides an opportunity for students, their parents, and school principals to show their appreciation for the hard work teachers do and the long hours many of them put in. Many educators receive thank you gifts and notes of gratitude from their students during this week, and schools organize events and celebrations to mark the occasion.

The Tuesday in Teacher Appreciation Week is designated as Teacher Appreciation Day.

Retrieved from:  
<http://www.calendarpedia.com/when-is/teacher-appreciation-week.html>



### The Trinity, Trinity Sunday, May 27

Augustine of Hippo taught the concept of the Trinity by using trees as an example. The root is wood, he said. But so are the trunk and the branches. Each of these three manifestations of wood are very different from one another, but yet they share a common unity.

Is this a good illustration?



### Pentecost Sunday is May 20

The Holy Spirit has been described in many ways.

He is like a breath that blows away the dust and makes everything clean.

He is like refreshing cool water to a parched throat.

He is like a cleansing brush fire that burns away all the thick undergrowth so that something new can rise out of the ashes.

He is like a potter who starts with an odd-shaped lump and molds and shapes it into something beautiful.

He is like a renovator who uses what is already there and strengthens, refreshes and revitalizes what's there.

He is like a loving spouse whispering reassurances of love and support.

He is like a parent guiding and helping a confused child.

He is like a tour guide who points us in the right direction to see things that we would otherwise have missed.

He is that gentle tap on the shoulder that makes us realize, "Hey, that's me that needs a new beginning and new direction."

He is that fierce shaking that wakes us up; reminds us that there is more to life than earning money, relentlessly pushing ourselves until we are tired, stressed and depressed.

That is what the Holy Spirit does -- he revitalizes, renews, refreshes, empowers, creates, he reminds, he guides, he comforts the church, those in the church and those whom he touches outside the church.

--Vince Gerhardy, "Come, Holy Spirit," gerhardy.id.au. May 19, 2002. Retrieved December 30, 2015.

"Lord, enlighten what's dark in me,  
 strengthen what's weak in me, mend what's  
 broken in me, bind what's bruised in me,  
 heal what's sick in me, and lastly, revive  
 whatever peace and love has died in me."

~Anonymous



## Mother's Day Breakfast Saturday, May 12, 8:30 A.M.

This year, in celebration of Mother's Day, breakfast will be served at Grandma Mary's. More information will be available soon.

**Plan to come and enjoy!**

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