



CHRIST THE SERVANT LUTHERAN

NOVEMBER 2021

A Childhood Remembered

Most of us have fond childhood memories. Summer fun running through the sprinklers or sledding down the hills in winter. Maybe it was a special vacation or any one of a thousand other things that bring smiles to our faces. One of the greatest things in life is the simplicity of childhood and the joy children have when they are allowed to be children. No worries, no job stress, no complicated relationships, no worrying about work or the mortgage or any of that kind of stuff. Just childhood fun! Truly, the most wonderful things in life are those gifts freely given to us through God's grace. Friends, family, sunny days, running through the grass barefoot, clear starry nights, mud pies, and the list goes on and on.

What a joy to witness the excitement of children, especially when they are surprised—and sometimes over the smallest of things. Having the opportunity to hear children giggle or to see their face light up when they are surprised. These are some of God's greatest gifts—especially as we get older. One thing I've missed these past two years is seeing children having fun during summer Vacation Bible School. Watching them having fun, doing crafts, and learning about God's love brings pure joy. Of all the things in this world that I find absolutely amazing—children playing and laughing is definitely number one.

But what about all the children in the world who are never allowed to be children? All over this planet there are children who have to take care of younger sisters and brothers or have to work to help the family survive each day. There are children who don't have adequate food or clean drinking water—no place clean or safe to play, no clean clothes, and they survive each day only to fear death from hunger, war, and civil unrest.

Sadly, it is not just children in Africa or Asia or Central and South America where children aren't allowed to be children. It happens right here in the United States each and every day. Inadequate food supplies and a lack of safe and adequate housing exists all over the United States. Even worse than that is the very real problem of child abuse. Neglect and emotional abuse leave deep and lasting scars sometimes even far deeper than broken bones and bruises. In 2019, approximately 160,000 confirmed cases of child abuse were reported in the United States. I wonder how many more go unreported.

I am very well aware of the effects of child abuse and neglect. As a child growing up in Lincoln, I have to say I have some fond memories from my childhood. But, I also have some horrific memories that left some very deep scars. I need to say that I loved my parents—just like most children who are abused—and I yearned for their approval and love. But, there was no excuse for the abuse and neglect they imposed upon my sisters and me.

I grew up in the parking lot of a tavern and received enough physical and emotional abuse to last two lifetimes. While my parents were at the tavern, (Nebraska law at that time did not allow children to be in the bar after 9 p.m.—I always wondered what they expected kids to do after 9 p.m.) I had to sit out in the car, but I made good use of the time—I traveled all over the world—at least in my imagination—for two or three hours each of those two or three nights a week, I was a world traveler. The bad part about it was that for one reason or another I would be in trouble when we got home. Back in the late '50s and early '60s parents and teachers alike could mete out corporal punishment and no one really objected. My father was exceptionally cruel with his physical abuse; broken bones, fat lips, and black eyes were routine when I was growing up.

Frankly, I consider myself lucky because I'm still here. Of the 160,000 abused children in the United States, over 1,800 children were killed by their abusers. Approximately 60% of those abused children received medical attention. Sadly, over half of the abused children who required medical attention were never removed from the home of the abuser. As a child, there were many nights I prayed to God that I would not wake up in the morning because I didn't want another beating. Back then I couldn't understand why God would allow a child to be so abused. Today, I know that there was no excuse for that abuse—but what happened to me as a child has made me stronger and because of that God has used me to help others. This time of year—Thanksgiving through Christmas—both child and spousal abuse escalates. One report I read stated that approximately 40% of all abuse cases that required medical attention occur during this time of year. I pray that we will all work together to wipe out abuse—child, spousal, elder—no one deserves to be abused. If you know of someone who is being abused—please report it! If you are not sure how to report abuse come and speak with me about it—together we can help stop the abuse.

Pastor Dennis

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, November 21

AGAPE CIRCLE meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the church for a light breakfast and Bible study at approximately 9:30. This year Pastor will be leading us in a study: “If you want to walk on water, you’ve got to get out of the boat” by John Ortberg. There will be a video and then discussion. The books cost \$16.99. You can pay for them or the church will pay for them. We have a time afterwards that we address birthday cards and send to all members. Stay if you wish. Contact Marilyn Woolard (316-7030) or Doris Hoffart (379-0771) if you are interested. We take turns serving a light breakfast and coffee.

CTS Sunday School Teachers are in need of Substitutes for the 2021-2022 Sunday School Year. All curriculum is very easy to use and follow. Please contact the office or Laura Kowalski (402-750-5116) if you would like to be on the Substitute List. Thanks for your consideration.

THANKS SO MUCH for all you generous people that filled “Clank the Can” to send our quilts to Minneapolis. We received \$60.84. Two of the quilts will go to the Rescue, two of the quilts will go to the Grain Train, and 24 of the quilts will go to Lutheran World Relief in Minneapolis.

	Nov 3, 21	
Designated Giving Checking Acct		
DG Church Emergency Fund	8,619.35	
DG Good Samaritan Fund	1,516.51	
DG Memorials	11,360.91	
DG Missions/Growth	4,165.71	
DG Parsonage Projects(Kitchen)	1,121.02	
DG Special Projects (Kitchen)	9,436.01	
DG SPECIAL PROJECTS (STAIN WIND	8,650.00	
DG Tanzania Travel	9,088.20	
DG Worship Fund	2,323.47	
DG Youth Checking Account	3,382.65	
Interest-Designated Checking	<u>99.08</u>	
Total Designated Giving Checking Acct	59,762.91	
General Checking	52,886.23	