



the word

Mark Your Calendar

5/5

Seniors Luncheon

5/6

Grade School Track Meet

5/7

Adopt A Highway - EGN

Bowling Meet

5/8

Mother's Day

5/12

Pioneer Meeting

5/13

Grandparent's Day

5/21

West St Paul Parade

Pioneer Sun Beams Day Camp

5/25

8th Grade Graduation

5/26

PTN Field Day

Grave Decorating - Riverview

Pioneer Meeting

5/27

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

5/29

Grave Decorating - Elmhurst

5/30

Memorial Day

Listening to Your Master

By Zachary Pudlo

*"Much to learn you still have...my old padawan... This is just the beginning!"
— Yoda*

When I was a boy growing up, I probably watched Star Wars more times than I would be comfortable admitting. One of the greatest characters, not only from Star Wars but of all time (an undebatable, universal truth), is Master Yoda. So wise. So full of insight. Such a deep understanding of the Force. I dare you to try reading the opening quote without the famous voice of Yoda sounding in your head. For many, that's impossible. How many young Star Wars fans (and sadly some older) would love to sit at the feet of Master Yoda and simply collect the pearls of wisdom dripping from his voice? Well, unfortunately, that's fantasy world. But these words of Peter, the last inspired words he wrote, are not fantasy. They come from the voice of God. "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

Doesn't it seem like Peter is saying exactly what Master Yoda said? "Much you still have to learn, Christians!" And if you think Peter is speaking to just young Christians, then consider what God says through Paul as he writes to Pastor Timothy. After he tells him to dedicate himself to the Scriptures, to preaching and teaching he says, "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress." (1 Timothy 4:15) Notice that Paul encourages young Pastor Timothy down the same path of progressing in his Christian faith. "Much to learn you still have, Pastor Timothy!"

In *The Return of the Jedi*, some of Yoda's last words to Luke Skywalker were, "No more training do you require." And unlike Yoda, nowhere in the Bible will

continued

you hear God's voice saying, "Once you get to a certain point you can stop growing." Nowhere does our Master say, "Your learning and training are complete." If you get a chance, page through the book of Proverbs. As you do so, try counting how many times Solomon, the wisest man to ever walk this earth, encouraged growing in wisdom and understanding.

While listening to a podcast recently, I heard an amusing anecdote. It went something like this: When we are 16 we say to ourselves, "Boy, was I stupid 4 years ago!" But it doesn't stop there. How many 20 year olds find themselves thinking, "Boy, I was stupid 4 years ago!" And how many 30 year olds find themselves saying, "Boy, I was stupid 4 years ago." In speaking with others older and wiser than myself, it seems like this is the case for much of our lives. We perpetually look back at our younger selves and think we were so stupid back then. And ironically, our present selves perpetually think we are finally coming out of our stupidity. How foolish we are at times. In the present we are often tempted to think our training and learning is complete. We have finally made it past the stupidity of our youth. I can confidently tell you one thing: the voice in our head telling us our training and learning is complete certainly doesn't come from our true Master! And if that's the case, where do you think it comes from? Whose voice really says that? (cf. John 8:44c)

At the end of April a number of young men and women were confirmed in the Christian faith at Crown of Life. Put yourselves in the shoes of a 14 year old who has just gone through 2 years of dedicated Christian education and training. Don't you think the forces of Satan and his demons will be whispering, calling out, yelling in their heads, "Your training is complete!"? How can we keep encouraging these young men and women to continue in their training? How can we tell them, "Much to learn you still have, my young padawans!"? It's probably going to take more than just telling them over and over again. Let's be honest...14 year olds not only think to themselves, "Boy was I stupid 4 years ago."

It's quite possible (and very likely) they also often think, "Boy those adults are stupid."


So what do we do? How do we keep encouraging them? I think there's two things we can all do on a daily basis.

1) Like Peter, Paul, Solomon and even Jesus we should absolutely encourage them to continue in the teachings of the Lord. Encourage them to listen to their Master on a daily basis. Learn at his feet. Listen to his voice. 2) We can and should be models of adult disciples. Every day, we too should sit at Jesus feet and listen to the pearls of wisdom dripping from his voice. Every day, we should continue our training, pushing ourselves to be better Christians than the day before. Why? Not just because by doing this we provide a Godly example for those young new confirmands to follow, but more importantly, because we love our Master.

As you encourage and model discipleship, what will you see? You will see your Master for who he is...the Master who died for his servants. You will see the Master who never leaves his servants to fight the enemy on their own, unlike Yoda. You will never hear your master say, "No more training will I give you." In fact, you will see the Master who defeated the enemy entirely for you. You will hear the voice of your Master calling out in agony from a cross as he defeated your enemy simply because he loves you. In his poem "The Sacrifice," George Herbert puts it well as he imagines Jesus' voice crying out from the cross:

*Lo, here I hang, charg'd with a world of sinne,
The greater world o' th' two; for that came in
By words, but this by sorrow I must win:
Was ever grief like mine?*

Every day, continue to encourage and model for these young Christians how to come to the foot of the cross. Encourage and model for them what adult discipleship looks like. Encourage and model for them what a joy it is to come to the foot of the cross to hear and see your true Master showing you and them ultimate love.

 <p>VBS 2016 Saddle up for a great ride at the Circle J Ranch June 21-23</p>	<p>DON'T FORGET</p> <p><i>Grandparents' Day – May 13</i> <i>West St Paul Parade – May 21</i> <i>PTN Field Day – May 26</i></p>
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ASK THE PASTOR



Q If the dinosaurs supposedly died in the flood, why weren't they on the ark?

A Actually, there were dinosaurs on the ark.

Scripture clearly says that two of every kind of animal was on the ark. However, just because there were at least two dinosaurs on the ark, that doesn't mean that they didn't become extinct shortly after they exited the ark. It appears that is what happened.

Q If dinosaurs were on the ark, how did Noah fit so many large animals on the ark? And where did they go after they got off the ark?

A There is no way to know, for sure, just how large each animal was. Many biblical scholars believe that God led "younger" animals of each kind onto the ark. That would conserve space and promote breeding once they exited the ark.

Animals went to live as they had done before the flood, once they exited the ark. However, things had

changed dramatically on the earth. Conditions were such that some "kinds" that entered the ark did not live very long once they got off the ark.

Q If God is all-powerful, why did he take 6 days to create the world? Why not just one day?

A You are correct! God is all-powerful (almighty). That means that He can do absolutely anything that He wants to do. Could He have created the world in one day if He so desired? Absolutely!

So....that only leaves us with speculation. So here is my best guess: God wanted to teach us that He put a lot of thought into His creation. It wasn't just a haphazard approach to making something beautiful and functional. He took great care each day in what He wanted to create.

Also, the Lord taught us about work and rest. On the 7th day God "rested" from His creating activity. It doesn't mean that He got tired, but that His creating activity was now done. But we can see how He used that day to teach His people about a spiritual rest. We need to take time out of the regular routine of our lives and worship our Lord.

"Encounters with Jesus"

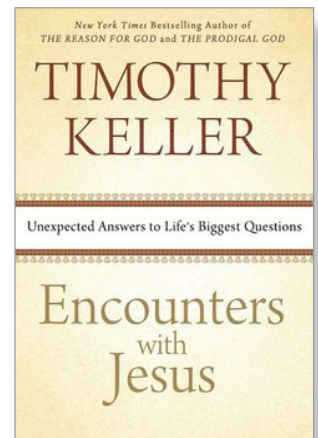
Unexpected Answers to Life's Biggest Questions

by Timothy Keller

Review by Zachary Pudlo

So many people are searching for answers to life's biggest questions. What is the world for? What's wrong with it? What can make it right again? These just happen to be the same questions many people who encountered Jesus were asking as well. Tim Keller does a fantastic job of walking the reader through some of the encounters Jesus had with unbelievers and believers during his ministry. Keller shows how Jesus changed those people's lives. Jesus not only provided the answers, he was the answer.

If you have any friends or relatives who are skeptics, reading this book will help you address some of their skepticism. I would recommend this not only for the purpose of giving yourself some deep and meaningful thoughts on how to address skeptics, but also for some powerful illustrations of the impact and beauty of the gospel.



Here Am I, Send Me!

By Jon Leach

I recently had the privilege to travel to East Asia to meet our missionaries in that region and learn more about the exciting work that's happening. I was humbled by the sacrifice and dedication of those who tirelessly share the Gospel abroad on our behalf.

They leave extended family members behind. Many give up conveniences we take for granted. Some get around by mopeds instead of cars; it can be bitter cold as they drive the kids to school in the winter. Some live in areas where they have to wear masks due to pollution and some days it's too dangerous to even go outside. They live under the constant pressure of being discreet because sharing the Gospel of Jesus is illegal.

Why do they do it? It's because they understand that Jesus has done for them he has also done for all. It's a love for lost souls. As we made long-range plans that, at times, required changing their roles, they were willing to do whatever was necessary for the mission field. For some that meant offering to move their family and have their children change schools once more. From the day they left home, they have not stopped saying, "Here am I, send me!"

They understood that ministry means service. They also have a clear urgency to reach as many as possible no matter what the personal cost. Yet, there's not bitterness



or regret. They're on an adventure and there's excitement each day for the ways God will continue to reach new hearts through them.

When I returned home, my eyes were opened to how many of the lost we're surrounded by each day. We simply become accustomed to it. The urgency fades. After all, it's not like we're sent out like those missionaries were...or are we?

Jesus said "Go and make disciples!" You are a part of his plan to reach the lost. He sends each one of us on an adventure each day. It will require sacrifice and dedication, but as God's power unfolds before your eyes, it's going to be exciting. Who will God allow my path to cross today? How will he use me to share the hope I have?

Pray for the missionaries who share Jesus on the other side of the world for us. Pray also that he would open our eyes to the lost, awaken within us an urgency to reach them and give each of us a heart that says, "Here am I, send me!"

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Michelle Povolny Zach Rich	8 Jennifer Levine Jon Wolfrath	19 Stephanie Hansen Dennis Novotny	25 Robbie Bluhm Aden Fischbach
2 Brooklyn Hart Kathleen Krueger Douglas I. Langfield Connor Mielke	9 Allison Kom Hezekiah Solseth	20 Robert Berg Maria Caauwe Rick Capocasa Jocelyn Kock Avis Lorenz	26 Jerry Geror Jr Amber Johnson
3 Michael Paul Dennis Schmeckpeper	10 Karla Monn 11 Ernest Fogle Todd Fox Karen Haehnel Jonathan Leach	20 Lu Ann Olen Tyler Tourville	27 Rebecca Lucas Shirley Owens Rich Schindeldecker Sarah Steber
4 Angela Hauck Ayla Johnson Logan Kneisl	12 Harold Hunter Kylee Paul	21 Katie Lasovich Claire Shaw	28 Alisha Johnson Marc Patton
5 Briana Kneisl Jordon Schletty Donald Unruh Diane Wagenknecht	13 Lucas Munoz Bruce Sachs Hannah Wright 14 Cora Jo Evenson	22 Karley Lanigan Benjamin Voigt Johanna Williams	29 Irving Langfield Brittany Oberstadt
6 Jeff Mullins Miriam Patton	15 Derek Haehnel John A. Schmahl George Tako	23 Randy Enger Ryan Herbison Nathan Kruse	30 Jacob Haehnel
7 April Coates Rebecca Haehnel Lucy Kuehl	16 Carole Stier 18 Marlin Sachs	24 David L Huebner Erin Hulse 24 Emily Petermann	31 Pastor Mark Kom Kyle Swiderski Gina Taack Debra Werz

What's the Worry?

Jesus knows our nature. He knows we're prone to worry. Perhaps that's why He warned, *"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"*

In spite of these words of both admonition and assurance, Christians still tend to worry. Sometimes worry about the ability to provide for our families takes over our lives to such an extent that it guides our thoughts and actions. We put off giving to the Lord through our church – "temporarily," we say – until we feel secure in our financial situations. Life, as you know, seems to throw one crisis after another at us, and, often, that financial security never comes.

We have the same worry when it comes to serving. We complain that we just don't have time. We work long hours, and then we have commitments to our families.

How can we go to meetings or make meals for a family whose mom is sick?

Later, we tell God and even ourselves. Later, when the college tuitions are paid and the kids are out of the house. Then we'll have time and money. But then, after all that hard work, don't I deserve to get away and take a nice, long cruise?

We reap what we sow, we read in 2 Corinthians 9:6. What are you sowing? Proverbs 11:18 reads, *"He who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward."* Matthew 6:19-21 records Jesus' words, *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on Earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where you treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

Is it forgetfulness of God's promises or lack of faith that keeps us stuck in this pattern of giving all for our physical, temporal lives instead of storing up treasures in Heaven? Take God at His Word: give generously, serve without reward, take time to help others, and watch Him satisfy your every need.

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 2) by Ronald J. Chewning.



Fine Arts Festival – A Big Success!

Crown of Life students showed off their musical and artistic talent at this year's Fine Arts Festival held at St. Croix Lutheran High School. Students participated in choir, band, art, individual & group singing and instrumental competitions. Good Job!

Lights, Camera, Action!

by Daniel Plath

How good are your photography skills? How about your videography skills? If you are anything like me, you are thankful that the camera no longer needs 35mm film and the "delete" button is close at hand.

Crown of Life member, Nick Kapanke, has a tremendous eye for quality photographs and videos. Many of you have seen a bit of his work in the annual 8th grade video that he shoots and produces. Not only are those videos a hit with the students and parents, but many of the congregation members as well. Nick has become somewhat of an icon as students approach 8th grade, because they know that he will be shooting their video.



SCHOOL NEWS

Seventh Grade

Seventh Grade! Wow, we're almost ready for eighth grade, then confirmation, and graduation, and then high school. But let's take a little look back. There's a lot that we've done this year so that we are ready for all those things. In ChristLight we've gotten to learn who we are by focusing on God's truths about us and how we should each use the Lord's blessings. And in science class we got to discover God's miracle of life that is in each of us by working through the life sciences curriculum. As we studied Ancient and Medieval History in social studies, we learned about our neighbors in this beautiful world that God has given us. Then, so that we can spread God's Word to the world and our neighbors, language arts classes taught us how to communicate effectively with others. Math, music and art classes



taught us to understand and appreciate the beauty and orderliness of God's creation. But it hasn't all been work. We've learned to ski on the annual phy ed class ski trip, we've met future classmates at the St. Croix Lutheran Friendship Day, and we've taken part in many school sports activities. Wow, what will summer bring?

Nick is a self employed video producer, who spends many days traveling throughout the nation and world shooting promotional material for a variety of high end companies. The White House rose garden, 4 miles underground in a Montana coal mine, and Tibet are just a few of the interesting places he has worked. As Nick describes his work, "It's corporate brand storytelling."

I was blessed to have worked with Nick over a 3 day period as we shot



a school promotional video that is set to debut soon. The students and teachers were able to see Nick putting his God given gifts and talents to use. The level of energy and patience needed on a daily basis was

truly astounding. His positive attitude and well used line, "That was great! Let's just try it once more" were a hit with all of us. We would perform take after take until everything was just right. What a blessing to have such a talented individual in our church!

Behind the Scenes – Ever wonder what it takes to make a video?

143 Cooperative Students, **12** Patient Teachers, **1** Energetic Pastor, **1** Outstanding Narrator/Actor, a Script, **1** Super Talented Videographer/Audiographer/DIRECTOR/Editor/, Good Weather, a Really Good Memory and LOTS and LOTS of takes. Thank you to everyone – you made this video a great success...AND a HUGE round of applause goes to Mr. Kapanke and Mr. Plath for their outstanding work!

MAY 2016

Sunday, May 1

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour WSP
10:15 am Education Hour EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, May 2

6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Tuesday, May 3

7:00 pm Evangelism
Technology Team

Wednesday, May 4

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, May 5

11:00 am Seniors Lunch
2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Friday, May 6

Good Samaritan
8:15 am Matins
3:30 pm Track Meet

Saturday, May 7

9:00 am Adopt A Highway-EGN
11:00 am Bowling Meet
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 8

Praise Service – Mother's Day
8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour WSP
10:15 am Education Hour EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, May 9

6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, May 10

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Education
Properties
Handbell rehearsal
7:00 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, May 11

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 12

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneer Meeting WSP
7:00 pm Elders-EGN

Friday, May 13

Grandparents' Day
8:00 am Matins & Muffins and Panera
11:30 am Early Dismissal

Saturday, May 14

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 15

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour WSP
10:15 am Education Hour EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, May 16

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, May 17

7:00 pm Council

Wednesday, May 18

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 19

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery - WSP

Friday, May 20

8:15 am Matins
5:00 pm Bowling League Tournament

Saturday, May 21

West St. Paul Parade
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 22

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour WSP
10:15 am Education Hour EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, May 23

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, May 24

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 25

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Grades 5-7; 8 Sign WSP
8th Grade Graduation

Thursday, May 26

12:00 pm PTN Field Day
2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
3:30 pm Riverview Grave Decorating
6:30 pm Pioneer Meeting WSP

Friday, May 27

Last Day of School
8:15 am Matins
11:30 am Early Dismissal

Saturday, May 28

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 29

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour WSP
10:15 am Education Hour EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
1:30 pm Elmhurst Grave Decorating

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

REPORTS

TREASURER – Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/16

February ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,117,375 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,184,979 (\$67,604 below budget). Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,164,079 which gave us a FYTD of a negative \$46,704. We paid back \$30,000 so now owe \$51,621 to our special funds account to keep our bills paid up to date. Clear the Path contributions as of 3-31-2016 totaled \$548,809 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance to \$932,000. Direct questions to PerryAbel@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS

- Gretta Mae Smith daughter of Jonathan and Carla Smith on March 20 with Pastor Kom.
- Kendall MaryAnn Hanson daughter of Xavier Hanson and Erika Rider on April 3 with Pastor Kom.

DEATHS

- Lorina Schaefer died on 4/2/16, funeral with Pastor Kom on 4/7/16.
- Marie Holen died on 4/4/16, funeral with Pastor Kom on 4/11/16.
- Esther Rahn died on 4/12/16, funeral with Pastor Kom on 4/18/16.

West Saint Paul Police Department
presents

Scams, Identity Theft and Prevention for Seniors

SENIORS' LUNCH | May 5th (note: date change)

11:00 am | West St Paul Campus

Open to all seniors in the community, so bring your friends! There is no charge for this event but there will be an opportunity for a free will offering. To RSVP, not required but appreciated, call the church office at 651-451-3832. Please call if you need a ride or if you would like to offer a ride.

If you would like to help, call Donna at 613-810-1993. You need not be a senior to help.



