



The Two Most Important Days in Your Life

The following article comes from Chad Bird, blogger, hymn writer, theologian and all around good guy.

“The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.” ... Mark Twain

Well, we have at least one thing going for us: we know the first of these two days – our birthday. To be sure, apart from our nativity (that is, apart from our birthday), there would be no first-steps day, no first day at school day, no first-kiss day, no graduation day, or no first-job day. For the truth is that you must **be** before you can **do**. The day you are born kick starts what you are likely to do with the rest of your life.

But then comes the tougher question: What exactly will you do with the rest of your life? And the deeper question – the toughest question of them all: Why were you born in the first place? And, what is your purpose in life, really?

Hence, lurking beneath every major decision you make is one or more of these questions.

Is the purpose of my life to be a physicist or a forklift driver?

Is the purpose of my life to let Tom or Vincent put a ring on my finger – or is to put a ring on Mary or Sophie’s finger?

Why am I here in this world – is it to follow the well-beaten path, or is it to take the road less traveled?

Even though you may not be aware of it, foundational questions such as these are what is pulsing through every decision you make in this life.

So, is it safe to say that the day of your birth is the most important of the two most important days in your life? I think it is. After all, you had no say-so concerning the day you were born. It just happened to you! You

didn’t decide what day you were conceived or what day you were born. Your birthday is no accomplishment. It’s not something you had anything to do with other than the fact that you were there. But the what or the purpose of our existence – your existence – that *is* up to you to determine – at least to some degree. Each of us must find our place in this world, achieve our dreams, and fulfill our life’s quest.

And this is a burden we must all bear. And it’s a decidedly heavy burden because it affects the assessment of our own self-worth. In America, this is largely accomplished by us comparing ourselves to others. And it’s here where size matters: the size of one’s home, the size of one’s banking account, the size of one’s waistline. And of course, there’s always our ego. The value of our lives is decided by how much we have accomplished and amassed. And because there’s always

someone who has more than we do, someone who has achieved more than we have, there's a very high likelihood that we are always going to feel deficient or short-changed.

Therefore, society tells us that we have to "take it up a notch." We *must* try harder. Otherwise, the why of our existence will end up becoming an accusatory question: Why haven't you done more? Why haven't you tried harder? And so we huff and puff on the treadmill of more, more, and more – all the while thinking that eventually the whys will be silenced when we have finally accomplished enough. But the reality is that that day of enough never arrives.

Perhaps we're doing it all wrong – do you think?

Here is a revolutionary truth – a truth that is liberation itself: you and I, we were not born *to achieve*. Instead we were born *to receive*. That, you see, is the why – the reason – for our existence – for your existence. Your primary purpose in life is not doing to be something, but to have something done to you, for you, out of love.

So, why are you here, you ask? God did not create you because He needed you to do something for Him. In the creation accounts of the an-

cient pagans, the exact opposite was true. The Babylonian gods were thought to have created humanity so as to serve them. That was the why of people's existence back then in that culture and world. They existed to be doers, especially doers for the deities. Their actions alone are what gave meaning and purpose to their existence.

Not so in our Lord's ordering of creation. Our Father graciously created you in order that He might have someone to bless, to love, to nurture, to save, and to give Himself to. That's why you're here.

You're here because God created you in order that he might be your Father in Jesus Christ – that you might be a temple for his Holy Spirit. He made you to be his own.

Whether you're male, female, short, tall, rich or poor, God formed you all the same: to be a perfect receptacle for His blessings. To be made in the image of God quite simply means being precisely shaped for the receiving of God's good gifts.

Of course, you will still do all sorts of things in this life. There are lots of good works to be done in the service of your neighbor. Some do more, some do less. But what you do does not define who you are. You may or may not

earn a degree. You may or may not have children. Your life's vocation may not seem all that important, or it might in fact be extremely important. On the day of your funeral it's possible that the entire country may shed tears over your passing, or maybe it will be no more than a few close friends. Your entire biography might require volumes or be squeezed into a few boring paragraphs. Who knows? But who really cares? None of that defines your personhood, who you are, or why you are here.

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out that you were born to be our Father's child in Christ Jesus.

That is your identity; and that is your freedom. You are free to do without worrying about whether you do enough, because the enough has already been done by Christ. In Him the Father recreated you as perfect in His sight. And in Christ that is who you will always be.

Truth be known, you will never really outgrow the identity you had on the day of your birth. That day just happened to you. It was not an accomplishment, but a simply a gift from the God who loves

you with an everlasting love. And so it is every day. Every day you awaken from your slumber to live another day is like the day you left the womb. Here, dear Christian, is a world created by our Father, redeemed by His Son, and enlivened by His Spirit. It is a world we each inhabit as gifted children not trophied adults. Neither your successes or failures, your marriage or divorce, your résumé or bankruptcy, your deeds or misdeeds define you. Christ is who defines you. He is the why of your existence. He is all gift, and you are blessed to be gifted in Him.

Birthdays

Gwen Mayes	4/2
Roy Keller	4/3
Sean Williams	4/3
John Luppés	4/5
Taylor Altis	4/5
David Benningfield	4/11
Tim Wiese	4/18
Courtney Fairhurst	4/19
Terry Wood	4/22
Ashley Fairhurst	4/23
Colleen Jackson	4/27
Mike Owens	5/2
Adyline Christensen	5/2
Erik Israel	5/5
Phyllis Clemens	5/9
Laura Schmidt	5/9

Baptisms

Alan Bozarth	4/1
Michelle Fairhurst	4/1
Jack Oldag	4/6
Alec Walworth	4/6
Doris Mann	4/7

Ben Augur	4/8
Taylor Altis	4/9
Deanna Korondi	4/11
Conner Jackson	4/11
Don Mayes	4/12
Joni Martinez	4/12
Connie Brammeier	4/12
Delany Stout	4/14
Peter Korondi	4/16
Marlo Howard	4/18
Amanda Schroeder	4/18
Tony Alshouse	4/21
Eli Ramer	4/23
Gwen Mayes	4/28
Chris Blunk	4/29
Roy Keller	5/1
Lee Wathen	5/1
Ellen Propst	5/1
Bruce Cantwell	5/7
Jana Schwarz	5/8
Courtney Fairhurst	5/8

Anniversaries

Keith & Mary Wornson	4/4/1970
Tony & Jane Alshouse	4/4/1981
Bill & Alice Moore	4/19/1987
Kelly & Angee Schmidt	4/24/1999
Kevin & Julie Schroeder	4/27/1991
Kenneth & Katherine Rogers	5/3/1969

Elders

Vic Edwards
Larry Goodroad
Ken Meier
Dallas Hoffman
Peter Korondi
Bill Moore, Jr.

Acolytes

April 3	Gabriel Sowell
April 10	Ben Starkebaum
April 17	Andrew Swain

April 24	Joe Goodroad
May 1	Tom Goodroad
May 8	Sammy Harms
May 15	Colton Harris
May 22	Conner Jackson
May 29	Simon Korondi

Ushers

April 3

Bob Marchert, Don Mayes

April 10

Don Mayes, Darrin Abend

April 17

Jack Oldag, Scott Mayes

April 24

Scott Mayes, Ken Meier

May 1 & 8

Bill Moore, Darrin Abend

May 15

Ken Meier, Tony Propst

May 22

Jack Oldag, Tony Propst

May 29

Pete Korondi, Craig Schley

Greeters

April 3

Alan & Debra Rhea

April 10

Wayne & Bobbie Suter

April 17

Fred & Sandy Walworth

April 24

Lee Wathen, Harry Akiyama

May 1

Terry & Lynn Wood

May 8

Keith & Mary Wornson

May 15

Mark & Leslie Young

May 22

Darrin & Debra Abend

May 29

Tony & Jane Alshouse

Altar Guild

April 3 & May 1

Pat Owens, Mary Ellett

April 10 & May 8

Deanna Korondi, Kari
Goodroad

April 17

Dee Hoffman, Leslie Young,
Mallory Swain

April 24

Phyllis Clemens, Sharon
McCubbin, Tara Altis

May 15

June Ramer, Phyllis Clemens

May 22

Dee Hoffman, Leslie Young

May 29

Phyllis Clemens, Sharon
McCubbin

Ladies Night Out

Our next event is April 18 at 6:00 PM. We will meet at the new Outback Steakhouse at Zone Rosa. Please sign up on the kiosk. Questions? Contact Shari Schley, 686-3270.

Board of Directors

March 14, 2016

Members present: Connie Brammeier, Tim Brammeier, Dan Goodroad, Larry Goodroad, Nelson Hayes, Dee Hoffman, Pastor, Norm Sowell, Lisa Starkebaum, and Leslie Young.

Tim called the meeting to order and Pastor opened with prayer. The board continued with their study of The Augsburg Confession.

John, Linda, Matt and Mark

Bosky transferred their membership to St. Stephens in Liberty, MO, and Dawn and Rachel Riley transferred their membership in from St. John Lutheran Church in Lohman, MO. Norm moved we accept the transfers, Dan seconded, passed by vote.

Nelson moved we accept the minutes from the last meeting, Lisa seconded, passed by vote.

VP: N/A

Treasurer: Norm moved we receive the report, Lisa seconded, passed by vote.

Elders: Lead Usher training will be scheduled the same day as AED training, we are waiting to hear when that will be possible.

Properties: Thank you to all who participated in the Easter Clean-Up day and thank you to the Fix-It Crew! The Fix-It crew is inventorying property and creating a master list of items. Various projects are underway such as some water fixes in the basement, door replacement, etc. We passed the fire marshal inspection on the chair lift.

Evangelism: N/A

Education: Pleased to have a new student in Sunday School, Rachel.

Stewardship: Nothing new to report

Youth: Making palm crosses and getting ready to serve Easter breakfast.

Public Relations: Continuing to submit articles and the Facebook page is doing well.

Planning: Open position

Services: Nothing new to report

Secretary: Nothing new to report

Unfinished Business: Reviewed the Building Use Policy. Larry moved we do a \$75 deposit, Leslie seconded, passed by vote.

New Business: Marcea requested to use the building for play practice several times over the next few weeks. Dan moved we allow, Larry seconded, passed by vote.

Larry moved we adjourn, Norm seconded. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Emily Goodroad

Lutherans for Life

The Northland Chapter meets the quarterly at the home of Fran and Marsha Szarejko. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Murphy, 628-6815. Everyone is invited to join us at these meetings.

Martin Luther Academy

Martin Luther Academy is adding a second Kindergarten

class for the 2016-2017 school year. Applications are now being accepted for this position. Qualifications include a valid teaching certificate in Early Childhood for the state of Missouri and Synodically trained or have completed their colloquy. If interested, please submit a resume to the school office, in care of Ann Arndt, Principal

Trinity Care Group

Do you need assistance because of illness, birth of a baby, death, hospitalization, etc.? Trinity Care Group can help. We would be happy to arrange for providing meals, doing errands, visiting with the family, etc. Please contact Dee Hoffman at 320-2490.

The Distinction Between Faith and Life

The distinction between Law and Gospel helps to protect the Gospel of Christ in the church, because it distinguishes my love from God's work of justifying me in Christ. When we are talking about our standing in God's sight nothing of works applies. When we are talking about our standing among men, everything of works applies. Our neighbor is helped by our works, not by our faith. What good is our faith to our neighbor? Likewise, God is not helped by our

works, for He has no need that we should do anything for Him. What would He lack that we could possibly provide (Psalm 50:10-13). Our neighbor, on the other hand, is greatly benefited by what we can provide when he is need. This is why the Ten Commandments require us to help and support our neighbor in every physical need (SC 1.5).

This, I believe, is the point being made in the epistle of James: "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (James 2:14-17). The poor neighbor gains nothing through your faith, if that faith does not issue in works. Your faith is not edible. Your faith is not fuel for a warming fire. Your love provides the works. Love is directed toward the neighbor. Faith is directed toward God. Each must be kept in its own sphere and place; faith giving rise to good works.

Luther says "faith is never

alone but brings with it love and other manifold gifts" (Genesis Commentary). This is a simple description of the entire Christian life (I Corinthians 13:13). The Christian life is nothing other than to live "in faith toward God and in fervent love toward one another" as the church prays in the post-communion collect. Love and good works are absolutely necessary in the Christian life, which is the work of putting faith into action. Love and good works are absolutely unnecessary in the article of justification, where the only work that avails is Christ's. Our works help our neighbor. His works help us. If our works help God, then we have overthrown the article of justification.

Top of The Hill

The group met at Church on Tuesday, March 8, for Papa Murphy's pizza at 11:30 PM – which was delicious, by the way. Then we spent the rest of the afternoon in fun and fellowship.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 10th in the Fellowship Hall. Please watch the Bulletin or check the website for more details.

Youth

We have registered five of our

youth and two adult chaperones for the upcoming 2016 Higher Things Conference that we will be attending in Cedar Falls, I, at the University of Northern Iowa. The conference is scheduled for July 5-8th this year.

Trinity's youth group is comprised of grades 6-12. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this age range as well as parents and we would gladly welcome new faces. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Starkebaum or Connie Brammeier.

LWML

Date: March 14, 2016

Call to Order: Penny Harris, Vice President

Opening Hymn: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

Opening Prayer: Pastor Newman led with prayer. LWML pledge was recited.

Attendance: Pastor Newman, Penny Harris, June Lueckert, Kay Sowell, Mary Wornson, Dee Hoffman, Janis Bozarth and Janet Miller.

Minutes: February minutes were read and approved.

Correspondence: Request was received from Kearney High School for after prom party. Motion was made by Mary Wornson and seconded by Kay Sowell that we donate

\$250. Motion passed.

Request was received from LAMP (Alaskan outreach). A motion was made by Janet Miller to donate \$250. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: A balance as of 3/8/2016 was \$1,305.66 (including \$95.72 in mites).

Mission Grant Story was by Janet Miller entitled "Outreach In Refugee Camps - Lebanon".

Quilting Report: Two senior quilts have been pieced and quilted and need binding.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Spring Rally at Farley, MO, was discussed. Election of officers will be held next meeting in April.

Third Sunday Treats: 3/20 June Lueckert, Janet Miller, Dianne Mischlich; 4/17 Diane Schmidt, Janis Bozarth, Dee Hoffman; 5/15 Kay Sowell, Janis Bozarth, Dianne Mischlich.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 14, with Mary Wornson as hostess.

Business meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer. Bible Study was led by Pastor Newman entitled, "Justification, Our Chief Article"

Refreshments were served by Marlo Howard and June Lueckert.

Respectfully submitted, Janis Bozarth, Secretary

It Is To Laugh

Mujibar was trying to get a job in India.

The Personnel Manager said, "Mujibar, you have passed all the tests, except one. Unless you pass it you cannot qualify for this job."

Mujibar said, "I am ready."

The manager said, "Make a sentence using the words: Yellow, Pink and Green."

Mujibar thought for a few minutes and said, "Mister manager, I am ready."

The manager said, "Go ahead."

Mujibar said, "The telephone goes green, green, green, and I pink it up, and say, 'Yellow, this is Mujibar.'"

Mujibar now works as a technician at a call center for computer problems. No doubt you have spoken to him.

Family Fellowship

The group will have a "Minute to Win It" game night on Saturday, April 23, at 6:00 PM at Church. It will be hosted by Dan & Emily Goodroad. Please bring a snack and drink of your choice to share.