

THE PARISH LIGHT

The Parish of the Northern Lights newsletter – November 2016



THE PASSING OF SOMEONE ELSE

The church was bowed in grief this week to learn that one of our most valuable members, Someone Else, passed away.

This death creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with us for many years. During all these years, they did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results.

Whenever there was a job to do – a class to teach, or a meeting to attend – one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

Someone Else was also among the largest givers of the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference.

This beloved church member was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human; but a person can only do so much. Everybody expected too much of Someone Else.

Now Someone Else is gone. Who will pitch in to do the things that Someone Else has done? If you are asked to take a job in church, we hope you won't reply, "Let Someone Else do it. Now we need you to pick up where someone Else left off.

..... Author Unknown

Gaining a Fresh Perspective

God cares for us unconditionally, by Natalie Turko-Slack

I am the wife of a Lutheran pastor, a woman of Ukrainian descent, with a Greek Catholic upbringing. This combination has presented some unique challenges but I have learned to appreciate Martin Luther's religious teachings. This has added a fresh perspective for me.

Initially my lack of knowledge of the Lutheran faith created some confusion. The first time I visited my husband's parish, I took him aside after the service to convey an important message, one requiring immediate attention.

May was missing! My recommendation was that he erect a statue of May without delay lest he offend some members of the congregation, not to mention Mary herself. Thank goodness for my keen powers of observation!

There was all that hymn singing, most of which was foreign to me. The Masses I had attended were all in my native language and the hymns were actually parts of the Mass itself, set to music.

The exchange of peace and hand shaking was also unfamiliar, as well as hearing occasional laughter and hand clapping during worship. So too were female clergy, assisting ministers and acolytes. We had only priests, altar boys and the cantor who would accompany the priest to funerals and weddings. Clergy was exclusively male.

The more "informal" service of the Lutheran Church contrasted sharply with the heavy "formality" which I was accustomed to.

Perhaps the most striking, albeit refreshing, was the lack of "fire and brimstone" in the sermons. There was no chastisement directed at those who only frequented church on special occasions. There were no reminders of our sinful natures or that the consequences of not living a biblically exemplary life would be dire indeed! No, the messages were hopeful, uplifting and thought provoking.

Also, as this was a second marriage for both of us, I was able to attend Communion again. This was something that I had missed. Divorced people may not receive Communion in the Catholic Church. I must admit that the first time I went up to Communion since my divorce, I went meekly, with head bowed. I wondered if God was annoyed, perhaps disappointed in me.

Thankfully my husband reassured me that all people baptized in Christ were welcome. So thereafter I lifted my head and walked proudly to Communion.

Times do change, and even the more traditional, formal churches whose Masses I have attended had had to evolve to attract today's youth and encourage past members to return to the proverbial flock. The church of my childhood can now boast of having one of the first altar girls. Sermons of doom and gloom are now a thing of the past.

Now I understand that the mother of Jesus, though acknowledged, is revered to the same degree as in the Catholic Church. Regarding the hymns, I am pleased to report that I have learned quite a few of them. Some I had heard before, whether from the *Gaither Gospel Hour*, or from an episode of *Mr. Bean* where the character has trouble staying awake during a

Sunday service. Quite a funny episode, but one from which I mastered one of our service's more popular hymns.

I am no longer uncomfortable at the sight of female clergy. I think it's wonderful that women of faith are making such inroads. I shake hands enthusiastically when we are called upon to offer the sign of peace to our fellow parishioners. I no longer feel awkward with rituals and practices that are different from my own.

My Ukrainian Church ignited my faith and its traditions and rituals are a part of me. But I also feel a connectedness to my husband's parish, welcomed, included and embraced.

After all, isn't this the message that all churches, regardless of denomination or language, should be sending? That God cares for us unconditionally, that we are welcomed as we are and that the love of God embraces every one of us.

..... Natalie Turko-Slack remains Greek Catholic but regularly attends services at Christ the Redeemer Lutheran Church, Dollard des Ormeaux, Quebec, where her husband Rev. James Slack is pastor.

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**“I don't know all Ten Commandments.
The only ones I remember are 'settle down',
'act your age' and 'take that out of your mouth'.”**

An inexperienced preacher was to hold a graveside burial service at a pauper's cemetery for an indigent man with no family or friends. Not knowing where the cemetery was, he made several wrong turns and got lost. When he eventually arrived an hour late, the hearse was nowhere in sight, the backhoe was next to the open hole, and the workmen were sitting under a tree eating lunch.

The diligent young pastor went to the open grave and found the vault lid already in place. Feeling guilty because of his tardiness, he preached an impassioned and lengthy service, sending the deceased to the great beyond in style.

As he returned to his car, he overheard one of the workman say to the other, "I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years and I ain't never seen anything like that."

The Little Things

Thank you, Lord, for "Little things" - like rays of hope a smile can bring
A clasping of a helping hand...the soothing words, "I understand"
The warmth of sunshine after rain - a sign of comfort – after pain!
A friend who "stays" through trials and tears - the peace they give to calm our fears
For all His mercy – and His love, when prayers are answered from above
Oh, Thank You, Lord for "Little Things" - that help us soar on eagles wings!

..... Kathryn Wiesenhoefer



"Besides calling every Sunday 'Easter,' does anyone else have ideas for improving church attendance?"

This comes from a Catholic Elementary school test.

Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. In the first book of the Bible, Guinness. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came on in pears.
3. Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
5. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
6. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
7. The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Commandments.
8. The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
9. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
10. Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
11. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
12. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He taught the Finkelsteins, a race of people who live in biblical times.
13. Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
14. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
15. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manger.
16. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption
17. Jesus enunciated the Golden Rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
18. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
19. The Epistels were the wives of the Apostles
20. One of the Oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
21. St Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached Holy Acrimony, which is another word for marriage.
22. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

The Trouble Tree

She hired a plumber to help her restore an old farmhouse, and he had just finished a rough first day on the job: a flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric drill quit, and his ancient one ton truck refused to start.

While she drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited her in to meet his family.

As they walked towards the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

When opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His tanned face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward, he walked her back to her car. They passed the tree, and her curiosity got the better of her. She asked him about what she had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he replied. “I know I can’t help having troubles on the job, but one thing’s for sure; those troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and the children. So, I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home and ask God to take care of them. Then in the morning, I pick them up again.”

“Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick ‘em up, there aren’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”



**CHRISTIANS
AIN'T PERFECT
BUT JESUS IS!**



What's Happening

Saturday, Nov 12th – **Christmas Tea, Craft & Bake Sale** at St Andrew's Zion

10:00 am to 3:00 pm – Get your Christmas gifts and baking here!

St Paul's, Boyle

- Villa Sing – last Wednesday of the month
- Services of Prayer and Praise – 1st Friday of every month at 7:00 pm - churches in Boyle rotate in holding the service
- Prayer Chain meeting –

St Andrew's Zion, Colinton

- Coffee time - every first and third Thursday of every month – join us along with the community for some good fellowship.

PARISH OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS CONTACT LIST

Rev. David Greenwood: 780-747-2614

St Paul's Anglican Church, Boyle (689-3014):

Rector's Warden: Judy Flax – 780-689-3064

People's Warden: Vernie Mosich – 780-689-5644

St Andrew's Anglican Zion Lutheran Church, Colinton (675-9750):

Rector's Warden: Henrik Asfeldt – 780-675-5248

People's Warden: Wendy Lawrence – 780-675-5541

St Thomas Church, Perryvale

Rector's Warden: Marion Baker – 780-698-2530

People's Warden: Pauline Morey – 780-698-2270

Christ Church, Wandering River

Rector's Warden – Joyce Pusiarski – 780-771-2103

People's Warden – Kathy Hogarth – 780-771-2351