

Woestina Reformed Church Newsletter

October 2023

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A McHeard Moment: Why?

One of the most widely used words in our language. Why. Why is the sky blue? Why is there suffering in the world? Why do I have to eat my vegetables? Why is there evil in the world? Why do we only have 'fore' fathers and not five? It is good to ask questions and to seek answers. Somewhere along the way most Christians think it is wrong to ask the 'why' questions in church. Questions like, Why do we say the creeds every Sunday? Why is the church service so long? I will answer the first question and leave the other one alone.

We say the creeds every Sunday because they express in words what we believe as a community of faith. These creeds have helped Christians throughout the centuries form their identity as a people of God. I believe it is important for us to either be reminded or informed about the words we affirm weekly and once and week. The two creeds I will consider are The Apostles and the Nicene Creed. The Apostles Creed, probably first formed in the first century, is otherwise known as the Baptismal Covenant. Baptisms in the early church were conducted on Easter Sunday. Candidates of baptism would be asked as series of questions. Do you believe in God the Father? The candidate would say, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth" Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God? I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord,... and finally, Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? The answer would be "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church...." By the fourth century we have what we call the Apostle's Creed.

During the first few centuries of the early church a question arose regarding who Jesus Christ was. Was he truly human only? Was he truly God only? Was he part of both or all of both? Or was he neither human nor divine? Some of the questions some would fear to ask in churches today were asked in the early centuries of the Christian Church. The Nicene Creed written in 325CE (CE is Common Era, scholarly writings today have replaced AD and BC with BCE (before common era) and CE) in part as a response to the heresies of Arius.

Halloween. Separating Christian from Pagan

The Halloween holiday has its roots in the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (a Gaelic word pronounced "SAH-win"), a pagan religious celebration to welcome the harvest at the end of summer, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as a time to honor saints. Soon after, All Saints Day came to incorporate some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before All Saints Day was known as All Hallows Eve, and later, Halloween.

The act of going door-to-door for handouts has long been a part of Halloween revelries. But until the mid-20th century, the "treats" children received were not necessarily candy. Things like fruit, nuts, coins, and toys were just as likely to be given out. Trick-or-treating rose in popularity in the 1950s and it inspired candy companies to market small, individually wrapped candies. People began to favor the confections out of convenience, but candy did not dominate at the exclusion of all other treats until the 1970s when parents started fearing anything unwrapped.

Other academics believe Halloween began solely as a Christian holiday, being the vigil of All Hallows' Day. Celebrated in Ireland and Scotland for centuries, Irish and Scottish immigrants took many Halloween customs to North America in the 19th century, and then through American influence Halloween had spread to other countries by the late 20th and early 21st century.

By the end of the 12th century, the celebration had become known as the holy days of obligation in Western Christianity and involved such traditions as ringing church bells for souls in purgatory.

In Britain, these customs came under attack during the Reformation, as Protestants berated purgatory as a "popish" doctrine incompatible with the Calvinist doctrine of predestination. State-sanctioned ceremonies associated with the intercession of saints and prayer for souls in purgatory were abolished during the Elizabethan reform, though All Hallows' Day remained in the English liturgical calendar to "commemorate saints as godly human beings".[[] For some Nonconformist Protestants, the theology of All Hallows' Eve was redefined; "souls cannot be journeying from Purgatory on their way to Heaven, as Catholics frequently believe and assert. Instead, the so-called ghosts are thought to be in actuality evil spirits".[[] Other Protestants believed in an intermediate state known as Hades (Bosom of Abraham). In some localities, Catholics and Protestants continued souling, candlelit processions, or ringing church bells for the dead

Christian groups through the years have routinely attempted to demonize and denigrate the observance, in part by repeating the erroneous claim that Sam Hain was the Celtic god of the dead and Halloween his feast. This error comes from the 18th-century British engineer Charles Vallancey, who wrote on the Samhain festival with a poor understanding of the culture and language, and has been repeated uncritically since. It was actually the Church itself, however, which preserved the Samhain tradition in the West by Christianizing it in the 9th century, setting the course for a pagan Northern European religious tradition's transformation into a worldwide secular holiday which has become the most popular – and commercially lucrative – of the year, second only to Christmas



SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN NEED

For our Church Family:

For members who are ill or in need, or who have recently lost loved ones.

For our Community, Nation, & World Peace:

Those serving in the Armed Forces and their families, and Christians throughout the World. For victims of the Morocco earthquakes and the Libya floods.

Please give your prayer requests to Pastor Kent

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



Sunday's @ 9:30 a.m. (see bulletin board for occasional changes)

The food pantry is always taking donations. If you or someone you know in our community has any needs, please call Karin Carr or Linda Young (contact information below) and they will be happy to assist. The pantry is currently open every 2nd & 4th Saturday of the month from **9:00am - 11:00am**. Any emergent needs can be met by scheduling a pick-up appointment by calling either Linda or Karin. Current items needed are Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Canned Pasta, Jello, Pudding, Juice, and Snack Foods. Check the bulletin board for more needs.

Karin Carr - (518) 256-5640

Linda Young - (518) 952-4310

Ginny's Lunch

Westina Reformed Church welcomes you to Ginny's Lunch, a free lunch held on second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Doors open at 10AM Lunch served at Noon

October 12th

Baked Ziti
Tossed Salad
Cheezy Garlic Bread
Italian Ice



October 26th

Ham
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Applesauce
Dinner Rolls
Cake.

If you plan on attending, please call Nancy MacLea at 518-355-0543

or email her at nmaclea@nycap.rr.com

Please leave a message with your name and phone number if needed. Bible Study Afterwards

October Birthday's & Anniversaries

Birthdays

10/06 - Wayne VanDetta
10/10 - Ellen Orlup
10/11 - Sally Hemstreet
10/12 - Kandance Pickney
10/16 - Michael Bennett
10/18 - Carl Schnitzer
10/21 - Alex Brittain
10/29 - Joseph Bennett



Anniversaries

10/1- Carter & Elizabeth Irwin
10/14- Jeff & Mary Jo Nagel
10/27- Jack & Betsy Thelin



Mission of the Month

The October Mission of the Month is Danielle's House

Danielle's House is a program of Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless, an Albany based agency working to address the needs of the homeless, and low-income community. Danielle's House is the only service of its kind to provide a year-round mix of emergency shelter, transitional, and permanent housing for individuals and families in Amsterdam and the surrounding counties.

218 E. Main Street
Amsterdam, NY
518- 627-4649



Wreaths Across

America

***The cost is \$17, See
Nancy Gore to place
Your Order.***



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Sunday School News

We welcomed everyone back to Sunday School on September 10 and the kids shared all their summer adventures. If you know a child, please invite them to come join us and offer them a ride if they need one.

We are working on our Saturday activities and trying some new activities, so if you have a crafting talent and would like to share with the kids, please let me know. We will also be doing a movie and game activity during the month. We will post times and dates on the Sunday school bulletin board (on the left when entering church). Everyone is welcome.

We are still collecting for Wreathes Across America and still need donations. We will be placing the wreathes on December 16 at noon. If you would like to participate in the wreath laying, please let me know so that I can place your name on the volunteer list. I will be using this list to assign wreaths and for notifications about events. Last year we had to change the date and because I did not have phone numbers or emails, it was impossible to notify everyone, so this year I will be working from the volunteer listing. Thanks for your help!

We are also still collecting empty soda & water bottles. You can drop off at Southside Beverage at 1451 State Highway 5S, Amsterdam, NY 12010 or leave them by the garage in the ed center. Make sure you tell them they are for the Woestina Church Youth Group.

So let us continue to learn about God's word and see what he wants us to learn this year.

*Nancy Gore
Sunday School Committee*

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL



IHS

IHS" is a "Christogram.

Wait a minute!" I hear you say! "IHS' looks nothing like the word 'Jesus'!". And, of course, you're quite right...until you translate "Jesus" into Greek. Greek has its own alphabet and in it "Jesus" is spelled "ιησους" and when capitalized it becomes "ΙΗΣΟΥΣ". If we take just the first three letters of this word then we have "ΙΗΣ". These are the Greek letters "iota", "eta" and "sigma". When these letters are converted ("transliterated") into our alphabet it becomes "IHS"

2023						
OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SPECIAL DAYS CELEBRATED IN OCTOBER

OCTOBER 1 – WORLD COMMUNION DAY

OCTOBER 8 – PASTOR KENT BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

(DRIVE THRU, ANIMALS REMAIN IN CAR)

OCTOBER 9- COLUMBUS DAY

OCTOBER 14 – MEN'S BREAKFAST 8 AM

OCTOBER 28 – FREE COMMUNITY DINNER 4-6PM

OCTOBER 31- ALL HALLOWS EVE (HALLOWEEN)

KIDS PAGE

Numbers in the Bible

There is an actual book in the Bible called Numbers

What is the number answers to these questions.

Noah took the animals into the Ark ___ by ___

God created the heavens and the Earth in ___ days

The nation of Israel wandered in the desert for ___ years

God made it rain for ___ days and ___ nights when he flooded the Earth

There are ___ books of the Bible

___ in the Old Testament

___ in the New Testament

Joshua and the Israelites marched around the city walls of Jericho how many times?

September Kids Riddles answers

A cubit is 17.5 inches in length. So, Noah's Ark was 300 Cubits long (300 X 17.5=5250 inches) divided by 12 inches in a foot makes 437.5 feet long

50 cubits wide (50 X 17.5=875 inches) divided by 12 inches in a foot Makes 72.9 feet wide

30 Cubits high (30 X 17.5=525 inches) divided by 12 inches in a foot Makes 43.75 feet high

The first people created were Adam and Eve

It was Judas Iscariot that betrayed Jesus

Jesus grew up as a boy in Nazareth

It was the Sea of Galilee that Jesus calmed

Jesus turned water into wine



This month we begin harvesting various crops
What does the Bible say about harvesting?

Exodus 34:21 Six days you shall work, but on the seventh day you shall rest. In plowing time and in harvest you shall rest.

Deuteronomy 24:19 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then he said to his disciples, The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

Revelation 14:15 Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, "Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe

*The return of The CHOSEN will be
Sunday, October 1, 2023, right
after the church services*



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THE *Knotty* PINE HOUSE

PRESENTS THE SECOND ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS
AMERICA FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT LOCAL
VETERANS BURIED AT THE WOESTINA CEMETERY.



Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor and Teach at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea and abroad.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE KNOTTY PINE ON
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 4TH FROM 5-8PM
FOR FOOD, FUN, FRIENDS, AND MUSIC BY THE

