

Another Word January 16, 2024

To our family and friends of First Christian Church

Greetings this brisk snowy day in January. It seems we always like the first snowfall of the year. Well we got it. I don't know about you but I say we've received enough so, come on spring!

As a reminder, we are hosting this year's "Sanctity of Human Life" community service this Sunday at 4:30 pm. We hope you can attend this celebration of God's gift of life. We also need a few folks to help greet, help with refreshments, and arrange tables and chairs. We are expecting over 200 to attend. If you can help, please contact myself or Carol Wertz.

Our scriptures for the next 2 weeks are:

Jan 21- Psalm 62: 5-12, Linda Gardner is our serving Elder. Mark 1: 1-14, "Jesus Goes Fishin'"

Jan 28- Psalm 111, Shelley Carpenter is our serving Elder. Mark 1:21-28, "A Sermon to Remember"

Please remember Richard Harper, Lennie Reich, Lyle and Jeanne Easterday as we go to God in prayer.

Gracious God, creator of life, to You we bow in gratitude and love. At times, our lives seem to become overwhelming; times when we can feel that we can't go on. But then we realize You are there, watching, protecting, and giving us much needed hope, strength, and power. Your word is truly the guidance we need as we travel the challenging roads of life. We hold up to You those who need healing, comfort and

peace.....We offer this prayer with grateful hearts in Jesus' Holy name, Amen.

In the spring of 1965, my mother helped me purchase a small Harley Davidson motorcycle from one of my friend's brothers. I was under aged to ride on the street, so every day before I turned 16, I rode it on an abandoned alley behind our house, or pushed it up Cleveland Avenue to the YMCA and rode it around the cinder covered quarter mile track behind the building. These trips taught me how to ride. I learned how to brake, take curves and how to navigate different types of surfaces such as grass, loose stones, as well as concrete and asphalt. Those few months of off-road riding helped me prepare for when I got my license.

Well, the big day came in July of '65. With license in hand, I couldn't wait for my maiden trip on the endless highways before me. The freedom I felt (and still do) was intoxicating. Being able to go where I wanted, to explore places I had only heard about... I was set free!

However, an incident one day brought me back to reality. I decided to head out north, up route 60 to see where it would take me. As I was going along, out in the middle of nowhere, all of the sudden my engine quit. The only thing I heard was the wind whistling through my helmet. I was coasting, and I began to slow down. Trust me when I tell you panic began to set in! What was wrong? Something was really, really wrong! Then, just as my speed had dropped to around 30mph it occurred to me that I hadn't purchased any gas for a few days. Oops! But then, I also remembered that under the left side of my fuel tank was a little valve that, if turned would open the reserve fuel tank.

(Lucky for me I didn't run with it already open.) A few seconds later, my engine roared to life, and I had enough fuel to make it back home.

As I think back on that incident, it occurs to me that It's not unlike many of our life's circumstances. Have you ever felt that you are running on empty, or that your plans are spiraling out of control and feel there is nowhere to turn? I know I have...and more times than I'd like to admit! However, when I'm down to my last drop, I remember that I have a reserve tank of power just waiting to be used. Our good and gracious God is just waiting to be tapped into.

Isaiah 40:29 states, "He gives power to the weak, strength to the powerless." Psalm 46:1 says, "God is our refuge and strength, and is an ever-present help in trouble." Wow! Gives power to us when we are out of power and is always there when He is needed.

So, when you are running through the twists and turns of life don't worry, because as Joshua 1:9 tells us, "(God's) power is the greatest when you are weak." In other words, God is your reserve tank of power whenever you feel you are running on empty.

In His Peace,

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