

St. James News

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Remembering the Day of Our Confirmation

The Word of the Lord: I Timothy 6:12 *Fight the good fight of faith.*

Confirmation day marks a most significant milestone in anyone's life. Without distracting from the red-letter character of days of one's birth, marriage and death--confirmation day, too, must be included in the listing of great days in one's life, the hour when you pledge allegiance to Christ for time and for eternity is certainly a memorable event. Whether you are a recent confirmand or were confirmed many years ago, it is essential to remember the day of your confirmation, the day on which you were asked to fight the good fight of faith.

On the day of your confirmation you were inducted into the armed forces of the communicant membership of the church in the name of Jesus Christ, who is King of kings and Lord of lords, the Captain of our salvation, the Leader and Commander of His people.

On that solemn day of confirmation, whenever it was, you took the oath of allegiance to Jesus and His kingdom and His Word. You renounced the devil, the world, and your own sinful nature and all their wicked works and ways. You promised that you would vow holiness of life, and faithfulness to Jesus and pledged that you would suffer all, even death itself, rather than fall away.

It is unfortunate that there are so many people, who over the years have forgotten their confirmation vows and have turned away from Jesus Christ. It brings sorrow to the heart to think of those who have left the church, which have deserted the King's army, and who have gone over to the camp of the enemy. May the infinite grace of our Lord Jesus Christ grant them repentance and forgiveness and reinstate them in His army lest they perish with the ungodly on the Last Day. For our Lord has said, "Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown him before My Father in Heaven." (Matthew 10:32-33).

Someone may ask what is this faith which we fight for? It is faith in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, faith in the one true God, in the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life through Jesus Christ. Our blessed Lord Himself proclaimed the very sum and substance of the Gospel and the faith when He spoke to Nicodemus: "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This saving faith in Christ is worked by the power of God through His word. As it is written in Romans 1:16: "The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes." It offers the forgiveness of sins to those who hear the message.

The fight of faith is contending for Christ, His Church, and it is the activity of the new man which shows itself in sincere obedience to the revealed will of God and in a struggle against the enemies of the Christian faith: the devil, the Christ-less world and the old Adam inside us. Contending for the faith also involves sharing the Good News of the forgiveness of sins with whoever we meet. It also involves supporting the ministry of the Church so that the Gospel message can be given to all the world. When fighting the good fight of faith, the victory is assured. Steadfastly resisting the devil in faith (I Peter 5:8-9), he will flee from you (James 4:7). Believing in Jesus as the Son of God, you overcome the world and obtain the victory.

From His throne in heaven the Son of God is watching you fight the good fight of faith, and most mightily He encourages you with the promises of grace

and power such as only He can give to accomplish His good will in you, How blessed it is to follow the Apostolic directive: Fight the good fight of faith. The Lord of Hosts is with us the God of Jacob is our refuge. Amen.

Pastor Nirva

OUR CHURCH RECORDS

Church Attendance

Sunday, March 28	181 & 187
Maundy Thursday, April 1	64 & 95
Good Friday, April 2	51 & 142
Easter Sunday, April 4	106, 229 & 291
Wednesday, April 7	18
Sunday, April 11	171 & 168
Wednesday, April 14	21
Sunday, April 18	167 & 179
Wednesday, April 21	17
Sunday, April 25	210 & 125

Communion Attendance

Sunday, March 28	93
Maundy Thursday, April 1	54 & 78
Good Friday, April 2	38
Easter Sunday, April 4	229 & 291
Wednesday, April 7	13
Sunday, April 11	79
Sunday, April 18	112
Sunday, April 25	90

Baptism

Kylie Grace Gulso infant daughter of Jason Ecker and Heidi Gulso on April 11, 2010 by Pastor Nirva.

Funerals

Marvin Klugow on March 29, 2010. He had died on March 24, 2010 at the age of 92 years, 1 month and 24 days.

Janice (Schuman) Major on March 31, 2010. She had died on March 26, 2010 at the age of 75 years, 6 months and 22 days.

Evelyn (Birkholz) Diers on April 10, 2010. She had died on April 8, 2010 at the age of 90 years, 4 months and 29 days.

Gordon Gruenhagen on April 17, 2010. He had died on April 14, 2010 at the age of 72 years, 1 month and 4 days.

Marriage

Mark Leaf and Rebecca Painschab on April 24 by Pastor Nirva.

Transfers Out

Eric and RaLeah Leedahl and children Savannah, Paige, CharLee and Dawson to Westbridge Community Church, St. Michael, Minnesota.



Answers: 1. 110 years (Genesis 50:26) 2. 3. Ten kingdoms which are allies of the beast (Revelation 17:10) 4. 2 (Genesis 5) 5. Isaiah 6. Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30)

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

For our April meeting we were privileged to have a couple from Hutchinson and a man from Stewart, MN speak to us about "Vision Honduras." This is a program where they fit the people from

Honduras with donated eyeglasses, as many people have lost their eyesight due to their living conditions. They travel to Honduras for 19 days every year - each time going to a different village. The people who go on this mission trip are mostly retired people from this area. They welcome anyone who would like to join them. They also told us a little about the Kids Against Hunger program. It was a very interesting and enjoyable evening.

We hosted the Spring Zone Rally on April 17th. Many willing workers served graciously.

Our May meeting will be our annual prayer service which was postponed from February. We invite everyone to come and enjoy this up-lifting experience. It will be held in the church with lunch and fellowship to follow. God's blessings to all.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Happy Birthday to the following St. James Seniors in May: Zane Major (8), Colleen Gutzke (13), Irene Lindahl (she will be 98 on the 14), Lloyd Butterfass (17), Della Hirsch (19), Evelyne Diers (23), Marcella Peterson (25) and Beverly Hausladen (30).

SCRIPTURE QUIZ

(answers at bottom of first column)

1. How old was Joseph when he died?
2. To the nearest century, how many centuries are contained in the gap between Genesis and Exodus?
3. What do the ten horns of the beast represent in Revelation 17?
4. How many generations were there from Methuselah to Noah?
5. Which is the oldest original complete manuscript of a Bible book found among the Dead Sea Scrolls?
6. Who brought money to Paul in prison in Rome and almost lost his life on the way?

WHO is in Charge?

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9

Often times we hear the question asked and debated concerning who should be in charge of this or that aspect of life. In the verse printed above, however, God is not just speaking about one aspect of life. He is talking about your entire life. Who is in charge of you? This is something that is a daily question and struggle for each one of us. For on the one hand there is our old sinful nature. Each one of us has this sinful nature within us that desires to control our thoughts, desires, words, and actions. Daily we are tempted to do wrong and do those things that offend God, hurt others, and bring satisfaction only to our sinful nature. We all have this sinful nature and we daily fall prey to these temptations that are before us.

As Christians, however, we are not controlled by the sinful nature but by the Spirit of God who lives in us. As believers we need the Spirit of God within us. In fact, if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ such a person does not belong to Christ. Without God the Holy Spirit we could not believe in Jesus. Thankfully God has given us His Spirit. This month we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday. God has poured out His Holy Spirit upon us so that we may have faith in Jesus for our salvation. It is the Spirit of God who gives us faith that Jesus lived a life without sin. It is by the Spirit of God that we are able to believe Jesus died upon the cross for our sins and rose from the dead so that our sins are forgiven and we too will rise and live with God in heaven. In this season of Pentecost we thank God that He has given us His Spirit and we pray that He may continue to fill us with His Holy Spirit so that we may belong to Christ for eternity.

The Spirit of Christ that lives in us now desires to direct our lives so that we live according to God's Word and to His glory. When we let the Spirit of God

be in charge of our lives, the kind of life we live will be different - we will be able to say no to the sinful nature and do what is right in the eyes of God. With the Spirit of God in charge we will do those things that will be according to the Word of God and bring glory to our Lord; we will love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind; and we will love our neighbors as ourselves. In this season of Pentecost we pray that God may fill us with His Spirit and be in charge of our lives.

The Spirit of God also desires to be in charge of the lives of all people. We hear much in our world today about who is in charge. But who do you truly want to be in charge of the lives of others - their old sinful nature, other sinful people, or the Spirit of the most Holy God? We pray that God would pour out His Holy Spirit upon many people, especially those 3 or more individuals in our lives that we have been praying for in order to bring them to faith in Jesus and guide their lives. We look to the Spirit of God to empower us to share the Gospel of Jesus with those who are around us and thereby change lives.

Who is in charge of you? This Pentecost season we pray that God may fill us with His Holy Spirit so that we may belong to Christ for eternity, so that we may be controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit of Christ, and so that we may share the Gospel with others so that they too may be filled with the Spirit of Christ. May God fill us with His Spirit this Pentecost season as individuals and as a Christian congregation of His people.

Pastor Schoenfeld

**We need
the Spirit
of God
within us**

**Faithfulness is evident
in the lifestyle of
God's Stewards.**

*Therefore, as we have
opportunity, let us do
good to all people,
especially to those
who belong to the
family of believers*

(Galatians 6:10).

Benevolence Fund News

Thanks from the Benevolence Fund Committee. All contributions are appreciated and have been put to good use. We are grateful to Wright-Hennepin Electric for including us in their operation "Round-up" program. We were awarded \$3,000 which is appreciated as the needs are great and our Sunday collections cannot always meet them.

In March we met with and assisted eight families (13 adults and 14 children) with the following eighteen requests: seven for rent (2 eviction) or partial rent payments (4 overdue), two water bills (shut-off notices), three gas bills (transportation needs), six Food Gift Cards and 4 bags of groceries from our Food Shelf in the office basement.

Call the office for an appointment, if you have concerns or know of someone who could benefit from our confidential services. Committee members are available in the office every Thursday afternoon.

Please keep our Benevolence Program and its recipients in your prayers as we continue to reach out to others in our midst. GOD bless!

M & M Women's Bible Study

You are welcome to join the M & M Women's Bible Study meeting this month on --

Friday, May 7th at Brita Gummerus' house at 7:00 PM. The topic is **Prayer** – Our faith is strengthened and nourished through prayer.

Friday, May 21 -7:00 PM at Janice Schoenfeld's. The topic will be on **Spiritual Gifts** – What are yours? What does God's Word say about them?

Summer plans will be made. Come and be blessed!

Clothing Collection

in the Fellowship Hall

Saturday, June 12 from 9 to 11:00 AM and
Sunday, June 13 before and after morning
worship services.

Volunteers will be needed to **help sort**
beginning at **9:00 AM on Monday, June 14.**

Lutheran Night

at the **Twins**

will be

August 18.

Mark your calendars now and check upcoming
Bulletins and Newsletters for more details as
they become available.

Highlights from the Voters' Meeting

Board reports were given listing their activities of the last quarter.

The only matter of new business was concerning accounting being done fiscally or calendar year. It will be researched and reported on at the July meeting.

Funeral Committees

A new list of Funeral Committees is available and may be found on the narthex table or office entry shelves. Committees 2 & 3 have already served. Number 1 will serve next and after that we will go to number 4.

Thank you to everyone who serves when asked. It means so much to the family.

Thrivent Members



All Thrivent members are encouraged to help raise funds for LCMS global ministries by going online at Thrivent.com/choicevote and select LCMS World Mission and LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Thrivent will be distributing \$1 million among 10 charities listed. The amount each charity receives will be based on their total number of votes.

Please place your vote before May 21, 2010. It's quick. It's easy.

The plan replacing the GivingPlus program will soon be implemented. Please be prepared to participate when it begins. This new program will again benefit our school and will also include the church.

Stewardship

In the month of May in many parts of our country the fields, gardens and orchards are green and growing, giving us the promise that seedtime and harvest will again prevail, and with God's blessing the earth will yield its increase and provide food for all God's creatures. According to God's design the sun will warm the fertile soil, the rains will cause the seeds to sprout and grow into healthy, productive plants, vines, trees and bushes. Last month's newsletter article had the title of "*April showers bring May flowers.*" We are now seeing evidence that this old saying is true.

In May we will also be celebrating two special church year events: Ascension Day on May 14 and Pentecost Day on May 23. These two very important events help to encourage and empower us as God's stewards. On Ascension Day our Lord returned to the right hand of the Father, not to escape from the world, but rather to serve as our Advocate to the Father. It is so encouraging for us to know that Jesus is at the right hand of the Father pleading for the forgiveness of our sins which results in fresh starts for us as God's stewards. At the price of His own life Jesus earned for us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. His resurrection was proof positive that the Father accepted His suffering and death on the cross as the perfect and complete sacrifice, and His ascension provided proof positive that just as He came from heaven to be our Savior so He returned to heaven to rule all things for the sake of His church—that is, the sake of us—His stewards.

Pentecost Day reminds us of when the Holy Spirit descended upon the first apostles and empowered them to be renewed servants of Jesus who became bold and effective witnesses of the good news of salvation in Christ Jesus. Pentecost Day also reminds us of the new birth of faith in us through the marvelous, yet mysterious, working of the Holy Spirit. For most of us that started with our baptisms. That new life continues as the Holy Spirit works through His Word and the sacrament of Holy Communion to strengthen and equip us to be effective stewards. As God's stewards we have the promise that the Holy Spirit empowers us to do what we otherwise could not do.

The seventh Biblical Stewardship Principle states that "*God's stewards are served and serving.*" This means that "*God's stewards recognize that their stewardship involves a Gospel-powered style of life which is demonstrated in servanthood within all the arenas of life.*" By the grace of God we are reminded that we are to serve our Lord with personal acts of compassion and service as well as financial gifts. Some people seem inclined to think that stewardship is just

about money. Yes, it is about money and how we manage it, but that is only the tip of the iceberg. Stewardship involves our wise management and use of all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.

What a blessing and encouragement it is to know and believe that Christ died for us, rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven as the divine conqueror of sin, death and the devil, and now sends His Holy Spirit to be the Lord and Giver of life. May the Holy Spirit enable us to use our time, talents, relationships, treasure and all the other special gifts and blessings in a way that honors our God and blesses our neighbors.

School News

What a glorious spring!

Students are once again playing outside, and the plants are growing. Please come visit the sidewalk north of the church after services on May 9, 16 and 23 for a plant sale fundraiser. You will find

- ❖ **herbs**-cilantro, lemon balm, chives, mint
- ❖ **vegetables**-cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower tomatoes
- ❖ **flowers**-marigolds, alyssum, Coventry, pansies and more
- ❖ **perennials**-hostas, tansy, ribbon grass, mums and some gladiola bulbs and calla lily bulbs.
- ❖ **potted plants**-for the deck or steps will also be available.

What a wonderful time to be alive in Christ!

The School Choirs lifted their voices in praise at the Spring Concert along with the other choirs of the church. What a beautiful afternoon.

Thank you to all who helped or/and enjoyed fellowship at the Pork Chop Dinner. Another awesome day!

Field Trips Anyone?

A listing of the field trips planned for our students this spring is listed below:

- 1 Oliver Kelley Farm
- 3 Historic Fort Snelling and MN State Capitol
- 4 Science Museum
- 6 MN Twins
- 7 Science Museum
- 8 Science Museum

PORK CHOPS being grilled
by Arnie and our PTL helpers!

We congratulate Hannah Klatt for placing 9th in her age group at the LHS Spelling Bee. We also recognize the other participants: Jacob MacDonald, TJ Kittock, Kobey Woolhouse, Seth Pauna, and Madyson Woolhouse. Nice job everyone!

The students were hard at work as they took Iowa Basic Achievement tests in April. Results will be sent home with report cards at the end of the quarter.

The school nurse spent time with the students teaching them about germs. The students had the opportunity to see where germs lingered on their hands while they visited the germ tent. It was an eye opener to see all the places we miss when we wash our hands.

Mr. Dahl's 4th grade class learned the importance of washing their hands the right way.

We wish God's blessings on the newly confirmed St. James members: Cord Allen, Mitchell Baumann, Danielle Buppenhoff, Gabrielle

Gruenhagen, Riley Gruenhagen, Tyler Hall, Mark Hamilton, Shayla Hatcher, Noelle Johnson, Courtney Keskey, Samuel Kittock, Bethany Kozitka, Nathan Marschel, Maddison Merges, Abigail Miller, Megan Stueven, Garrett Zander, Peter Zander.

St. James students being confirmed at Buffalo are: Parker Gentz and Devon Smith.

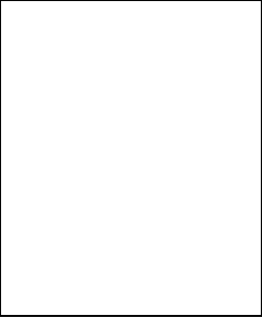
We look forward to the running races, three-legged races, softball throw and other events of Field Day on May 7. Grades K-4 will be at Memorial Park by the lake with Grades 5-8 going to Mayer LHS to participate in the Elementary Track and Field Day.

With the end of the school year coming up fast we will be saying good-bye to the 8th Grade class. We wish them God's grace as they leave St. James and enter High School. The last day of school will be May 28th with Chapel at 8:30 and dismissal at 10:00 AM.

What a terrific year it has been. See you all in September refreshed and ready to learn.

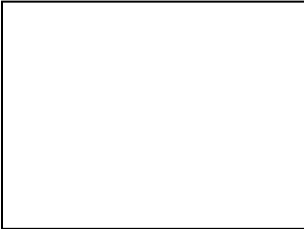
From Our Parish Nurse

May finds many of us working in or watching our gardens grow. We can spend time in the garden appreciating the glory of God's creation, while caring for our body at the same time.



"I went down to the grove of nut trees and out to the valley to see the new spring growth, to see whether the grapevines had budded or the pomegranates were in bloom." Song of Solomon 6:11 NIV

Spring gives us such pleasure as we see everything coming back to life, and it's a reminder of the new life that we have through Christ's resurrection. Gardening is a pleasure for most of us, but it is also an exercise and can lead to injuries. Raking, mulching, planting, trimming and digging are good physical activity yet can result in pain and stiffness in our neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist, knees and back if we over-extend ourselves. To enjoy the flowers, vegetables and fruits without pain try these tips from Dr. William Madosky, a St. Louis Chiropractor:



... Treat gardening as a sport- Warm up and stretch the muscles before beginning.

... Be realistic- Plan your work carefully to avoid injury. Set a moderate pace

and time schedule to allow enjoyment of the task and minimize potential injuries.

... Remember good body mechanics- when lifting heavy bags of dirt, mulch or fertilizer keep your back straight, bend your knees, lift with the legs, and hold objects close to your body. If shoveling, lift the dirt and turn the entire body to empty it- don't twist. Using good body mechanics is something to remember every time you are lifting- not just while gardening.

... Use a cushion, stool, or small bench when weeding- The support helps reduce stress placed on knees and spine from gardening movements.

... Take frequent breaks- Stop to stretch, get a drink of water or just look over your progress at least every half-hour, this minimizes your chance of injury or dehydration.

... Stop gardening if fatigued or in pain- That "ONE LAST THING" when tired leads to injury. If pain occurs, stop! If pain persists, apply ice to the affected area for 15-20 minutes at a time to reduce

inflammation. DO NOT USE HEAT- it increases the inflammatory process. If pain persists, contact your medical adviser.

Recently, several men of the congregation participated in an update on CPR and use of our AED. Here are some facts which we received from the Howard Lake Fire and Ambulance staff:

- About 80% of all out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home, so being trained to perform CPR can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one.
- Effective bystander CPR provided immediately after cardiac arrest can double a victim's chance of survival.
- CPR helps maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain and increases the amount of time that an electric shock from a defibrillator can be effective.
- Approximately 95% of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital.
- Death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. If more people knew CPR, more lives could be saved.
- Brain death starts to occur 4-6 minutes after someone experiences cardiac arrest if no CPR and defibrillation occur during that time.
- If bystander CPR is not provided, a sudden cardiac arrest victim's chances of survival fall 7% to 10% for every minute of delay until defibrillation. Few attempts at resuscitation are successful if CPR and defibrillation are not provided within minutes of collapse.
- Coronary heart disease accounts for about 550,000 of the over 927,000 adults who die each year as a result of cardiovascular disease.
- About 900 Americans die every day due to sudden cardiac arrest.
- Sudden cardiac arrest is most often caused by an abnormal heart rhythm called ventricular fibrillation (VF). Cardiac arrest can also occur after the onset of a heart attack or as a result of electrocution or near-drowning.
- When sudden cardiac arrest occurs, the victim collapses, becomes unresponsive to gentle shaking, stops normal breathing and after two rescue breaths, still isn't breathing normally, coughing or moving.

THERE ARE TWO BASIC STEPS TO REMEMBER TO SAVE A LIFE:

1. Call 911.
2. Push hard and fast in the center of the chest.

THEN USE OUR AED!

It has been suggested that the women of our congregation have a time to learn the easy steps of CPR. I will be setting up a time in the near-future for all teens and women of the church to participate in CPR. Most of the cardiac arrests happen to men, so all the more reason women should know how to do CPR. Watch for the dates.

I pray you enjoy the spring and good health!

Your Parish Nurse,
Darlene Lind

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Hear Reverend Ken Klaus on The Lutheran Hour each Sunday at 12:30 PM on KDUZ-1260 Hutchinson or at 7:30 AM on KRWC-1360 Buffalo. The Lutheran Hour may also be heard at 6:05 AM Sunday mornings on WCCO-830. The Lutheran Hour is our church's witness in the public market place. We can sponsor broadcasts on KDUZ in memory of loved ones or in honor of special occasions.

May 2-And Who Else?-Mark Twain's cynicism and doubt undermined his wife's Christian faith. The world may laugh at the Savior but He is still the only One who can wipe away every tear and make all things new. (Revelation 21:4-7)

May 9-Judging-Judge not? In truth, Christian parents are obligated to teach their children how to judge right from wrong, and to discern what is true from what is false. (John 5:1-9)

May 16-A Word of Warning-Are you ready for the day of Jesus' return? He has promised it and it will happen. Will you be ready? (Revelation 22:7-11)

May 23-The Right Name-Antique appraisers know that an object associated with a big name is worth considerably more at auction. Being connected to the right Person is incredibly important when it comes to our eternal salvation. (Acts 2:21)

May 30-The Hall of Heroes-Guest Speaker: Chaplain Mark Steiner-All the heroes of faith had something in common: they were sinners and they knew it. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they repented and trusted in God's promise of forgiveness through Christ. (2 Samuel 23:8)

News from Missionary Jake Gillard

Christ Is Risen, Alleluia!

[The Risen Christ] said to [his disciples], "Scripture says that the Messiah would suffer and that he would come back to life on the third day. Scripture also says that by the authority of Jesus people would be told to turn to God and change the way they think and act so that their sins will be forgiven. This would be told to people from all nations, beginning in the city of Jerusalem. You are witnesses to these things. (Luke 24:46-48, GOD'S WORD translation)

We had a fine Easter celebration at Kampala Lutheran Church. After worship we went out for burgers at Quality Hill and in the evening I took my folks to the airport.

It's hard to believe that in just 3 months we'll be back in America for furlough. I'll send out an email next week to start booking speaking gigs.

Far too few Ugandans have met the Risen Christ. Many who've met Him have not yet been transformed by the power of His Spirit into new a Creation. And not all LCMU leaders have been instructed with His Teachings to their personal satisfaction. The LCMU has access to many unreached people groups (UPGs) but they haven't yet reached all the groups they desire to reach. These are the reasons why we're here. Thank you for supporting us as we labor toward these ends.

Look carefully at this picture to truly see Christ.

(To see the picture, pick up a paper copy of the newsletter from the church narthex.)

Seek the Lord
and His Strength;

Seek His Face Continually. Psalm 105:4

The church received this email from a member who wanted to share it with those who sometimes feel as if “Common Sense” is a friend who has died.

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;'
- And maybe it was my fault.

Common sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims. Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement. Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents Truth and Trust; his wife Discretion; his daughter Responsibility; and by his son Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers; I Know My Rights, I Want It Now, Someone Else Is to Blame and I Am a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

Gardening God's Way

Plant three rows of peas:

peace of mind
peace of heart
peace of soul.

Plant four rows of squash:

squash gossip
squash indifference
squash grumbling
squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

lettuce be faithful
lettuce be kind
lettuce be obedient
lettuce really love one another.

No garden should be without turnips:

turnip for meetings
turnip to help one another

Water freely with patience, cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in our garden,
because you reap what you sow.

To complete our garden we must have thyme:

thyme for God
thyme for study
thyme for prayer.

Humor

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the plaque hanging on the narthex wall of the church. It was a list of names with patriotic symbols.

The 7-year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

"Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" Alex asked. "Well, son, it is a memorial to all the young men and women of our church who have died in service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service? The 8:00 or the 10:30?"