



August 2023

Church Press Newsletter

Dear Julie,

Welcome! The end of Summer is here...and it's also the *changing of the guard (eh, pastor)* at Church Press. Pastor Ginkel's July newsletter greetings of "Glad! Sad!" shared a bit about this news, but more about the transition below!

[Visit Our Website](#)

An Updated Church Press ... for Today's Church

By Pastor Blaise & Julie

In mid-July, the transfer of Church Press from Pastor Don Ginkel to Pastor Blaise Sedney and Julie McDonnell became effective. We hope to continue Pastor Ginkel's legacy of providing invaluable support and resources to ministry leaders. The physical moving of Church Press materials and resources from Colorado to Maryland will be complete in early August, so we ask for your patience and understanding as we unpack and organize the inventory from the "Church Press container", which slowly made its way across several states and just arrived days ago!

What to Expect?

RESOURCES! We will continue to offer the invaluable Bible study materials and additional resources created by Pastor Ginkel, and perhaps, he is writing something more!

EASE OF ORDERING! Caring and prompt customer care, utilizing the same billing/shipping methods Pastor Ginkel provided.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS! As we get our legs under us, we will be adding new resources to our shop that we hope you find valuable to your ministry.

ENCOURAGEMENT & SUPPORT! We know leading others to Jesus is fulfilling, but also, challenging and tiring work. Like you, we are in the fields seeking the lost and hurt sheep in this world, with the important goal of leading them into a relationship with the Good Shepherd. We are constantly seeking new avenues to bring God's abiding and empowering salvation and love to our community and are committed to sharing ideas, tools, and resources with you!

A NEW PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL "GLITCH"! We have a new phone number! Pastor Ginkel is keeping the original phone number that he has used for years. If you'd like to talk with either Pastor Blaise or Julie, or to place an order, please call us at 443-771-6431. We are working hard to get the email account transferred over, but it's taking a bit more work than anticipated. Phone is the best way to reach one of us right now!

END NOTE ... We'll share a bit more about who "we" (Pastor Blaise & Julie) are in an upcoming newsletter. We give thanks to God for the amazing gift each of us has been blessed with through Pastor Don Ginkel's heart for growing God's Kingdom, inspiring and supporting pastors and church workers throughout the years. Pastor Ginkel truly seeks to find the lost sheep through His proclamation of the Gospel into the world and his passionate desire to inspire church workers to work fervently for the Lord.

Stack of Stuff

Just for a chuckle...

Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
...Because Noah was standing on the deck.

On listening...

"When God wants to speak and deal with us, he does not avail himself of an angel but of parents, or the pastor, or of a neighbor." Martin Luther

On relying on the Spirit's lead...

"You will face overwhelming odds; you will be incredibly outnumbered. Fear would be your natural inclination. But keep in mind, God is with you." James MacDonald

To share with the parishioner struggling over his/her missteps and sins...

"Every time Satan reminds you of your past, remind him of his future." Pastor Mark Lawrence

Concerning next Sunday's sermon

What will your parishioners take away from your service? What's the "next step" that they can apply in today's world, in their own life, that shares God's grace and mercy with those in their own community?

It's time

Back-to-Church Sunday is coming fast! With the days of summer ending and a new school year upon us.

Consider: for fellowship--a churchwide cookout after Sunday's service. Food and fellowship are great ways to build community and friendships as everyone returns from summer vacations and guests find their way to your church! Set up some lawn games, tables, and either provided a catered lunch or make it potluck! Encourage church leaders to mingle and get to know someone they haven't met before!

For your youth and children's Sunday School: a back-to-church social outing for families off-campus. Have a mini golf nearby? Bowling? Something fun for families of all ages to gather and have good old-fashioned fun together! Who knows? Your next Sunday School Director or teacher could be golfing with you, just waiting for the Spirit to nudge them into serving!

Good News for a 'new' year: just as students head into a new educational year, this is a good time to welcome those new to your parish (or faith) into a small group. Order "**I Have Good News for You**" to guide them through membership at your parish and important steps on their personal journeys of faith. Be sure to pick up copies for students and a leader guide with additional notes (and answers!): [Good News!](#)

Very important:

Jesus was personal and He calls us to be personal also.

Some days it's hard to pause, take a breath, and spend time listening, sitting, or just being with the person in front of you. And yet, each person is valuable and needs to be heard. Remember the woman who sought healing by just touching Jesus' robe? Although there were crowds everywhere pressing in, He paused to seek her out. Zacchaeus in the tree? Jesus sought him out, making a personal point to spend time with him.

In the same vein, it's okay for pastors and church workers to pause and take a 'personal' day or time for ourselves. Enjoy something that makes you happy so your batteries are recharged to do the Kingdom work personally with those, both within your parish care and in the community you serve.

Free Leadership Strategy Tips ...

or maybe it should be titled, "Budget Conscience Tips to Keep Growing"



“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

John Fitzgerald Kennedy

Developing leaders is core to what church leaders do. We constantly look for ways to raise up the people around us ... to help them take their next step in the development journey. We don't always have the financial resources to do what we'd love to do on this front. But don't let money stand in the way of developing people! Here are a handful of strategies that won't break your budget: [\[read more...\]](#)

Family Support for a New School Year



August brings with it the beginning of or anticipation of a new school year for families. No matter which grade a student is entering - PreK through 12th or even college! - every stage presents itself with new challenges for all in the family.

How can we walk alongside them to encourage and support?

IN YOUR PARISH:

Share a blessing over the students, teachers, and school workers during a church service just prior to the beginning of the school year. This can also be an opportunity to pray for and share a blessing for your Sunday School team.

Share encouragement via your church newsletter or email. Here are a few good resources:

4 Ideas to Keep God First During the School Year

When the school year starts, a lot of transitions happen, and it's easy to lose sight of what is most important for our kids—their growing relationship with the Lord. It's good to take a step back as the school year begins and proactively set the stage for the year, so our children continue to grow in their faith, relationship with God, and character.

Here are four ideas to get you started: [\[read more...\]](#)

And something every parent needs at some point down the road:

How to Have Hard Conversations with Your Teen

Certain conversations should be non-negotiable in your house. But when should you have them? And how? The answer may depend on your teen's stage of adolescence.

Tough conversations are just that—tough. As much as your teen may dread the necessary talks that come with adolescence, you have the unique privilege as a parent to speak truth into their life. The best part is, you are not alone. You have God's Word available to help you navigate these important discussions. [\[read more...\]](#)

On Welcoming All Well to our Parishes



10 Things in Your Church That Alienate Introverts

By Janna Wright (Crosswalk Contributing Writer)

It was my first time in this particular setting. I sat through the worship and teaching times, quietly getting a sense of the group and how things worked.

I was enjoying myself well—until the sharing time began. Each person in the room began to share personal struggles. As I watched it became obvious that everyone was expected to participate. Now I love the idea of honest vulnerability, but as the leader prodded me not once, but twice, to share something personal with people I'd never met, I became uncomfortably aware that this didn't feel like a very safe place.

If you're an introvert like me, you understand my hesitation. Many social and church situations are designed with extroverts in mind—situations that can leave the other 50% of society feeling uncomfortable. Here are 10 church things that can alienate introverts.

[\[read more ...\]](#)

Devotional Reading...by Martin Luther

(excerpted from Devotional Readings from Luther's Works for Every Day of the Year, Rev. John Sanders, Lutheran Library)

*When he cometh home, he calleth to gather his friends and neighbors, saying unto them,
"Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost."
Luke 15:6*

This great and good Shepherd is not satisfied to seek his lost sheep so lovingly and carry it home so gently with joy; but when he brings it home he appoints a special feast and season of joy, and calls together his friends and neighbors to rejoice with him. Yea, he makes a great jubilee. Thus God in heaven together with all the heavenly hosts and all creatures rejoice over one sinner that repents. Here is shown who the lost sheep is, namely, the sinner who repents, that is, who feels his sins and is heartily sorry on account of them, and would gladly be free from them, come to Christ and amend his life. The character of Christ is such as to seek and carry no sheep except that which is lost and knows no refuge or help of its own.

How could Christ preach more effectively and comfortingly, or what more should he do to make the heart joyful and awaken a strong confidence in him? He is such a Shepherd as is not only unwilling to lose his sheep, but anxiously seeks it; and when he has found it, he carries it home with all joy, and instigates such a feast of joy that all the angels and saints in heaven and all creatures rejoice and smile so benignly that even the sun must shine more lovely. For when man is sorrowful, the sun and every thing appears dark to him, but when the heart is joyful every thing appears lighter and brighter to him.

He who will firmly believe Christ to be this kind Shepherd shall receive true consolation and joy in Christ the Lord; because he has here the promise, that if he cling unto Christ and permit himself to be carried on his shoulders, he is a dear guest in the kingdom of heaven and will be received with great joy. Therefore, if you desire to possess true comfort and joy, learn to impress this lovely picture on your heart. In Christ you find all things, if you only remain under his protection and lie still upon his shoulders. You need not be troubled about sin, death or life, you have all things in Christ who carries and defends you.

(Martin Luther)

FOR THE FUN OF IT...

Have you seen this before? Have you used it?

The Bible in 50 words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Jacob fooled
Joseph ruled
Bush talked
Pharaoh plagued
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Judges led
Saul freaked
David peeked
Kingdom divided
Prophets warned
People exiled
Hope rose
Jesus born
God walked
Anger crucified
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

Revised from the original by Dana Livesay, Wanganui, New Zealand. Source: 'Top of the Morning' Book of Incredibly Short Stories compiled by Brian Edwards. Auckland, New Zealand: Tandem Press.

NOW SEND THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO A FRIEND

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