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Our Mission:  
To relate to  
God more  
intimately,  
to evidence the  
fruit of the  
Spirit, and to  
bring Jesus  
into all our  
relationships.

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# HRCC News

## From the Pastor's Pen....

The book of Revelation describes 7 historical churches. One of those churches was in the city of **Laodicea**. **Revelation 3:14-21** tells us about this church. **Verse 14** says, **“To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this:”** Jesus describes Himself as **the faithful and true witness**. This is telling because He is communicating with a church that has not been faithful; they have lost their true witness to the world and were no longer any influence in the world.



**Revelation 3: 15 – 16** tells us why they lost their influence. **“I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”** Jesus says they are **lukewarm** when it comes to their faith. Jesus uses a real life illustration from their day to describe their condition. **Laodicea** was the wealthiest city in the region. It was known for its production of luxurious garments. It was a center of the banking industry and it had a top notch medical school. With all this going for the city, it had one problem: it did not have an adequate source of water. Therefore water had to be piped into the city. Six miles to the north was the city of Hierapolis and they had hot springs. This water was piped into Laodicea but by the time it traveled the six miles through the pipe system the water had become **lukewarm**. If you took a drink from that water you would quickly spit it out. Jesus says the church is like this **lukewarm** water, as they had become totally ineffective in their witness for Christ. And Jesus says, **“I will spit you out of My mouth.”** **Lukewarmness** is a spiritual condition that Jesus can't stand.

The dictionary defines **lukewarm** like this: *“Lukewarm is a word for things that are warm, but only barely. A forgotten cup of hot coffee will get lukewarm before it eventually gets cold. It's disappointing when food at a restaurant is served lukewarm; most people like their food hot.”* Lukewarm means, “moderately warm,” “unenthusiastic,” showing little interest or enthusiasm.” <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/lukewarm>

Can Christians and churches as a whole become **lukewarm**? Indeed they can! One of the signs of an individual Christian or church becoming **lukewarm** is an attitude of self-sufficiency. **Revelation 3:17** says, **“Because you say, “I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing,” and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked.”** They were **rich** and had the attitude that they did not need anything. This is the attitude of self-sufficiency: that we think we can handle life on our own. We trust in our own ability to understand, decide, or act, believing that constant dependence on God is not that important. **Proverbs 3:5-6** tells us just the opposite, **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own under-**

*Continued...*

standing. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Another sign of lukewarmness is we think we are doing okay spiritually when in fact, we are not. We compare ourselves with others instead of the holiness of God. In **Luke 18:10-14** Jesus told a story, “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you; this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” It is a story about people who trust in themselves and think they are righteous on their own while looking down upon others. It is about people who think they are doing okay spiritually when they are blind to their own shortcomings. A lukewarm Christian can act this way.

One other sign of lukewarmness is we may know that Jesus saved us, but we don’t desire life with Him. We live like forgiveness of sin is a one-time transaction, but we don’t live in constant repentance and confession. In this case we no longer have intimacy with Christ and we no longer desire to be a part of His purposes. **John 15:8** says, “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.”

Most of us have seasons where we are just **lukewarm**, and our faith lacks enthusiasm. Lukewarmness comes into our lives when we stop being **AMAZED BY JESUS**. Are you amazed at the great love Jesus has for you? **Ephesians 3:14, 18-19** says, “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father... (that you) may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.”

I pray that all of us may be amazed at the Love of Christ and it will show in our desire to live life with Him. Then our witness will be much more effective.

Please know that I love you and desire that we all become more like Jesus.

*Pastor Howard*



High School:

Congratulations to Nadia Zherdetsky who graduated from Abeka Academy on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. You are invited to a graduation Open House for Nadia on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 – 6:00 PM at Hunters Ridge Community Church.

Congratulations to Dawson Richardson who will graduate from Litchfield High School. You are invited to a Graduation Party for Dawson on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 – 7:00 PM, 518 S, Gilman Ave, Litchfield, MN.

College:

Congratulations to Katie Theisen who graduated on May 6<sup>th</sup> with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from MN State University at Mankato.

Congratulations to Michael Farrell who graduated on May 10<sup>th</sup> from Alexandria College with a Degree in Law Enforcement.

Congratulations to Adam Schaufler who graduated on May 11<sup>th</sup> from Ridgewater College in Hutchinson with a Degree in Automation & Robotics Technology.

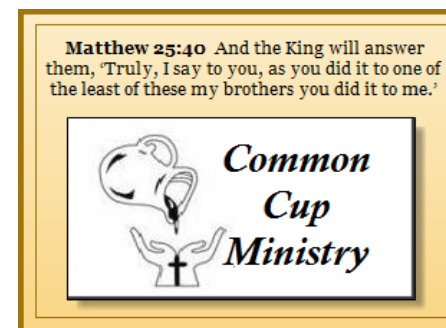
Congratulations to Holly Tavary who graduated on May 12<sup>th</sup> from Ridgewater College in Willmar with a Degree in Veterinary Technology.

## Another Successful Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you to everyone who helped with and participated in our fundraiser for Village Creek Bible Camp scholarships. We raised almost \$3,000.00 to help send kids to camp this summer. We had a special guest this year, as the camp director Cami Treptou joined us for the spaghetti dinner.



Lori Wick is a popular author of Christian fiction. She is also the featured author in our library this month. Her works include pioneer fiction, a series set in Victorian England, as well as contemporary novels. If you have not read one of her novels, why not try one this month?



We will collect pudding cups throughout the summer to build up the supply for the next school year. Please keep those pudding cups coming.

## Revelation

E	F	I	L	F	O	K	O	B	I	T	T	E	R	
C	K	M	O	D	E	K	A	N	G	E	L	G	A	E
A	R	A	C	O	L	D	L	I	O	N	A	T	A	S
E	A	R	U	F	L	U	S	R	A	T	S	O	B	U
P	D	K	S	Q	E	T	I	H	W	I	O	H	O	R
R	L	C	T	B	H	S	I	G	N	S	N	A	M	R
O	A	A	S	L	S	T	S	S	T	O	O	R	I	E
S	E	L	S	O	N	C	R	P	D	O	O	M	N	C
T	S	B	Y	O	O	A	A	L	P	H	A	A	T	
I	R	E	B	D	M	M	E	L	E	O	W	G	T	I
T	O	S	A	E	E	E	L	E	L	L	N	E	I	O
U	H	L	G	R	D	D	A	Y	S	W	U	D	O	N
T	A	A	N	O	I	T	A	V	L	A	S	D	N	O
E	I	F	X	D	R	I	H	T	A	R	W	O	E	O
R	L	T	R	I	B	U	L	A	T	I	O	N	A	M

ABOMINATION	DEMONS	MAN	SIGNS
ABYSS	DOOM	MARK	SINS
AIR	EAGLE	MOON	SON
ALPHA	EARTHQUAKE	NAKED	STARS
ANGEL	ELUDE	OMEGA	SULFUR
ARMAGEDDON	FALSE	OX	SUN
BITTER	HAIL	PALE	THIRD
BLACK	HOLY	PEACE	TRIBULATION
BLOOD	HORSE	PROSTITUTE	WAR
BOOK OF LIFE	HOT	RED	WAS
COLD	IS	RESURRECTION	WHITE
COME	ISRAEL	ROOT	WHO
DARK	LION	SALVATION	WOE
DAY	LOCUSTS	SATAN	WRATH
		SEAL	

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http://www.thepotters.com/puzzles.html

## Read Through the Bible

In 2023 we will be reading through the Bible using a portion from the Old and a portion from the New Testament each day.

- |                                 |                                 |                                  |                             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 2 Chron 15-16; John 12:27-50 | 9. 2 Chron 32-33; John 18:19-40 | 17. Nehemiah 7-9; Acts 3         | 25. Job 3-4; Acts 7:44-60   |
| 2. 2 Chron 17-18; John 13:1-20  | 10. 2 Chron 34-36; John 19:1-22 | 18. Nehemiah 10-11; Acts 4:1-22  | 26. Job 5-7; Acts 8:1-25    |
| 3. 2 Chron 19-20; John 13:21-38 | 11. Ezra 1-2; John 19:23-42     | 19. Nehemiah 12-13; Acts 4:23-37 | 27. Job 8-10; Acts 8:26-40  |
| 4. 2 Chron 21-22; John 14       | 12. Ezra 3-5; John 20           | 20. Esther 1-2; Acts 5:1-21      | 28. Job 11-13; Acts 9:1-21  |
| 5. 2 Chron 23-24; John 15       | 13. Ezra 6-8; John 21           | 21. Esther 3-5; Acts 5:22-42     | 29. Job 14-16; Acts 9:22-43 |
| 6. 2 Chron 25-27; John 16       | 14. Ezra 9-10; Acts 1           | 22. Esther 6-8; Acts 6           | 30. Job 17-19; Acts 10:1-23 |
| 7. 2 Chron 28-29; John 18:1-18  | 15. Nehemiah 1-3; Acts 2:1-21   | 23. Esther 9-10; Acts 7:1-21     |                             |
| 8. 2 Chron 30-31; John 18:1-8   | 16. Nehemiah 4-6; Acts 2:22-47  | 24. Job 1-2; Acts 7:22-43        |                             |