

January 2020

Lappe Lutheran Church

www.lappelutheranchurch.weebly.com

May you have a great new year and a wonderful time ahead. Let us pray that it will be a year with New Peace, New Happiness and abundance of new friends, God bless you throughout the New Year 2020

- Divine Worship 11:15 am - Holy Communion on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month.- Sunday School (Sept to June) -Second Sunday of every month there is birthday coffee after the service.



Just as the graveside service finished, there was a distant lightning bolt accompanied by a tremendous burst of rumbling thunder. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, "Well, she's there and it's His problem now."

The 12 Commandments of Growing Old

A woman ran a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car.

Both of their cars were demolished, but amazingly, neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said; "Wow, just look at our cars. There's nothing left, but fortunately we are unhurt.

This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is demolished, but my bottle of 75 year old scotch didn't break. Surely God meant for us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune."

Then she handed the bottle to the man. The man nods his head in agreement, opened it, drank almost half the bottle and then handed it back to the woman. The woman took the bottle, immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?" She replies, "Nah. I think I'll just wait for the police."

Some years ago Adam ate the apple. Men will never learn.

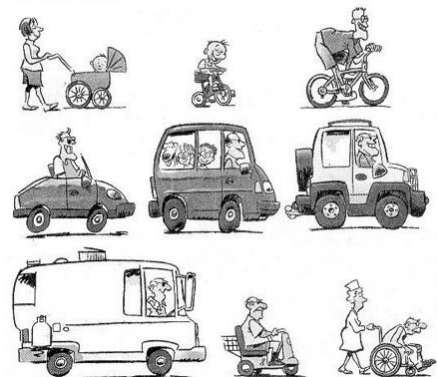
- #1 - Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.
- #2 - Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.
- #3 - You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- #4 - Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6 - These days, "on time" is when you get there.
- #7 - Even duct tape can't fix stupid but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #8 - Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
- #9 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- #10 - You thought growing old would take longer.
- #11 - Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- #12 - You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.

Never question who God removes from your life. He heard the conversations when you weren't around.

The first 50 years of childhood are always the hardest.

I wish you have...12 months of happiness, 52 weeks of fun, 365 days of success, 8760 hours of good health, 52600 minutes of good luck and 3153600 seconds of joy. Happy New Year!

The Wheels of Life



The SPARROW SONG

It was chilly in Manhattan but warm inside the Starbucks shop on 51st Street and Broadway, just a skip up from Times Square. Early November weather in New York City holds only the slightest hint of the bitter chill of late December and January, but it's enough to send the masses crowding indoors to vie for available space and warmth. For a musician, it's the most lucrative Starbucks location in the world, I'm told, and consequently, the tips can be substantial if you play your tunes right. Apparently, we were striking all the right chords that night, because our basket was almost overflowing. It was a fun, low-pressure gig - I was playing keyboard and singing backup for my friend who also added rhythm with an arsenal of percussion instruments. We mostly did pop songs from the '40s to the '90s with a few original tunes thrown in. During our emotional rendition of the classic, "If You Don't Know Me by Now," I noticed a lady sitting in one of the lounge chairs across from me. She was swaying to the beat and singing along. After the tune was over, she approached me. "I apologize for singing along on that song. Did it bother you?" she asked.

"No," I replied. "We love it when the audience joins in. Would you like to sing up front on the next selection?" To my delight, she accepted my invitation.. "You choose," I said. "What are you in the mood to sing?"

"Well. ... do you know any hymns?"

Hymns? This woman didn't know who she was dealing with. I cut my teeth on hymns. Before I was even born, I was going to church. I gave our guest singer a knowing look. "Name one."

"Oh, I don't know. There are so many good ones. You pick one."

"Okay," I replied. "How about 'His Eye is on the Sparrow'?"

My new friend was silent, her eyes averted. Then she fixed her eyes on mine again and said, "Yeah. Let's do that one." She slowly nodded her head, put down her purse, straightened her jacket and faced the center of the shop. With my two-bar setup, she began to sing.

Why should I be discouraged? Why should the shadows come?

The audience of coffee drinkers was transfixed. Even the gurgling noises of the cappuccino machine ceased as the employees stopped what they were doing to listen. The song rose to its conclusion.

I sing because I'm happy; I sing because I'm free. For His eye is on the sparrow And I know He watches me.

When the last note was sung, the applause crescendoed to a deafening roar that would have rivaled a sold-out crowd at Carnegie Hall. Embarrassed, the woman tried to shout over the din, "Oh, y'all go back to your coffee! I didn't come in here to do a concert! I just came in here to get somethin' to drink, just like you!" But the ovation continued.

I embraced my new friend. "You, my dear, have made my whole year! That was beautiful!"

"Well, it's funny that you picked that particular hymn," she said.

"Why is that?"

"Well..." she hesitated again, "that was my daughter's favorite song."

"Really!" I exclaimed.

"Yes," she said, and then grabbed my hands. By this time, the applause had subsided and it was business as usual... "She was 16. She died of a brain tumor last week."

I said the first thing that found its way through my stunned silence. "Are you going to be okay?"

She smiled through tear-filled eyes and squeezed my hands.. "I'm gonna be okay. I've just got to keep trusting the Lord and singing his songs, and everything's gonna be just fine." She picked up her bag, gave me her card, and then she was gone.

Was it just a coincidence that we happened to be singing in that particular coffee shop on that particular November night? Coincidence that this wonderful lady just happened to walk into that particular shop?

Coincidence that of all the hymns to choose from, I just happened to pick the very hymn that was the favorite of her daughter, who had died just the week before? I refuse to believe it.

God has been arranging encounters in human history since the beginning of time. The new testament has the fulfillment of many things that God planned and promised many, many years before in the old testament days. So, it's no stretch for me to imagine that God could reach into a coffee shop in midtown Manhattan and turn an ordinary gig into a revival. It was a great reminder that God is in control and we just need to keep our trust in Him.

The next time you feel like GOD can't use YOU, just remember...Noah was a drunk. Abraham was too old. Isaac was a daydreamer. Jacob was a liar. Leah was ugly. Joseph was abused. Moses had a stuttering problem. Gideon was afraid. Sampson had long hair and was a womanizer. Rahab was a prostitute. Jeremiah and Timothy were too young. David had an affair and was a murderer. Elijah was suicidal. Isaiah preached naked. Jonah ran from God. Naomi was a widow. Job went bankrupt. John the Baptist ate bugs. Peter denied Christ. The Disciples fell asleep while praying. Martha worried about everything. The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once. Zaccheus was too small. Paul was too religious. Timothy had an ulcer...AND Lazarus was dead! God has a purpose for you and your life. God can use you to your full potential, no matter what that may be. For Him you aren't the message, you are just the messenger.

Author: John Thomas Oaks