Maranatha News

April 2020

From Pastor Lloyd....

[13] Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." [16] But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. *James 4:13-16 (NASB)*

Dear folks at Maranatha,

I'm a planner! I love mapping out things on my personal and church calendars. I was excited about what we had mapped out for Maranatha this spring. Our Sunday morning preaching schedule and Lenten Services were planned out through Easter, including helping with pulpit supply in Ulen. We had some other special things planned as well. Registrations were coming in for Walk Thru the Old Testament's "otLIVE." I had even gone around to area churches promoting it, and there seemed significant interest out there. I had some things on my personal and family calendars for this spring and summer as well.

However in a matter of days all of that changed. With the concern about the spread of COVID19, Maranatha deacons and pastors met and made the difficult decision to suspend all church activities indefinitely, and a scramble began to figure out how to bring church to you online. I am learning how to be a shepherd of a flock I can't see, during a time of high anxiety in the world around us. At my house, my wife is home from work and three of our kids are now attempting classwork online. Plans laid out for the next couple months at home and church are all extremely tentative. I bet some of you are experiencing similar things at your house as well.

I am learning the lesson of the above verses. All of our plans have always been tentative at best. I just didn't know that. I have been living my life under an illusion that I am largely in control. However, we do not know what our life will be like tomorrow. As we learned in our Ecclesiastes study a little over a year ago, our lives are like a vapor. It is not wrong to plan, just wrong and even arrogant to assume that we will be able to do whatever we plan.

And so, "if the Lord wills, and our US President gets his wish, we will live and also have a full church for Easter Services here!" Since I wrote that just days ago, our President has now extended the social distancing recommendations through the month of April, and I have had to adjust my thinking again on what to plan for Holy Week at Maranatha. It now looks like we will plan for bringing you such online. I am amazed at what has come together in that area these last couple weeks (no thanks to my technical knowledge)! A generation younger than me has stepped up with confidence that it can be done, and with their God-given gifts we have seen God's Word sent out over the internet, not only to our congregation but also reaching beyond. If you have not yet seen this, but do have internet access, I invite you to join us at our normally scheduled times for Wednesday Lenten Service this week and Maundy Thursday Service (both at 7PM), and Sunday Worship each week (9:30AM). If your schedule does not allow such, you can watch them later as well. Just go to Maranatha's Web site and access them on YOUTUBE videos. If restrictions for gathering begin to ease up in the next month or so, we will post an updated schedule on our web site, or you can get our information by calling our church office (218-498-2808).

I trust that the Lord can use us as a congregation deployed to spread His Word this season and to offer the hope for sinners that only the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ can offer. Maybe there is someone in your contacts who needs to hear that message. We can share it verbally, in written form, and now invite them to hear it online from our congregation!

Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck

Maranatha Church – Glyndon
Council Meeting
March 11, 2020 at 8:00 PM

Present: Chanyce Dahl, Jeff Ehrichs, Cliff Langerud, Mary Langerud, Amanda Larson, Pat Lewis, Dave Olek, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck and Todd Rasmussen

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Dave Olek. Dave led devotion and prayer.

Secretary's report of February 19, 2020 was read by Pat and approved as read.

Treasurer's report was given by Amanda. February income was $19,152.87 and expenses were $24,231.26 with year to date at -$12,044.24. All donations for Giving Hearts were given for two months so the donation would be matched. Report was approved as presented.

Board Reports

Christian Education – Chanyce Dahl

Board members will be meeting with Board of Deacons next Wednesday.

Sunday School children will be singing on Palm Sunday, April 5th.

Overcomer Bible study will be starting after Lenten services and will finish out the year for Adult Sunday School.

Deacons – Cliff Langerud

All Board meeting went well.

Service leaders for Lenten services will present in Glyndon as well as Ulen.

Walk Thru the Old Testament will be held on March 28th in the morning. Posters are available and will be passed out to local churches in Glyndon and Barnesville.

Finance – Todd Rasmussen

Online giving should be available for use in the near future.

Trustees – Jeff Ehrichs

Garage clean-up is planned for this spring.

Fellowship Hall sound person has not been able to come yet.

Hand rails for the steps up to the alter have been installed.

Worship & Music – Mary Langerud

Movie night is Sunday, March 22nd at 6:30 PM and the youth will provide a free will offering dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Movie will be Overcomer.

Asked the Trustees to check into the cost of having two screens in the sanctuary vs the one over the cross and bring cost to the next meeting.

Call up Choir scheduled for March 29th.

Easter Lilies and palms have been ordered.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Lloyd

Confirmation is in the last two months with nine students to be confirmed this year.

Visited several young men in the past few months.

Maranatha milestone pamphlet to equip parents on how to raise their children in the faith; has been started and will be reviewed.

Several are struggling with cancer and Pastors are making visits.

Discipling young men to share the word/message during Lent.

Pastors Lloyd and Ryan are praying through the list of the congregation.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Handshaking will be discontinued during COVID-19.

Maranatha will have a table at the Heart of Clay Sweet Freedom desert social and fundraiser on April 7th at the Courtyard by Marriott in Moorhead.

Pastor Lloyd closed in prayer.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 15th at 7 PM. Chanyce will share what she learned at a conference last week on the different generations and their perspectives.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Lewis

We have not included a calendar in this newsletter for the month of April, without knowing what the status will be throughout the month.

We are encouraging you to look at our webpage calendar and to follow throughout the month ~ www.maranathafreelutheran.com. If you do not have access to the online page we strongly encourage you to give us a call at the church for any updates: 498-2808-Glyndon; 494-3749-Harvey Dahl, Ulen.

Maranatha Council Meeting @ Ulen

The Ulen Maranatha Church Council met March 11, 2020. The following were present: Bob Herzog, Gary Langerud, Matt Klemetson, Jeannine Hess, Mary Ann Schneidermann, Harvey Dahl. The meeting was called to order by President Matt Klemetson at 6:05 PM . Devotions and prayer were given by Bob Herzog.

Secretary's Report: Read and approved with no additions with motion by Bob, second by Harvey, carried.

Treasurer's Report: Read and approved with motion to accept by Harvey, second by Bob, carried. Stewardship will remain the same.

Deacon's Report: None.

Trustee's Report: The bulb which is burned out in the projector will be replaced. Back door was again discussed. Motion to replace the west back door and jam by Harvey, second by Gary, carried.

Christian Education: No report.

Worship and Music: Note the time of worship service has been changed to 10AM.

New Business: Lent offering discussed. Motion by Jeannine, second by Gary to give offering to Salvation Army. Easter breakfast will be done by the Matt Klemetson family; serving will be from 8:30-9:30 AM.

Next meeting will be April 8,2020 at 7PM. Motion to adjourn by Bob, second by Jeannine. The Lord's Prayer was prayed in closing.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Schneidermann

WMF NOTES

(Women's Missionary Federation)

GLYNDON MORNING WMF

Morning WMF met on Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 with 10 ladies present.

Joan P. opened with prayer and led us in Bible study, "When I Feel Hopeless". (We had a wonderful discussion!)

Joan P. led our business meeting.

Secretary and Treasurer reports were read and approved.

Old Business:

New faucet was installed and it is good.

New Business:

Gerrie P. made a motion to send $100 for district dues, Pat J. seconded.

Ardis J. made a motion to send $100 to World Missions, Doris D. seconded.

There is a Ladies Retreat on June 12 & 13 at Wilderness Bible Camp near Lake Park, MN. If you can't stay overnight, drive down for the evening or day.

We closed with prayer.

Lila Ebner, Secretary

ULEN WMF

Our Ulen Maranatha WMF met Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1 pm.

Ellen opened with prayer and we studied the lesson together "When I Feel Hopeless."

Ellen opened the business meeting with Secretary's report which was approved as read.

Treasurer's report was approved as read.

We passed around several thank yous we received from Kvale's (missionary's), Women's Care Center & from ladies who attended the Valentine's Brunch.

Our March WMF project offering is World Missions.

Our Lent suppers are going well.

Ellen reminded the ladies about the March Food Shelf collection that we are doing.

Easter Breakfast was talked about and it was decided that it would be brought up at the Council meeting this evening and then decided upon.

Thank You to Debi who donated a Keurig Coffee maker to the kitchen.

A motion was made to adjourn and second.

Closed with specific prayers and the Lord's Prayer.

MaryAnn served a delicious lunch.

Submitted by Ellen Zillmer

Respectfully submitted by Dianne Dahl, Secretary

GLYNDON EVENING WMF

Did not meet.

Lenten Service Series

"The Lord's Prayer" Teaching us to Pray Aright

ALL SERVICES ARE ONLINE UNTIL-FURTHER NOTICE

www.maranathafreelutheran.com

April 1: "Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

April 5: Palm Sunday

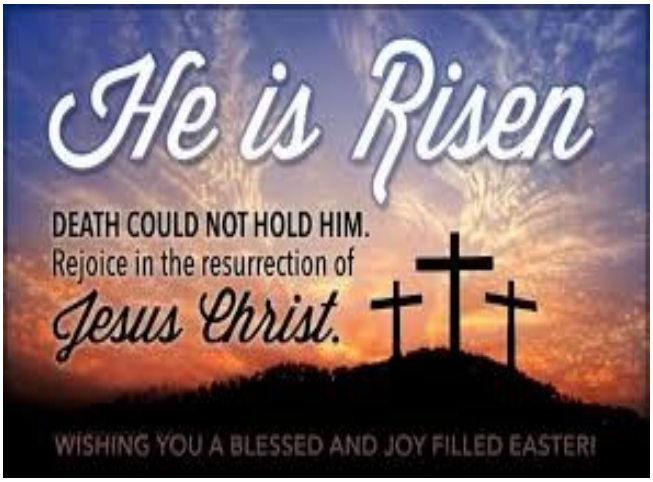
9:30am Worship Service

April 9: Maundy Thursday

"Deliver Us From Evil, For Thine is the Kingdom, Power & Glory Forever"

Easter : April 12

9:30am: Easter Worship Service



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Dan Johnson	April 02
Emma Dahl	April 02
Keziah Quanbeck	April 02
Dylan Leach	April 02
Savannah Brown	April 03
Duncan Sivertson	April 03
Mackenzie Brown	April 05
Heather Olek	April 05
Mable Singer	April 07
Rachel Trick	April 07
Talya Dufault	April 07
Wyatt Ladwig	April 09
Kevin Urlacher	April 09
Arden Pearson	April 10
Jim Rolf	April 10
Jeff Ehrichs	April 10
Tate Dobbs	April 10
Ordean Bentley	April 11
Mason Dobbs	April 11

Tim Pender	April 12
Jennifer Rickford	April 12
Mason Bushy	April 12
Hunter Macziewski	April 14
Harley Dale	April 14
Grace Johnson	April 14
Paul Baumgartner	April 15
Chris Erickson	April 16
David Schneidermann	April 17
Mary Rolf	April 17
Nikki Ehrichs	April 17
John Enlow	April 18
McKinley (Jacobsen) Oien	April 18
Pastor Ryan Tonneson	April 18
Jason Schapp	April 19
Quinn Erickson	April 19
Petra Young	April 20
Annalise Murack	April 21
Ashley Larson	April 21
Miah Dunham	April 21
Ava Sorenson	April 21
Payton Dittmann	April 22
Walker Dale	April 22
Derek Bachmeier	April 23
Walt Schneidermann	April 24
Devon Karau	April 24
Tracy Dunham	April 24
Zach Nelson	April 25
Dave Brown	April 25
Roxane Myhra	April 26
Kiana Stong	April 27
Sharon Wright	April 28
Karen Fevig	April 28
Stanley Habedank	April 29
Ava Johnson	April 29
Brian Olek	April 29
Kurtis Trautmann	April 30
Eric John	April 30
Kim Gwin	April 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Kyle & Sally Johnson	April 07
Brian & Lori Olek	April 09
Ken & Tracy Rohde	April 20
Bruce & Sheila Smith	April 20
Harvey & Dianne Dahl	April 20
Zachary & Carmen Nelson	April 20
Dave & Suzy Olek	April 28
Scott & Heidi Ladwig	April 28

Thankful for all who serve our country!

Kally Anderson, granddaughter of Vonnie Anderson

Trevor Dufault, son of Todd & Sara Dravland

Andy Heisinger, husband of Tracy

Kyle Johnson, son-in-law of Gary & Debi Langerud

Layne Johnson, grandson of Ardis Johnson

Wyatt Ladwig, Son of Scott & Heidi Ladwig

Jessica Myers, granddaughter of Gerrie Payne

Luke Stensgard, grandson of Jane Williams

Jonathan Taylor, grandson of Fran Jenson

Josh Trulson, son-in-law of John & Terrie Enlow

Marcus Young, John & Terrie Enlow's niece's husband

Thank You to all Men & Women, family and friends, who are serving our country both here at home and in other countries. Let's remember them in prayer!

SALT TEENS

Wednesday evenings: on YouTube channel

CANCELED—Campus Days at FLBC Please consider scheduling a personal visit or joining us next fall for FLBC UpClose (October 15-16, 2020).

We continue to look for commitments to donate to **Narcice**, **Our Compassion Child** from Togo, Africa.

ATTENTION GLYNDON LADIES OF SERVING GROUP I

WHEN CHURCH RESUMES…..

We will be responsible for serving the months of **April, May and June.** A signup sheet will be posted in the kitchen *in the end of March*, please take time to check those date or dates that you would be willing to serve goodies on a Sunday morning.

We will also be responsible for serving pot-blessings, wedding receptions, special events and funerals that happen during our 3 months.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and your cooperation. It is much appreciated.

GLYNDON LIBRARY…. New to the Library

Adult Fiction: Kristy Cambron's "The Ringmaster's Wife" will take you on an adventure at the Chicago World's Fair at the turn-of-the-century to the greatest show on earth!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Adult Fiction: "The Butterfly and the Violin" also by Kristy Cambron. A mysterious painting breathes hope and beauty into the darkest corners of Auschwitz--and the loneliest hearts of Manhattan.

LIBRARY AT ULEN

Questions about the library - contact Kathy Fuglie.

GLYNDON PARISH NURSE VICKIE...

I saw this and thought it was wonderful: Sheltering In Faith

We hear a lot about the need to "shelter in place". I would like to offer A little variation on that theme by encouraging us all to SHELTER IN FAITH. History has shown that the most powerful and effective tool any community has in comforting crisis is its spiritual resilience. Let our message to others be an invitation to join us in prayer, hope and determination. (Steven Charlston)

The best advice I can give you is:

Wash, wash, wash your hands- soap and water 20 seconds. Running water- pray a prayer, sing a song,- change the atmosphere!!

Bleach is good but let it dry on the surface- don't wipe it off with a cloth or paper towel. Air drying will kill more germs.

Distance from each other- 6 feet if you are out –

No more than 10 at a gathering. Keep the distance factor.

Exercise- Pray- Worship-Phone loved ones, the elderly, neighbors who may have needs.

If you need something- let the Body of Christ know so we can be of help to you.

Support our Pastors and Leaders- They have never done a Pandemic before so they need our support, prayers, tithes and offerings.

Blessings to you - Stay safe and healthy.

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Dear Friends,

I will be going on a EEMN mission trip to Ukraine on June 3-15, 2020. This English Bible Camp was cancelled last year due to the lack of team members, as is the case this year with the Russia and Latvia camps. If events prohibit us from going at this time EEMN plans to send us in the fall.

I invite you to partner with me on this mission venture. You can do so through prayer support and by financial support. If you are lead to give financially make checks payable to EEMN and leave the memo line blank. You can also go online. Make sure funds are given to my account. I thank you in advance for your support.

I am looking forward to going and am thankful for this opportunity to share God's Word with the children and translators that will attend camp.

Blessings to you as we partner together.

Suzy Olek

Quoted from the late Dr. Billy Graham:

"We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving.

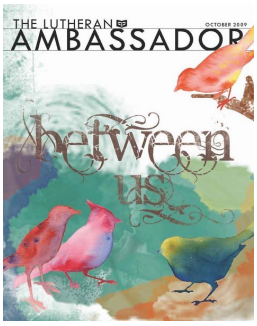
We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud.

We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting.

We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient."

Note from The Lutheran Ambassador Staff at our AFLC Headquarters:

Currently, The Lutheran Ambassador is expecting everything



to go as normal for the April edition, but we do not know what might change in the future. In order to ensure that our subscribers are still receiving the content they have paid for, we are looking into going digital! This means we will need email addresses for our subscribers and we are asking that you would help us to collect these addresses.

The easiest way is to share this link with anyone in the congregation who receives the Lutheran Ambassador: https://mailchi.mp/479db393c7ac/lutheranambassador
This link will take you to a web page where you can enter your name and email address to be automatically added to our email list, (one email address per household). If you would prefer not to enter your information on an online form, you can call Annie at the church office and she will get the needed information and get it to where it needs to go.
Please note that this email list is for those of you who would like to receive a digital version of the Lutheran Ambassador during the health emergency created by COVID-19. Joining this email list does not subscribe anyone or renew your subscription to the Lutheran Ambassador physical mailing list.

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Looking Ahead for Confirmation & Graduation
Maranatha-Glyndon

Confirmands:
Savannah Brown; Laci Chromey; Harley Dale; Cianna Gilbert; Isabel Klemetson; Joshua Koehler; Bailey Murack; Isaiah Quanbeck and Autumn Schlauderaff

High School Seniors:
High School Seniors are: Emma Dahl; Keagan Gilbert; Ethan John; Katie Koehler; Max Okke; Tristen Olson; Kallie Quanbeck; Laura Scheuring; Carter Schmidt and Joseph Thomas

Maranatha-Ulen
Confirmand **-** Isabelle Klemetson

New Life Center

2019 Service Statistics

Overview - Collectively, **34,026 nights of lodging.**
On average, **95 guests** were housed nightly. These figures include in-house winter overflow beds.

- **937 unique individuals** stayed in the Men's Shelter.
- **209** of these guests had never stayed at the New Life Center before 2019.
- **35** moved into permanent, stable housing.

Harbor program is for guests in their first 90 days.

- **701** men participated.

Passport program is an extended stay program for those who want additional assistance at a deeper level.

- **58** men participated.

Genesis Relapse Prevention program is an extended stay program concentrating on a Biblical and physiological understanding of brain development and addictive behaviors.

- **12** men admitted to the program.

Medical Respite program - **42** individuals screened and **31** admitted to the program.
Nursing visits - **918** shelter guests received medical attention from the onsite nurse.

The Kitchen served **75,847 meals.** This averaged **208 plates of food** served daily to men, women, and children from the Mission and the community.

New Life Thrift Store provided **2,200 vouchers** (representing **2,190 adults** and **306 children**) for clothing, furniture, and other household essentials at no cost. This program was especially helpful for guests leaving the New Life Center and moving into permanent housing.

Volunteerism – **409 unique individuals** served a total of **9,664 hours**.

Christian Growth Opportunities -

- Morning devotions are offered daily
- Volunteers lead weekly Bible studies
- Local churches offer rides to church services each Sunday morning, men's groups and recovery groups/meetings.

Please continue to pray for the New Life Center as they have so many changes and different expenses and needs during this Covid-19 virus! Pray with them that this will pass quickly and staff and guests will not be infected.

Total served in 2019 — 4,351

New Life Center

Maranatha Free Lutheran Church Monthly Financial Summary

	2/29/2020
February GENERAL FUND INCOME	**$19,152.87**
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	
Deacons	$15,435.00
Education	$84.57
Finance	$4,419.11
Trustees	$4,261.77
Worship & Music	$30.81
February GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	**$24,231.26**
Other Income (Rent, Interest, etc)	$8.22
General Fund Balance Change	**-$5,070.17**
February GENERAL FUND BALANCE	**$58,143.89**

Special Funds	1/31/2020 Previous Balance	Income	Expenses	2/29/2020 Ending Balance
Building Fund	$ 19,093.72			$ 19,093.72
Compassion Child - Narcise	$ 50.00		$50.00	$ -
Cookbook Sales for Missions	$ -	$10.00		$ 10.00
Designated Donations	$ 150.00			$ 150.00
Gear Head Fund	$ 1,184.59			$ 1,184.59
Good Samaritan Fund	$ 2,650.01		$56.30	$ 2,593.71
Holiday Baskets	$ 383.84			$ 383.84
Lent Offering	$ -	$345.00		$ 345.00
Memorial Fund	$ 7,609.36		$119.99	$ 7,489.37
Men's Fellowship	$ 881.32	$40.00		$ 921.32
Men's Fraternity	$ 317.55			$ 317.55
Outreach Ministries	$ 166.42			$ 166.42
Parking Lot	$ 1,671.74			$ 1,671.74
Sunday Fellowship Fund	$ 467.31			$ 467.31
Sunday School Missions	$ 48.25	$31.83		$ 80.08
Thanksgiving Offering	$ 319.00			$ 319.00
Trails End Ranch	$ 1,716.00			$ 1,716.00
VBS Blanket Project	$ 130.00			$ 130.00
Wedding Fund	$ 1,909.99			$ 1,909.99
Wednesday Suppers	$ 3,028.08	$984.05	$397.68	$ 3,614.45
World Missions Fund	$ 9,735.92	$160.00		$ 9,895.92
Youth Activities Fund	$ 361.00			$ 361.00
Youth FLY Fund	$ 4,667.29	$517.51	$239.93	$ 4,944.87
Special Funds Balance	**$ 56,541.39**	**$ 2,088.39**	**$ 863.90**	**$ 57,765.88**
General Fund Balance	**$ 63,214.06**			**$ 58,143.89**
CHECKBOOK BALANCE	**$ 119,755.45**			**$ 115,909.77**
PETTY CASH BALANCE	**20.00**			**$ 20.00**

Financial Snapshot - Maranatha Glyndon

General Fund	Current Month	Year to Date	Total Budget	Monthly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget	Percent of Budget Received / Expended YTD
Contributions	$19,152.87	**$37,885.87**		$ 30,836.25	10.24%
Expenditures	$24,223.04	**$49,930.11**	$370,035.00		13.49%
		-$12,044.24			

Questions may be directed to Amanda Larson - Treasurer *treasurer_maranatha@outlook.com* *(701) 793-5177*

Detailed financial reports are available in the Glyndon office.

CPYU PARENT PAGE

APRIL 2020

THE CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

Helping parents understand teenagers and their world

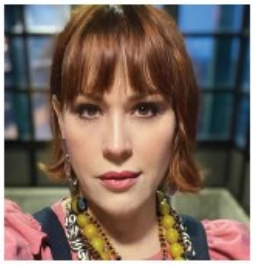
PANDEMIC PARENTING

WALT MUELLER, CPYU President

YOUTH CULTURE HOT QUOTE

"I thought I would've had a little bit more edge or info or intel or something. But I feel like I'm very often just as confused and perplexed as anyone else. I think it's a lot harder to be a teenager today. I feel like all of the insecurities, the highs and lows, the way that teenagers feel is the same. But there are so many other aspects that aggravate their lives. We didn't have 24/7 Instagram and other social media. I think that makes things very hard. It makes it harder to focus, so they miss out on a lot of great things."

80's teen icon Molly Ringwald, who has 3 children, on raising teenagers, *HuffPost*, February 2, 2020



Our beginning-of-April-2020 world looks little like the world we knew at the beginning of March. In the course of a matter of days, the Covid-19 virus has changed so many things in terms of how and where we are spending our time. As parents, we are home. Perhaps almost "stuck" at home. . . as we do what's now called "social distancing." Your kids are home as well. Let's be honest. The close quarters are making life difficult for so many. How should we navigate these realities?

Years ago, I was expressing frustration to a friend regarding some trying circumstances. He challenged me to look into the Bible to discover how God uses the challenges we face in life to take us out of ourselves and form us into the people He desires us to be. My friend encouraged me to embrace *difficult providences*. "Providence" refers to the fact that humanity and our world are not ruled by fate or chance, but by God. He directs human history and all creation toward the goal of conforming us and our world to His divinely determined goal. Because God wants to do great work in our lives, He sometimes allows us to endure difficult circumstances to bring about great good.

Think for a minute about the Old Testament story of Joseph being sold into slavery in Egypt (Genesis 37-50). When Joseph eventually told his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good", we see how God used a difficult providence to serve His own redemptive purposes. The Psalmist reminds us of the blessed outcomes of difficult providences when he writes, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes" (Psalm 119:71).

My friends words to me about choosing to become *bitter* or *better* as a result of my difficulty have come back to me over the course of the last few weeks, and they have served to remind me that God is at work in my life and in the life of my family through the current health crisis.

We will be more prone to parent well through this pandemic if we embrace these "close-quarter" days as an opportunity to spend our time together as a family well. Why not make a plan to eat dinner together each evening, using these three strategies to foster both spiritual and relational growth?

Read the Bible together. One plan would be to read a Psalm, a Proverb, and a few verses from the Gospel of John. Discuss what each teaches you about God, about humanity, about God's will and way for our lives, and the enemy's schemes to undo us.

Pray together. Go around the table and have each person share something they are thankful for that day, along with something for which they desire God's help.

Open the lines of family communication through good discussion. Be sure to follow the ground rules for good communication, and ask open-ended questions. To help you accomplish both of these goals, you can access our "Quarantine Communication" help sheet (info below).

Parents, don't waste this opportunity. Today's social-distancing is affording us an occasion to fulfill our God-given responsibility to grow in our relationship with our kids, and to invest in their spiritual growth!*

Download the Quarantine Communication *handout by pointing your smartphone's camera at this QR code, or visit cpyu.org.*

TOP 10…

Video Games with Highest Intent to Buy Next

Console and PC Versions, Week ended March 21, 2020
Source: *Nielsen*

1. *Cyberpunk 2077*
2. *Resident Evil 3*
3. *DOOM Eternal*
4. *Fortnite*
5. *Animal Crossing: New Horizons*
6. *Marvel's Avengers*
7. The Last of Us: Part II
8. *Final Fantasy VII Remake*
9. *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare (2019)*
10. *FIFA 20*

QUICK STATS

Between 2004 and 2017, the age at which teens started drinking alcohol and smoking rose from 16 to 17 years.
(Washington State University, published in JAMA Pediatrics)

Children's average daily time spent watching television or using a computer or mobile device increased from 53 minutes at age 12 months to more than 150 minutes at 3 years.
(National Institutes of Health, the University of Albany, and the New York University Langone Medical Center)

FROM THE NEWS:

SUGAR CONSUMPTION

Here's some good news we can celebrate from the world of today's youth culture. It seems that increased awareness and ramped up intervention efforts have led to healthier sugar consumption habits among our children and teens. According to a new study in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, fewer children and teens are consuming sugar sweetened beverages. In addition, the calories kids consume from these beverages have declined. This decline occurred between 2003 and 2014. Sugar sweetened beverages are defined as any non-alcoholic drink containing sugar, including soda, fruit drinks, and flavored milks. This is good news on the health front, including issues related to obesity and dental health. But experts are warning that there is more work to be done, as 61% of all children still consume at least one sugar sweetened beverage a day. Parents, the health decisions you make for your kids now, will affect them for the rest of their lives.

CPYU'S

TREND ALERT

TRENDS:

MEDIA USE ON THE RISE DURING PANDEMIC

Early reports indicate that media use has drastically increased over the last couple of weeks. When you're with your kids and engaging media together, why not use the things you see and hear as an opportunity to offer biblical correctives to the messages the media gets wrong? Here are three categories of messages to look for and answer with biblical truth. First, there are the *ideologies*. This is the stuff of worldview formation. In today's world the message is one that convincingly tells us that our highest and most noble goal in life is to be true to yourself. Second, there are the messages about *identity*. We now choose to be self-defined rather than Creator-defined. Today, we develop our identities based on what we choose rather than on the givenness of our God-made humanity. We believe we can find rest in who we choose to be rather than in who we are as image-bearers in Christ. Third, there is the pressure to fabricate, curate, and promote our *image* that is seen by the world. This pressure wrongly convinces kids that "I am what I look like. . . and what people think of me."

LATEST RESEARCH:

LASTING FAITH

With so many of our young adults graduating from high school and walking away from the faith, what can we do to lead them to embrace a lasting faith? We get some great answers to this question from David Kinnaman and Mark Matlock in their book *Faith for Exiles, And The Five Ministry Practices Churches And Families Must Pursue To Lead Kids Into Life-Long Faith*. The research indicates that we must lead our kids into experiencing intimacy with Jesus. This is best done by clearing what they call the religious clutter that so easily sidetracks us. We've been complicit in presenting a Jesus to compete at the same level as our other affinities and affiliations. In addition, we've expected way too little from our kids. They are more willing to be challenged than The Church is willing to challenge them. And, parents must be living a life of spiritual vitality where they give everything they have and are over to Jesus. Let's lead our kids into a deep and lasting faith.

COLLEGE TRANSITION INITIATIVE
a resource of CPYU

www.CollegeTransitionInitiative.com

After High School

by Walt Mueller

Today I want to talk to you about how my beliefs have changed over the years regarding high school graduates and higher education. When I graduated from high school, I lived in a culture where it was assumed that the next step for anyone who hoped to be responsible was to go immediately on to college, and then to graduate in four years. But a changing culture, economic realities, college debt, and a more clear understanding of work and calling have led me to a new understanding of what happens after high school. We no longer live in a one size fits all higher ed environment.

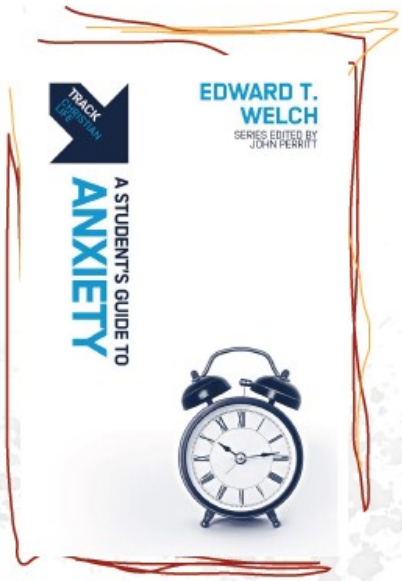
I believe that far too many of our kids head straight off to college with no idea regarding their giftedness and calling. Parents, maybe we should require our kids to hold off from college enrollment. Pray with them regarding their giftedness and calling. Then, send them in the right direction, to the right place, at the right time in order to prepare them for a lifetime of service to God.

New Podcast

Youth Culture Matters
is a long-format
podcast from CPYU
co-hosted by Walt Mueller
and Jason Soucinek.

Listen at
www.cpyu.org/podcast.

Be sure to check out Episode 101 titled "Turning to Christ with our Anxiety" with Ed Welch



CPYU
CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

FROM THE WORD

In his first letter addressed to followers of Jesus, the Apostle John issues a six-word parting statement that is extremely direct and powerful. These six words remind us of just how easy it is to fall prey to ideas, habits, and things that become so important in our lives that they take the place of God. John writes, "Dear children, keep yourselves from idols" (I John 5:21).

"DEAR CHILDREN, KEEP YOURSELVES FROM IDOLS."
I JOHN 5:21

There is a fundamental incompatibility between the worship of God and the worship of idols. Idolatry has been defined as turning good things into "ultimate" things. How easy it is to do that in a world that pummels us daily with ads marketing all kinds of ideas, goods, and services. . . all promising to make our lives better. . . maybe even "complete." And even for followers of Christ (as John surely knew), we are easily tempted, deceived, and capable of worshipping other gods. This is a basic fact of our sinful and fallen human nature.

Realizing this ever-present reality is the first step in helping our kids understand that they too are easy prey for willingly falling into idolatry. Perhaps the current Covid-19 pandemic has helped you to see the idols you're prone to embrace. Share John's warning with your kids, not just once, but over and over and over again. Teach them to run from idols like the plague. Help them to look for and see the idols that are not easily recognizable. This conflict and temptation will not disappear until the day when Jesus returns and all things are made new. Keeping one's self from idols is a conscious pursuit we must embrace, model, and teach. Our only hope for redemption is in Jesus Christ.

HELPFUL RESOURCE ⇦

We all know the feeling. That nervous, jittery, tense feeling that tells you that something bad is just ahead. Anxiety can be overwhelming. But the Bible has plenty to say to people who are anxious. This book will help us to take our eyes off our circumstances and fix them on God. In *Anxiety: A Student's Guide to Anxiety*, Edward T. Welch, Counselor & Faculty at the Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation, provides big biblical solutions that get to the heart of the matter and that last. Students will have their lives transformed by the truths in these pages.

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… "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." II Corinthians 3:17

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