

The Spotlight

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Underestimating the Value of God

To estimate is to appraise, value, rate, or assess something with respect to its worth or significance; to calculate.

To underestimate is to place too low a value on something.

In the past several months I have greatly underestimated the value of my time, the true cost of things, the energy it takes to do something, the amount of ‘stuff’ I/we own, the power of pain meds, the time to recover from trauma, and I could go on and on.

Seven months ago when we put our house on the market I underestimated the time and expense it would take to get things ready to sell, the length of time to sell, the amount of stuff we had to store and get rid of, the time it would take to pack and unpack. In general one could say I was not very realistic in my expectations of how this was all going to go down.

For the past two months I have underestimated how long it takes to unpack things in a new house, find a place for everything, and trying to decide what to keep, what to give away, what to sell, and what to trash.

In the past two weeks I have underestimated the time it would take to recover from surgery, the power of pain pills, and the ‘power’ of pain pills.

Lately, I’ve been pondering how I underestimate the value of people and things in my life, but I was brought up short when I caught myself pondering how much I underes-

timate God, how low a value I put on him when it comes to life and happiness.

Is He my first and last thought of the day? Do I invoke his wisdom and power to get things done during the day? Can I truly begin and end each and every day believing “this is the day the Lord has made,” so that I can rejoice and be glad in it?

Do I labor and toil ‘under the sun’ looking for fulfillment and happiness in the things I do, or do I ultimately find fulfillment and happiness in who I am as a child of God?

During my prayer time, how much of it is devoted to listening to God, giving him a chance to speak, rather than me just rattling off my list of requests and acknowledging his attributes?

How sorely I’ve underestimated the value of God wanting to talk to me. He is the perfect listener, not interrupting my stream of words, and when I stop to take a breath he doesn’t immediately jump into the gap, but waits in silence until I start up again.

When I finally finish ‘praying’, I say, ‘amen,’ close my prayer book, fold up my request sheet, and get on with the day. I leave God sitting there, having graciously listened to me, yet failing to give him the opportunity to respond.

How woefully I underestimate God’s desire to commune with me. I’m out of space, so you finish the article. In what ways do you underestimate the value of God in your life?

-Pastor Mark

SWAT Painting Project on May 3

Can you help paint a house for an elderly woman? If so, call Deb Dewanz for the address in Country Club Manor. Bring paint brushes or rollers if you have them, or else just come at 8:00 a.m. on Sat.

LBBC Camper Fundraiser/garage Sale

is May 2 & 3 at the Iott & Gillis homes, 2141 & 2148 9th Ave. NE. Call Patty (288-8813) if you need things picked up or bring items directly to Patty's house. Come and help set up on Thursday, May 1st from 10 a.m. until done. And then come to shop on Friday from 7:00-4:00 and on Saturday from 7:00-2:00.

Confirmation Sunday is May 18

We have four confirmands who are completing three years of study and will be recognized on May 18th. They are Shaylan Johnson, Lillian Lorang, Tiffany Luong, and Dylan Thornton. Their study has included the Old and New Testament, the life of Christ, the Early Church and the history of Salem Road and the Covenant. Each student has had a mentor who has spent time getting to know them and encouraging them in their Christian walk. May these years of study go with them in the years to come.

Lake Beauty Events

Mother & Daughter Retreat - May 2-4

Camp Workday - May 10: 8:00-4:00

Family Camps

May 23-26 - Speaker: Jeff Mazzariello

July 3-6 - Speaker: Tony Deach

Aug. 29 - Sept. 1 - Speaker: Mark Stromberg

Summer Youth Camps

June 8-13 Senior High

July 10-12 Joyful Juniors

July 13-17 Trailblazers

July 20-25 Junior High

July 27-Aug. 1 Super High

Registration Brochures are in the hall.



- 3 - Linnea Johnson
- 9 - Quinn Robinson
- 9 - Zachary Lorang
- 12 - Andy Petersen
- 14 - Fran Cox
- 15 - Brielle Johnson
- 15 - Amy Hansen
- 17 - Dwight Boyum
- 17 - Nancy Halbmaier
- 21 - Mike Bjaastad
- 22 - Jonathan Lorang
- 23 - Micah Johnson
- 25 - Ayo Roberts
- 28 - Bruce Johnson
- 28 - Patty Iott
- 30 - Nancy Driscoll

May Anniversaries

- 15 - Amy Hansen & Eric Schultz
- 16 - Luke & Jodi Ouverson
- 20 - Brian & Melissa Gillis
- 29 - Dave & Lynda Capps
- 30 - Dave & Linda Mosbo

Set Up

- 4 - Iott
- 11 - Halbmaier
- 18 - Huebner
- 25 - Zerbe

Ushers

- Reimer
- Engstler
- Therneau
- Hanson

Greeters

- 4 - Hopkins
- 11 - Webster
- 18 - Lewis
- 25 - Bjaastad

Nursery

- Stewart
- Robinson
- Evinger
- Roberts

Deaths

Anna Dahl, daughter of Nate & Lisa Dahl on March 28
Grandparents: Steve & Linda Lewis

National Day of Prayer is May 1

*“Prayer: America’s Strength and Shield”
The Lord is my strength and shield;
my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped.*

Psalm 28:7

1 Day - 1 Voice - 1 May 2008 National Day of Prayer

What a powerful image of God’s people uniting in prayer and focus. Expand this image to include united prayer every Thursday at 12:00 noon - 12:30 from May 1 until Tuesday November 4, election day! To this commitment believers across the nation are being challenged. This will be a focused 30 minutes of prayer for 7 points of power: Government, Military, Media, Business, Education, Church, and Family. Will you make a long term lunch date with the LORD God Almighty! and His sons and daughters at SRCC?

Properties Update

Recent projects completed around the church:

- 1) Painting the stairwell leading to the office area
- 2) New kitchen worktables purchased (as requested by the kitchen committee)
- 3) Repaired light switch in sanctuary and office telephone

We are planning the annual Church **Spring Clean up for Saturday May 31st** from 8:00 a.m.until noon. There will be a variety of projects for all including the demolition of the drywall ceiling in the vacant church office. (water damage from the major

**Meet with us beginning Thursday, May 1,
Noon -12:30 in the Fireside Room.**

Visit The National Day of Prayer official website <http://www.ndptf.org/home/index.cfm>

Click on the line: Pray for Election day, Red Campaign (not red as in blue state red state, but red as in ATTENTION, STOP, IMPORTANT)

You are also invited to Rochester’s National Day of Prayer Gathering at Calvary Evangelical Free Church from 7:00-8:15 p.m. Co-Hosts for the evening are Betsy Singer and Wendell Amstutz. There will be a number of local guest speakers sharing prayer requests for our community. This is sponsored by National Community Resource Center in conjunction with TEAM Rochester.

rains of last year). Many of you have particular projects you like to address; please drop Randy Reimer a line with your favorite project to help keep us coordinated. Emails will be sent in May as we fine tune the planning for the clean up day.

Please share your properties ideas and concerns with any on our committee: Doris and Mike Bjaastad, Shirley and Howard Heikes, Jody and Luke Ouverson, Sonja and Randy Reimer.

