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EDGEWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

2525 E. Pontaluna Rd. • Fruitport, MI

9:00 a.m. Children & Adult S.S.
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Pastor Paul Kehle
Phone • (231) 865-3300

Communion every Sunday
Barrier Free

First Congregational Church of Fruitport
3212 E. Pontaluna Rd. (across from Edgewood Elementary)

Pastor Mike Scott 616-780-9763

Communion first Sunday each month
Coffee & Fellowship at 10:00
Sunday School & Church at 10:30

Drop kids off at 10:15-10:30
& Pick up angels at 12:00






eagle eggs **unborn baby**

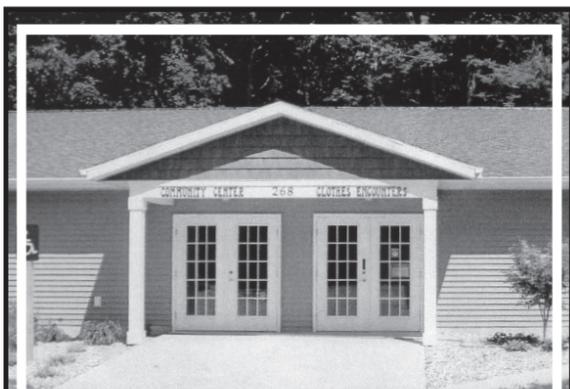
Destroying one is punishable by a \$250,000 fine or 2 years in prison.

Not only is it legal to kill her but Obamacare is forcing taxpayers to pay for her execution.

tina m.

Confusing isn't it...

This information provided by:
First Congregational Church of Fruitport
3212 E. Pontaluna Road
Church & Sunday School at 10:30 AM



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368 N. 3rd Ave. Fruitport Village
Next to Word of Hope Church

Everyone loves a mystery except...

By Pastor John Koedyker (Word of Hope Church)

There is an expression, "Everyone loves a mystery." I must admit that I enjoy reading a good mystery now and then. In fact, when we took our vacation for a week up north, I packed a real "page-turner" along.

I suppose it was because of the attraction of mysteries that back in 1994, Northwest Airlines offered so-called "Mystery Fares" for \$59. The ticket provided a one-day trip to an unknown city somewhere in the United States. Buyers didn't find out where they were headed till they arrived at the airport the day of the flight.

The offer went over amazingly well. In Indianapolis, for example, 1,500 people crowded the airline counter to buy the Mystery Fare tickets that were sold on a first come, first served basis.

Not surprisingly, when customers learned their destinations, not all were thrilled. One man, who was hoping to go to New Orleans, walked through the airport trying to unload his ticket to Detroit. I just can't imagine why he wouldn't want to visit the "Motor City!"

Mystery Fares might be a fun surprise for a weekend vacation, but usually most of us like to know where we're going. And one time you never want a mystery ticket is on the day of your death. Well, it doesn't have to be a mystery. "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" John 3:16. Make sure today that you have reserved *your* ticket! •

New Spring Lake arrival

Phillip and Courtney Palnau of Spring Lake are pleased to announce the arrival of Emmy Palnau. She was born at North Ottawa Community Hospital on September 9 and weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. •

A time to reflect

By Al Schneider

I was deeply moved. During a recent PBS television program featuring oldies, there was Kate Smith singing *God Bless America*. It's been a long time since I saw her do that. It was breathtaking and it made me think. Many years ago, we kids sang that song in the country school where I attended. That was before God was booted out of classrooms. Kids can't sing that in schools anymore.

In that same schoolhouse we staged a Christmas program each year and called it that. We sang Christian songs, performed skits, and even wished the audience a Merry Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time of year, and we, in our own way, tried to express that. That was then.

God, who loves children, is no longer permitted to mingle with them inside the schoolroom. He's an outcast. Exit God; enter Darwin, Dewey, druids and demons.

God has become somewhat of a stranger in our society as well. In one of the recent political conventions, His name was scrubbed from the party platform, only to be reinstated by an unconvincing voice vote. Yet, strangely, speeches delivered at both conventions would typically end with a rousing "God Bless America." First, we're uncertain about having Him hanging around, then we want Him to bless. Do we take Him for a nincompoo? It seems so.

I had intended to make this piece about Christopher Columbus, whose special day comes up in October. Columbus, too, has found himself left standing on the school doorstep a time or two. True, Columbus brought some of the quandary upon himself. He exercised pitiful management skills in establishing colonies. He was an avid gold seeker, and he lacked tact in dealing with the native population. His specialty lay in navigation at which he was peerless.

But Columbus had other traits, which have given school administrators pause. Columbus was one of those annoying "God and Country" types, for which schools have so much distaste. According to historian Martha Kneib, when Columbus came ashore at San Salvador (Holy Savior), "He kissed the sand, thanked God for success, and cried." Then he unfurled the Spanish flag, taking possession of the land for his queen. On his return trip, he took six natives with the purpose of converting them to Christianity. None of these actions find favor with present day curricula writers.

Seldom mentioned (never during my school days), is the fact that on his second voyage, Columbus brought 17 ships carrying 1200 passengers, horses, sheep, cows and pigs. Biographer Samuel Morison stated, "No European nation had ever undertaken an overseas colonizing expedition on anything approaching this scale." On a personal note, let me say that I spent my boyhood days on a dairy farm and later, considerable time at sea. I must say that no amount of coercion would have gotten me aboard one of those ships.

He never touched U.S. soil. Yet, two state capitals and some 40 other U.S. cities, towns and counties are named after him. There is also the District of Columbia, the Columbia River and Columbia University. I think he deserves a chair in the classroom on his special day — right up there next to the teacher.

God bless America! •

Prayer and the coming election

(Condensed from the Gospel Tract Society)

"There is plenty of evidence in the Bible that God responds to the earnest prayers of His people with regard to national interests. He has His own sovereign ways of raising up and setting aside rulers.

"God was quite ready to hear Abraham's prayers for wicked Sodom and Gomorrah. He is no less ready to hear our prayers for America.

"Consider the impact of Daniel's prayer life on the godless rulers of the great Babylonian Empire. God's man of prayer was the instrument through which Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar learned that God rules in the kingdom of men and 'giveth it to whomsoever He wills' (Daniel 4:25).

"Think of the effectiveness of Nehemiah's prayers in the restoring of a defeated, scattered and decadent nation. Basic to Nehemiah's courageous leadership and hard work was continual prayer.

"Take a second look at Mordecai and Queen Esther. The doom of Israel had been sealed by Haman's plot and signed by the king. But prayer reversed the whole situation (Esther 4:15-17). Surely God is ready to hear the desperate cries of His children for America today.

"And how do you pray for the coming election?

"Ask God to put in authority men who will allow us to live peaceable, godly and honest lives.

"Ask God for rulers who will in no way hinder the proclamation of the Gospel in this country or other countries.

"Ask for wisdom in voting that His will may be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

"Pray for America. Pray before you vote. Pray in the assurance that He will answer. 'If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land' (2 Chronicles 7:14)." •

Faith is change

By Reverend R.A. Shackles

One of the reasons why church membership by and large really makes no serious impact on our personal lives or our society is that for large numbers of Christians their faith commitment makes no radical difference in daily life. It is not to suggest that church members don't take their belief in God seriously. Rather it is that so often that faith seems to do little to *change* us. Even regular attendance at worship often falls into a routine of conscientiously attending church on Sunday but then during the week — with all that goes on in daily life — dropping into a habit of letting Sunday take care of our religion.

Consider this, that in daily life it is often virtually impossible to tell a Christian from a non-Christian. Look at any weekday gathering and you just cannot discern which is which. It is not supposed to be that way! St. Paul writes, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2.) Even more, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16.)

The point is that being a Christian, committing to Jesus, is meant to change our lives. That means, literally, that our lives in daily affairs should impress others as "different." Now, with due regard to current disclaimers, this does not mean you must confront every person you meet with an almost belligerent, "Have you been saved, brother?" We all agree that is usually counterproductive, surely annoying to others. But it should mean that you *are* so changed in your outlook on life, that whenever the life of a friend or relative is bedeviled by lack of serious spiritual support it becomes of primary concern to you. As a "changed" person, your commitment to Christ means you care actually about others. And when and where an opening comes to you, you are prepared in your faith, *changed* in Christ, to give help wherever possible.

But in a broader consideration, being a Christian means you have been changed in every respect of how you live your life, of how you treat others, of how ready you are to be open to share your love of Christ when someone [who] really needs that, signals by their actions and words they are hurting. If we have been changed, transformed in Christ, our lives should have a reassuring glow about them that does show to others, assures them you are a person who can be trusted, who will reach to give whatever help is possible in you. Seriously and devoutly lifted, a Christian's faith changes them into a person who *is* different, powered by the inner glow of the Holy Spirit.

Put another way, if when you worship at your parish church and don't have a sense of renewed excitement at *being* a Christian when you leave, you haven't put enough of yourself into the hands of the Lord! Of course, it you don't see why you should change this way, you're really not likely to change as Christ changes us, that is. In any case, don't be afraid to let Christ change you. It isn't all that painful. Ask any Spirit-changed Christian! •

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