



THE MUSTARD SEED

Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree... *Matthew 13:32*

Presbyterian Church of Ruston PCUSA

June/July 2017

Summer Office Hours

June—July—August

8:00a.m.—Noon

The Reformation continued

A reminder that this year we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and the February and March newsletters had some beginning background on the Reformation.

Martin Luther did not begin this dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church with the intent of breaking from it.

To understand the events leading to his break with the Church, we must travel south to Rome where Pope Leo X was building St. Peter's Basilica. To finance the building, he approached his bankers for a loan. Of course, when you get a loan, you have to figure out how to pay it back with interest. Leo decided that the best way to accomplish this was to sell off some of the assets in his treasury, specifically the treasury of merits. In other words, Leo decided to hold an indulgence sale.

According to Catholic theology, every sin you commit results in both eternal and temporal penalties. Eternal penalties, obviously, affect your relationship with God and will affect whether you go to heaven or hell. And since a sin against God is also a sin against your neighbor, temporal sins must be punished here on earth. When you confess your sins to a priest and receive absolution that takes care of the eternal penalty but leaves the temporal penalty. The priest assigns you a penance (good work) that you can do to pay the temporal penalty. That might be saying prayers, going on a pilgrimage, etc. If all your temporal penalties are paid before you die, then you go to heaven. →

The Church didn't care if another person "paid" your temporal penalty as long as it got paid. A person could pay for another person to go on a Crusade, and therefore take care of a life of temporal penalties. The payments would go into the treasury of merits which was controlled by the pope.

To pay for the basilica, Leo was not going to go into the streets selling indulgences. Instead, he allowed other church authorities to sell indulgences with money trailing back to Leo.

As you can imagine, this indulgence sale upset many people. One of which was Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk at the University of Wittenberg. Luther was upset at the indulgence sale and challenged the Dominicans to a debate. Debates were the standard academic exercise of the day which involved first writing a list of propositions, or theses, which the debater was willing to defend. He then posted the theses along with the time and place of the debate. Luther wrote a series of theses against the abuses of the indulgence sale – 95 of them – and posted them on the bulletin board, the church door at Wittenberg.

The posting of the 95 theses is often portrayed as a great act of defiance – Luther boldly challenging the corruption of the church – but it was more like an act of conformity. He was just following the normal procedure for debate.

The debate never happened but two things came together to highlight the 95 Theses. First, Luther sent a copy of the theses to his spiritual superior who was not happy about what Luther wrote. Second, some of Luther's students got hold of the theses and sent them to a printer. It became a "best seller." That put Luther at the center of an international controversy over indulgences.

While Luther may have been trying to defend good Catholic doctrine against the abuse surrounding indulgences, the way he went about it attacked much of the generally accepted theology of the Catholic Church.

Copy Of Letter To Session Members

Here is the letter from the Tech students who did the financial review for the church. A thank you to Otis for finding a group to do it! I wanted you to see that what we are doing is acceptable:

May 12, 2017

To: Clerk of Session - James Evans, Jr.

We reviewed the financial statements of the Presbyterian Church of Ruston on May 11, 2017. The statements were prepared by the church staff and are not our responsibility. We are independent reviewers and have no financial stake in the Presbyterian Church of Ruston.

Our review consisted primarily of inquiries of personnel and analytical procedures applied to the financial data. It included examining evidence supporting the amount in the financial statements. We reviewed the general ledger, budget and expenditures, bank statements, deposit books and pledge logs of the church. After a random search of items, we found the accounting procedures to be consistent and thorough.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any modifications that should be made to the Presbyterian Church of Ruston.

Regards, Madison Ellison, Warren Wolf, Audrey Kim, Yinglai Xie

Beta Alpha Psi – School of Accountancy

Children’s Sunday School

Jessica Johnston will be the “every Sunday” teacher in the children’s Sunday school class this summer while Mallory is taking the summer off. Jessica has a lot of experience with children and loves being around them. Thanks, Jessica, for your willingness to serve the church.

-Memorials-

Mary Beth Huddleston

Linda Kearny

CCA Food Drive

Rotary of Lincoln has organized a food drive for CCA in recognition of the need for extra food in the summer. They are hoping to gather 10,000 cans over the summer.

You can also bring cans of food for CCA to church anytime and place them in the wire basket near the kitchen, and we will make sure that the food gets to CCA.

Let’s join Rotary and other groups and churches this summer in making sure that the shelves at CCA stay stocked.

Arts Camps

At their March meeting, the session approved a request from the North Central Louisiana Arts Council to hold their arts camps here on June 26-30 and July 17-21. This is the third year that the arts camps has been held in our facilities. The rooms used are the fellowship hall, the children’s Sunday school classroom, the choir room, and the old fellowship hall.

The camps will take place Monday through Friday 9:00-noon. Feel free to stop by and see what the children are doing.

Session News

Elder Of The Month:

June 20 - July 17 Gail Nelson, Dottie White

July 18 - August 21 Wayne Neuroth

The Session approved not having a church luncheon on July 2, 2017.

Wayne Neuroth was elected to serve as commissioner to the Presbytery meeting in Homer on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

The Session voted to replace the center and left glass panels on the main stained glass window at the front of the church with safety glass.

Congratulations to Lauren Foster, granddaughter of Betty Sheeler, and Thomas Strebeck, grandson of Tom Young, upon their graduation from Ruston High School. Both will be attending LA Tech.

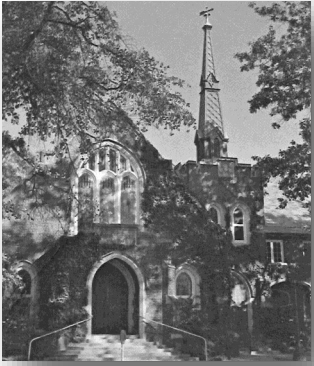
June 2017

S M T W T F S

				1	2	3
4 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship/Communion 11:00 Children's S.S. 12:00 Lunch -Worship & CE Committees	5	6 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	7 2:00 Communion Princeton Place	8 11:30 Lunch Bunch	9	10 Presbytery Meeting in Homer, Wayne Neuroth, Commissioner
11 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship 11:00 Children's SS	12	13 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	14	15	16	17
18 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship 11:00 Children's SS 12:00 Birthday Celebration	19 6:00 Session	20 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	21 8:00 Men's Fellowship/ Potluck Breakfast	22	23 10:00 Peach Cookery Contest—	24
25 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship / Congregational Bouquet 11:00 Children's SS	26	27 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	28	29	30	

July 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship 11:00 Children's S.S. No Lunch & CE Committees	3	4 Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship/Communion 11:00 Children's SS	10	11 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	12	13 11:30 Lunch Bunch	14	15
16 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship 11:00 Children's SS	17 9:00 Art Camp 6:00 Session	18 9:00 Art Camp	19 8:00 Men's Fellowship/Potluck Breakfast 9:00 Art Camp	20 9:00 Art Camp	21 9:00 Art Camp	22
23 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship 11:00 Children's SS	24	25 9:45 Parlor Prayer Group	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Doug Jenkins Class 10:45 Worship Congregational Bouquet 11:00 Children's SS	31					



*Presbyterian Church of Ruston
212 Bonner Street
Ruston, LA 71270*

Suggestions For Daily Bible Study and Prayer

Thursday March 1

Morning Ps. 27, 147:12–20
Evening Ps. 126, 102 Gen. 39:1–23 1 Cor. 2:14–3:15 Mark 2:1–12

Friday March 2

Morning Ps. 22, 148
Evening Ps. 105, 130 Gen. 40:1–23 1 Cor. 3:16–23 Mark 2:13–22

Saturday March 3

Morning Ps. 43, 149
Evening Ps. 31, 143 Gen. 41:1–13 1 Cor. 4:1–7 Mark 2:23–3:6

Sunday March 4

Second Sunday in Lent
Morning Ps. 84, 150
Evening Ps. 42, 32 Gen. 41:14–45 Rom. 6:3–14 John 5:19–24

Monday March 5

Morning Ps. 119:73–80, 145
Evening Ps. 121, 6 Gen. 41:46–57 1 Cor. 4:8–20 Mark 3:7–19a

Tuesday March 6

Morning Ps. 34, 146
Evening Ps. 25, 91 Gen. 42:1–17 1 Cor. 5:1–8 Mark 3:19b–35

Wednesday March 7

Morning Ps. 5, 147:1–11
Evening Ps. 27, 51 Gen. 42:18–28 1 Cor. 5:9–6:11 Mark 4:1–20

Thursday March 8

Morning Ps. 27, 147:12–20
Evening Ps. 126, 102 Gen. 42:29–38 1 Cor. 6:12–20 Mark 4:21–34

Friday March 9

Morning Ps. 22, 148
Evening Ps. 105, 130 Gen. 43:1–15 1 Cor. 7:1–9 Mark 4:35–41

Saturday March 10

Morning Ps. 43, 149
Evening Ps. 31, 143 Gen. 43:16–34 1 Cor. 7:10–24 Mark 5:1–20

Sunday March 11

Third Sunday in Lent
Morning Ps. 84, 150
Evening Ps. 42, 32 Gen. 44:1–17 Rom. 8:1–10 John 5:25–29

Monday March 12

Morning Ps. 119:73–80, 145
Evening Ps. 121, 6 Gen. 44:18–34 1 Cor. 7:25–31 Mark 5:21–43

Tuesday March 13

Morning Ps. 34, 146
Evening Ps. 25, 91 Gen. 45:1–15 1 Cor. 7:32–40 Mark 6:1–13

Wednesday March 14

Morning Ps. 5, 147:1–11
Evening Ps. 27, 51 Gen. 45:16–28 1 Cor. 8:1–13 Mark 6:13–29

Thursday March 15

Morning Ps. 27, 147:12–20
Evening Ps. 126, 102 Gen. 46:1–7, 28–34 1 Cor. 9:1–15 Mark 6:30–46

Friday March 16

Morning Ps. 22, 148
Evening Ps. 105, 130 Gen. 47:1–26 1 Cor. 9:16–27 Mark 6:47–56

Saturday March 17

Morning Ps. 43, 149
Evening Ps. 31, 143 Gen. 47:27–48:7 1 Cor. 10:1–13 Mark 7:1–23

Sunday March 18

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Morning Ps. 84, 150
Evening Ps. 42, 32 Gen. 48:8–22 Rom. 8:11–25 John 6:27–40

Monday March 19

Morning Ps. 119:73–80, 145
Evening Ps. 121, 6 Gen. 49:1–28 1 Cor. 10:14–11:1 Mark 7:24–37

Tuesday March 20

Morning Ps. 34, 146
Evening Ps. 25, 91 Gen. 49:29–50:14 1 Cor. 11:2–34 Mark 8:1–10

Wednesday March 21

Morning Ps. 5, 147:1–11
Evening Ps. 27, 51 Gen. 50:15–26 1 Cor. 12:1–11 Mark 8:11–26

Thursday March 22

Morning Ps. 27, 147:12–20
Evening Ps. 126, 102 Exod. 1:6–22 1 Cor. 12:12–26 Mark 8:27–9:1

Friday March 23

Morning Ps. 22, 148
Evening Ps. 105, 130 Exod. 2:1–22 1 Cor. 12:27–13:3 Mark 9:2–13

Saturday March 24

Morning Ps. 43, 149
Evening Ps. 31, 143 Exod. 2:23–3:15 1 Cor. 13:1–13 Mark 9:14–29

Saturday, March 25

Morning: Pss. 43; 149
Evening: Pss. 31; 143 Jer. 13:1–11 Rom. 6:12–23 John 8:47–59

Sunday, March 26

4th Sunday in Lent
Morning: Pss. 84; 150
Evening: Pss. 42; 32 Jer. 14:1–9 (10–16) 17–22 Gal. 4:21–5:1 Mark 8:11–21

Monday, March 27

Morning: Pss. 119:73–80; 145
Evening: Pss. 121; 6 Jer. 16:(1–9) 10–21 Rom. 7:1–12 John 6:1–15

Tuesday, March 28

Morning: Pss. 34; 146
Evening: Pss. 25; 91 Jer. 17:19–27 Rom. 7:13–25 John 6:16–27

Wednesday, March 29

Morning: Pss. 5; 147:1–11
Evening: Pss. 27; 51 Jer. 18:1–11 Rom. 8:1–11 John 6:27–40

Thursday, March 30

Morning: Pss. 27; 147:12–20
Evening: Pss. 126; 102 Jer. 22:13–23 Rom. 8:12–27 John 6:41–51