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gan all things, and sustains them even now.

Through the very general history of early mankind, amid all of the early stories, with the Flood, the Tower of Babel, and the beginning afresh, we see the ebb and flow of humanity. As man struggles with sin, God intervenes to set things back in place.

If God was about to bless or call someone to a task, he appears benevolent. His call of Abram to begin his people is an example of that. When man has entered into sin, we might come away thinking that he is stern, strict, or exacting. Stories of the Judges, or the accounts of the kings of Israel would demonstrate this.

However, an overarching principle in each story is God taking the initiative to give us a new start. God's love for mankind in general is so strong and deeply rooted in his character that mercy is evident on every page of Scripture.

God's offering of Law is an effort to offer a framework for living that allows for health in relationships between us, and satisfaction within us. We are challenged to live above "simply surviving" and offered an opportunity to fulfill and enrich all who are around us.

The story of Jesus is a highlighted section of Scripture where God says, "Look at me, see me for who I am." Unfortunately, those who held to the rulebook mentality didn't recognize him.

We must do better.

*Grace and Peace,  
Carl*

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## **His Faithfulness Reaches to the Clouds**

**St John Church of Christ**

**March 17, 2019**

How we read material has a great impact on our understanding and application of it. I read history, philosophy and theology mainly. From time to time I may include other genres, but not often. I've noticed over time that when one begins reading a book, if you start with the assumption that you will not agree, you will probably end that way. To a large extent, we find what we are looking for.

This has a great impact on our understanding and application of Scripture. To see the Bible as primarily a book of rules and regulations, makes it about as enjoyable as a shop manual for a piece of equipment. We might know what part fits here, and what connects to what, but while it may be informative, it is devoid of joy.

I've begun to see Scripture as the story of God as he reveals himself to his creation. Sometimes the Scripture is giving us back-story, filling us in and bringing us up to date. The account of the creation in Genesis is like this. While it answers the questions of man about "How did we get here?" (God created you for here) or "What am I doing here?" (You are charged with taking care of all creation), it isn't designed to answer with great detail or fine precision. God is just saying that from when time began, He has been the one who be-

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**SUNDAY:** Leisure Homestead Service—9:30 am  
Bible Study for all ages—10:00 am  
Worship Service—10:45 am  
**WEDNESDAY:** Varies by Time of Year (*refer to Bulletin News*)  
**ELDERS:** Richard Breising, Teddy Gingrich, Terry Sallee,  
George Shelton, Tom Turner  
**DEACONS:** Jerry Kinnamon, Chris Mansel, Orrin Feril  
**TREASURER:** Richard Breising

## WORSHIP ORDER FOR MARCH 17, 2019

SONG LEADER: Richard Breising  
GATHERING SONG: No. 153—Come, Let Us Worship and  
Bow Down  
WELCOME: Tom Turner  
SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 23 (Gary Hornbaker)  
SONGS: No. 451—Assurance Medley  
-No. 452—Standing on the Promises (vs 1, 2)  
-No. 453—Love Lifted Me (vs 1, 2)  
-No. 454—Rock of Ages (vs 1)  
No. 470—Victory in Jesus  
No. 779—I Love You, Lord  
PRAYER: Jerry Kinnamon  
SONG: No. 18—Faithful Love  
COMMUNION: Chris Mansel  
Stan Aldrich  
Ben Sizemore  
Fred Johnson  
MEMORY WORK: Carl Feril (Psalm 108:3-5)  
SONG: No. 578—We Will Glorify  
LESSON: Carl Feril (*Children's Bible Hour*)  
SONG: No. 902—Nothing But the Blood (vs 1)  
PRAYER: Teddy Gingrich

(CCLI #2440129)

## WELCOME VISITORS

We are pleased you have joined us in worship; please come again!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

We rejoice with Jesse and Justeen Mayer on the birth of their son, **Jerimiah Allen**, on Monday at 5:05 pm at Wesley Medical Center. He weighed 6 lbs 10 oz, and was 19" long.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Angel Johnson—March 20  
Mara Feril—March 20

## WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD CONFERENCE

Friday, April 12 (5p-9p); Saturday April 13 (8a-4p)

Registration fee is \$68. There is still time to register!

## SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to Tom and his family in the passing of his mother, **Glennys Sallabedra**, last week. Her memorial service was held in Stafford on Friday.

We also are saddened by the death of 15-year old **Wyatt Henkel**, student at St John High School, who died in an auto accident Wednesday night.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING

We will have a VBS planning session this afternoon after potluck. Please stay and be part of this time—or let Tom know of your ideas and how you might be able to help.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Angel Johnson**—had her tonsils out last Monday; doing well  
**Jerimiah Mayer**—issues with blood sugar and body temp  
**Cole Kinnamon**—recovering from ankle surgery  
**Gayle Byer**—cataract surgery now scheduled to be in April  
**Carol Gingrich**—health concerns  
**Dena Mansel**—health concerns  
**Jill Morphey** (Janet's sister-in-law in Lubbock)—ovarian cancer; on hospice care  
**Becky Arens** (Baylee's aunt) - diagnosed with AML (leukemia)  
**Tom Crawford** (Marilyn's nephew) - kidney failure; heart problem; liver problem  
**Thomas Crawford** (Marilyn's great nephew) - liver failure  
**Alan—Aldrich's neighbor**—health concerns  
**Beth Wilson**—torn meniscus  
**Greg Lewis**—diagnosed with a brain tumor; Stage 4 cancer  
**Caylee Welch**—as she goes through drug rehabilitation  
**Barbara Schuette** (Marla's sister) - improving  
**Rick Toland** (Marla's cousin in Topeka) - cancer  
**Vince, Teddy's brother-in-law**—heart problems  
**Kim Staub**—Parkinson's  
**Katherine Suiter**—cancer  
**Crystal Easley** (Terry/Linda Welch's daughter) - cancer  
**David Ivy** (Marilyn's brother) - Emphysema  
**Jenny Walker** (Carol's sister)  
**Roger Dick**—ongoing cancer treatments  
**Theo Birkett** (Tara's mother)  
**Jim Soukup** (Gingrich's son-in-law [Shari's husband])  
**June Cornwell**—Kenwood Plaza



Church website: [www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org](http://www.stjohnchurchofchrist.org)