



“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” -- John Wesley



This month’s article is number 77 that I have written while serving this Parish. Seventy-seven has a lot of different meanings over history. In World War II 77 was a password at the border of Sweden and Norway because the Swedish pronunciation was so tricky that when spoken natives could tell if the speaker was Swedish, Norwegian or German. In math, if you add up the first 8 prime numbers, the total is 77 (I added them myself to verify).

Some of you reading this may remember the TV drama 77 Sunset Strip. It ran from 1958-1964, covering over 200 episodes. I had to look that up because it began before I was born and I don’t remember ever seeing an episode. Researching further, apparently it is not easy to find any episodes available to watch over TV or other means currently.

In the late 1990’s, I spent time as a part-time dispatcher for police, ambulance and fire in the city I lived in. Part of the job was learning the 10-code which is commonly used. In researching for this article, I learned that the New York City Fire Department uses 10-77 as a call for a high rise multiple swelling fire. 1977 was the year that I graduated from high school. That was also the year that the genre of music known as Punk Rock really became popular.

Of course, I need to turn to look into the number 77 as it pertains to religion. In Jewish tradition, 77 means a double portion of blessings, representing spiritual abundance and divine favor. In religious numerology based on the English alphabet, 77 refers to Jesus. The number appears in Islamic teachings as the number of branches of faith, which include the highest branch of declaring there is no god but Allah and the lowest of removing harm from a road.

In the Bible, Genesis 4:24 is where Lamech declares, “If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, then Lamech seventy-sevenfold”. Ezra 8:35 tells us, Then the exiles who had returned from captivity sacrificed burnt offerings to the God of Israel: twelve bulls for all Israel, ninety-six rams, seventy-seven male lambs and, as a sin offering, twelve male goats. All this was a burnt offering to the Lord. And the most common Scripture is found in Matthew 18:22. Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive a brother. Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”

So as I end article #77, you can see that this number has a lot of meaning to it. Enjoy the month of October and my prayers continue for everyone.

Blessings, Pastor Keith



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**Bonfield Lions Ham Dinner:****Saturday, October 18 at 4-7pm; cost \$15**

At the Bonfield Lions Hall

148 S Stanford Bonfield, IL

All proceeds benefit Lions activities.

Gun raffle tickets also available.

For tickets contact Herb at 815-953-5959 or  
Donna at 815-370-9841.

# Puzzle!

**Who made the following statements in the Bible?**

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"

Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew

2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have  
I give to you."

Peter, James, John, Paul

3. "What is truth?"

Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius

4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but  
as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!"

Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua

5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul

6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a  
Christian?"

Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas

7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from  
following you. For where you go I will go."

Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab

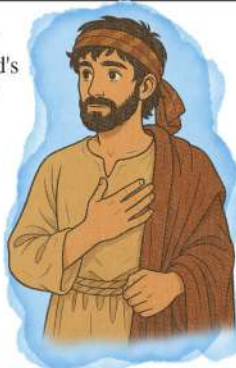
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished  
the race, I have kept the faith."

Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

Answers: 1. Cain (Genesis 4:9); 2. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 3. Pilate (Acts 3:6); 4. Joshua (Joshua 24:15); 5. Peter (Matthew 16:16); 6. Herod Agrippa (Acts 26:28); 7. Ruth (Ruth 1:16); 8. Paul (2 Timothy 4:7)

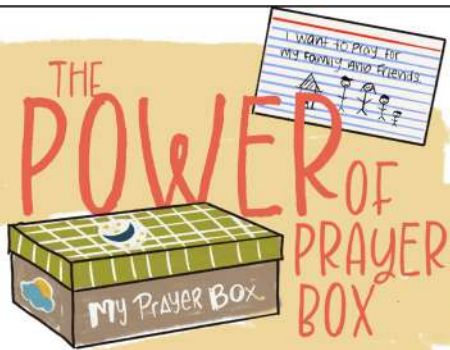
**Movie Events:**Monday, October 13th at  
1pm in the upper room at  
Evan; the movie will be  
"The Shack". for more info  
contact Vickie G.**October Memory Verse**"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and  
harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day  
and night will never cease." Gen 8:22**Bible Quiz**The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who  
ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's  
mercy. Which of the following statements is **true**?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



Answer: A (See Jonah 1:9-15).

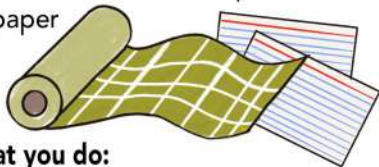




Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

#### What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



#### What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby.  
When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

—Colossians 4:2, NIV



## JESUS TRAVELED TO MANY PLACES

Jesus traveled to many regions, cities, towns and villages to preach the Good News. In the puzzle below, find and circle the names of some of the places. Can you find the names on the list?

Words can go left to right, up, down or diagonal—so look carefully in all directions!

BETHANY	EPHRAIM	MOUNT OF OLIVES
BETHLEHEM	GALILEE	NAZARETH
BETHSAIDA	JERICO	PEREA
CAESAREA PHILIPPI	JERUSALEM	SAMARIA
CANA	JORDAN RIVER	SIDON
CAPERNAUM	JUDEA	TYRE
DECAPOLIS	MAGDALA	WILDERNESS
EGYPT		

B	M	L	E	T	C	U	S	G	O	T	O	B	T	H	E
E	J	O	R	D	A	N	R	I	V	E	R	E	M	N	S
T	U	E	U	E	N	A	R	B	Y	V	I	T	A	L	S
H	D	L	R	N	A	Z	A	R	E	T	H	H	G	A	E
S	E	G	E	I	T	S	S	S	G	Y	O	L	D	I	N
A	A	C	J	A	C	O	N	I	Y	R	P	E	A	R	R
I	D	E	E	A	C	H	F	D	P	E	H	H	L	T	E
D	E	H	R	E	R	E	O	O	T	A	L	E	A	S	D
A	C	O	U	T	H	P	A	N	L	T	I	M	S	W	L
C	A	E	S	A	R	E	A	P	H	I	L	I	P	P	I
H	P	P	A	A	Y	R	I	H	A	V	V	E	C	O	W
M	O	H	L	E	M	E	S	O	H	E	T	E	R	A	V
E	L	R	E	L	E	A	D	T	H	R	O	U	S	G	H
O	I	A	M	U	T	G	R	A	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y
L	S	I	I	L	G	A	L	I	L	E	E	E	E	F	R
O	M	M	C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	M	A	R	K



Pastor Keith invites you to join in praying for the following names and causes.

**From Our Church Bulletin:** Candy Bauer, Mel Brinkman, Jay Buente, Ron Cordes, Benny Cruse, Donna Diefenbach, Virginia Dittus, Herb Foltz, Patterson Friese, Rick Gaffield, Kevin Jordan (Dana VanVoorst's brother), Wendy Low-Metzka (Kim's sister-in-law), Ardis & Allen Messer, Mark Mulder (Kathi Nichols' son), Marilyn Ohrt, Harry & Sharon Pfeiffer, Aimee Simbeck, Stan Stone, & Marion Wenzelman.

#### Arden Courts

Mel Brinkman

#### Villas at Herscher

Ralph Grob  
Randy Riegel

#### At College

Gretchen Brinkman  
Isabell Lowey  
Kamden Lockwood

#### Compassion International Kids

Ebenezer Forson.....Ghana  
Melany Samantha.....Aguilera  
Sonaton Soren.....Bangladesh  
Janny Boya.....Ecuador  
Witney Juarez.....Guatemala  
Lucky Hubiagbe.....Ghana

Do you or your family sponsor a compassion international kid? If so, please contact the office at 815-802-9805 or bonfieldgp@gmail.com.



**Providence and Pastries:** After starting a new diet, I altered my drive to work to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning and there in the window was a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, "Lord, it is up to you. If you want me to have any of those delicious baked goods, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery."

And sure enough, God answered my prayer! On the eighth time round the block, there it was!



+Christian Symbol+

#### **VERBUM DOMINI MANET IN AETERNUM —**

Latin for "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever," this motto of the Lutheran branch of the Protestant Reformation comes from 1 Peter 1:25. Frederick the Wise, ruler of Saxony and one of Martin Luther's earliest and most influential supporters, had the VDMA symbol sewn into the right sleeve of the official garments worn at his court. The symbol also appeared on banners, flags, swords, and uniforms, representing the unity of the Lutheran laity in standing firm in their faith. God's presence echoed through time.



#### AUGUST 2025 ATTENDANCE

	8/3	8/10	8/17	8/24	8/31
Evangelical	41	park	37	34	42
Grand Prairie	19	park	16	24	20
Total	60	50	53	58	62





United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith of the Parish

Purpose of the United Women in Faith -The organized unit of United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in global ministries of the church.

### Sunshine Circle -

2025 Hostesses are: October 16 - Donna, November 20 -Ardis, December - Progressive Dinner

### Martha Circle -

2025 meetings: November 12, & December 10

**From Knowing to Becoming:** Get to know Jesus well because the more you know him, the more you'll love him. And the more you love him, the more you'll want to follow him. And the more you follow him, the more you'll become like him. And the more you become like him, the more you become yourself. —Ned Erickson



**The Best Gift for Your Pastor:** October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



**Holy Interruptions:** Most of us are pretty good at planning—schedules, to-do lists, calendars filled to the brim. But what happens when God steps in with an unexpected detour?

Throughout Scripture, God often moved in the interruptions. Moses was tending sheep when he saw a burning bush. Mary was simply living her life when an angel appeared. Even Jesus was frequently “interrupted” by people seeking healing or hope—and He never turned them away.

"Interruptible faith" is a posture of openness. It's saying, "Lord, here's my plan—but I trust Yours more." It means slowing down, paying attention, and being willing to let God rearrange our day for His greater purpose.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) reminds us, *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* May we have the courage to let Him.



**The Surpassing Grace:** The word “surpass” means to exceed, to go beyond, to transcend the reach or capacity of. In his second letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul refers to “the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:14, NRSV). Paul was reminding the Corinthians of the amazing, abundant grace God had showered upon them.

When Paul wrote that letter, the church in Jerusalem was suffering intense persecution. The members were poor and struggling to be faithful under dire circumstances.

Paul knew the church at Corinth was doing fine financially and that they had a mind to help out the Jerusalem church. He wrote: “You glorify God ... by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they ... pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you” (2 Corinthians 9:13-14, NRSV).

Consider how you can share God’s surpassing grace with others in need.

### **The Sounds of Worship**

Have you ever paused to listen — really listen — to the world around you?

*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”*  
(Psalm 98:4, ESV)

The hum of morning birdsong. The laughter of children. The comforting voice of a friend. Even the quiet moments of stillness. These aren’t just background noise — they’re invitations to worship. God designed a world that sings. Worship isn’t limited to Sunday mornings or formal songs; it’s woven into the everyday moments that tune our hearts to Him. And when we pause to truly hear it, we are drawn into praise, right where we are.

What sound lifts your heart toward God today? Take a moment to listen. Let it remind you of His love and nearness.

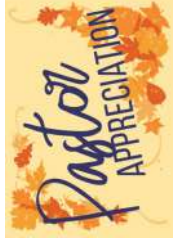


October 1 Marilyn Pfeiffer, Amanda Hansen, John Filiatraut  
October 2 Nicholas Meyer, Larry Meyer, Sharon Meyer  
October 4 Dorinda Davis, Glenden Lehnus, Ryan Overacker  
October 5 Nathan Brinkman, Gary Brunner, Marissa Duffield  
October 6 Kathryn Lade, Ronald R. Metzka, Michael Dahn  
October 7 Brian Lade, Linda Schneider, Adam Overacker, Kevin Kingsland, Bri Ann Danielson  
October 9 Jacob Vaughn, Gene Rink, Jodi Wildman, Nancy Filiatraut  
October 10 Bonnie Buckley, Kelly Holohan  
October 11 Brian Lockwood, Franklin Young, Brenda Grob  
October 12 Tony Ferguson, Dawn Fritz  
October 13 Susan Duchene  
October 14 Billy Bauer  
October 15 Andrew Moore, Megan Reilly, Sherry Meyer, Kristy VanDoren, John Chip Moore,  
Miranda Paetsch  
October 16 Bernie Weber  
October 17 Troy Coffman, Scott Voigt, Jeffrey Williamson  
October 18 Lana Schwark, Ellen Meyer, Elizabeth Diefenbach, Debi Voigt  
October 19 Shannon Robbins, Garrett Ivan Brunner, Griffin David Brunner, Rowena Raymond  
October 20 Gary Dahn  
October 22 Judy Bolatto, Richard Cochran  
October 23 Lorie Hansen, Ardis Messer  
October 24 Adam Moore, Travis Peters, Don Howard, Linda Scholl  
October 25 William Ohrt, Dana Schwark  
October 26 Sam Kenley, Austin Hawks, Skylar Simbeck  
October 27 Gale Lehnus, Gerald Meyer  
October 28 April Dorsey-Tyler, Andrew Meyer  
October 30 Donna Brunner, Aaron Jensen  
October 31 Sally Evans, Mathew Brinkman, Carol Higginbotham

Please notify the church office of any names and birthdays which need to be added, removed or corrected, 815-802-9805.



# OCTOBER 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5 - World Communion Sunday	6 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	7 - Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30am	8	9	10	11
12	13 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am - Columbus Day - Movie at Evan	14	15	16 - Sunshine Circle	17	18 - Bonfield Lions Ham Dinner 4-7pm
19 - Laity Sunday	20 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	21	22	23	24	25
26 - Reformation Sunday	27 - Journey Prayer Group at Evan at 10am	28 - Newsletter Article Deadline at 8am	29	30	31 - Happy Halloween	



**Quotes You'll Want to Share:** "Truth is mightier than eloquence; the spirit stronger than genius; faith greater than learning." —Martin Luther

"It is easy to be independent when you've got money. But to be independent when you haven't got a thing, that's the Lord's test." —Mahalia Jackson

"We see the presence of divine power shining as much in the continuing state of the universe as in its inception." —John Calvin

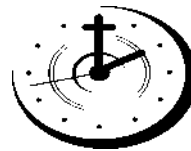
"Help me today, Father, to submit my agenda to your perfect planning." —John Sherrill

"... It is in our life and conduct that we must show our devotion to Christ." —Woodrow Wilson

"The Bible is not only a book which I can understand; it is also a book which understands me." —Emile Caillet



We are a Parish of  
2 United Methodist churches:  
Bonfield Evangelical (Evan) UMC  
& Grand Prairie UMC. Our minister  
is Keith Blankenship. It is our goal  
to share God's love with the world  
through our words and actions! We welcome you  
to visit us for Sunday service that works best for  
you and/or your family at the times listed.



## Time For Church

### Grand Prairie

At 12408 W Rt.17 Bonfield, IL  
8:30 am Sunday Worship Services  
9:45am Sunday School

### Bonfield Evangelical

At 348 Smith St. Bonfield, IL  
10:00 am Sunday Worship Service  
8:30am Sunday School



Pastor Keith Blankenship's Information

Email: imredeemed59@gmail.com

Cell: (309) 830-0875

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11AM - 3PM  
& evenings upon request

Mailing Address: 225 Country Lane  
Bonfield, IL 60913

### Fellowship Breakfast

We are changing our monthly breakfast gathering to the FAMILY HOUSE on Kennedy Dr. in Bradley, IHOP is closing. It will remain on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:30am.

Hope to see you on Tuesday, October 7.  
The group orders from the regular menu and pays for their own meals.



Facebook -  
bonfieldgpparish

Website -  
bonfieldgrandprairie.org

Check out the  
newsletter on our website at  
www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org and click on the  
newsletter tab at the top.

Parish Office Information  
Hope Raymond, Secretary  
348 E. Smith St., PO Box 66 Bonfield, IL 60913  
Phone: (815) 802-9805 or (815) 671-5590  
Email: bonfieldgp@gmail.com  
Website: www.bonfieldgrandprairie.org  
Hours: In office- Thursday 8:30-10am  
Work from home- Tuesday 8am-2pm &  
Thursday 12-2:30pm  
Bulletin submission deadline is Thursday 8am.

**Just show up!**

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you’ve been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I’m not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It’s a waste of time.
- It’s too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

“A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world,” Freeman writes.

**The Beauty of Stewardship:** Stewardship has to do with how we manage our time, talent, resources — basically our entire lives. It’s a beautiful concept when properly understood. Here are the basics of good stewardship:

God is the source of all creation, including our lives. God is the primary owner of all that exists.

We are blessed by being given the task of managing well all that we have influence over: our lives, our abilities, our minds and bodies, our time, our part of the earth, our finances, our children, our church buildings, our automobiles, etc.

Although we can make decisions regarding each of the above, ultimately we are responsible to God. Sooner or later, we must give an account of our management of God’s creation and of God’s gifts.

When we properly use the talents, resources and property that God allows us to manage, we find great joy. Think of planting a garden which soon overflows with colorful flowers, wonderful vegetables and flavorful herbs, etc. God gave us the plot of ground, God gave us the seed, God gave us the wisdom and strength to bring forth such beauty, such good things to see or eat, or smell. Yet we did the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam we tilled it and kept it. But God gave the increase. God’s provisions and our labor brought the garden to its fulfillment.

Good stewardship enables us to do something positive and wonderful with the money God has allowed us to have. What feels better than knowing one has managed money well? Our bank account, our checkbook and our portfolio tell the story. When money is handled well, we have enough for ourselves and are still able to give to God’s work.

That is the beauty of stewardship.

