

Father, I pray You would comfort this recent widow and give her strength to go on living. Wherever we travel, Lord, protect us from evil men—men who devise evil plans in their hearts to stir up war.

Micah 3:9—4:5; Psalm 142; Acts 24:24—25:12; Luke 8:1-15

**Birthdays:** Frank Brisebois, Anthony McDonough, Mark Arnold, Bella Larkan

**Anniversary:** Timothy & Maureen Cotter

**Friday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:00 a.m. A Way Out  
9:30 a.m. Life Group  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study  
8:00 p.m. Friday Night Young Peoples' AA

**Today's Ministry:** Lay Readers

**Saturday, October 13**

Acts 25:13-27 *"For it seems to me silly to send a prisoner all that way for a trial and not be able to document what he did wrong."* (v.27 The Message)

Paul goes wherever the Holy Spirit leads him, including places where he isn't well received. He teaches, he prays, he works, and he tithes. Yet, he is controversial. In Caesarea he is jailed, the Jews and high priests demanding his execution. Festus, governor of Caesarea, and King Agrippa are confused. They can't figure out what Paul did to deserve a trial and punishment. They find no charges against him to be valid. They don't know what to do with him. They are intrigued by Paul and want to know more.

I think the world is confused by Christians at times and doesn't know what to do with them. I am talking about believers who radiate peace and kindness and stand up for what they believe, but aren't loud or judgmental toward others about their faith. It's not just charisma. It is something deeper than that. The world finds these people intriguing because the world wants to know what they have that is different. I believe that is the Holy Spirit working through believers, drawing others to him. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to reach out to others through you?

Micah 5:1-4, 10-15; Psalms 137, 144; Luke 8:16-25

**Birthdays:** Worth Helms

**Anniversaries:** Shawn & Vicky Wyder, Joe & Abi Noyes

**Saturday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
9:30 a.m. AA Step Study for Women  
5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Today's Ministry:** Life Groups

By *Mara McClain*

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**"Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with love"**

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St. Mary's  
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*Growing into Jesus - Reaching out with Love*

**Good News Daily**

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**Sunday, October 7**

1 Corinthians 2:6-16 *However, as it is written: "No eye had seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him."* (v.9 NIV)

I was talking with a friend who is having severe marital struggles. There is a lot of emotional pain and the idea of hanging on to work on the marriage is almost daunting. Being apart doesn't hurt as much as being together. Yes, they are seeking counseling.

Ultimately issues in our relationships with people reflect our relationship with God. The emotional struggles these two precious people have stem from hurts that only God can heal. And I believe He can heal them.

Throughout our conversation, the above verse kept running through my head, so I shared the words the Holy Spirit gave me. Don't make any big moves but wait on the Lord and submit to Him. I know you don't have the strength or courage or resolve right now. You are in pain and the idea of more pain is overwhelming. So, by the Lords' strength do the hard work, and let Him heal both of you. You can't imagine the plans God has for your marriage if you trust Him.

Hosea 13:4-14; Psalm 118; Matthew 14:1-12

**Birthday:** Jane Copley

**Sunday's Calendar**

TRUE FUND SUNDAY  
7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Family Worship Service  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Coffee Hour - Smith Hall after 10:30 A.M. Service

**Today's Ministry:** Facilities Committee

**Monday, October 8**

Luke 6:39-49 *"But the one who has heard, and not acted accordingly, is like a man who built a house on the ground without any foundation; and the torrent burst against it and immediately it collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."* (v.49 NASB)

In the last couple of weeks (as I am writing this), the Americas have experienced 3 hurricanes and 2 earthquakes. The destruction has

been unimaginable—homes leveled, lives taken, epic flooding, and so much despair. Furthermore, in some places power may not be restored for months and rescue workers can't get to these areas to distribute badly needed supplies like food and medicine. The wake of the destruction is great. My heart breaks for those people who have lost everything and there isn't a way forward yet.

This Scripture (while in no way referring to those suffering as a result of the natural disasters) is a powerful visualization about building your life and relationships on a solid foundation with the Lord. I've seen the natural disasters of life attack many people and those who have the strong deep foundation of their faith survive them. How is your flood insurance?

Hosea 14:1-9; Psalm 106:1-18; Acts 22:30—23:11

**Birthdays:** Paul Krauss, Marie Sheffler

**Monday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 10:00 a.m. Apples to Apples Group  
 5:30 p.m. Stephen Ministry Supervision  
 5:30 p.m. ACA Families

**Today's Ministry:** Finance Committee

**Tuesday, October 9**

Psalm 122 *I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."* (v.1)

I like going to church. I feel at peace there and it's one of the places the Lord speaks to me. Also, the group worship can be so powerful. If I have missed a week, I start to thirst for it.

My teenagers don't always feel the same. It's not necessarily for a particular reason. They would just rather do other things like sleep. I am sure there are those reading this who can relate. I am aware of the argument that it's my house and my children need to adhere to my rules. I don't like the idea that going to church is a rule though.

This arose recently on a Sunday morning, and we did attend church as family. My prayer that day was that my son would feel God's love for him while he was there. I want my children to not feel that church is something they have to do. I want them to feel connected to the Lord there. I want them to worship and learn there. I want them to eventually thirst for it.

Micah 1:1-9; Psalms 120, 121, 123; Acts 23:12-24; Luke 7:1-17

**Birthdays:** Judie Wolfe, Bill Tischbin, Carrie Hopkins-Stone

**Anniversaries:** Norman & Marilyn Beebe, Joe & Ashley Ciliberti

**Tuesday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study  
 11:00 a.m. DOK Training  
 12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing  
 2:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting  
 12:30 p.m. Life Group  
 6:00 p.m. Overeaters' Anonymous

**Today's Ministry:** Flower Guild

**Wednesday, October 10**

Psalm 119:145-176 *Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; Deliver me according to Your word.* (vv.169-170)

Mary was a prayer warrior for whom I will be forever grateful. When our lives intercepted, she worked as my father's assistant.

My dad's life sort of imploded as he made a series of poor decisions that tore my family to shreds and whittled the business down to almost nothing. For a decade he fought to prove he was justified in his actions instead of seeking forgiveness and reconciliation. His decisions led to many trusted employees leaving and business to fall away.

As a sister in Christ I asked her how she handled this spiritual warfare she was in the middle of. She knew she was supposed to be there. Her job was to pray; to storm the throne of God on behalf of my father and our family. She said when meetings would occur that she knew would cause more chaos and strife, she would sit at her desk and pray for the Lord to prevail over evil. I can just picture it.

She did know that her prayers were answered. God is in control. Healing has occurred between family members that I never thought would happen and we are still open for business.

Micah 2:1-13; Acts 23:23-35; Luke 7:18-35

**Birthday:** Steve Dutcher

**Anniversary:** Craig & Anne Franzen

**Wednesday's Calendar**

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
 7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 2:00 p.m. Mary's Book Group  
 4:45 p.m. Mary's Kitchen  
 5:30 p.m. AA "Daily Reflections"  
 6:00 p.m. Life Groups  
 6:30 p.m. Alpha dinner and course

**Today's Ministry:** Heritage Society

**Thursday, October 11**

Acts 24:1-23 *Felix shilly-shallied. He knew far more about the Way than he let on, and could have settled this case then and there. But, uncertain of his best move politically, he played for time. "When Captain Lysias comes down, I'll decide your case."* (v.22 The Message)

Felix knew more about Paul's case and Christianity than he revealed. He spent time in Paul's presence. Having Paul close by in prison afforded Felix access to Paul whenever he wanted. Felix didn't have to outwardly support him by being seen in public listening to him. Inwardly, he may have thought Paul innocent of any crime, but Felix didn't want to just let him go for fear that it might negatively affect his political career. So he chose to do nothing and keep Paul serving sort of a "white collar criminal sentence" by allowing lots of visitors and freedom to roam.

The breakdown is Felix chose his political career over his relationship with God. Or maybe he didn't have a belief in God because he knew it would be detrimental to climbing the corporate ladder. It's something to ponder. Have we ever put aside our beliefs to get ahead in our careers? It doesn't have to be a big issue like Felix had. It could be small, like not standing up when we disagree with something or not loving others as God commanded.

Micah 3:1-8; Psalms 131, 132, 133; Luke 7:36-50

**Birthdays:** Linda Kraus, Sally Lightbody, Devin Weidman, Hannah Wilcox

**Thursday's Calendar**

7:00 a.m. AA "Hour of Power"  
 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
 5:30 p.m. ACA Men's Group  
 6:30 p.m. Choir  
 7:00 p.m. AI-Anon "Stepping Stones"

**Today's Ministry:** Hospital Visitors

**Friday, October 12**

Psalm 140 *Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent, who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day.* (vv.1-2 NIV)

The terrorist attack on Las Ramblas, a tourist street in Barcelona, Spain recently occurred. A van sped down the middle of the pedestrian street with the purpose of killing many. Mission accomplished. An American couple was there on a vacation. Just before the incident, they had separated so he could go find a restroom. She stayed put waiting for him to return. He didn't return. And now life will never be the same for the wife. In a few seconds, life is forever changed by evil men devising violent plans.

Everything about that day and all these random attacks is heartbreaking and invokes deep fear, but this story really got to me. My husband and I have strolled Las Ramblas, enjoyed the sights of the bustling city, and stopped at the cafés. It could easily have been us doing the same thing that day.