



1Thessalonians 5:13-15 Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Lutheran Church

11015 County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441

Pastor Ryan Kandoll

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October 2025

From the Pastor's Office

The question came from someone close to me:

"Why is God allowing me

to go through such terrible pain and suffering every day? It feels like He doesn't love me because He hasn't answered my prayers."

This is a common feeling for anyone who deals with chronic pain. In the midst of intense suffering, some people wonder if God has abandoned them, saying they can no longer feel His presence. Yet Jesus Himself promised: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5). But where is He when we don't feel His presence?

Sometimes people also wonder if their suffering is punishment for something they did, or if they somehow don't deserve what has happened. The truth is, all of us deserve far more pain and suffering because of our sin. But is God punishing you? No.

Christ died for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:2). Any wrath or punishment we deserved, our Lord Jesus has taken for us. As Isaiah prophesied:

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every

one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:4–6, ESV)

Even Jesus Himself felt abandoned in His darkest hour, crying out: *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Mark 15:34, ESV; cf. Psalm 22:1). But even then, God's will was not thwarted. In the midst of Christ's suffering, God was accomplishing His greatest work of salvation through the cross. When you endure suffering, you can remember that your King suffered even more greatly — and He did so out of love for you.

After His suffering, Christ rose and ascended into heaven. He now reigns in joy, and His greatest joy is yet to come — when He returns as Judge, raises the dead, casts all evil into the lake of fire, and takes His Bride, the Church, to be with Him forever. Compared with eternity, our suffering is only for a moment. Even if it stretches for decades, the life to come — in a resurrected body with no pain, no tears, and no sin — will far outweigh the suffering of this life (Romans 8:18).

So when Satan tells you that God has abandoned you or that He doesn't love you because of your suffering, you can confidently answer: *"In my suffering I am following my king who also suffered. He also felt abandoned by God. He endured all the wrath and punishment that I deserve to save me and to heal me if not in this life than at resurrection. I will trust him still."*

(continued on pg. 3)

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org Church email: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org
Prayer Chain: plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

October at PLC

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sundays:

5, 12, 19, 26 9:15am Sunday School for all ages
10:30am Worship service with Communion

11:45am Coffee Fellowship

19 Pastor Appreciation Sunday

Tuesdays:

14 6:00pm Mission Committee meeting
6:30pm Board of Trustees meeting

Wednesdays:

1 9:00am Men's breakfast @ Perkins Hwy 55 & 494
9:30am Ladies Bible Studies
6:00pm Evening Bible Study
8, 15, 22, 29 9:30am Men's & Ladies Bible Studies
6:00pm Evening Bible Study

Fridays:

3 Ladies Retreat Weekend @ LRC

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Celebrate Our Congregation

October Birthdays:

Rachel	Olson	10/7
Trevor	Olson	10/10
Andrew	Walters	10/11
Marilyn	Dahlmeier	10/13
Jan	Pelto	10/13
Tim	Jukuri	10/20
Alex	Walters	10/21
Brian	Lunn	10/23
Katrina	Vahakangas	10/28

October Anniversaries:

Neil & Deb 10/23

Mark your Calendar

Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, November 8th

Church Clean-up from 9am-12pm

This is an opportunity to help maintain the beauty and value of our church building and grounds. Please bring your work gloves and a can-do attitude. See Noel Walters with questions.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Shoebox Sunday is November 16th

It's time to start preparing to fill Shoe Boxes for the

Operation Christmas Child collection is in November. Please watch for free boxes in the church narthex that will be available for you again this year.

(cont. from pg. 1)

You can trust that God has your best interest in mind. Whatever trial, you endure can be used to strengthen you for his purposes. It may even be that your suffering is being used by God for your good and for Christ's glory as Paul himself testifies:

"A thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, 'My

grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Corinthians 12:7–10, ESV)

God's Peace, Pr. Ryan Kandoll

Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6pm

We are currently studying 1st Timothy. Everyone welcome!

On November 19th we will start a new topic –

"Life Together-The Classic Exploration of Christian Community" – by Bonhoeffer



When an 11-year-old girl in the western African country of Ghana learned about Jesus through Samaritan's Purse programs Operation Christmas Child and *The Greatest Journey*, she decided to follow Him as Savior and boldly share her faith. The girl's name is Epiphani.

"Through the program, I now know who Jesus Christ is," said Epiphani about *The Greatest Journey* follow-up evangelism and discipleship program for shoebox recipients. "The classes changed my life. I put my trust in Jesus."

Shining the light of Jesus Christ in her community led Epiphani to notice a boy picking through trash for metal scraps to sell for food. She gave him the Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift she had received—filled with items such as pencils, books, and a pair of blue sandals. She had loved the gift but decided that the boy named Daniel needed the treasures more. He wears the sandals nearly every day.

Daniel was so intrigued by Epiphani's thoughtfulness, as well as her excitement and love for Jesus, that he accepted her invitation to attend church and began studying the Bible. Before long, Daniel gave his life to Christ. He plays drums during the church's worship services.

After Daniel told his mother about Jesus, she also accepted Jesus as Savior and became part of the church. Praise God for how He is shining His light into families, beginning with boys and girls who are making disciples by sharing the gift of Jesus Christ.



Scan to hear
Epiphani's
testimony.

WHAT WILL I PACK?



Gift-filled Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes are delivered together with **the Good News of Jesus Christ** as expressions of God's immense love for a child. **So, be sure to make them ...**

FUN: Include a quality "wow" item to delight the child, such as ...

- Soccer ball with pump
- Doll
- Stuffed animal

FULL: To fill empty spaces, add school supplies and personal care items, such as ...

- Pens, pencils, crayons, and notebooks
- Sunglasses
- Flashlights

PERSONALIZED: Make sure every shoebox is unique and covered in prayer.

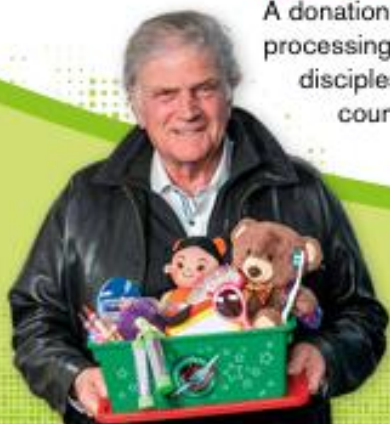
Include a note of encouragement and photo of you, your family, church, or group to further personalize the gift. These personal letters often are children's favorite shoebox items!

Wondering
if certain items
are OK to pack?
**See our gift
suggestions and
search tool:**



WHERE WILL IT GO?

A donation of \$10 per shoebox is critical to help cover collecting, processing, and shipping gifts to equip local churches for evangelism and discipleship. Give online through Follow Your Box and discover the country destination of your gift through our Look-up Tool.



**"Shoebox gifts are like
snowflakes—no two are alike!"**

—Franklin Graham, President, Samaritan's Purse

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.

 **Samaritan's Purse®**
Helping in Jesus' Name®

Operation Christmas Child® is a project of Samaritan's Purse®.
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DB-05-217



Operation Christmas Child The Power of a Simple Gift

Churches in more than 100 countries distribute gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls during outreach events that focus on Jesus Christ, God's Greatest Gift.

232 = 232
MILLION MILLION

shoebox gifts
delivered since 1993.

Gospel
opportunities.

11.9 MILLION

shoebox gifts collected in 2024.

134,000+

outreach events led by trained local church leaders.



The Greatest Gift
Gospel story booklet
accompanies
shoebox gifts.

Available in
118
LANGUAGES
with 10 additional
translations in progress.

More than
100 COUNTRIES

receive shoebox gifts for boys and girls.

11
NATIONS

collected shoeboxes in 2024:
Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland,
Germany, New Zealand,
South Korea, Spain, Switzerland,
United Kingdom, United States.



"Let the little children come to Me,
and do not forbid them; for of such
is the kingdom of God."

—Luke 18:16



"It's the first present that I have
ever received. I'm so excited; tears
started to come down with joy in my
heart. I began feeling care and love."

—Lim, 12, accepted Christ as Savior



The Greatest Journey Making Disciples

The Greatest Journey, the discipleship program for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift recipients, teaches boys and girls about following Jesus Christ and telling others about Him.

12
**SCRIPTURE
LESSONS**

in each student workbook:
6 on coming to know Christ;
3 on growing in faith;
3 on sharing the Gospel.

46 MILLION+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

2.2 MILLION+

trained volunteer teaching positions filled from
local churches worldwide.

23.5 MILLION+

children reported decisions for Christ since 2009.

**"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations."**

—Matthew 28:19



**"I started to pray and I asked God
to help me follow in His footsteps.
I love sharing the Bible. I tell my
friends to seek God."**

—Ivanna, 12, decided to follow Christ



Girl Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack or purse
- Doll
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Jewelry making or hobby kit
- Large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Costume jewelry
- Hair accessories
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Finger puppets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
- Food, candy, or gum
- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
- Scary or war-related items
- Wearable traditional camouflage
- Seeds or organic matter
- Liquids
- Medication
- Money
- Breakable items
- Matches, fire starters, or aerosols
- Knives, saws, or razor blades

Wondering if an item will fit in an Operation Christmas Child preprinted shoebox?

Cardboard dimensions: 12 x 7 x 4.38 inches
Plastic dimensions: 13 x 7.5 x 4.7 inches

For more shoebox packing suggestions, the latest resources, and Follow Your Box labels, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ

VIEW SOLICITATION DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE ONLINE AT SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/DISCLOSURE.



Boy Shoebox Gift Suggestions

A gift-filled shoebox can be the first present a child ever receives, so it is important to uniquely pack each gift and make it **FUN, FULL, and PERSONALIZED**—praying for the child and adding a photo and personal note.

A "WOW" ITEM

- Small backpack
- Soccer ball and pump
- Stuffed animal
- Hobby kit
- Large toy truck or car
- Other large toy



PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- Toothbrush
- Washcloth
- Comb and brush
- Nail clipper and file
- Water bottle
- Flashlight



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

- Pencils, sharpener, and erasers
- Pencil container
- Pens
- Crayons
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Notebooks
- Index cards
- Calculator
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Glue stick
- Small adhesive tape
- Drawstring bag



CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES

- Flip-flops or shoes
- Sunglasses
- Hat
- Wristwatch
- Clothing and undergarments
- Winter cap, scarf, and mittens



GAMES & ACTIVITIES

- Puzzles
- Coloring books or pads
- Dry watercolor set
- Binoculars and compass
- Musical instruments
- Chalkboard and chalk
- Jump rope
- Stickers
- Games



TOYS

- Small ball
- Building blocks or LEGO® sets
- Slinky® or yo-yo
- Toy cars
- Plastic animals
- Magnets
- Interactive toys
- Other small toys and figures



DO NOT INCLUDE

- Soap
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- Toothpaste
- Used or damaged items
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