



**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**

**Pastor Ryan Kandoll**

**May 2025**

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### ***From the Pastor's Office***

#### **Cremation Versus Burial**

Someone recently asked me for advice on this subject. It's the perfect follow-up to last month's article on the resurrection. If you haven't read that yet, please read it first.

It's good that people think about their death—it will happen to all of us until our Lord Jesus returns. None of us are guaranteed tomorrow. That's why King Solomon advised us to spend more time at funerals than at parties or celebrations: *"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting"* (Ecclesiastes 7:2). Some people even plan their own funerals, down to the music, Scripture readings, and sermon text. It's a healthy perspective to keep our end in mind.

The Bible does not say much directly about cremation. We know that the Jewish people typically buried their dead. For example, Abraham buried Sarah (Genesis 23:19), Jacob was buried in the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 50:13), and even Jesus was buried in a tomb (Luke 23:53). This tradition was rooted in their hope in the resurrection of the dead.

There is only one place in the Old Testament that vaguely describes cremation: in 1 Samuel 31:11–13. After Saul and Jonathan were killed in battle, the men of Jabesh-gilead recovered their bodies. Because they were likely badly mutilated, they

burned them, gathered their bones, and buried them under a tamarisk tree at Jabesh.

When considering what to do with a person's remains, the most important question is what honors God. God created our bodies—He gave us gendered, physical bodies—and we should honor Him in how we treat them now and at the time of death.

What we do in our actions shows and reinforces what we believe. Do we truly believe in the resurrection, as the Bible teaches us to? Then we should handle the human body in a way that reflects our faith and hope.

Early in church history, when Christians encountered cultures that practiced cremation, they often taught against it—not because of the act itself, but because in those pagan cultures, cremation was believed to send the soul to the afterlife. As I mentioned in last month's article, the separation of soul and body is unnatural and temporary. Our ultimate hope is the resurrection—being raised bodily from the dead.

Today, cremation in the West is usually not tied to pagan practices. It's generally chosen for practical reasons: cost, simplicity, or convenience. So, can cremation be done in a way that honors God and reflects our hope in the resurrection? I, along with many other pastors, say yes—absolutely.

(continued on page 3)

Church website: [www.plymouthapostolic.org](http://www.plymouthapostolic.org) Church email: [secretary@plymouthapostolic.org](mailto:secretary@plymouthapostolic.org)

Prayer Chain: [plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com](mailto:plcprayerchain2021@gmail.com) If you would like to receive this by email, please send a message to [secretary@plymouthapostolic.org](mailto:secretary@plymouthapostolic.org)

## May at PLC

MAY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

### Sundays:

- 4, 11, 18**     **9:15am** Sunday School for Everyone  
**10:30am** Worship service with Communion  
**11:30am** Coffee Fellowship
- 18**     **11:45am** **Semi-annual meeting**
- 25**     **10:30am** Worship service with Communion  
**11:30am** Coffee Fellowship

### Tuesdays:

- 13**     **6:00pm** Mission Committee meeting  
**6:30pm** Board of Trustees meeting

### Wednesdays:

- 7**     **9:00am** Men's breakfast @ Perkins Hwy 55 & 494  
**6:00pm** Evening Bible Study
- 14, 21, 28**     **9:30am** Men's and Ladies Bible Studies @ the church  
**6:00pm** Evening Bible Study

### Saturdays:

- 10**     **9:00am** Church Work Day

## Church Family Picnic June 1, 2025

## LBF Bible Camp @ Lahti Retreat Center July 23-27, 2025

**VBS 2025**  
**Aug 4-8**  
**9:00am – 11:30am**

## Celebrate Our Congregation

### May Birthdays:

Caedmon	Lunn	5/9
Bev	Aho	5/12
Ellie	Puumala	5/13
Leeanna	Lunn	5/14
Karen	Rokala	5/15
Elaine	Bergstedt	5/16
Sara	Serazzi	5/18
Mary Kay	Myrmel	5/21
William	Kandoll	5/21
Josiah	Kandoll	5/21
Earl	Rokala	5/23

### May Anniversaries:

Addison & Alisha	5/27
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## Save The Date



**Mark Your Calendar – Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

### 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.

**\*Semi-Annual Meeting is Scheduled for Sunday, May 18th following the service.**

(Continued from Pg 1)

Let's think about cremation. What is it? The Lord God made the first man, Adam, from the dust of the ground and breathed into him the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). We are made from dirt. Cremation is simply a faster way of returning the body to the earth.

**Can our Lord resurrect a cremated body?** Of course! Every human body eventually decays and returns to dust. Even bones, if not preserved, will break down over time.

Revelation 20:13 tells us that *"the sea gave up the dead who were in it."* It's a little gruesome to think about, but a person buried at sea might be scattered across the globe—eaten by fish, swept away by tides, dissolved into the ocean floor—yet our Lord will still resurrect them.

How? It's a mystery. But He is God, and nothing is beyond His power. People who die in fires, explosions, shipwrecks, or are eaten by animals will all be resurrected. The same is true for the person who has been cremated.

So what honors God? The Christian treats the body with reverence, keeps it whole as much as possible, and buries it so that it is protected—thus handling the body in a way that expresses firm confidence in the resurrection.

What about being an organ donor? What about donating a whole human body to science? Do these practices honor God? These acts of charity have historically been considered God-honoring. A person receiving an organ transplant has an opportunity to thank God for the life that has been given to them. A person in medical school learning to operate on cadavers can do so while treating the human body with respect and reverence for God and His cherished creation, especially by keeping all of its parts together and organized until it is ready for cremation and/or burial.

**Would I be cremated?** Personally, I think I'd prefer to be buried, but I will not be disappointed if my family chooses cremation. However, I do not want my ashes or remains kept in lockets or other trinkets to be carried around or Have my body separated in any way as part of its internment. I want all of my remains that remain to be kept safe and buried in one place as much as possible. But even if, after my death, someone were to scatter my ashes in some pagan ritual, my Lord is still able to resurrect me.

God forbid that my family never does such a thing. Instead, I hope that, out of fear, love, and trust in our Lord, they will choose to bury my remains together in one place and will look forward with confidence to the resurrection of all humanity—when we will meet our Lord and Savior in the air: *"The dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"* (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).

God's Peace,  
Pr. Ryan Kandoll

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## New Members and A Baptism on Palm Sunday April 13, 2025



Please Welcome our new Members of PLC.

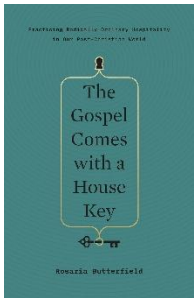


Above: Marcos,  
Marshall, Lorrie &  
Michael

Left: Allison &  
Marcos with  
Esmé.

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## New Wednesday Evening Bible Study @ 6:00pm



*"The Gospel Comes with a House Key" by Rosaria Butterfield.*

**"Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World"**

**Winner of the 2019 *Christianity Today* Book Award in the Christian Living & Discipleship Category**

"This book is going to shake us all up in the most wonderfully destabilizing way." —Ray Ortlund, Lead Pastor, Immanuel Church, Nashville, Tennessee

What did God use to draw a radical, committed unbeliever to himself? Did God take her to an evangelistic rally? Or, since she had her doctorate in literature, did he use something in print? No, God used an invitation to dinner in a modest home, from a humble couple who lived out the gospel daily, simply, and authentically.

With this story of her conversion as a backdrop, Rosaria Butterfield invites us into her home to show us how God can use this same "radical, ordinary hospitality" to bring the gospel to our lost friends and neighbors. Such hospitality sees our homes as not our own, but as God's tools for the furtherance of his kingdom as we welcome those who look, think, believe, and act differently from us into our everyday, sometimes messy lives—helping them see what true Christian faith really looks like.

### **Church Family Picnic Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>**

**at French Regional Park  
12605 Rockford Rd, Plymouth MN 55441**

**Moraine Site**

**Worship service at 10:00am**

**Church will provide Hotdogs/buns, chips & drinks**

**Last Name Begins with:**

**A – N**

**O – Z**

**Please Bring:**

**Cookies or Bars**

**Salad or Fruit**

**2025 ALCA Annual Convention** will be hosted by our Zion Lutheran Church congregation in **Hancock, Michigan on June 26th-29th, 2025**. Everyone is welcome!

<https://www.apostoliclutheran.org/upcoming-services>

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LBF is excited to announce the dates and theme of our summer 2025 camp at the Lahti Retreat Center. The dates are July 23-27 and the theme is "Limitless," focusing on the miracles of God. The theme verse is Psalm 147:5. "Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit."

#### **Registration is now open. To register:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdjN0f2W6bglJ1rQmZ7nWZPGgXa5V5jW4oecBqolyhTSByWuw/viewform>

Registration is on a "first come, first served" basis, so register early. There is no charge to register and no problem canceling your registration if needed at a later date.

Adult/Family housing is full with a waiting list unless you use your own housing (tent or camper)(There is a discount for using own housing)

There is still room in the Dorms for Ages 9-17. Also, if you are interested in being a dorm counselor, there is an application on the website for you to fill out.

#### **For More information:**

<https://sites.google.com/view/welcometolbf/information-and-registration/2025-camp-information?authuser=0>

**All ages are welcome!**

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## Vacation Bible School Organizational Meeting

If you are willing and able to help with the 2025 Vacation Bible School, please attend May 18<sup>th</sup> following the Semi-Annual Meeting



### Theme Verse:

<sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the LORD is to be praised! **Psalms 113:3 (ESV)**

### **Ride Through the Old West and Discover the Amazing Life of Jesus**

All aboard the Wonder Junction! Get ready to experience a wild ride designed for kids to know Jesus better, what he did for them, and how they should respond.

### **Give kids answers to their questions at Wonder Junction VBS**

Howdy, partners! Welcome to Wonder Junction! Here at Wonder Junction, we travel through the Old West while marveling at Jesus' birth, childhood, ministry, death and resurrection, and coming return.

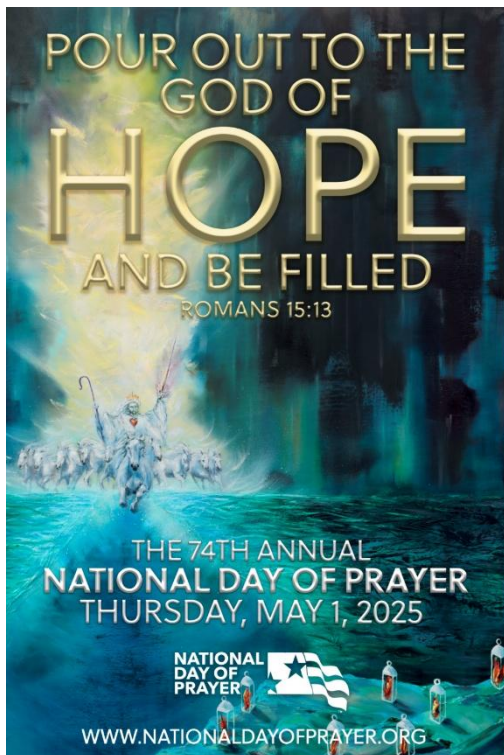
Here your kids will ask BIG questions, learn about Jesus and how to live for his glory—the greatest joy there is!

### **What We Love about Wonder Junction by Answers VBS**

Kids will be challenged to grow their knowledge and discover the joy that comes with praising Jesus! Throughout the week kids will explore the Old West while learning stories, engaging in activities, and asking BIG questions that will help their understanding of who he really is. Plus, each day has a kid-friendly apologetics focus!

**VBS 2025 - Aug 4-8, 2025**  
**9:00am – 11:30am**

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## **74<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer** **5/1/2025**

*"Now may the God of hope fill you with  
all joy and peace in believing, so that you  
will abound in hope by the power of the  
Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 NASB*

<https://www.nationaldayofprayer.org/2025-theme>