FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 W. King Street

York, PA 17401-1307 Phone: 717-843-8597

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Website: www.firststjohns.com

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THE PEACE OF THE LORD TO

PARISH VISITOR

FIRST ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOL 55-ISSUE 7

Website: www.firststjohns.org

JULY 2023



SUNDAY WORSHIP

BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM SERVICE 11:00 AM

"Till all have heard! Thanks be to God!"

REGULAR CHURCH EVENTS AND WORSHIP

Sunday - 9:00 AM Bible Study

11:00 AM Sunday Worship

Monday-

Panera bread distribution 9:00-11:00 AM

<u>Wednesday</u>

6:30 PM - Adult Choir (September through May/June)

OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.firststjohns.org

WELCOME

Our calling is for all to know Jesus as Lord and be an effective magnet involving lives for Jesus Christ. Worship should always be focused on God, the time honored traditions of worship are observed here, we want worship to be glorifying to God, honoring to God and reminding us of the greatness and glory of God. People say that they have truly worshipped after our Sunday morning service.

We are a very welcoming church and we want to help you to know Jesus.

Contact Us

Phone 717.843.8597

E-Mail: firststjohns@verizon.net

First St. Johns Lutheran Church 140 W. King St., York PA 17401

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Communion and Non-Communion, Services are held during the month, Non-Communion services are held on the 5th Sunday of months with 5 Sundays.

We print bulletins in English (small and large print), and Chinese for morning worship. Please contact us in advance if you need a Spanish bulletin.

PHONE: (717) 843-8597



If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter by email please contact the church office at (717) 843-8597 or send an email to

firststjohns@verizon.net.

If you or someone you know is a shut-in, has an illness or is unable to worship with us due to other circumstances, please call the church office.

The church phone number is: 717-843-8597

OR

EMAIL: firststjohns@verizon.net



Here are a few reasons why skipping worship on the Lord's Day is problematic:

It sets a poor precedent for you and your family for how to view worship of the Lord and the designed rhythms He has set within the Christian life.

This kind of thinking and decision falls prey to the false dichotomy that says worship is not restful.

It runs the risk of turning church into a thing on the to-do list, instead of a delight.

Here are a few things you can try:

Use a church search engine to find a faithful church in the area. Both 9Marks (https://9marks.org/church-search/) and The Gospel Coalition (https://churches.thegospelcoalition.org) have really nifty church search engines. You simply type in the zip code where you are going to be vacationing, and the engine will draw up a couple different options from which you can choose. You can click on the website of one of the local churches and check on their service times and then attend accordingly.

Go to a well-known church in the area. One of the benefits of the digital age is that we are very aware of websites, pastors, preachers, writers, and theologians. If you stop for a moment and think about it, you can probably remember that whatever town you will be vacationing in has a reputable and worthy preacher to listen to.

Go to a church from a different tradition than yours. For the more adventurous among us, this is a good idea. When I was a pastor in Arkansas I always embraced the chance to worship at a different church when I was on vacation or traveling. It was a chance to worship and observe under a different liturgy. I come from a Free Church background, and to observe a few of the more High-Church liturgies has been oh so helpful! I say this with caution, but for the really bold among us, one can even attempt to go to a church that seems to have lost its theological moorings. This can be heartening, disheartening, and super stimulating. I have had occasion to go to Episcopalian, Methodist, Independent, and even a few Charismatic churches that were utterly fascinating to observe. It presses you to think through your theology of baptism, polity, The Lord's Supper, hymnody, and overall ethos.

So there you have it. Don't waste your vacation by wasting your Lord's Day when on vacation.

by Sam Bierig June 30, 2016



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Don't Waste Your Vacation



You probably clicked on this post assuming that it was going to give you some tips on what and how to read during your summer vacation, or maybe you thought it would be a "how to redeem the time with your spouse and children"-type blog post. Those are obviously good and wise things to pursue, but what I am more interested in your not wasting the Lord's Day while on vacation (Hebrews 10:23-25).

You never take a vacation from your Christianity, so why would our modern concepts of vacation sway us away from attending worship on the Sunday of our vacation? What makes the situation particularly dire is the fact that many families miss two Sundays because of travel and vacation time allotted, thus missing two whole Sundays in a row. I want to encourage you to rethink your historical patterns for vacation if they have included skipping church while away from home on vacation.

I have found myself in some pretty awkward conversations over the years when it comes to my conviction on this. In conversation with people — who I would often categorize as "solid Christians" — upon my asking where they worshiped or will worship during vacation, I have heard any number of reasons.

"You know, we were just so broke-tired when we got to the hotel that we just stayed in, bro."

"We were worshiping in a different kind of way; you know what I mean? Like a Sabbath rest."

"Are you trying to Jesus Juke me right now?"

"Man, you know I did a little devotion with the kids, and then we went back out on the lake."

I didn't really know where to go, so we slept in at the hotel. It's vacation! I need some R & R."

"I just really prefer to worship in my own home church, so we didn't go anywhere."

"You know, I just hear the Word better when my own pastor preaches."

You could probably conjure up any number of other excuses you've heard or used yourself. But at the end of them all, these folks chose to forsake the assembly of the saints during their vacation, and I think that is spiritually dangerous, not to mention that it speaks volumes of one's perception of the local church and her worship of her Lord each Lord's Day.





Bible Study

9:00 AM

JULY 2023 PARISH VISITOR

AUGUST 2023 DEADLINE

Articles Due Send Date Friday, July 21st

Thursday, July 27th



MEETINGS IN JULY

Worship Committee

Church Council -

To be announced

Tuesday, July 11th at 6:00 pm



UPCOMING JULY SERVICES

July 2nd-Communion (5th Sunday after Pentecost).

July 9th-Non-Communion (6th Sunday after Pentecost).

July 16th-Communion (7th Sunday after Pentecost).

July 23rd-Non-Communion (8th Sunday after Pentecost).

July 30th-Non-Communion (9th Sunday after Pentecost).



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CHURCH OFFICE
Phone Number 717-843-8597

First St. John's Lutheran Church 140 West King Street, York, PA 17401 / 843-8597

ng Street, York, PA 17401

OPPORTUNITIES TO KNOW Bible Study Sunday Morning Service

4th of July
CHURCH COUNCIL MTG. 6:00 PM
18
10
Lois Hollinger

(Continued from page 12).

However, many churches introduce variety into the color scheme during this part of the year. Some churches use colors that match the décor of the church, so that the special seasons of the church year are marked by a change of color from the ordinary. Some churches coordinate parament colors with sanctuary banners that present various biblical themes during this part of the year. The most often used alternate colors for Ordinary Time are bronze or copper, olive, and aqua with maroon showing up occasionally.

Some church traditions only celebrate Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost), and then begin Ordinary Time with the Second Sunday after Pentecost that runs until Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday before the beginning of Advent. Other traditions observe a Pentecost Season extending for the eleven to sixteen Sundays (depending on the date of Easter) beginning with Pentecost Sunday and running through the next to last Sunday of August. Then beginning with the last Sunday of August, they count the remaining thirteen or fourteen Sundays until the beginning of Advent as Kingdomtide (in the Methodist tradition) or Dominiontide (in other churches), climaxing with the Christ the King Sunday. This serves to break up the long stretch of Ordinary Time following Pentecost into two seasons that can carry different emphases.

The season of Pentecost usually focuses on the evangelical mission of the church to the world and its responsibility in carrying out that mission of proclamation. That emphasis often extends into Ordinary Time. Some Protestant churches also celebrate **Reformation Sunday** (end of October) and **All Saints Sunday** (first Sunday in November). These are becoming increasingly popular ways to flesh out the themes of the Church in the World during Ordinary Time by focusing on heritage and the faithfulness of those in the past. The season of Kingdomtide celebrates Christ as King and Sovereign of the world, emphasizing God's Dominion over all of creation. The focus in this season is often on social justice and action as an expression of the Lordship of God over his people and the world.

-Dennis Bratcher, Copyright © 2021, Dennis Bratcher, All Rights Reserved



ORDINARY TIME

COUNTED TIME OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Most of the <u>Seasons of the Christian Church Year</u> are organized around the two major festivals that mark sacred time, Christmas and Easter. The <u>Christmas Season</u> encompasses the time of preparation during <u>Advent</u> and the celebration of the <u>Twelve Days of Christmas</u> and <u>Epiphany</u> in early January (the 6th). The <u>Easter Season</u> encompasses the time of preparation during the 40 weekdays of <u>Lent</u> and <u>Holy Week</u>, and is linked with <u>Pentecost Sunday</u> 50 days later. While there are other individual holy days within the church year, these seasons mark the movement of sacred time within the church calendar.

Time. Rather than meaning "common" or "mundane," this term comes from the word "ordinal," which simply means **counted time** (First Sunday after Epiphany or Pentecost, etc.), which is probably a better way to think of this time of the year. Counted time after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday or the Reign of Christ the King (last Sunday before the beginning of Advent).

Many Protestant church traditions consider the Sundays following Epiphany a *season* of Epiphany that runs until the beginning of Lent. Those traditions that follow the Roman Catholic calendar only count January 6th as Epiphany and do not think of a season of Epiphany, so consider the Sundays following part of Ordinary Time. In either case, the Sundays after Epiphany are *counted* (1st Sunday after Epiphany, etc.) so technically are Ordinary Time. However in most Protestant churches Ordinary Time usually refers to the Sundays after Pentecost Sunday and before the beginning of Advent.

The 33 or 34 Sundays of Ordinary Time after Pentecost (23 to 28 Sundays after Pentecost) are used to focus on various aspects of the Faith, especially the mission of the church in the world. The <u>Lectionary</u> readings for these Sundays tend to be semi-continuous readings through certain sections of Scripture, especially through the Synoptic Gospel of the year. However, many ministers use Ordinary Time to focus on specific themes of interest or importance to a local congregation rather than building sermons around the Lectionary readings. Even so, most pastors who observe the church year will continue to follow the Lectionary readings in public worship even if they are not the topic of the sermon in order to preserve the continuity of the spoken word of Scripture being heard by the congregation (see <u>Word and Table</u>).

The sanctuary color for Ordinary Time is dark green, although other shades of green are commonly used. Green has traditionally been associated with new life and growth. Even in Hebrew in the Old Testament, the same word for the color "green" also means "young." In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection.

Bonnie Abendschoen

138 Crown Pointe Drive York, PA 17402

Dawn Frey

Pleasant Acres Nursing & Rehabilitation Center 118 Pleasant Acres Rd York, PA 17401

<u>Joyce Devan</u>

2408 Lovegren Court York, PA 17404

Kim Thompson

30 South Beaver Street York, PA 17401

Becky Lupp

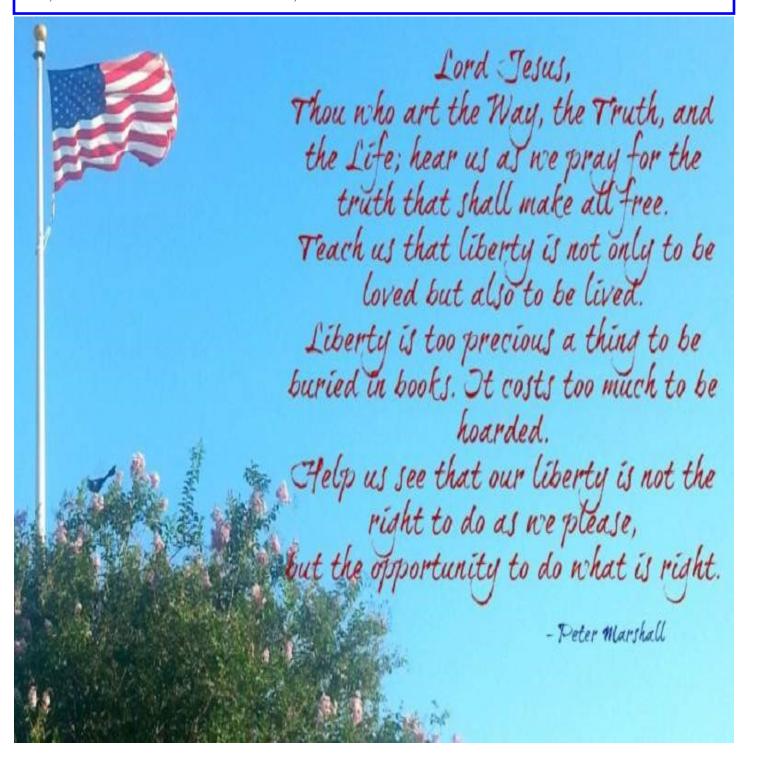
1180 Ruxton Rd York, PA 17403

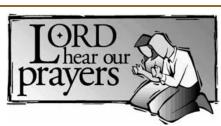
Marguerite Beck

285 Hillside Terrace York, PA 17408

If you are aware of any changes with those on the list please contact the church office.

We encourage you to drop a card or letter to our shut-ins to let them know that they are missed and a valued member of the congregation.





PRAYERS

Christians especially in the Middle East- persecuted

Prayer Warriors—Spirit is moving

Helen Wu-Husband in nursing home

Joyce Devan-Health issues

Kim Thompson-Health issues

Susan vanDyk-Baum

Jeanne Noll-Health issue

Ed Abendschoen-Health issues

Bonnie Abendschoen-Health issues David-Health issues (friend of Ed & Bonnie Abendschoen)

Fran Shoff-Health issues

Tom Gibson-Health issues

Bonita Bollinger-Undergoing treatment for breast cancer

Mark Parent-Husband of Candy Parent (Bill Lupp's niece)-

Heart transplant

Anna vanDyk-Health issue

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen-Health issue

Karl vanDyk-Health issue

Lois Stambaugh-Health issue

Dave Stambaugh-Health issue

Candy Parent-In hospital with cancer (Bill Lupp's niece)

Dawn Frey-Health Issues

Pierre-Paul Rodriguez

George Card-Health issues

FIRST TIME REQUESTS

SHUT-IN MEMBERS

Bonnie Abendschoen

Joyce Devan

Dawn Frey

Kim Thompson

Becky Lupp

Marguerite Beck

LEADERS

Vicar Geoff Abendschoen, Minister of Music Ken Sanders, Lay Leaders, Pastor Cosgrove, Pastor Zimmerman, Pastor Brasso, Pastor Seifferlein, Pastor Merrell, Pastor Banach, Pastor Robertson, Pastor Schaefer. Sally Hiller, David Maack. District President Bill Harmon

PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

For all of God's Gifts

We remember in prayer those who are in need of God's special presence in their lives due to special needs:



1st - Nancy Hildebrand

9th - Linda Billet

23rd - Carla Allison

28th - Alvin (Fred) Markey II



Early August Birthdays

1st - Christina Lin 9th - Marguerite Beck

PRAYER LIST (cont.)

SPIRITUAL NEEDS

For all those who do not know Jesus as Lord For our "action" committees/task forces Our Community and Families



MILITARY



POLICE Jonathan



VICAR REPORT

JUNE 2023

The SMP Program summer course: "Teaching the Faith" began yesterday. The course will be heavily focused on Catechesis. The Small Catechism will be the primary focus for much of the course. This course looks to be quite intensive as we approach the end of year two of the SMP program.

Pastor C. and I continue to connect on Thursday mornings to reflect on the current coursework. In addition, we share in a devotional group every other Thursday at 6:30 am focusing on the book of Matthew. He will be more involved in my coursework for the summer session and is aware of it.

The next Winkel meeting will occur in the fall of 2023 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Parkton, Md.

I plan to contact Mike & Marguerite Beck and Joyce Devan to see if they would like a visit. Jane will accompany me as she did with P. Driskell previously.

Nancy and I looked at the condition of the Albs and inventory of Stolls here at FSJ.

Troy and Amy's wedding was held on May 27^{th,} followed by a reception. Everything turned out very well! Thanks to all the FSJ members who attended.

Respectfully submitted, Vicar Geoff Abendschoen



"What must I do to inherit eternal life?" asked the rich young ruler. Jesus said, "You know the commandments." And he replied, "All these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me" (Luke 18:18–22).

When we hear this story, this question comes to mind: is Jesus speaking to us also, or only to the rich young ruler? In other words, is Jesus telling us to sell all that we have and give it to the poor?

As good Lutherans, we answer, "No!" But why? Why should we not sell all that we have and distribute it to the poor? The simplest explanation is this: if we sold everything we have, our wife and our children would be neglected. In other words, to sell everything we have and give it to the poor would ignore, even abandon, those whom God has placed in our care. Our money, every-thing we have, is not to be used solely for the church. But that doesn't excuse us from using our money for the purpose God intends.

Everyone has three stations in life, three spheres in which we live and are to be of service to our neighbors. These stations are the church, the family and society. We are members of all three of these by birth. We are born into the church by water and the Word of God, and our duties to others in the church arise from our Baptism into the church. We are born into a family, and our du-ties to others stem from our birth into that family. Finally, we are born into society, which is simply a further extension of our birth into our family. The duties we have toward other members of society come from either our own birth or the birth of others into the same society.

All that we have and all that we are ought to be pressed into service for the church, the family and society. If we were to sell all we have and give only to one, the other two would be neglected, and we would falter in fulfilling our duties. So, consider your life and all that you have in light of these three stations. You pay taxes to sup-port and help those in society. You save for college for your children, and provide food, clothing and shelter for the members of your family. But the station that is usually thought of last is the church. Since the needs of the family and society are more immediate, the church is often given what is left over. This is not how it should be. Rather, we are to give of our first fruits, from off the top, the best, even as Abel gave the best of his flock.

This requires forethought. It means that you sit down and make a plan of what you will give from the beginning. It means sticking to it even when it seems that there are other more immediate and pressing things.

And this is all the more necessary now as we enter into periods of time where giving is low due to high unemployment or where restrictions on meeting in church limit opportunities to give. If we love God and His gifts of forgiveness given through the means of grace, which we receive at church and only at church, then we will support it, just as we love our country and our family. For all that we have and all that we are is given to us by our gracious God. He spared no expense for us and our salvation. He gave up His Son to death so that our sins are forgiven, and we will live. What's more, He provides for all that we need for this body and life. And our lives in this world, among these three spheres of church, family and society are to mirror the generosity of the one who gave us life in all three at birth.

Don't let the church, your divine family, be an afterthought or even ignored. It is nurturing you, bringing you up in salvation through Word and Sacrament.

Growing:
God
Working
In And
Through Us

STEWARDSHIP
A Lifestlyle of Parlnership With God

Giving:
Managing
God's
Resources

Resources

7



FREE BREADS AND DESSERTS

DONATED WEEKLY BY: PANERA BREAD

to First St. John's Lutheran Church 140 W. King St., York, PA 17401

EVERY MONDAY

From 9:00 through 11:00 am - Pickup at the church DOORS OPEN AT 9:00 AM

DOORS OPEN A



FIRST ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS AND GUESTS
WE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE YOU.
ENJOY OUR "LIVE" WORSHIP.





WOMEN'S CARE CENTER

Formerly Pregnancy & Family Resource Center 40 South Richland Avenue

York, PA 17404

Phone: (717) 854-6285



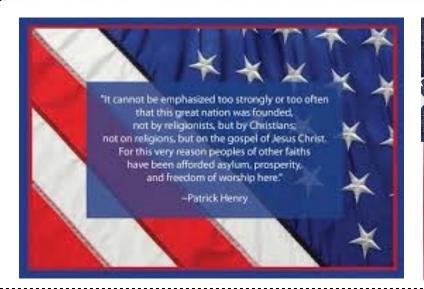
As we enter the summer months, our thoughts turn to vacations, picnics, bar-b-ques, and other events. Summer seems to be the time to kick back and relax. It is a time to recharge after a year of working, whether at a paid job, at home, or volunteer work. The tendency for many is to become lax when it comes to worship.

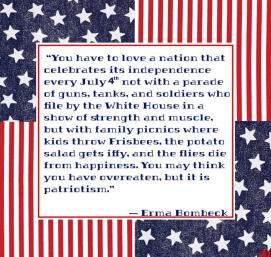
We do not take time off from eating every day. Our bodies need the nourishment that the food and drink we consume provides. In the same way, our souls need the nourishment we get from worship and Bible study every week.

There is a more in depth article on this subject elsewhere in this newsletter. Remember, our Triune God does not take a vacation from us, so why would we take one from Him!

Bible class will continue through the summer. If for some reason it would need to be cancelled, all will be informed in advance.

The first Sunday of this month, July 2, will have more of a patriotic theme as we remember Independence Day (July 4th). Let us not forget that this country, USA, was founded on religious principles. That most of the immigrants came here to have religious freedom. So, besides celebrating July 4th as a national holiday, we as Christians can celebrate the religious foundations of the day. We can praise and thank our God for the freedoms we have. Not only the ones our forefathers forged, also, and more importantly, the freedom won for us at the cross!





Lois Hollinger, Lois Stambaugh, Dave Stambaugh, Beverly Card, ADULT Ding Wang, Zihong (Andy) Su.



Ken Sanders, MINISTER OF MUSIC PSALM 23

1. "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the of righteousness for his (63-Across sake (verse 3, KJV)

, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (verse 4, KJV)

- 14. Prince Valiant's wife, in the comics (anagram of A TALE)
- 15 Sort
- 16. Beverage order request, perhaps
- 17. Make the final point, in an argument
- 20. Cockers and springers
- 21. Be about to fall
- 22. Chicago govt official 23. Actress Lohan of 2003's "Freaky Friday"
- 24 Convict
- 28. Sensed
- 29. "I haven't the foggiest"
- 30. Latin pop superstar Julio [fun fact: his last name means "churches" en esnañol
- 35. "The _ is my shepherd..." (verse 1a, KJV)
- 36. "What should I_
- 38. "...l shall not _." (verse 1b, KJV)
- 39. Scottish city that lent its name to a cattle breed
- 41. Just one small bite
- 43. Airport takeoff estimates, for short
- 44. Some toy trucks
- 45. Nihilists (anagram of RAN CASH)
- 49. "You betcha!"
- 50. Biblical prophet rebuked by his donkey, in Numbers 22
- 51. Equestrian (one of four in Revelation 6)
- 56. What the "valley of the shadow of death" represents, in verse 4
- 58. "Score" of a unanimous Supreme Court decision
- 59. Police alert, for short
- 60. Muslim worship leaders
- 61. "He maketh me to (62-Across) down in pastures..." (verse 2a, KJV)
- 62. "He maketh me to ____ down in (61-Across pastures..." (verse 2a, KJV)
- 63. "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the (1-Across) of righteousness for his

sake (verse 3, KJV)

DOWN 1. 0om-

- (tuba sounds)
- 2. "Take _!" (track coach's order)
- 3. Sandal brand (anagram of A VET) 4. Coordinate in the game Battleship
- 5. Fill up and then some
- 6. Triangular road sign
- 7. 90-degree pipe joints
- 8. Letters before an alias 9. International alliance
- 10. Propelled a canoe
- 11. Prison disturbances
- 12. Plant-stem sheath (anagram of A CORF)
- 13. Put back on the clothesline 18. With 19-Down, a visual representation of
- verse 2b (KJV) 19. See 18-Down
- 23. Toy block brand
- 24. Where I-5 crosses I-10
- 25. Beginner, in gamer slang
- 26. Bog down
- 27. It might end in a ZIP code: Abbr.
- 28. Helsinki natives

- 31. The Ugly Duckling, eventually 32. "All ____ of You" (song from "The Phantom of
- the Opera")

HARD

- 33. Architectural pier (anagram of A TAN)
- 34. Divisions of office bldgs. 37. Massive British ref.document
- 40. 10-sided figure
- 42. Type of "English" on a tennis ball or
- ping-pong ball 45. Go out with _ (end dramatically)
- 46. Absolute low point (54-Down's opposite)
- 47. "Pick !" (shout to a meandering freeway driver, perhaps)
- 48. Rajah's partner
- 49. "Could more specific?"
- 51. Arizona tribe whose land is surrounded entirely by the Navajo Nation
- 52. Town just outside Buffalo, NY (anagram of MALE)
- 53. Cowboy-to-lady address
- 54. Absolute high point (46-Down's opposite) 55. Scottish loch with a supposed monster in it
- 57. "Too-Ra-Loo-Ra-Loo-___

PSALM 23

¹ P	² A	³ T	⁴ H	⁵ S		⁶ Y	⁷ E	⁸ A		⁹ E	¹⁰ R	¹¹ R	¹² O	¹³ R
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				⁴³ E	Т	D	s		⁴⁴ T	0	N	K	Α	s
45 A	46 N	47 A	48 R	С	Н	S		⁴⁹ Y	E	Р				
50 B	A	L	Α	Α	M		⁵¹ H	0	R	s	⁵² E	⁵³ M	⁵⁴ A	⁵⁵ N
56 A	D	А	N	G	E	⁵⁷ R	0	U	S		L	А	С	E
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61 C	R	E	E	N		62 L	1	E		63 N	A	М	E	s

BIBLE PUZZLE FORJULY

ANSWER TO JUNE PUZZLE