

## The Value of Time

by Ron Bartanen Indio church of Christ Indio, California

Every turn of a calendar-page and every tick of a clock tells us that what has passed we will never undo, and we are responsible for what we have now. I have heard time described as “a section cut from the great circle of eternity.” We should view time as a priceless gift from God. As we soon go into a New Year we should remind ourselves of time’s value. Once past, it can never be retrieved. It is ours now, but whether it will be ours one moment from now is in God’s hands. We have no binding claim upon time.

The apostle Paul spoke of the value of time when he spoke of “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16). Time is not just the accumulation of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years, but everything that time offers to us, including opportunities and privileges, and Paul, by inspiration, urges us to redeem such. Paul uses the language of the marketplace. In the days, and even weeks, prior to Christmas, shoppers have been fervently in search of bargains, taking advantage of sales in stores and online, searching for best buys. Should we be any less fervent in the pursuit of spiritual blessings that God has graciously made available to us?

One opportunity that is overlooked by too many is the most valuable of all - the opportunity time offers us for salvation. Paul, in 2 Corinthians 6:2, reminds us, “Now is the accepted time: behold, now is the day of salvation.” Here is truly the “best buy” of all - salvation, a gift already paid for with the blood of Christ, as Peter reminds Christians: of the fact that we are redeemed (purchased) “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18-19).

The opportunity of salvation is ours as God’s gift to man, but the acceptance of this gift rests with us. As Paul said, “Now is the accepted time...day of salvation,” but multitudes pass by this priceless gift as they seek the pleasures and treasures that will one day be no more. May all of us be reminded, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust thereof: but he that does the will of God abides forever” (1 John 2:16-17). As we conclude the present year, and enter into the New Year, may we accept the gift that abides forever, “redeeming the time.”

## NEWSLETTER

Jan. 02, 2022

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## Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

*La Salle*  
church of Christ

*A place of worship and healing.*

1121 N. Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
(716) 283-1214

lasallechurchofchrist.org



### We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



*There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.*



Read God’s Word



**First Sunday in 2022**

*If you have something for the bulletin please contact Wayne Carter before noon on Friday.*

**Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.**

**Coming Forward** ... Brother Jeffrey Elder came forward last Sunday asking for prayers for himself and Vicki in the recent passing of his mother. We want to lift up the family in their grief and also pray for Jeff, and Vicki, as he steps into his elected role as 4<sup>th</sup> District Legislator for Niagara County.

## James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**Prayers** *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

*Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.*

*Let's pray for those suffering in the Philippines from recent devastating weather conditions.*

**Barb Oliver** Let's keep her in our prayers and also Mark & Audrey as they minister to her.

**Marjorie Reed** Let's pray that she continues to recover well.

**Bill Kinney** Let's pray for him and also Kris as she ministers to him.

**Maria Swindlehurst** had an MRI for her kidney recently and it came back negative, no tumors. She had a bladder cystoscopy done recently and it was negative. She is scheduling for upper and lower GI series. She would like to thank everyone for the prayers and to please continue to pray as the doctors figure things out.

**Sherry Carter** is recuperating from recent surgeries.

**Darlene Reed** Let's keep her in our prayers as she deals with health issues.

**Linda Stine** is dealing with a foot infection.

**Anna Brink** was admitted to St. Mary's Hospital Dec. 19 dealing with pneumonia. Bruce announced last Sunday that a chest x-ray on the 19<sup>th</sup> revealed a spot on her lungs. On Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> she was diagnosed with lung cancer. On Sat. the 25<sup>th</sup> she was transported to rehab - McAuley Residence 1503 Military Rd. Buffalo, NY 14217. The goal is to transport her to Roswell and go from there. Let's pray for her and the family and the doctors etc.

**Samantha Mellott** is dealing with recent dental surgery.

**Louella Hopkins** requests our prayers as she ministers to Jean and family members.

**Pat Hazlett** Let's pray for her for encouragement.

**Frances Elston**, Frank Marsden's 80 yr old sister in Louisville fell recently and is in serious condition. She suffered head injuries and the family is asking for prayers to regain her memory and motor skills.

**Marvis Garrett** has been dealing with health issues.

**Marietta McArthur** (Ray McArthur's mother) is dealing with health issues.

**Becky Rose**, Erin Orton's mother, had gallbladder surgery Dec. 7 and is doing well.

**Richard Boyle**, Maria Swindlehurst's nephew, was put on meds for MS. Treated at the Dent Center.

**Chris Nitto** He has been in and out of the hospital dealing with chest pains. He is a member of the Amherst congregation.

**Dan Calleri** is dealing with health issues. He is a member of the Amherst congregation.

**Jim Zachery** was scheduled for tests at the Cleveland Clinic Dec. 21-22 but canceled because of the high Covid rates in Ohio. He will call sometime in January to reschedule. He is a member of the Amherst congregation.

**Bob Ammerman** is dealing with health issues. He is a member of the Amherst congregation.

## Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

**Jan. 16** Men's Business Meeting

**Jan. 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Feb. 14** Valentine's Day

**Feb. 20** Men's Business Meeting

**Feb. 21** President's Day

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday \$1,385.40

Attendance Last Sunday 43

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back of the auditorium.

The **2022 Budget Proposal** is posted in the back.

## Ladies

The Ladies Tuesday morning Bible class has been postponed until after the holidays. More info to follow later.



Smile and pay someone a compliment today.



## Caleb Callari's Radio Program - "Everyday Follower"

Do a search on YouTube for .....  
Everyday Follower, School of National Evangelism - Philippines

Please check the "*Mission Board*"  
in the back of the auditorium.

## What A Friend We Have In Jesus

William Eudy Southside church of Christ Mineral Wells, TX

God is an "ever present help in trouble," but we sometimes allow bitterness to keep Him at a distance and because of that, we miss His help.

A young Irish immigrant, Joseph Scriven (1820-1886), was deeply in love with a young woman, and their marriage plans had been made. Not long before their wedding day, however, she was drowned. For months Scriven was bitter, in utter despair. At last he turned to Christ, and through His grace, he found peace and comfort. Out of this experience, he wrote the familiar hymn which has brought consolation to millions of aching hearts: "What a Friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!"

Sometimes our way lies in the sunlight. It was so for Joseph Scriven as he approached his wedding day. But like him, we may find that our path also leads through the dark shadows of loss, disappointment, and sorrow. At time like this, it is within our power to turn our sufferings into occasions for a firmer grasp of God.

Trouble will not hurt us unless it does what many of us too often allow it to do – harden us, making us sour, bitter, and skeptical. The trouble we bear trustfully brings to us a fresh vision of God, and as a result, we discover a new outlook on life.

Trust with a childlike dependence on God, and no trouble can destroy you. Can you call Him your Friend?

