

## Facing the Storm

by Neal Pollard Mt. Carmel church of Christ Athens, AL

Springtime in the plains is a notorious time for storms. I was driving through northwest Texas near the time when three storm chasers were killed southwest of me on Tuesday afternoon. They died pursuing the storm, not directly because of it. They were there because conditions were ripe for tornadoes. 17 people were killed by tornadoes in 2016, but 24 have already died in them this year (this article was written in the spring of 2017). Hollywood has captured our awe and fascination with them since "The Wizard of Oz." We view storms as mysterious, ominous, powerful, and frightening. They come in so many forms - hurricanes, floods, blizzards, cyclones, and more. But "storms" are synonymous with fear and sorrow.

Wouldn't you classify some of the major, traumatic events of your life as storms. They build and threaten, they strike, then they leave aftermath. The storm may take but a moment, but recovery can take days, months, or even years. Not surprisingly, the Bible uses the storm metaphorically to describe such moments in our lives. David wrote, "I would hasten to my place of refuge from the stormy wind and tempest" ([Psalm 55:8](#)). The man we most associate with such figurative storms, Job, laments, "You lift up the wind and cause me to ride; And you dissolve me in a storm" (30:22). Most frequently, the Bible uses storms representatively to describe God's judgment. But, as Job and David show, sometimes storms strike the innocent and undeserving.

What do we do when facing a storm? We heed precautions. We take shelter. We wait and endure. We ask for and trust God's protection.

The world is full of people riding out storms today. That includes Christians. These storms are assaulting their bodies, bank accounts, relationships, spiritual strength, and spirits. Some feel safely sheltered, while others feel as if they are barely holding on. How do we face our storms?

- \* Seek help from others ([Heb. 12:12-13](#); [Ecc. 4:9-10](#)).
- \* Search for possible benefits from it ([Psa. 66:10](#); [Rev. 21:3-4](#); [Js. 1:2-4](#); etc.).
- \* See God's power to help in it ([Psa. 18:19](#); [Rom. 8:28-38](#); [2 Pet. 2:9a](#)).
- \* Shelter in the place of safety ([Exo. 33:22](#); [Psa. 91:1](#); [Mat. 7:24-27](#)).

God doesn't cause evil or sin, but He allows it. We will always struggle with the "why" of this, but we must not let it stifle our growth and dependence on our great, perfect God when we are being battered. He is faithful. He wants to help. Lean on Him through your storms!

## NEWSLETTER

Dec. 10, 2023

Mark Dailey, evangelist  
(716) 754-2752

minister@lasallechurchofchrist.org

We seek to be a place of healing and worship.

## Schedule of Services

*Our current schedule is:*

Sunday Bible Class 10 to 10:45 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

*La Salle*  
church of Christ

*We Meet At*

1121 N. Military Rd.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

Phone (716) 283-1214

**Website:** [lasallechurchofchrist.org](http://lasallechurchofchrist.org)

Please check the website for bulletins,  
*House to House Heart to Heart* magazine,  
and other things.



### 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

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

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

**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 continue to pray concerning the turmoil and fighting throughout the world.*

Let's keep the following in our prayers as they deal with medical issues:

**Frank Marsden, Bill Kinney, Jean Cameron.**

**Butts Sumner** is recovering from recent back surgery and has been in a lot of pain.

**Jessica Alcorn** Let's pray for her as she continues with chemo treatments.

**Ron Cameron** Let's pray that he recovers well after recent shoulder surgery.

**Jeff Elder** is recuperating from a sprained and fractured ankle. Let's continue to pray that he heals well.

**Roger Mapes** unable to be with us last week because of a cold.

**Nancy Schul** is recovering at home from RSV.

**Marge Reed** has been under the weather.

**Sherry Carter** is scheduled for knee surgery Wednesday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at Buffalo General.

**Michael & Hope Rice** Let's pray for them for strength, peace, and stability.

**Marietta McArthur** (Ray McArthur's mother). Let's keep her in our prayers as she deals with health issues. Ray is asking for prayers for his mother and also for the family to deal with situations involving her.

**Marsha Wyatt**, Pam Schnell's sister, is dealing with health issues.

**Dan Callari** (from Amherst congregation). Let's pray for him as he deals with the effects of chemo.

**Glen Mueller** He is the preacher at the Sardinia church of Christ. Let's keep him and Edna in our prayers.

**Jane Grenke**, a friend of Denise Garlitz, is now out of the trauma unit at ECMC and will be going into rehab.

**Bruce Brink's mother-in-law** has mobility issues but is slowly getting better.

**Carlos Martinez' brother** is facing surgery to have a plate put in his head. He is still doing PT but still not talking or walking.

**Kassem**, a friend of Carlos Martinez, is requesting prayers for his family in Palestine.

**Gloria Zachary** (Amherst congregation) is dealing with a medical issue and is scheduled for an MRI.

**Faith Irizarry** was in the ER and has a throat abscess. She has to go to a hospital in Albany to get it taken care of. She is the granddaughter of Gloria Zachary from the Amherst congregation. Faith's mother Tammy will be traveling with her.

### Weather Related Cancellation of Services

With the possibility for inclement weather be sure to check TV station Channel 2 for any cancellation of services. If you are unable to view this channel please call someone before traveling to the building to confirm whether services are being held.

The "Phone Tree" will also be used in this situation.

Always use your own discretion when traveling in inclement weather. The safety of our members is of utmost importance.



## Order of Worship

Songleader: Rodney Jones

Call to Worship

Song

Opening Prayer

Song

Sermon

Song of Invitation

Song for Communion

Communion

Announcements

Song

Closing Prayer

## Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

**Dec. 17 Next Sunday.** Men's Business Meeting

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve

**Dec. 25** Christmas Day

**Dec. 31** Lunch after services. Lunch will be provided.

**Dec. 31** New Year's Eve

*2024*

**Jan. 01** New Year's Day

**Jan. 15** Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

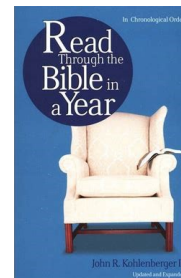
Contribution Last Sunday \$2,219.00

Attendance Last Sunday

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.



JOIN US for lunch on 12/31 after services as we close out 2023 and look ahead to 2024. Lunch is provided. Just come and enjoy the fellowship.



Starting in 2024 we will begin reading through the Bible in one year.

We will be using the book

*Read Through the Bible in a Year* by

John R. Kohlenberger III. Check your

home library, you may already have a copy.

If not see Mark or Audrey for a copy.

Lets  
grow  
together