

# Hillcrest Calling



## The Magnitude of God's love

It would be spectacular and amazing ... if some king's son were to appear in a beggar's home to nurse him in his illness, wash off his filth and do everything else the beggar would have to do. Would this not be a profound humility? Any spectator or any beneficiary of this honor would feel impelled to admit that he had seen or experienced something unusual and extraordinary, something magnificent.

And yet the love of the Son of God for us is of such magnitude that the greater the filth and stench of our sins, the more he befriends us, the more he cleanses us, relieving us of all our misery and of the burden of all our sins and placing them upon his own back.

Whenever the devil declares: "You are a sinner!" Christ interposes: "I will reverse the order; I will be a sinner, and you are to go scot-free." Who can thank our God enough for this mercy?

—Martin Luther, Luther's Works 22, 166-167

## April birthdays

Mason Hartley, 8th  
John R. Tranbarger, 8th  
Mary Wood, 8th  
Debbie Hill, 13th  
Lindsey Miller, 13th  
Kyle Miller, 13th  
McKinley Hartley, 18th  
Wayne Keltner, 20th  
Jim Downing, 24th  
Maddison Reynolds, 25th  
Leighton Jones, 25th  
Brayden Scott, 29th

## April anniversaries

Dean & Carol Ann Morlock, 5th  
Fred & Rae Jean Palmerton, 6th  
Brandon & Amanda Sigourney, 21st

Save the  
Date

**Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** we will be taking the girls from Ashley House to lunch at **Rader Manor at noon**. The Manor is located at 924 N. Main Street (off Chestnut Expressway). We hope that you will join us and help make this a very special day for these girls.

If you would like to sponsor a girl this year, we are requesting a \$20.00 donation to cover the cost of their meal. If that is not in your budget, any amount you would like to contribute would be appreciated. Please contact Regina Ice or Nancy Hackett to contribute. Thanking you in advance for supporting these girls.  
The Outreach Committee

*Thank You!*

*"Thank you for the cards & prayers. I'm doing great. I appreciate it so much."*

*Mary Morrissey*

### Wednesday night nerves

It's the day before  
the betraying begins.  
The cracks are there  
for all to see.  
The silence awkward,  
the eyes, which  
will not meet the gaze.  
The lips, which  
will not acknowledge.  
A meal together,  
a source of dread.  
The decision is made  
to visit a garden.

A poem by Alison Swinfen, from her book, *Fearful Visits to Gardens*

"We are Easter people living in a Good Friday world."  
—Barbara Johnson



### Make the Church Sparkle & Shine Day

Mark your calendars --  
On Saturday, **April 13th from 9am-noon**

Breakfast snacks and drinks will be provided. Cleaning supplies will also be provided so just bring you!

### February Financials

Beginning Balance	\$6,749.11
Decrease	- \$2,531.54
Ending Balance	\$4,217.57
Building Load Balance	
2/28/19	\$316,372.36
Building Fund Balance	
	\$ 15,017.25

2019 Offering Envelopes are available in the Northex

The electronic giving terminal is located in the Narthex.

Both of these things are available to help you in your giving.

Just know that God blesses a cheerful and generous giver.



**The Men's Breakfast** is April 13th, 8:00am at the Golden Corral

**Book Club** will meet Tuesday, April 16th at 7:00pm to review "Light of the Moon" by Luanne Rice

The **Session meeting** is Monday, April 8th at 6:00pm.

**Addition to Church Directory**  
Kerwin & BJ Hafner  
2751 S. York Avenue  
Springfield, MO 65807  
(417) 860-9227

Reminder: Our church premises is weapon free, carrying firearms is prohibited.

# Women of the Bible - Esther

The story of Queen Esther is remarkable. And while the name of God doesn't appear once in the book of Esther, His presence is evident on every page. Esther, a beautiful young woman had won the hearts of the royal household. She was not a Persian, but a Jewish orphan who had been raised by her cousin Mordecai. He cared for her as her father would have and she obeyed him like a daughter.

Mordecai, who served the royal court, was hated by the king's chancellor, Haman, an Amalekite. Haman was ambitious. The king respected him highly and ordered all servants at the royal court to bow down before him. Mordecai was the only person who refused to do this. Because he was a Jew, the only person he would bow before was God. Haman decided to kill Mordecai and all other Jews in the great Persian empire. He conceived a scheme so all the Jews would be caught in the net he was spreading. The king's signature had made it possible for Haman to wipe them off the globe forever. The Jews were appalled and terrified.

Esther had been married for five years. At the request of Mordechai, she had remained silent about her Jewish heritage. With the grim extinction of the Jew in sights, Mordechai felt that the only solution was for Esther to intervene. "Go to your husband the king and ask for his help to save your people," he ordered Esther. Your people! That meant she must reveal her Jewish origin. There was another obstacle. No one was allowed to present himself to the king without being summoned, not even the queen. To do so would mean risking her life. Mordecai said, "God placed you in this strategic position for He knew of the coming catastrophe. God's solution is you."

Young Esther, who had always presented a mild manner, now proved that she was made of the fiber of heroes. She was willing to subject her life to His plans. She asked for all the Jews to fast and pray for 3 days & 3 nights. This young woman was willing to risk her position, her life, and her future for her people.

After the days of prayer Esther groomed herself meticulously and went to the king, who was apparently taken up with the affairs of the kingdom. When he saw Esther, his heart was touched. He held out his golden scepter to her as proof that her life was safe. He asked, "What is your request, Queen Esther? It will be granted to you." She invited the king to a meal—along with Haman.

During that meal the king asked her again, "what is your request? I will grant it to you." Esther moved carefully, step by step, waiting upon God. "Come back together tomorrow," she requested. And that proved to be God's leading.

That night the king could not sleep. A courtier read to him from the book of the chronicles of his people. Important facts which had been in the dark came into the open. They fit into the jigsaw puzzle of God's plan. Recently Mordecai had revealed a conspiracy against the king and, thus, saved the king's life. But Mordecai had never been rewarded. This negligence must be corrected.

The following day during the meal Esther revealed her request. Touchingly, she plead with the king for the lives of her people. And for her own life, "If we had only been sold into slavery, I would have held my tongue," she said. Her insight and approach drew the king's respect. She succeeded in convincing him. "Who is the man and where is he who would presume in his heart to do such a thing?" was the king's startling response. Esther's finger pointed to Haman, his fellow guest and most outstanding subject. "That wicked man there—Haman," replied Esther. Then everything came to light. The gallows that had been erected near Haman's house waited for the execution of Mordecai, but the king changed this plan. "Hang Haman on the gallows that he has erected for Mortdecai," the king commanded. It was done.

Esther had saved not only her life but also the lives of her entire race. The heroine who had save the Jews by risking her own life.

# April 2019

Sunday Services:

Worship Service 10am  
Sunday School 9am

☼ birthdays  
♥ anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
7 John Tranbarger 90th birthday 3pm Lenten Series at Hillcrest	8 Noon Bible Study Session, 6:00pm ☼ Mason Harley ☼ John Tranbarger ☼ Mary Wood	9	10	11 Admin Committee, 6pm Meals on Wheels The Meesters	12 ☼ Dean & Carol Ann Morlock	13 Men's Breakfast 8:00am <b>Work Day</b> 9am—noon 
14 Lenten Series at Gibson	15	16 Book Club, 7:00pm "Light of the Moon"	17 Outreach, 5:30pm	18  ☼ McKinley Harley Meals on Wheels The Palmertons	19 Good Friday	20 ☼ Wayne Keltner
21 ☼ Brandon & Amanda Sigourney	22	23	24 ☼ Jim Downing Choir 7pm / AA 8pm	25 Meals on Wheels Nancy & Barbara	26	27
28	29 ☼ Brayden Scott	30				

## Hillcrest Presbyterian Church

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Springfield, MO 65802

Phone: (417)833-1746



### Trading places

During a 2018 terrorist attack in France, Lt. Colonel Arnaud Beltrame sacrificed his life for a stranger's. He willingly swapped places with a store clerk who was being used as a human shield. After several hours of trying to end the standoff, Beltrame was killed.

At the hero's funeral, President Emmanuel Macron said Beltrame knew the risk but realized "the example has to be set from the top." And Father Jean-Baptiste said only the officer's faith could explain his sacrifice: Beltrame "knew, as Jesus said to us, that, 'There is no greater love than to give one's life for one's friends.' I believe that only a Christian faith moved by charity could account for this superhuman sacrifice."

