

## WHAT A MONTH!

It all started out with a gift from the 2019 confirmation class. Each of the students wrote a message on a vase that Trish brought to our home with an Orchid. Following that wonderful thoughtfulness were several thank-you cards expressing gratitude for the message I had sent.

For the last dozen years or more, I have been sending each individual person in the confirmation class a note of congratulation and a story about how I felt after I was confirmed, that is I felt I had all of the education and knowledge that I needed, only to find out later when my girlfriend and I went through confirmation class, I discovered that you never get to the point where you no longer need to study God's word. That confirmation is just the beginning. In fact, I just received another thank-you card today.

Then, as most of you know I have been cooped up for months because of surgery, fall risk and rehab. The last several weeks I would ride along to the grocery store and sit in the car till my wife came back. Well, I needed to go into the Pick n Save to sign some papers for a prescription. When I was finished with that, I sat down on the bench next to customer service. I was there only a minute or so when a man sat down along side of me. We exchanged greetings, which lead to a conversation. He shared with me many challenges he was facing both with his health and with a son that couldn't function at 100 percent. He told me that he had hip replacement 3 times, an atrial flutter, and MS since he was 13.

I listened intently to him and shared that I had some similar problems, but I didn't dwell on my problems, I was more interested in what was happening to him. I asked him what church he attended. He hesitated for a short period of time and then told me that he was raised Roman Catholic but hadn't been in church in years. He did mention that Lutheran Social Services has been a great help to his son's care and was giving some thought to looking into the beliefs of the Lutheran Church. I made him aware of St. Paul's and Our Savior in Grafton and tried to give him some encouragement on how great our God is. The only thing I regret is I skirted the issue and didn't really share with him the love and care that my Jesus has for him.

When the shopping was over and he left the store, we felt a bonding that was remarkable. I wish I would have thought fast enough to give him my name and phone number as I would like to visit with him again. He and his wife are 55 and they have two boys, one 23 and the youngest turning 18. He and his wife were concerned about appointing someone as power over health care and power of attorney, but we didn't discuss that item.

There are even more blessings that I could share, but I've run out of room. "What a Month."

*1 Peter 3: 8-12 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech. They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*



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