

# PASTOR'S PENNINGS

## *Searching For What Was Lost*

*Jesus told this parable, "Suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:8-10).*

There once was a lady who bought lottery tickets every now and then. One day, a rumor spread that her local grocery store sold a \$100,000 ticket. Her first thought was, "Wow, maybe I'm a winner. How could I spend the money? I could use a new car, a new computer, a new big screen TV. So, where did I leave the ticket?" Wouldn't you know, she lost it. After searching high and low for a good part of the afternoon, she finally found it. Unfortunately, after all the fuss and excitement the ticket turned out to be a loser.

When we lose something that we hold to be valuable, we search for it frantically. That's what Jesus described in this short story about a woman searching for a coin that she lost. Without Jesus you and I are like that lost coin. Our lustful thoughts, hurting words, and loveless deeds - everything we think, say, or do that fails to be perfect - are sins that separate us from God. How frightening to be lost in sin.

Thankfully, though, there is good news\_ Jesus came "to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19:10). God sent Jesus to find us and reconnect us to God. Jesus did that by loving us so much that He paid for all our sins by His death on the cross. That's how much Jesus loves us\_

Jesus searches for us and finds us. The angels in heaven rejoice\_ Jesus comes to us through His Word and takes away our fear by comforting us with the forgiveness of sins. He assures us that He has made us dearly loved children of God. Through Jesus, heaven is our inheritance.

God loves us so much that He stopped at nothing to find us and save us from eternal separation from Him in hell. Through Jesus, we have the gift of eternal life, which is a whole lot more valuable than winning the lottery. How fortunate we are\_ We will never be lost again when we cling in faith to Jesus, our Savior.

Is anyone that you know lost? Share the love of Jesus with them. People who know what it means to be lost are the best people to reach out to others who still are lost. There is no joy like the joy that comes when, by the grace of God, the lost are found\_ Like heaven's angels, we too can rejoice over all who have been brought to repentance and who will now have the assurance of everlasting life.

### **PRAYER LIST**

Let us praise the Lord for the blessings He has be-stowed on the following people:

- Karen and Marlon Henry celebrated their 54th anniversary in July.
- Charlotte Glass has recovered sufficiently from her surgery that she has been in church almost every Sunday this last month. What a joy it is to see her here.
- We thank the Lord that Chase Chaddock made a super fast recovery from his tonsil and adenoid surgery.
- Last but not least, Jean and Russell Luebking will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary today. Join with them in prayer today at the assisted living home near our church, 1515 Kingsridge Dr., from 2-4PM.

Let us also ask the Lord to have mercy on and bless the following people who are having health problems:

- Bonnie Barnett is hospitalized in Norman.
- Doug Dinse will probably have undergone a hip re-placement operation. Pray that he recovers soon and can find employment.
- Dan Peek, a cousin of Sunny Stuever, is recovering from brain surgery on a tumor.
- Jeremy Zimdars, a new member in Norman, has been told that his mother, Kerry, has stage IV breast cancer. This is the second time she has been diagnosed with breast cancer. The first time was in 2007. Ask the Lord to strengthen Jeremy and his mom spiritually through the only thing that can do that, God's Holy Word and Sacrament.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

When we think of stewardship, we should think of all the things God has given us and then evaluate how we are using those things. Do we use them wisely? Do we use them in a way that gives glory to God? One of the blessings we have been given is our church here at Holy Cross. It is a valid question - do we make wise and frequent use of our membership listening to God's Word and receiving the sacrament? Are we good stewards of the truth from God's Word that we expect from our pastors? Professor Ken Cherney, currently at Wisconsin

Lutheran Seminary, wrote the following in the June 1998 edition of *The Mission Counselor Newsletter*. It talks about being a good steward of God's Word.

"Of course I'll read your newsletter. I think all talk about God is just wonderful."

"Of course I'll send my kids to your VBS. I believe the more they learn about God, the better."

Yes, I gave that gentleman a newsletter; and yes, we enrolled those kids in our VBS. But both of those comments struck me as odd. "The more my kids learn about God, the better" - as if in religious education quantity were the only thing that mattered. "All talk about God is wonderful" - As if a false or misleading statement about God were an utter impossibility.

It seems we've invented, today, a new category of truth called "religious" truth. It's different from plain, ordinary truth - at least in some people's minds. Permit an analogy. Fifty years ago, C.S. Lewis became alarmed when people began to talk about "sexual morality." As if "sexual morality" were somehow different from regular morality. As if disloyalty, selfishness, and deception were bad in every other area of life, but not so bad when they have something to do with sex.

"Religious truth" seems to work the same way for some people. For them it's a different category from ordinary truth, a category where words, like "true" and "false" really don't even apply - and that is extremely odd. They still believe you can be wrong and about the sum of 3542 and 2387, or about who wrote *Invictus* - but somehow every statement that contains the word "God" is supposed to be equally valid. They believe there are corrupt politicians and incompetent doctors and bad auto mechanics in the world. But they're shocked when you tell them the world is also full of false religious teachers - which is exactly why Jesus warned us so strenuously to watch out for them (Matthew 7:15).

Don't misunderstand us. By all means, keep reading our newsletter\_ And our church is here to serve you and your family, so please--take advantage of the opportunities to hear "God talk" that Holy Cross offers.

But don't attend any church, anywhere thinking that "all talk about God is wonderful." Instead, listen care-fully to what is being said, wherever you are. Compare it with the standard of truth we have in God's holy Word, the Bible.

Do this in enough places, and you'll see very quickly that some talk about God is "wonderful." Then again, there's an awful lot that isn't.

## EVANGELISM

To do evangelism, it is good to ask questions and find out what is the foundation of people's hope to have peace with God. The following are two fundamental questions that most people get wrong:

### 1. Which of the following is the best description of what we are like without Jesus?

- a. Basically good people who need guidance from God
- b. Sinful, but God will overlook our sin
- c. Sinners who deserve eternal separation from God in hell

### 2. How do we get to heaven?

- a. We do all that we can, then Jesus does the rest for us
- b. We do it all with Jesus' help
- c. We trust that Jesus has done it all for us
- d. We follow Jesus' example of how to live

The correct answer for #1 is "c." If a prospect does not understand this they will not understand what it meant for Jesus to die on the cross. Psalm 5:4 is very clear. "*You are not a God who takes pleasure in evil; with you the wicked cannot dwell.*" A wicked person is someone who is not as holy as God is holy. He is some-one who has violated God's demand for perfection in thought, word and deed.

The correct answer for #2 is "c." The Apostle Paul makes it clear that there is nothing we can contribute to Jesus' work of saving us from our sin when He says, "*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.*"

The Outreach Board at Holy Cross has been bringing the Law and Gospel highlighted above to the people living near the church. Come and join us. In October we will do it, 6:00PM, Sunday, October 4th, and on Sunday, October 18th at 3:30PM. During one of these outings we will be distributing 600 large post cards with a message "PLEASE DON'T CONFUSE US WITH THE 'LUTHERANS' RECENTLY IN THE NEWS." It will explain our belief that the Bible teaches the sanctity of marriage is between one man and one woman (Genesis 1,2, John 2:1-11, and Ephesians 5:21-33), and that any sexual activity outside of that one man and one woman marriage violates the moral will of God and is sinful.

### **HOLY CROSS THANKSGIVING MEAL**

For the second year in a row, there will be a special Thanksgiving meal after the worship service November 26th at Holy Cross. Everyone is welcome. Thrivent Insurance has offered \$1,600 (it is a bonus for those Holy Cross Lutherans who hold Thrivent Insurance) for food, advertising, and hours people dedicate to cooking and making the meal a success. The Outreach Board will advertise the meal to the Hispanic community as well as our local community. Plan to attend now. If you have family, bring them along.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Kelly Lawson** a former member of Holy Cross, was received as a new member of Holy Cross by Profession of Faith at a special Voters' Meeting held on Sunday, September 20th. Her son, Stefan Paxton, 14, has begun a confirmation course.

Kelly and Stefan, it is great to have you back at Holy Cross. You are part of our spiritual family and we pray your faith will be strengthened here and that you will find an outlet here for your many talents. God's richest blessings\_\_

### **REFORMATION SERVICE**

Our joint Reformation service this year will be at Holy Cross on Sunday, November 1st at 4:00PM. There will be a supper afterwards. Pastor Paul Johnston will preach. Attendance has been low the last three years for this event. It really is worth the time and effort to attend. The message of Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone, is our heritage. The service will outline the life of Luther. There will be special music.

### **VOTERS' MEETING**

The Quarterly Congregational Voters' Body business meetings will be conducted during the month of October. The Church Council meeting will be held October 13th at 7:00PM. On October 19th, following the worship service and pot luck dinner, the Congregational Voters' Meeting will be held. The Church Council, which consists of the congregation officers and the chairman of each board, will meet to receive reports from the Boards and prepare an agenda of items for the Voters' Meeting. At the Voters' Meeting, the congregations voting members will take official action to approve or disapprove agenda item recommendations. Among the agenda item recommendations will be the proposed budget for year 2010, presentation of a slate of candidates for election of congregation officers and board members, and the Boards will report on the Norman Mission Committee, Renovation Committee, and the Education Committee findings. After approval of the slate of candidates the annual election of church officers and board members will be held during the meeting. All members of the congregation are invited to attend the Voters' Meeting.

### **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**Thanks** to all who in the past have so graciously watched the children in the nursery. A new sign-up sheet has been posted on the church bulletin board in the fellowship area for those who would like to watch the small children in the nursery during Sunday school and worship service. Please sign the sheet and then watch the church calendar and newsletter for the Sunday on which you may serve.

### **OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Each year every member of Holy Cross congregation is provided offering envelopes to use in giving their monetary offerings to the Lord. The front of the envelope contains two offering designees, "The Lord's Work at Holy Cross" and "The Lord's Work In Wisconsin Synod Missions" and the "Weekly Offering" amount for each. The "Weekly Offering" amount for each designee plays an important part in how you want the offering divided. If the "Weekly Offering" amounts are left blank the total amount of the offering goes to the Lord's Work at Holy Cross. If the entire amount of the offering is written in one of the "Weekly Offering" blanks, and the other "Weekly Offering" is left blank, then the entire amount of the offering goes to the Lord's Work in the area where the amount is written. As an example, for a \$100.00 offering, if \$100.00 is written in Weekly Offering of "The Lord's Work at Holy Cross" and with nothing written in Weekly Offering for "The Lord's Work in Wisconsin Synod Missions," then \$100.00 will go to "The Lord's Work In Wisconsin Synod Missions." So it is important, if you want your offering to go to Holy Cross and to "The Lord's Work In Wisconsin Synod Missions," that the amounts be written in the "Weekly Offering" line.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Norman Mission Committee has been placed under the Outreach Board by the Holy Cross voters. The committee met on Saturday, September 19th. Holy Cross Outreach Chairman, Kris Timm, and Head Elder, Al Cardwell, attended. WELS Mission Counselor, Ed Schuppe, sat in on the meeting and offered advice when asked. The Norman people attending the meeting set tentative plans to meet Saturday evenings starting in January, with confirmation classes between 4:00-6:00PM, worship service at 6:30PM and fellowship at 7:30PM. Bible Study will either be at a midweek time slot or led by a layman on Saturday evenings between 5:00-6:00PM. The group thought that it would be best to set a tentative budget which will include all their expenses, including their own church mission offering goal, the payment of a portion of the pastor's salary, and car mileage expenses. The actual budget will depend on the offerings given by the Norman Mission members. To determine the amount given to support the mission, the Norman Mission members will be asked to give a secret unsigned pledge after church today in a private meeting. A request was made to the Chairman of the Holy Cross Outreach Board that Holy Cross congregation consider supporting the new mission with \$500 per month. If that is not approved the group will adjust their budget accordingly. A Norman Mission planning meeting is scheduled for October 17th at 3:00PM. The group will visit various worship sites that have been put on a list by a site committee. The worship site that is chosen will be temporary until land can be obtained. Pastor will be applying for a grant from a WELS investment fund called Antioch that helps new mission churches with their initial advertising expenses.

The Renovation Committee has been contacting building contractors in the area and asking them to develop proposals on how to enlarge the church entry way and the church restrooms. After reviewing these proposals the committee will present their findings to the Board of Property Management. The Board of Property Management will evaluate the committee findings to make recommendations to the Church Council on how to proceed on enlarging the church entry way and restrooms. These recommendations will be presented at the Holy Cross church council meeting on October 13th for action by the Voters' Body on October 20th.

The Education Committee is continuing to study means whereby Holy Cross congregation can reach out to the community through Christian education. Their previous study of having a Mother's Day Out/Christian Pre-school educational program required increasing the size of Holy Cross' present education building facilities. The Holy Cross Voters' Body did not think a building program to increase the size of the educational facility was feasible at this time. With these restrictions as guidelines, the committee is now investigating other educational programs that could be conducted within the present Holy Cross facilities and budget constraints. One such program is the "Home Schooling Education Program." In this setting elementary and high school age children would be taught through on-line computer educational programs and materials. A program such as this would not require individual classrooms and can be conducted with minimum teacher involvement. Sometime during the coming months the Education Committee will be presenting their findings about how Holy Cross congregation can reach out to the community through an educational program.

## **ANNIVERSARY SERVICE**

Remember on Sunday, October 11th, Holy Cross will be celebrating Pastor Strackbein's 30th anniversary of service in the ministry. In the afternoon there will be a special thanksgiving celebration service at 5:00PM, with a pot luck dinner to follow. Pastor Philip Strackbein will be the guest speaker and Vicar Tom Strackbein will be the liturgist. If you have not done so, please sign up to provide food on the "Food Sign-up" sheet, and sign the "Attendance" sheet to provide an estimate of how much food to prepare. These two sign-up sheets may be found on the bulletin board in the fellowship area. What a blessing it will be for all to join in this celebration.

## **MARY-MARTHA GUILD**

The ladies of the Mary-Martha Guild met on Saturday, September 12th at 9:30AM for Bible study and project work. The Bible study topic was on the Book of Esther who became Queen of Persia. The underlying theme was that God is always with us no matter what the circumstances may be.

The District LWMS Red River Rally will be held October 3rd. See the Holy Cross church bulletin board for more information.

On Saturday, October 24th, the ladies are sponsoring a trip for all Holy Cross members and friends to Chisholm Trail Museum, Mt. Scott, and the Holy City at Lawton, OK. Transportation will be provided on a handicap passenger bus complete with restroom. The bus will leave Holy Cross at 8:30AM. The cost is \$51 per person, which includes lunch, no matter what the age. Be sure to bring your camera. For additional information see Joy Hahn (632-4524) or Sue Piña (741-1686). The ladies will be meeting again on Saturday, October 10th at 9:30AM. All ladies are invited.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED ?'s ABOUT LITURGICAL WORSHIP**

### *What do I do before worship?*

Before worship we prepare ourselves by praying a prayer in the bulletin or hymnal (pages 10-11, 134-139), reading through the lessons, the Psalm of the day, and the worship theme in the bulletin. You may also wish to look under the parament section of this guide to review the symbolism reflected in the service. It is a time for reflection and preparation.

### *What do I do during worship?*

During worship we are actively engaged in worshipping the Lord. Unlike attending a theater, or watching a show, we are the ones making worship happen. We come to worship to give as well as to get. To worship with our hearts and minds, and not just with our lips, takes effort and concentration. For this reason, please be courteous to your fellow worshipers and save conversation and individual Christian encouragement for before and/or after the worship service.

## **MY TRIP TO ISRAEL**

As most of you know, I used the educational portion of my salary to go to Israel with 12 other WELS pastors. The tour was led by Pastor Eugene and Sylvia Kock. The tour was cut rate because the tour company wants to recruit pastors to lead future tours to Israel. By the way, if there was a huge demand I would be willing to do that.

The tour started September 8th. I flew from OKC to Chicago, Chicago to Philadelphia and Philadelphia to Tel Aviv, Israel. We arrived mid-afternoon in Israel. It took 20 hours to get there. Once there we took a bus to our hotel at the town of Tiberias (John 6:23) overlooking the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

On Thursday, September 10th, we took a small bus and traveled north, went by Magdala, (Luke 8:2), stopped at Tabgha where the geography logically points to where Jesus fed the 5,000, then on to the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee and had a devotion at the top of the Mt. of Beatitudes (Matthew 5-7). What is interesting is that the mountain is concave in the shape of a theater. Matthew 5:1 says, "He went up on a mountainside and sat down." He did not necessarily go on top. Having the people on a concave (Roman theater shaped) mountain meant the acoustics were perfect for Him to speak to large crowds while seated in front of them. After that it was a few minutes' drive to Capernaum (Matthew 4:13), where Jesus spent most of His three year ministry. Capernaum was destroyed in the 8th century by an earthquake. However, what is thought to be Peter's home has been excavated. It has his name on one of the rocks. It is probably where Jesus stayed while in Capernaum. Just about 100 feet away is a 3rd century synagogue built over a 1st century one which is where Jesus also spent a lot of time. Since Capernaum is not far from the shore of the Sea of Galilee it would have been where Peter and the others fished and where Jesus called them into ministry, told them to cast their nets on the other side, and where Peter was reinstated into the public ministry. We had another devotion at a site similar to where Peter might have been reinstated. Next we traveled on the east side of the lake near Gadara, or the land of the Gadarenes. We looked over the bank where the pigs probably jumped off and ran into the sea. Today the cliff is full of mines left by the Syrians who used to control the Golan Heights behind the East Bank of the Sea. Since the last war they were pushed back about 15 miles. Following that we stopped by the Jordan River which flows out of the Sea of Galilee and took a ride on a boat on the Sea of Galilee. The owner of the boat was a converted Jewish Christian and sang some Christian songs. He also demonstrated how the disciples would have fished with nets. We landed on the northeast side and toured a museum at Dalmanutha (Mark 8:10), where the ruins of a 1st century fishing boat have been preserved.

On Friday, September 11th, we went to the northern border of Israel and looked into Lebanon and Syria, had a devotion at Caesarea Philippi, walked to the ruins of Tel Dan (A Tel is a mound where a city was built and destroyed many times until a small mountain formed.) Tel Dan is where the gate of Jeroboam is. Being the only major city in the area, it is probable that Abraham would have stopped through the city on the way back rescuing Lot and pursuing the five defeated kings who took him. We also visited Beit Shean, one of the best preserved Decapolis Roman cities.

On Saturday, September 12th, we left for Jerusalem and on the way visited Cana (John 2), Zippori, Nazareth (Luke 1 & 2), Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18), and Tel Megiddo in the valley of Armageddon. Near there was the springs where Gideon narrowed his troops from 30,000 to 300, also close to where Saul was defeated and killed. We also toured the ruins of Caesarea Maritima (Acts 9, 10 & 25), built by Herod the Great and taken over by the Romans as the local seat of Roman government. Again we had 3 devotions.

On Sunday, Sept 13th, we began at the Mount of Olives, went to the Garden of Gethsemane and had a worship service. We ended the service by picking an olive tree and having a time of personal prayer and meditation. Following that we went up to the Wailing Wall of Herod's Temple. The Jews like to pray there because it is the closest place to where the Holy of Holies used to be. The Muslim Dome of the Rock (the dome has plates of solid gold) is in the place the Holy of Holies used to be. There is a second Mosque on the site also. The northern part, the temple mount, was dug into Mount Mariah where Abraham was told to sacrifice Isaac. The whole mount covers 38 acres and was purchased by David (2 Samuel 24:18-25). After that we visited all the sites of Jesus trial, the pavement where Jesus stood when He was tried, (below the current ground level), the journey to the cross, and one of the traditional sites of Golgotha. The mother of Constantine, the first Christian Roman emperor, built churches on most of the traditional sites in the 4th century. Later we toured the ruins of the Pools of Bethesda. They are 60 feet deep and during the dry season very low. For the lame man to be the first into the pool meant being first to the stairway which led down to the water which may have been 50 feet down. We also visited a church, Saint Ann's (Ann was the mother of Mary) built by the Crusaders, and which again is in Christian hands. Tour groups were allowed to go in separately. When it was our turn we slowly sang The Agnus Dei (O Christ, Lamb of God, page 23 in the hymnal), and "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage." There was a four to five second reverberation. We sang it in harmony and acapella. We ended the day with a tour of Bethlehem which is in Palestinian control and about 80 Muslims. The last stop was a place overlooking the Shepherds fields where the Angel of the Lord appeared. I preached a Christmas sermon at the spot and interestingly enough, a flock of sheep wandered onto the field we were looking at as I finished.

On Monday, September 14th, we toured a museum where some of the Dead Sea Scrolls are displayed, saw a huge 1-50 scale model of Jerusalem as it would have appeared in Jesus' time, saw Hezekiah's Tunnel, Mount Zion, where David once had his palace and a city of about 10,000 people. The ruins of Caiaphas' home is also on Mt. Zion. There is a long stone stairway leading up to it. There is also a pit where prisoners were stored until time for trial. It is possible that Jesus was in this pit while the Sanhedrin was being summoned in the middle of the night (real Psalm 88). We did and had a devotion based on it while in that pit. Above the pit and below the palace is a room where religious trials would have been held. There were also holes in an arch above and below where prisoners would have been chained and spread eagled for abuse. The Bible says nothing about being chained, but that doesn't mean it didn't happen. We ended the touring with a stop in the garden tomb of a rich man, a short distance from an outcropping that looks like a skull. It is the second possible site of the crucifixion and resurrection. We went into the tomb and took pictures and then went to a corner of the garden and had a communion service led by Pastor Kock. As we started, three Muslim minarets began a call to prayer. There were also three other protestant groups having services in other corners of the garden. For me it was the high point of the trip. After a farewell supper, we went to the airport and were in the air by 11:00PM. I got home Tuesday around 2:00PM after another 20 or so hour journey in the air. (To get the math right you have to remember there are 7 time changes.)  
Pastor Strackbein

### **SOUP CAN LABELS/CEREAL BOX TOPS**

Please continue to bring your Campbell Soup labels and box top coupons and give them to Dina Shoumaker.

### **OCTOBER GREETERS**

Oct. 4 - Gene & Ada Hill  
Oct. 11 - Mike & Latischa Huller  
Oct. 18 - George & Nancy McKinnis  
Oct. 25 - Scott & Carole Peters

### **OCTOBER CLEANING LIST**

Oct. 3 - Shawn Stuever Family  
Oct. 10 - Tom & Janet Finney/Paul & Aimee Barnett  
Oct. 17 - Joe & Kim Glass/Jeff & Anice Glass  
Oct. 24 - Jack & LaVon Post/Andy & Jeanie Quam  
Oct. 31 - Scott & Carole Peters/Byron & Dina Shoumaker

### **OCTOBER MOWING LIST**

Oct. 3 - Kris Timm/Tom Finney

Oct. 10 - Scott Peters & Sons  
Oct. 17 - Jack Post/Andy Quam  
Oct. 24 - Dean Thomas/Troy Thomas  
Oct. 31 - Richard Poulin/Paul Barnett

### NURSERY SCHEDULE

#### Nursery-Bible Study

Oct. 4 - Darlene Chaddock  
Oct. 11 - Aimee Barnett  
Oct. 18 - TBA  
Oct. 25 - TBA

#### Nursery-Church Service

#### The 'LITTLE' Things

As you might remember, the head of a company survived 9/11 because his son started kindergarten.

Another fellow was alive because it was His turn to bring donuts.

One woman was late because her Alarm clock didn't go off in time.

One was late because of being stuck on the NJ Turnpike Be-cause of an auto accident.

One of them Missed his bus.

One spilled food on her clothes and had to take Time to change.

One's Car wouldn't start.

One couldn't Get a taxi.

#### **The one that struck me was the man**

Who put on a new pair of shoes that morning,

Took the various means to get to work

But before he got there, he developed a blister on his foot.

He stopped at a drugstore to buy a Band-Aid.

That is why he is alive today..

Now when I am

Stuck in traffic,

Miss an elevator,

Turn back to answer a ringing telephone ...

#### **All the little things that annoy me.**

**I think to myself,**

**This is exactly where**

God wants me to be

At this very moment..

Next time your morning seems to be

Going wrong,

The children are slow getting dressed,

You can't seem to find the car keys,

You hit every traffic light,

Don't get mad or frustrated;

It may be just that

God is at work watching over you.

May God continue to bless you

With all those annoying little things

And may you remember their possible purpose.

#### **RAIN**

By Delores Staats (Barb Strackbein's Mom)

*How I love a rainy day\_*

*Nestled in His lap to pray;*

*Thinking of His gracious love*

*And my heav'nly home above\_*

*Reading in His Holy Word;*

*Thankful for His gifts outpoured;*

*Warm and cozy, safe inside;*

*With me always, Lord, abide\_*