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May 10, 2026

# The Purpose

From here to heaven... Following God wherever He leads us.

## Commentary from a common Terry *Two in one day?*

Back in January, we were paying less than two dollars a gallon for gas. Certainly a very tolerable cost considering the past several years and the fluctuations of gas prices. Now, just four months later, it's four-and-a-half bucks a gallon... or more! I filled up *Mean Joe* (my truck) the other day and came up just short of a ridiculous one hundred dollars. For one tank of gas!

But you want to know what's even worse? That's when I fill up the truck and then a little later in the day discover LaNelle's car also needs a tankful. On the same day! Ouch!!

Nevertheless, with all the complaining, worrying, and concerns, we still fill up those tanks and keep going. It's hard to live life if we can't get from here to there. It's the cost of navigating our days.

But, man, the cost can be steep!

I feel like the little mouse chorus in the movie *Babe* with this next sentence. "*The way things are.*" But there's a lot of truth in that phrase. And, quite frankly, there can be some peace with those four words as well. I'm not talking about the serenity that comes from sitting by a calm mountain lake on a perfect day. I'm talking about the removal of the frustration that constantly wants to push its way in every time something else happens that we really wish wasn't happening. We just got done with one negative, or maybe are still dealing with it, and here comes another one. Two fill-'er-up moments in one day! Couldn't we at least spread them out a little bit?

But no, it doesn't always work that way. Why? Because that's "*...the way things are.*"

I need to tread carefully from here on in this little article. I do not in any way want to sound as if we shouldn't pray for God to change our circumstances. He can. Sometimes He does. But not always. Our prayers about our struggles, especially when we are feeling overwhelmed ("I don't need this right now!"), are healthy. We are taking our very lives to the One Who holds our life breath in His hands. Acts 17:25

Part of the understanding, though, is that God's way for us may not always make sense and it sure may not always be comfortable. If He chooses to leave you or me in a difficult dilemma, then He has reasons that we may not know...but

we trust. It is the prayer of Jesus in the garden as He confessed to His Father that what was about to happen was too big, too difficult, and too overwhelming to take on. "*Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*" Matthew 26:39

God has promised us that He will carry us *through* whatever we face. He doesn't always pick us up and maneuver us *around* the pain or hurt. He doesn't always grab our hand and show us an alternative path that avoids the next challenge. He will go with us *through* it.

Paul prayed three times that the "thorn in the flesh," whatever that might have been, would be taken away from him. He probably presented a pretty good argument as to why it would be better for his work if he didn't have a physical hindrance. And yet, God refused. He told Paul. "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.*" II Corinthians 11:9 The result was that Paul learned to actually boast about his weakness because God's strength would be seen in it. He realized he was truly strong in those moments because he better understood, experienced, and appreciated the power of Jesus in his struggle.

Paul told the church in Ephesus in his letter to them that he was "in chains" (prison) because of his faith. Ephesians 6:20 You'd think he'd ask them to pray for his release. But he didn't. In one of the most insightful statements to Paul's faith that we have, he ended his letter by asking them to pray "*...also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.*" Ephesians 6:19-20

The circumstances can become secondary to the desire to always serve, be faithful, and honor God in every situation and moment. Even when life is piling on. Even when it seems everything is against us. Even when it just isn't fair.

So we fill up both tanks on the same day and then can get to where we need to be. God gets us to where we need to be *through* the moment, not in spite of it.

Love one another,

Terry



## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are thankful you are with us today as we worship our God and Savior. Our prayer is that you will encounter Him today.

A nursery for small children is available in the east hall off the lobby.

### What will you experience at Westview?

- **Praise through song.** It is the tradition of our heritage to sing a cappella (without instruments) as we encourage everyone to be involved in uplifting praise.
- We value the **Bible.** You will hear God's Word read and all sermons will give the utmost respect and priority to Scripture.
- We share the **Lord's Supper** every week remembering Christ's sacrifice that provides us forgiveness as we celebrate our salvation through Him.
- **We do not expect our guests to give financially** to our work. We depend on the generous and godly giving of all Westview members to provide the funds needed to implement God's plans for this church.

We invite you to stay for Bible classes following our worship time. We hope you have been blessed today!

## Today's Order of Worship

*Shine, Jesus, Shine*  
*Restore My Soul*

**Meet & Greet**

### Announcements & Reminders

*Hosanna! You're My King*

**Prayer**

*We Will Glorify*

### Scripture Reading:

**Matthew 16:13-18**

**Sermon**

**The Invasion:**

*God's Church God's Way (4)*

*The Plan*

*Send the Light*

*By Christ Redeemed*

### We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

**Contribution Collected**

*Thank You, Lord*

*Living By Faith*

**Unison Reading:**

**I Peter 5:10-11**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

## Events, opportunities, and reminders:

### Servers for Worship today (10<sup>th</sup>)

Scripture Reading Greg Hammer  
Prayer Todd Zwetzig  
Doug Blount (communion prayers)  
Brandon Adkins (contribution prayers)  
Zachary Blount  
Ken Clark  
Dan Esposito  
Chad Goodwin



The Westview Men's Coffee is every Tuesday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The Westview Women's Coffee is every Wednesday morning from 9 to 11 a.m. in the fellowship room.

The kids' worship handout is on the table at the back of the auditorium.

**GRANDPARENTS AT PRAYER** The *Grandparents At Prayer* group will meet this coming Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10 a.m. in room #14. **G@P** meets on the second Wednesday of each month, August through May (the school year). This will be the last meeting for the current school year. We encourage all grandparents to join the group and lift up our grandkids in prayer.

**Men's Breakfast next Saturday** The monthly *Men's Breakfast* for May will be next Saturday, the 16<sup>th</sup>. (This is one week later than usual.) All the men, teen guys, and boys are invited. We usually eat at about 8:30 a.m. We can always use some help getting things ready and set up, starting at 8:15 a.m.

**Sunday morning classes:** The fellowship room class is a verse-by-verse textual study, led by Randy and Tom. Tom is currently leading a study of the book of **John**.

Terry's class, which meets in room #14, begins a four week study today of the book of **Jonah**. The class is entitled **Not Another Fish Story**. We will see how relevant the lessons of this small book are to today.

**The Kitchen** is a ministry to the homeless. We cook burritos on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and take them to the homeless shelter. You can help cook, deliver, or both. **It varies each week if we're meeting.** This week, on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, *The Kitchen* is **OPEN**. See you there.

The **Wednesday night Bible study group** meets at 6:30 in the fellowship room. We are currently studying the book of *Galatians*.

**The May Bible study plan guide handout is in the lobby on the table.**

Time is running out for camp registration. See the flyer in the lobby for details. Or you can check with Terry for more information.



### Grandbaby congratulations!

Tom & Amber Odle have a granddaughter! **Linlee Jean Pope** was born early morning last Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. She weighed in at eight pounds, six ounces and is 20-1/2" long. Proud parents are **Jesse & Sydney** (Tom & Amber's daughter) **Pope** in Garnett, Kansas. It was a difficult delivery that resulted in a C-section. Both Sydney and Linlee are doing well.



### Prayer reminders

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

We do not include personal information, such as the prayer list in our online bulletin. If you would like that information, it is available in the hard copy bulletin at the building. Or, you can contact the church office to receive a copy.

*We expect to receive again our own bodies, though they be dead and cast into the earth, for we maintain that with God nothing is impossible.*

~~Justin Martyr (2<sup>nd</sup> century Christian apologist, theologian, and martyr)~~