

Briefings

Pilot Knob Lutheran Church

May 2022

Volume 145

April showers, which we've had a few, bring May flowers. I, like you, sure hope so...and soon! If you are farming, you may be a bit anxious.

Flowers are not the only thing that comes in May. It also brings graduations and the end of the school year. Many graduates will move into a world with less structure, unless it's college or military service. Wherever they go or do, there is a greater sense of personal responsibility. It's not simply graduation from



school, it's graduating into the adult world with more freedom, expectations, and questions: what will I do, where will I live if I leave home, will I make it at my next endeavor? It's a big leap for many students.

The best way to assist in this process is to encourage them to always do their best, to work hard at what they do, to have integrity, be honest, show respect to others and as believers in Christ, stand for what is right and know that He will never leave you nor forsake you.

God goes with them into the world as they begin a new chapter filled with adventures and temptations. The best education to ensure success is to establish a biblical worldview that will provide a light to guide them through the present darkness. Of course, that should begin at the earliest age, but it's never too late to begin.

One other thing we must do for graduates and those returning to school, is to pray for them each day no matter how old they are. Prayer is powerful because it is communication with the living and personal God who acts according to His good pleasure. Never consider prayer as a last resort, but as the first line of defense.

There is one place of learning we must never graduate from, and that is Christian education and worship. Every day is a learning experience, and we will never mine all the rich nuggets of scripture in a lifetime, so we must be students of God's word our entire lives and practice living out its biblical principles. Are you a student of God's word who is not looking toward graduation? How will you continue to study through the summer? How will you teach your children the Word of God this summer?



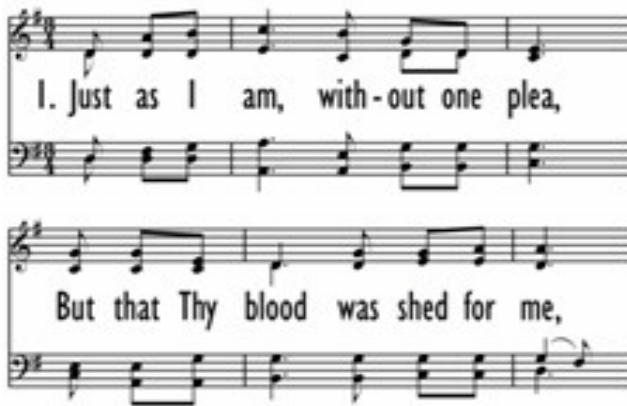
Meet Laurel Yost

Laurel lives in Lake Mills, Iowa.

Laurel has many favorite Bible verses, but tries her best to live by this one in Psalm 19:14
“May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.”

Her favorite hymns are several, as Laurel likes music. Here are a few: Living for Jesus, It is Well with My Soul, Just As I Am, and for Christmas songs: Mary Did you Know & Joy to the World.

If Laurel could talk to anyone from the Bible it would be Jesus. She says she talks to his Dad every day.



A Reflection on Reflect

December 31, 2021

Summit Ministries' worldview and pop culture blog, *Reflect*, has been helping students, teachers, and parents to identify and understand worldview ideas in pop culture and entertainment media for over three years. The purpose of *Reflect* is not to make you feel bad about what you watch or listen to or to recommend whether or not you should watch or listen to something. Instead, the purpose is to help you recognize the ideas operating behind movies, shows, and music. Recognizing the ideas operating in our world is not always easy. Sometimes the ideas at play are evident and easily identifiable, sometimes they are buried deep and are difficult to discern. What may seem like innocent entertainment may hide dangerous ideas. *Reflect* exists to help you think deeply about the ideas that influence us and those around us, to thoughtfully engage the ideas prevalent in our culture, and to prepare you for discussions with the rising generations about these ideas.

From the beginning, *Reflect* has intended to help its readers understand a whole spectrum of worldviews through various categories. Summit's *Understanding the Times* identifies ten worldview categories and six distinct worldviews. Over the years of writing *Reflect*, it has become apparent that some worldview ideas undergird pop culture and entertainment more often than others. In fact, some hardly ever come up, while others come up frequently. Whichever ideas are most commonly represented through art and entertainment are undoubtedly the most popular and powerful ideas in culture. While researching for *Reflect*, we've noticed the same powerful worldview ideas that were identified by John Stonestreet earlier this year as crucial to the thought trends in our culture: [truth, technology, and identity](#).

Truth

Truth is what corresponds to reality. Truth is objective, real, and knowable. *Reflect's* recent [article on Kanye](#) explores the limit of our ability to know truth perfectly, but truth is not something unknowable, nor something we get to make up. The recently released movie about the [conversion of C.S. Lewis](#) makes a case for the importance of reason in determining what is true, but our culture often attempts to [relativize](#) truth claims, or claim that "truth" is defined by [whoever has the most power](#). Some artists, like [Megan Thee Stallion](#) and [Billie Eilish](#), embrace the view of truth that says conversations about truth are really just conversations about power, and it shows up in their music and interviews. Taking to the extreme the culture's tendency to downplay or deny truth, [Twenty-One Pilots](#) and [Bastille](#) explore what it would mean to ignore truth, choosing instead to live in a

false reality.

Technology

Technology is a useful yet dangerous tool. Tristan Harris in [The Social Dilemma](#) argues that many types of technology shouldn't even be considered tools because tools don't change us, but technology does. One of the most evident consequences of living lives driven by technology is the [rising mental health crisis](#). AJR shares their [struggles with mental health](#) through 2020 (a year distinctly marked by technological interactions when in-person interactions were made extremely difficult), and [Logic](#) doesn't shy away from talking about how online comparison and the lack of real relationships can contribute to mental health struggles.

Technology changes the way we think, act, and interact with one another. Recent trends, like the surging popularity of [TikTok](#), can seem like innocent diversions, but they may have deeper implications for our culture. [Reflect's](#) article on the ever-popular 90's sitcom [Friends](#) suggests that we may all be longing for technologically simpler times, possibly in response to how technology is becoming more of a driving (and perhaps controlling) force in many people's lives. [Bastille](#) takes it a step further, imagining what it would be like to lose ourselves in a virtual reality.

Identity

Who we are is defined by our identity as creatures made in the image of God. The *imago Dei* should be central to any discussion about human identity. Yet, in step with its tendency to relativize truth, our culture also relativizes identity, making it a matter of personal preference. Rather than the image of God, what is usually at the center of conversations about identity today is sexuality and gender identity. [Lil Nas X](#), [Sam Smith](#), and the movie [Boy Erased](#) all make identity a matter of *sexual* identity. *Boy Erased* puts the conversation in a religious environment and implies that [sexual desires can't change, so religion must](#). Many musical artists point to [sex, love, and power](#) as the key markers of identity, while others look to [social status and public approval](#) to define their identity. Some voices are more sober in their attempt to understand identity: rather than uncritically accepting the culturally approved ideas about identity, [Halsey](#) genuinely struggles with her identity as a woman and a mother. In movies like [Raya and the Last Dragon](#) and [Judas and the Black Messiah](#) we see how people find their identities in particular groups or causes, seeing the world with an us-against-them mentality.

In Disney's [Cruella](#), the titular character decides that *her* identity is someone "born bad." But [Logic](#) gets closer to the truth when he encourages his listeners to recognize that they are inherently valuable. In every *Reflect* article about identity it seems that the answer comes back to the corrective given by the truth that we are God's image-bearers. Our culture's deep confusion about identity is at its root a problem of failing to understand human nature, which is a reflection of the character of God. Our culture attempts to place the burden of identity on various things—sexuality, love, power, public approval, political causes, and relationships (to name a few). As important as these things are, none of them are the most important thing about us. These things and how they relate to our identity can only be understood when we understand that we are made in the image of God.

As these three themes show up in the media, art, and entertainment of our culture, a pattern emerges: the erosion of truth, the dangers of technology, and the confusion about identity. We expect that, in all likelihood, we will continue to see this pattern, which can make the future seem bleak. However, in addition to these three themes, we've noticed another theme recurring within the culture: hope.

Hope

Sometimes messages of hope come from expected places, like the Christian-produced show that explores the life of Jesus, [The Chosen](#). Sometimes, hopelessness is the prevailing theme, such as in the grief-stricken song "[Wrecked](#)" by [Imagine Dragons](#), or in the brutally honest lyrics of [Juice WRLD](#), or in a [movie about the end of the world](#), or a show about how [drug abuse ruins lives](#). Such apparent hopelessness can resonate with Christians, and even resonates with passages of Scripture ([2 Corinthians 1:8](#), [Psalm 13:1](#)).

Yes, somehow, it seems that apparent hopelessness is always pointing us back to hope. Enigmatically, our honest expression of our *feelings* of hopelessness can sometimes be what allows us to turn back to the hope found in the promises of God. At times we may resonate with the world's fatalistic outlook on existence, but the world's hopelessness can also be our reminder that our One True Hope is Jesus Christ. As we live in an in-between time—between Christ's first coming and his second—the world is still broken and it can be difficult to hold on to hope. Hope, because its fulfillment is in the future, is not an easy answer that makes our difficulties disappear. Yet hope can help us work through the struggles and suffering of today.

Songwriter and author Andrew Peterson has [said](#), “Despair is where we end up when we think we know the end of our story.” If we experience suffering and tragedy in our lives and conclude that our story will end in suffering and tragedy—or worse, that our story is meaningless—despair follows. However, Christianity teaches that we do know how our story ends and that we have reason to hope.¹

[Judah and the Lion](#) reminds us that there’s hope of healing for those who feel spiritually broken and at the end of themselves. Hope gives us the chance to begin again, to know that this is not the end, and to not give up on ourselves or on God. More than just a hope for personal healing, or personal reconciliation to God, Christianity offers the hope that all things will be made new, no matter what happens in our culture ([Revelations 21:5](#)). Holding on to hope can be challenging, even painful. Yet hope—hope in Christ—can help us navigate the pain and confusion of living in a broken world.

Sign up [here](#) to receive weekly *Reflect* emails in your inbox!

• **Recommended Resources**

- [Truth, Technology, & Identity](#) — John Stonestreet
 - [Death’s Resolve and Heaven’s Beauty](#) — Erik Raymond
 - [Hope in Times of Fear](#) — Timothy Keller
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Volunteers needed:

We appreciate all of those who volunteer and keep things running smoothly at PKLC. If you feel led to help out, we are currently in need of:

- Custodians for August, October, and Dec. 18-24
- Mowers
- Snacks & servers for fellowship time after worship service this summer

Check the tables for sign-up sheets

May Sermons/Scriptures

● May 1, 2022

Third Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service and Holy Communion

Sermon: Radical Transformation

First Lesson: Acts 9:1-22

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 5:1-14

Gospel Lesson: John 21:1-19

● May 8, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: I Am Leaving

First Lesson: Acts 20:17-35

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

Gospel Lesson: John 10:22-30

● May 15, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: The Unacceptable Accepted

First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:1-7

Gospel Lesson: John 16:12-22

● May 22, 2022

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Morning Worship Service

Sermon: No More Dark Money

First Lesson: Acts 16:16-24

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 21:9-14

Gospel Lesson: John 16:23-33

● May 29, 2022

Seventh Sunday of Easter

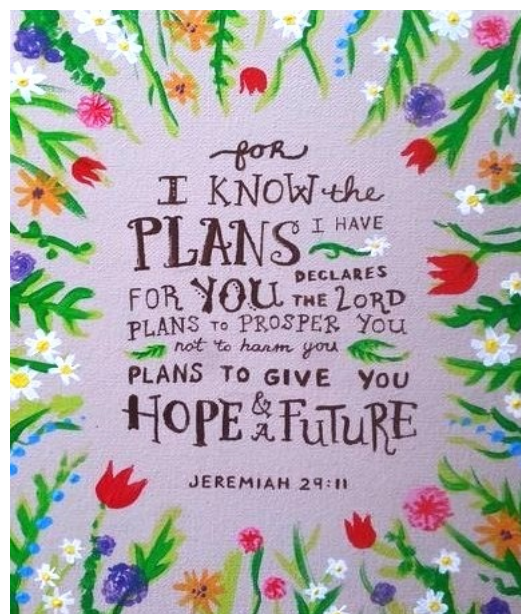
Morning Worship Service

Sermon: Not 11, but 12

First Lesson: Acts 1:12-26

Epistle Lesson: Revelation 22:1-11

Gospel Lesson: John 17:20-26



May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday Greeters: Brandon/Amanda Reader: Nick 10:15 Sunday School	2	3 6:30pm- Men's Study Bday: Mya Pedelty	4 4:30- Confirmation Bday: Becky Pederson	5 10am- Quilting	6	7
8 Mothers Day Greeters: Bob/Lou Reader: Angie Last Day Sunday School	9	10 5:45pm- Deacons 6:30pm- Council	Bday: Don Reese	Bday: Danny Lenz	13	14
15 Greeters: Jeff/Donna Reader: Brandon	16 Bday: Sherry Flugum	17 6:30pm- Men's Study 2pm- Women's Bible Study	18	19 10am- Quilting	20	21
22 Greeters: Devon/Kesley Reader: Jack	23 Bday: Joel Showalter	24 6:30pm- Men's Study	25	Bday: Joslyn Dontje	27	28 Bday: Denny Hagen
29 Greeters: Tony/Lydia Reader: Bobbi	30 Memorial Day	31 6:30pm- Men's Study Bday: Alicia Reese				

“Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.” -Laura Ingalls Wilder