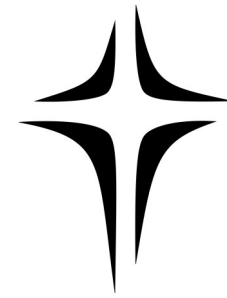


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Westview Church of Christ Greeley, Colorado

May 24, 2026

The Purpose

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

Commentary from a common Terry *The past is important*

It's a fool's endeavor to ignore or cancel the past. History exists whether it is acknowledged or not. If a revisionist today decides to change the facts and events of the past, that doesn't change history. It changes the *impact* of history.

How history is perceived, reported, and remembered...well, that's an ongoing process. The rule is that history is written by the victors. The version of history remembered is, usually, constructed so that a favorable light is cast on the featured participants. One of the remarkable aspects of the Bible and the history it presents is how candidly the Bible characters are portrayed. There are amazing victories. But, there are also brutal failures and embarrassments, sometimes by the same ones we laud and commend.

The triumphs of the past are vital to the fabric of today and tomorrow. However, so are the defeats. We learn as much from failure (maybe more) than we do from success. The sting of a recalled loss can be much more intense than the satisfaction that comes with a past win. As much as we like reexperiencing something pleasant, the drive created by the need to avoid misery can be even more powerful.

There's room for both.

When the Hebrew nation entered the Promised Land as the Jordan River parted (during flood season), a stone memorial was built. Twelve stones, left at the location of their first night on the Promised Land side of the river. They would retell the story of how God brought the nation to the land. The waters were parted. Joshua 4:1-8

Just three chapters later, in Joshua 7, another pile of rocks, a reminder of something terrible. The Jews had overrun Jericho, the Canaanite stronghold. But, the next day they had been routed by little insignificant Ai, a town about as small as its name. The reason? Achan had taken items from Jericho that were banned from the people. They were items devoted to God. He brought sin into the camp and the nation paid the price.

Once Achan's sin was revealed and the hidden treasure uncovered, he and his family were stoned to death and a great heap of stones piled on top of them and their possessions. 7:26 says that it was a, "...great heap of stones that remains

to this day." History. Remembrance. Lessons to be learned, not forgotten. The past is a harsh, effective, necessary teacher.

Tomorrow is Memorial Day for our nation. It is certainly appropriately named. It is to be a day in which the nation *remembers* the past and those that shaped it. Lives dedicated and lives lost. A price paid for something valuable. "Never Forget" are the two words most associated with Memorial Day. The moment we forget the sacrifice becomes the moment we lose sight of the value of what was bought with that sacrifice.

We have the ultimate "*the past is important*" experience every time we share the Lord's Supper. This communion, far from common, is a reminder of the worst *and* the best of human history. The worst is the catalog of sins throughout humankind's story. Sin separated us from God and there is absolutely nothing we can do to bridge the gap unless God provides access. That, then, is the best part of communion. Divine flesh and blood represented in bread and juice, reminding us of the most extraordinary moment in human history, the death of a Savior followed by the proof of life through His resurrection.

We learn so much from history. Let's keep the lesson of humanity's failures so that we can adequately measure God's success in cancelling those failures. He did not gloss over the sins of the people. He eliminated them. Our history is a two-edged sword, the worst and best of us. The worst we have done is woven into our story and, well, that's on us. It's our doing. The best is God's actions, drawing us close to His side, restoring us to a relationship with Him that we must have.

Everyday is another page in the narrative of our history. Our history will culminate with life, not death. Victory, not defeat. Cleansing, not filth. Innocence, not guilt. I am completely at peace with the realization that God will write my story. It will be accurate and true. It will be attached to the story of His Son, my Savior, and tell how He changed my doomed outcome.

The future is important. So is the past.

Love one another,

The two adult classes will be combined today into one class. We will meet in room #14 (Terry's class).

The Ladies' Prayer Group scheduled for this Tuesday has been postponed. We will announce soon the rescheduled date.

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!

Prayer assumes the sovereignty of God. If God is not sovereign, we have no assurance that He is able to answer our prayers. Our prayers would become nothing more than wishes. But while God's sovereignty, along with His wisdom and love, is the foundation of our trust in Him, prayer is the expression of that trust.

~~Jerry Bridges (20th century evangelical Christian author)~~

Today's Order of Worship

*We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise
He Is Exalted*

Meet & Greet

Announcements & Reminders

Prayer

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Sermon

The Invasion:

God's Church God's Way (6)

Who's in charge here?

We Praise Thee, O God

Scripture Reading:

Isaiah 53:4-6

Low In the Grave

We Remember Christ's Sacrifice

Contribution Collected

Servant Song

Elder blessing/prayer

All Hail the Pow'r of Jesus' Name

Unison Reading:

Psalms 37:39-40

It Is Well With My Soul

Events, opportunities, and reminders:

Congregational meal postponed to June

We had originally planned to have a congregational meal next Sunday, the last Sunday of the month. However, there are so many scheduling conflicts that we have decided to move it June. Several are gone because that is the first day of camp—we have both campers and staffers who will be heading to Wyoming that evening. Several others are gone as well. We have tentatively rescheduled for the last Sunday of June, the 28th. It will be a cookout at the park.

The Kitchen is a ministry to the homeless. We cook burritos on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and then take them to the homeless shelter. You can help cook, deliver, or both. It varies from week to week if we're meeting. **This week, on Wednesday, May 27th, *The Kitchen* is CLOSED.** We will next meet and cook and deliver on Wednesday, June 3rd.

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

This year's Northern Colorado Christian Camp begins next Sunday, the 31st. We have several campers as well as staff help going from Westview. We need to be praying all week for the success and safety of camp. Note—you will be contacted this week about transportation options.

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.

Servers for Worship today (24th)

Scripture Reading Taylor Hegarty
Prayer Randy McCrain

Tom Lininger (communion prayers)

Roy Moore (contribution prayers)

Kim Hegarty

Abner Morales

Doug Schwartz

Ian Sebold



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.



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

Philippians 4:6

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.

The main Memorial Day event/commemoration in Greeley will be tomorrow morning at Linn Grove Cemetery. It begins at 9 a.m. It will include patriotic music, a 21-gun salute, the Avenue of Flags display, and a keynote address.

*Courage is almost a contradiction in terms.
It means a strong desire to live taking the form of readiness to die.*

~~G.K. Chesterton~~