# Make Church a Part of Your Life WEEKLY SERMONETTE

# "Praise to the One Who Stretches Out The Heavens" By Pastor Lyn Linde, Norton/Almena First United Methodist Churches

Lord. OLord, My God, how great you are.

and majesty. You are dressed in a robe of light.

You stretch out the starry 104:1-2

Psalm 104 reflects on God's greatness by reflecting on the wonders of creation. While we could definitely use more rain, some areas of the in its fallen state, we glimpse the infinitely greater glory of God and cannot help but lift our voices in praise. "Let all that I am praise the Lord," writes the psalmist, "OLord, My God, how great you are!" (Psalm 104:1) I encourage you to read Psalm 104:1-35 to entertain your own taste of God's wondrous glory through creation.

The psalmist uses the natural world as a kind of mirror to see God in his glory. He begins, sensibly enough, with the wonder of the skies. While earlier this month some of those skies were tainted and gray dropping tornados in Nebraska, God is still in control and has since provided sunshine, rainbows, and starry nights. God is "dressed in a robe of light," shining brighter than the sun.(104:2) He"stretches out the starry curtain of the heavens" (104:2.) Some translations have

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Let all that I am praise the God stretching out a tent (ESV, all this, so immeasurably vast the Almighty, the King of NRSV< NIV). Indeed, the and glorious. For moments I Hebrew word used here yeri'a sense in a new way God's own You are robed with honor referred either to a curtain grandeur and glory. With the for He is thy health and or a tent, which was made of psalmist, I exclaim, "O Lord, curtain-like material in ancient Israel. The point is that God curtain of the heavens. Psalm created the stars and put them FURTHER REFLECTION: in their place.

Sometimes I gaze up at the brilliant specks of light and the gauzy whiteness of the Milky Way and try to imagine the Creator? size of what I am seeing. My Midwest are turning green brain can say the words, image of our Creator? and some fields of golden "light years," but I really grain are preparing for their cannot comprehend what that splendor of God in all His desires ever have been transformation. As we see means. Then I am reminded the glories of this world even of the fact that God created

My God, how great you are."

QUESTIONS FOR His temple draw near; When have you been struck

by the greatness of God?

What places in the world help over all things so wondrously you to glimpse the glory of the

Where do you go to see the glory?

creation!

O my soul, praise Him, salvation!

All ye who hear, now to

Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who reigneth,

Shelters thee under In whom do you see the His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy

Granted in what He Praise to the Lord, who

hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee; Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly

falling, hath stayed thee. What need or grief ever hath failed of relief?

Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee. Ponder anew what the

Almighty can do,

If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and

breath, come now with



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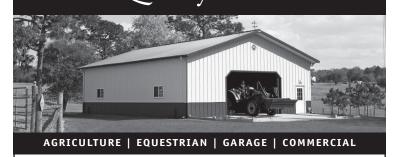
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# Your Mark Her toe is on the mark...

her eye is on the goal. Whether or not they win their race, every athlete is already a winner, for they are positively facing life's challenges. When we have faith in God, we can face life's challenges... we can prevail over them and emerge intact. Visit your house of worship this week. When your heart and mind are focused on the Creator, you will emerge victorious. You will be able to say, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished

PRAYER: Praise to the Lord, ordaineth?

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		Weekly	Scripture	Reading		
lsaiah 6.1-13	Isaiah 61.1-11	lsaiah 62.1-12	Joel 1.1-20	Joel 2.1-17	Joel 2.18-32	Joel 3.1-21
		Scriptures Selec	ted by the Ameri	ican Bible Society		
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praises before Him. Let the Amen sound from His people again, Gladly for aye we adore Him. Amen.

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