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RLA NEWS AND NOTES



**"May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace**

as you trust in Him so that you may overflow with
hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Letting God Fill in the Blanks

By Lysa TerKeurst of Proverbs31 Ministries

<https://www.proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2020/02/27/letting-god-fill-in-the-blanks>

**"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NIV)**

There's this little painting that hangs in my home. Most people wouldn't consider it a masterpiece. It was only \$5 at an estate sale, but I like it because it speaks redemption to my soul every time I look at it. I found it in a back room where the owner of the home used to sit and paint. I don't know what happened to the gal who painted it. All I know is it seems something about her life fell apart. And one day, a company opened her front door to strangers. They walked through all the sacred spaces she once called home and bought the stuff her life had collected. I guess I'm too sentimental to attend estate sales; I couldn't stand it.

But I also couldn't leave without rescuing something in her creative collection. Then I had the strangest notion to go on a wild adventure to find this unknown painter. I pictured it like an epic scene in a movie where the music crescendos, and I find her living in a New York high-rise. I would knock on her door and make the great assumption that she'd be thrilled with my announcement. "I just want you to know I love your work. I bought one of your paintings, and it speaks a message of redemption to me every day. And I treasure it." Surely then she would get misty-eyed, invite me in for coffee, and share her devastatingly beautiful story. We would become wonderful, unlikely friends. She would go on to become a famous painter and live happily ever after.

But life isn't usually as epic as what we see on movie screens. It's untidy and so unpredictable that our fragile hearts get broken at best, crushed at worst. And sometimes, it's just easier to run away than to risk letting the shards of the fallout cut away the little bit of life still left in us. No crescendo to the music. No epic arc to the story. No lasting friendship. Just a \$5 painting that hangs in my kitchen. And that's all I know.

Life sometimes keeps us from details that are better left alone. It keeps some of the blanks empty on the outline of this message. Does it ever drive you crazy when a speaker gives you an outline with blanks — but then skips some of the points? Me too. We like complete outlines. All the blanks filled in. All the gaps closed. All the details disclosed. And all the why questions answered to our satisfaction. But that's not the way life is. Some speakers are disorganized and forgetful. Some gaps are too wide to close. And some questions have no apparent answers.

I believe that's the way God wants it. Our all-knowing God not only allows this but actually designed life to be this way. It's the truth we see tucked into today's key verse: "Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6). Without blanks, we would have no room for Him to enter in and write His answers. For Him to become the **Way** when there is no way. For Him to be the **Truth** when lies long to consume our thoughts. For Him to be the **Life** He's designed on the other side of our crumbling attempts to control our stories.

Our God is not fickle, forgetful nor fragile in any way. He does not make mistakes. He purposes the gaps. He allows sacred spaces and blank places. He leaves room. If we had all the blanks filled in, we would explain away God's part in our story. God doesn't want to be explained away. He wants to be invited in. He wants us to make room for His additions to our story. One time God was told, "There is no room," and He turned an ordinary stable into an unforgettable sanctuary. "No room" became a space where Jesus Christ stepped through glory to the grit and grime of this sin-soaked world. What did He come to bring? Redemption. And what do the blanks and unanswered questions of your life provide space for? Redemption. So why is it OK with me if I never know the details of my kitchen painting? Redemption.

Father God, I thank You that everything You do has holy purpose. Even the things that don't make sense to me. Thank You for being the way, the truth and the life that I need. You are my Redeemer, and I trust You with every detail of my story. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

PTL Family Basketball Night

All RLA students in grades 3-8 and their family members are welcome to join TOMORROW, Feb. 28. This year's event will consist of scrimmages and contests, along with some open shooting time from 6:30 until 8 pm. The final half hour will be reserved for RLA basketball players vs. their parent(s) and/or family members in a full court setting.

Polish Dinner

Our next Polish Dinner is Friday, March 13th. Invite your friends, family and coworkers for this fellowship fundraiser. We will also need volunteers and desserts, so please watch for a Sign-Up Genius link. Don't forget that desserts can also be used toward volunteer hours!

Winter Weather

RLA does not follow any specific policy for cancellation of school due to bad weather. We do watch to see what other Districts and other private schools do besides going out on the roads ourselves around 5:30am. Watch WSBT, WNDU, ABC57 and Fox28 television stations, as well as their affiliate radio stations: 99.9FM, 95.3FM, 101.5FM, and 960AM. We will send out a FastDirect message and you may also check the calendar at www.rlasouthbend.com. We make every effort to make a decision before 6:00am. Sometimes the weather worsens after 6:00am and we are forced to make later decisions. We try to stay open as often as we can. We will be lenient issuing tardies on bad weather days, so please take your time and arrive safely. ***We also have the capability to send out text messages through Fast Direct. If you need help, please call the office.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 28 – Family Basketball Night (6:30pm)
Mar. 2 – Properties Meeting (7pm)
Mar. 6 – No School (possible snow make-up day)
Mar. 10 - \$2 No Uniform Day
Mar. 13 – K-8 Late Start Day (9:45am classes)
Mar. 13 – Polish Dinner (5-7pm)
Mar. 19 – Last Day of 3rd Quarter
Mar. 19 – School Board Meeting (7pm)
Mar. 20 – No School (possible snow make-up day)

2020-2021 Registration

Anyone who registers and pays their school fees (registration and book/material fees) by **TOMORROW** will receive 50 RLA bucks in the Fall to use toward apparel, lunches, or extended care. Re-registration paperwork was sent home a couple weeks ago. If you need another copy, let the office know. **Open enrollment begins Monday, March 2!** Share your love of RLA with friends and neighbors! Don't forget that for every family that puts down your name as a referral, you can receive up to 500 RLA Bucks!

Trivia Night

Join us for trivia night on March 21. The doors open at 6:30 and the 1st round starts at 7pm. Sign up your table of 10 by calling the office or signing up on our website.



Chapel

Join us on Wednesdays for about a 30 min worship at 8:30am.

Pizza Day

We will be serving Marco's Pizza as a hot lunch option on Tuesdays. All orders must be placed the Monday before pizza day. We will be paying upon delivery so the \$3.50 **MUST** be your family's lunch account to order. Family balances can be viewed on FastDirect. Next week will be cheese and pepperoni.

RLA T-Shirt & \$1 Jean Fridays



Every Friday, our students may show their School Spirit by wearing official RLA t-shirts. You may also wear jeans for \$1.00 on Fridays. Our National Junior Society chooses and organizes charity drives for the school as part of their leadership.

February donations will go to provide dinner at Hope Ministries.