

Coop's Scoops #24: Wednesday April 22, 2020

Well Monday was very nice, and Tuesday was warm enough to go out in a t-shirt and stand on the dock to show you all how happy I am that Frau Lake is now completely ice free, and looking so beautiful. Then today happened.



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A DAY MAKES! AND YET
BOTH COMPLETELY BEAUTIFUL!

There will come a day when we can place pictures side by side of us huddled in our homes during Covid and out playing baseball, hugging our grandkids, having a meal in a restaurant, going to a concert. I am really looking forward to that day! As are we all! Just a reminder that things do change, not at our behest, but in the rhythms of time. (Confession: the picture of me on the deck was actually last year when the ice went out. Didn't have anyone to take a picture yesterday, but I was there in that same t shirt, cutting the pose!)

- The following Pizza Conversation was sent in by Catherine Thompson

I can only print it in a larger format, but it's a quick read.

Ordering Pizza In 2020

CALLER: Is this Gordon's Pizza?

GOOGLE: No sir, it's Google Pizza.

CALLER: I must have dialed the wrong number. Sorry.

GOOGLE: No sir, Google bought Gordon's Pizza last month.

CALLER: OK. I would like to order a pizza.

GOOGLE: Do you want your usual, sir?

CALLER: My usual? You know me?

GOOGLE: According to our caller ID data sheet, the last 12 times you called you ordered an extra-large pizza with three kinds of cheese, sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, and meatballs on a thick crust.

CALLER: OK! That's what I want ...

GOOGLE: May I suggest that this time you order a pizza with ricotta, arugula, sun-dried tomatoes and olives in a whole wheat gluten-free thin crust?

CALLER: What? I detest vegetables!

GOOGLE: Your cholesterol is not good, sir.

CALLER: How do you know!

GOOGLE: Well, we cross-referenced your home phone number with your medical records. We have the result of your blood tests for the last 7 years.

CALLER: Okay, but I do not want your rotten vegetable pizza! I already take medication for my cholesterol.

GOOGLE: Excuse me sir, but you have not taken your medication regularly. According to our database, you purchased **only a** box of 30 cholesterol tablets once, at Drug RX Network, 4 months ago.

CALLER: I bought more from another drugstore.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your credit card statement.

CALLER: I paid in cash.

GOOGLE: But you did not withdraw enough cash according to your bank statement.

CALLER: I have other sources of cash.

GOOGLE: That doesn't show on your last tax return unless you bought them using an undeclared income source, which is against the law.

CALLER: WHAT THE %##!!^???

GOOGLE: I'm sorry, sir, we use such information only with the sole intention of helping you.

CALLER: Enough already! I'm sick to death of Google, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and all the others. I'm going to an island without an Internet, or cable TV, where there is no cell phone service and no one to watch me or spy on me.

GOOGLE: I understand sir, but Alexa says you need to renew your passport first. It expired 6 weeks ago...

(SO.....I DON'T THINK I'LL TRY ORDERING PIZZA ANYTIME SOON!)

Your Scripture for today: Psalm 92: 1-4

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
To declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the Lyre.

For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
At the work of your hands, I sing for joy!"

Even in times when things are especially difficult, perhaps especially when things are so difficult, we need to find room in our thoughts and in our prayers to give thanks to God. To think about the work of His hands – our lives, our planet, all creatures great and small, our food, our drinking water – these are His gifts for all people, ours to enjoy, ours to protect, and ours to share. It is not so much that God NEEDS to hear our praises, but that He loves to. God delights in the praises of His people. (Read Ps 149, especially verses 1-4). And we ourselves NEED to express thanksgiving to be fully human. A young man or woman, can't remember which, is famous for a testimony that is often quoted: " I came to believe in God because I had to know there was Someone to thank".

While we continue to pray for all who mourn, for all who are ill, for all who are bone weary, for all who are lonely beyond their capacity to bare... let's also pray today both for and with all who offer thanks, and speak or sing praise. There is something we usually say only at funerals, but it bears saying a lot in this covid time. "Even at the grave we make our song, Alleluia alleluia, alleluia" As Paul wrote in 1st Thessalonians 4:13: (We do mourn, but) "we do not mourn as those who have no hope". In the midst of death, we are in life. So....lament as your heart needs....and praise as your heart needs, also....they are both to the glory of God. Amen.

A simple daily prayer: Enrich Lord, heart, hands and mouth in me
With faith, with hope, and charity
That I may run, rise and rest in Thee.

- George Herbert (1593-1633, Priest, Poet and Orator, Church of England, Wales)

A Blessing: May our Lord Jesus be the light for your eyes, music for your ears, sweetness for your taste, contentment to your heart, sunshine in your day and repose in your night, and may the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be upon you always. (adaptation from People's Missal, 1919)

"Fear not, little flock, and rest in peace!" - Judie, simple Priest, 2020

No Scoops tomorrow....back on Thursday!