

THOUGHTS

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SPEAKER ON THE WORD TODAY

THE WORD TODAY TURNS 48!

This month marks the 48th year of God's blessing upon The Word Today! May is the month that the members of Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, the home of TWT, and our partners give a special offering to recognize God's goodness and support the ministry. What a glorious and wonderful thing to celebrate! When Christians work together in harmony to spread the Good News of Christ to the world, God is pleased! He has shown his favor to TWT by allowing it to grow from a small, local program in the late 1970's, to a nationally syndicated program across America in the 80's, to an internationally beloved program heard in dozens of languages globally in the 2000's! Currently, TWT is broadcast in 81 languages in 52 countries! Thank you for your zeal in supporting The Word Today!

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The Lord always calls us to greater commitment and blessings associated with that commitment. Let's consider what He can work through us to accomplish in the next two years. I have a vision that TWT reaches 100 languages by the 50th anniversary of the program! That is a God-sized dream of expansion!

Our partner in ministry, Trans World Radio, has asked TWT to upgrade the website to capture more interaction with listeners. Along with that change, TWT may shift some of its broadcasts in specific languages to be heard online, and promotion would be conducted to pull people into online listening with their phones and computers. In this way, we may be able to add several more languages! I do not know how it will all work out, and I am leading in this by trusting God. I earnestly desire your prayers that these new initiatives will lead to a mix of radio and online broadcasts that will result in new languages and more listeners!

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We will also need new friends and family members to join in supporting this initiative financially. THANK YOU for your faithfulness in powering The Word Today to be brought to the nations! Two weeks ago, I was appraised of the death of one of TWT's long-time partners, George, who has included the program in his will. George was a good friend in faith to Pastor Paul and me. He wrote encouraging notes which he included when he sent his gifts. He attended TWT's 40th anniversary at Our Shepherd, the last public sermon Pastor Paul preached at this church. We have beautifully committed believers who earnestly want the world to literally know Jesus!

Y

If you wish to follow George's example, The Word Today can be added to your will as a beneficiary of the estate. Also, a life insurance policy can be signed over to a ministry, or a new policy taken out in the name of the ministry. These methods have been used by Christians to ensure continuing impact for the Kingdom even after they have gone to be with Christ! TWT invests these gifts so that they will grow over time and spin off even more languages!

2026

We owe a debt of gratitude to Pastor Paul, my father, who was prompted by the Holy Spirit to start TWT in 1978! He led Our Shepherd Lutheran with fiscal accountability and saw to it that the church never ran in the red. Similarly, he ensured that The Word Today never overreached and ran in debt but rather ensured that special gifts supported investments - those investments now pay for approximately 20 languages annually! Our gifts are still critical, but over time TWT is enabled to grow incrementally because of the investments. What a glorious thing to celebrate!



*The Bible is God's Word...Jesus is God's "Word" made flesh...
His death and resurrection, the message needed Today.*

May

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JOYFUL THOUGHTS

I now have about 50 pages of material for my Joyful THOUGHTS book! It's coming along, and so is the THOUGHTS on Science volume. I have added a great deal of material to the science themed book, so it is next on the agenda for publication. As we are in a celebratory mood this month, here is a segment from Joyful THOUGHTS I wrote this week:

DUCK WITH A RAINCOAT

As I walked down the hill of the street near our house, I was grateful for the chilly day and the overcast weather. It had been a longer than usual Winter due to plenteous snow, and now Spring was coming. It was a successful walk in that I did not get rained upon.

Checking out the homes in the vicinity to see if anything new had developed – a new vehicle, an addition starting, or a tree knocked down by a storm – I spied a porch ornament, a statue of a duck standing upright with its wings outstretched and wearing an appropriately sized yellow raincoat, the kind that kids wear. Huh, I thought to myself, I haven't seen that before! The duck I recall, but the raincoat seemed new. One might say the bird was dressed for the weather!

In fact, ducks are already perfectly dressed for wet conditions, as the Creator has endowed them with special features to combat cold and wet conditions. Birds' feathers are incredibly well engineered devices, super-light and strong, held in proper form by barbules (hooks) that when separated, can be realigned by the bird's preening with their beak. The feathers can be fluffed to create dead air space to preserve body heat, while oil makes the feathers shed water. Between these two systems, water is shed like water off a duck's back! You knew that was coming, didn't you! Sometimes, sayings roll off a pastor's lips like water... you know.

PARTHENOGENESIS

It's a fancy word for the process of a living thing cloning itself. The etymology of the word is that its root is in the Greek language and means "virgin beginning" or virgin birth"! One of the most famous buildings in the world is the Parthenon, which was a temple made for the goddess "Athena the Virgin (Parthenos)."

Parthenogenesis refers to a creature that can multiply asexually. There are a surprising number of critters that can spawn a clone of themselves, albeit not genetically perfect clones. The list of invertebrates which are capable of parthenogenesis include nematodes, water fleas, scorpions, aphids, some bees, and parasitic wasps. Vertebrates which can reproduce asexually include some fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds! Nature is full of incredible things! God's imagination in designing life forms far outstrips our own!

*Blessings,
Douglas W. Schroeder*