

Etoonin' Incorporated - All for the Lord

2021.05.02

The Lord and My Dance

XXII/167

In this world you will have trouble. But take heart!
I have overcome the world. ~John 16:33

toon in'...

Shameless Plug

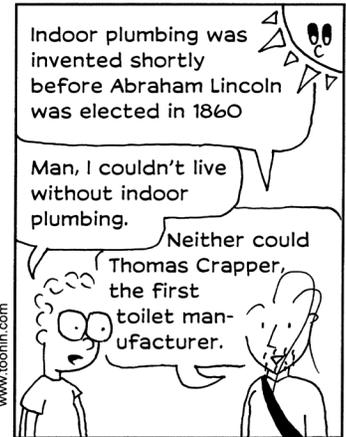
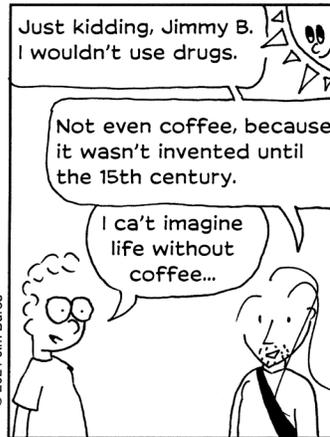
April 10th, 2021



toon in'...

All the rave...

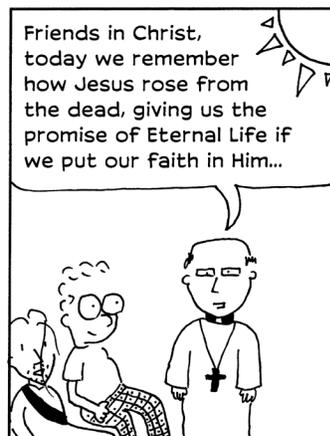
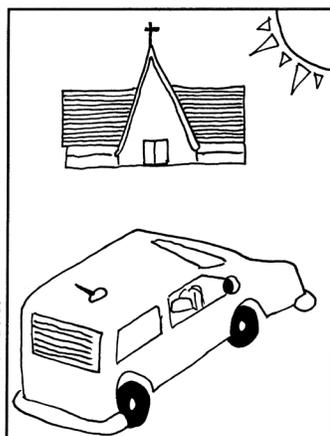
April 10^{1/2}, 2021



toon in'...

Our Savior Lutheran Church

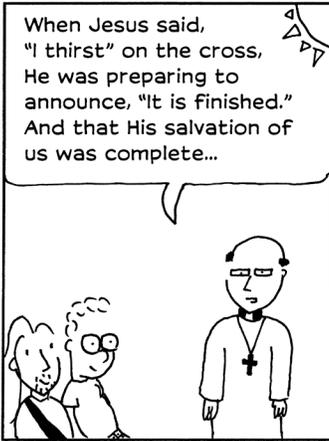
April 11th, 2021



toon in'...

PTK Humor

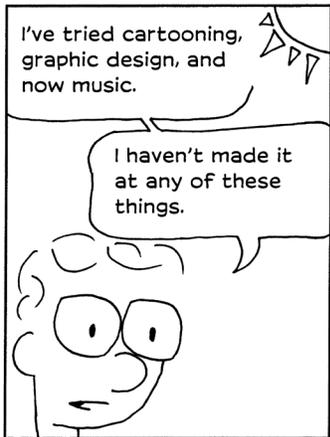
April 11^{1/2}, 2021



toon in'...

The Irony of Self-Awareness

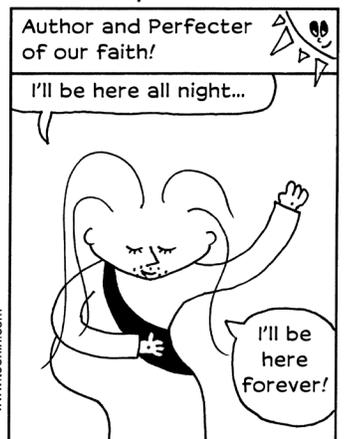
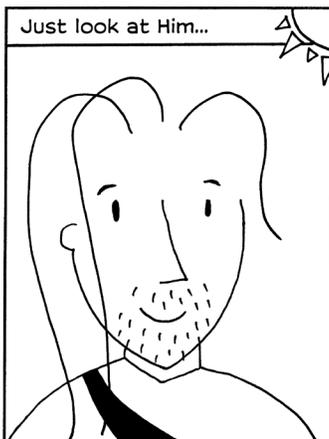
April 20th, 2021



toon in'...

Nobody but Jesus

April 20^{1/2}, 2021



I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one. ~John 10:28-30

I will sing and make music to the Lord.

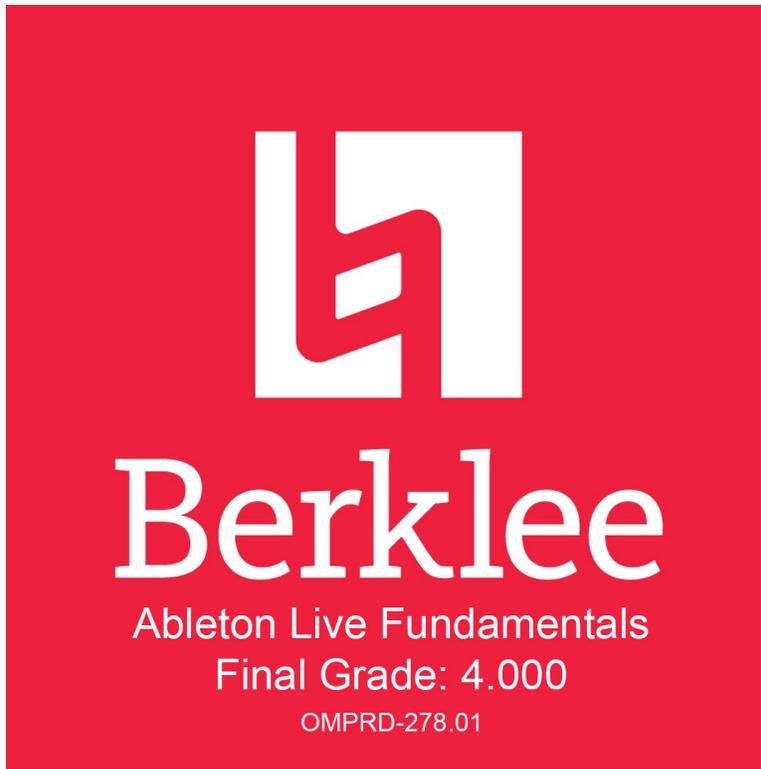
~ Psalm 27:6

On April 6th, 2021, I made history as I submitted my final assignment for my Ableton Live Fundamentals class. On April 14th, my instructor, Erin Barra, sent me my final grades on two projects, and I got an A in the class! It was totally amazing. I am a Berklee Online student.

The class was not without its hiccups. As my Pastor knows, I was struggling with anxiety. I considered taking the course non-credit so I wouldn't fail. But as the deadline to switch occurred, I started feeling better. Erika, Greg's wife, prayed for me. She encouraged me to take baby steps. And, on the deadline to switch date, I noticed I started doing the coursework again. I decided to go for it:

I went for the grade. And I did it! I got an A in the class! The most amazing thing is: I composed the final song two days after it was due. This song, zedek 009, is my best yet! I named it Roman, after my nephew. I got so much praise, starting with my instructor, and the next day from Sid, a semi-pro musician in my class. It all happened after I almost gave up. I am so thankful to the Lord Jesus.

I should know by now that He always rescues me. It was like that during each semester of my graphic design degree. I'd get depressed in the middle of each semester, but, in a flurry of activity, would complete all the work by the end of the class. I am so proud of myself. This Berklee Online class was tough. It was a lot of material. Berklee is one of the best music schools in the world. Students taking the class with me are amazing musicians, playing multiple instruments over long periods of time. But I came in with only three months of music experience and a few years of piano when I was a kid. I held my own in a Berklee Online class: praise God!



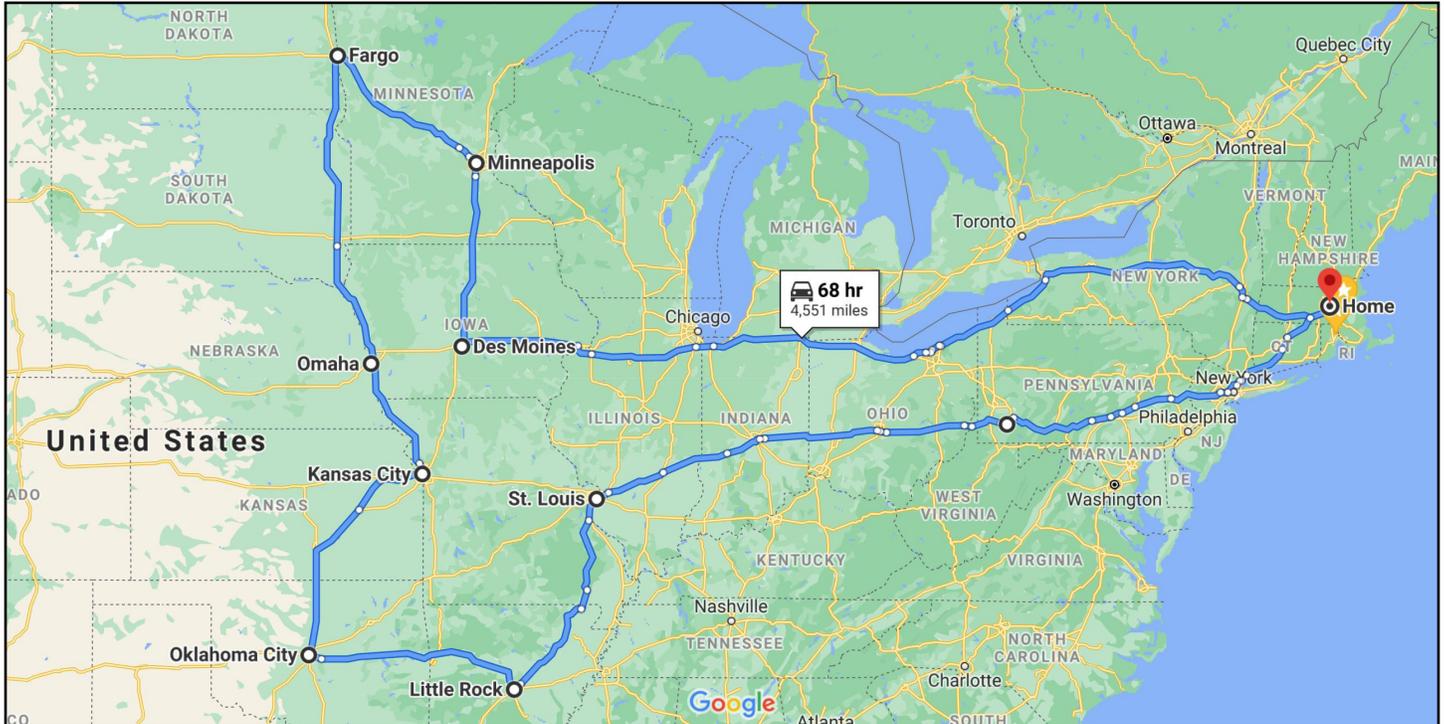
zédèk

www.zedek.com



Next steps: One thing I found tough at Berklee Online was the lack of support. There were hour long Zooms with the instructor each week, but they were shared with 10 other people. The rest was on my own, with some instructor emails. I located an program, in LA, called ICON Collective. I am going to try them next. It is twice the price, but I'd get 1:1 time with a professional producer each week, along with more instructor office hours. This class would also be three classes in one, encompassing Ableton Live Fundamentals, Arrangement and Keyboard Techniques. I'd also get to focus on making the kind of music I want to make (trance), rather than other genres. If I can come up with the tuition, I'd start this class in July or October 2021. It feels really good to go after my dreams whole-hog. I am happy to drop unrelated things. It remains a struggle to do the things I want, but God is faithful to me.

Midwest 7 State Tour - My Plan for Sometime



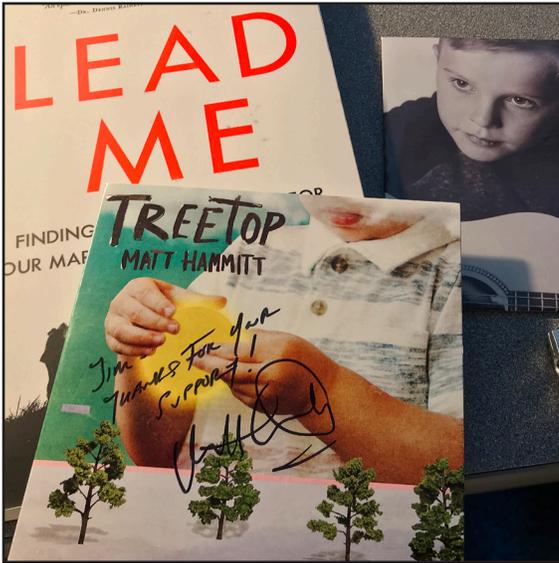
My Dad gave me \$5,000 in January, which helped me tremendously. Because of him, I could go without work for several months as I reapplied for SSDI (Social Security Disability Income). I have received SSDI back payments, but may only receive benefits for six months as they investigate my claim. There is also a chance I'll receive more benefits through work. I have not separated from Raytoonin' yet.

I was planning a trip to the Midwest, but it looks like that will be postponed as I wait for more money. I hate using wisdom, but I must do it. I don't want to go broke. I will be fully vaccinated by May 22nd, 2021. After that, I was planning this Midwest 7 State Tour. I haven't gone on vacation since Pittsburgh in October 2019. I am trying to visit all 50 states.

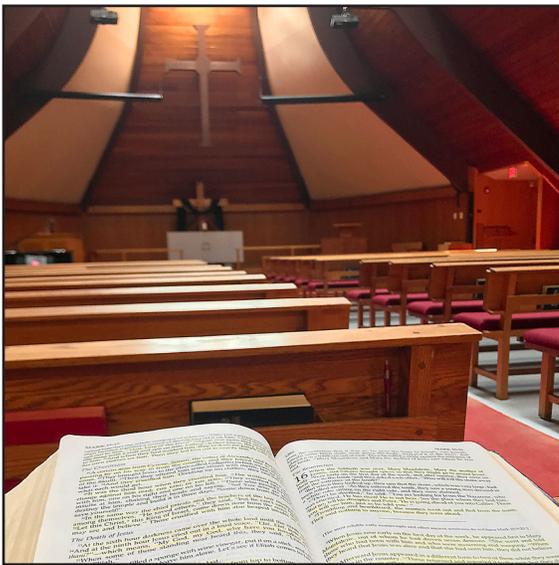
For a long time, I've desired to drive around the Midwest and knock out seven more states: IA, ND, NE, KS, OK, AR and MO. I determined that driving in my own car is \$1,000 cheaper than flying in and renting a car. This vacation would last almost a whole month. Some of the sights I will see: the Chapel in the geographic center of the 48 states, IHOPKC (International House of Prayer in Kansas City), the Oklahoma City Bombing Museum, the Passion Play in Eureka Springs, AR, the Bill Clinton Presidential Library, the LCMS headquarters in St. Louis, the Arch, and maybe even Noah's Ark in Kentucky! After hitting these states, I will have only three left: New Mexico, Utah and Hawaii. If this trip doesn't work out, maybe I'll plan something cheaper, like a Southern Circuit Tour or a quick trip to New Mexico.



This is a photo of me and my Dad from Easter. Nobody has hurt me more in this life than my Dad. But there is nobody whose affection and attention I desire more. It is a perplexing conundrum. Of course, I also suffer from a mental illness, which confuses things. I tend to blame aspects of my illness on my upbringing, even though not entirely fair. In reality, it is my first, illegitimate father, Satan, that has caused the problems. I used to walk in his ways, but now I walk in the light. God the Father is my true Father, giving me the right to become a child of God. It is my hope that He will heal my relationship with my Dad. But if not, we will both be made right in Heaven. My Dad is a Christian. I am also trying to seek what I want/need from my Father in other ways.



I bought my first "Non-Fungible Token" or "NFT" from Matt Hammitt, a famous CCM musician. I just love saying and writing Non-Fungible Token. A non-fungible token is a crypto coin that has a piece of digital art or music attached to it. It is unique. Therefore, it is something that can be sold, digitally signed by the creator. I don't understand it completely, but I was moved to buy an NFT from Matt when he posted a sale on Twitter. It took me a while to figure out how, but I did, all by myself. This made Matt very happy, as he suspects I am the first person to ever buy a single from a CCM artist in an NFT marketplace. Thus, he was also the first CCM artist to sell an NFT. The NFT was his song, Treetop, off the same named album. I totally got the better end of the deal, because Matt sent me his book Lead Me, two CDs and a key chain, all because I bought his NFT. He also mentioned me by name on a podcast. I felt like I was famous for a few moments there. I also bought his tweet. It was pretty sweet and made both of us happy.



To the left is a photo of the sanctuary at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, a Church I have attended since 2005. They had the sanctuary open for prayer on Good Friday, so I went there to pray and read my Bible. I read the account of the resurrection according to the Gospel of Mark. Pastor Knapp retired from Mt. Calvary last August, but only to preach at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Topsfield, MA. So I have followed him there. Pastor Knapp has probably taught me more about God than anyone else I know. It is so sweet to be his friend. For Easter Sunday, I attended Our Savior. The service was so awesome, with the music minister getting us stodgy Lutherans to dance! And she also performed a song she wrote herself. It was just awesome and had a male and female part that were sung simultaneously. It was out of this world. I really enjoyed Easter service. Then I spend some time with my family at my Mom's. We had Easter brunch out in her backyard. My nieces and nephews all played together, and we got a family wide photo.



And here is a nice picture of a cat watching TV. How often do you see a cat watching TV? I'll never understand cats. Cats are so weird.

