

Holy Crossings

Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

May 2019



GOOD NEWS! SIGNS AND SCRIPTURE PROMISES FOR YOU!

We are reminded that God made a **U-TURN** on His final judgement on His Son and not upon us. Jesus endured the shame and guilt of our sin on the cross. **"But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole and by His bruises we are healed."** Isaiah 53:5

" Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering...and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside ... saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things'" Matthew 16: 21-23 – God is in control and we are to **STOP** trying to be in control of everything.

The Lord invites us to be one in Christ with the Father and Spirit. Paul says in Galatians 2:22, **"and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives with in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."** (MERGE) Jesus says in John 17:21 "that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

Psalm 46:10. **"Be still and know that I am God."** Many times we don't slow our lives down to see what the Lord is doing and we miss His guidance for His will to be done. **"Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."** Matthew 26:39 Jesus bids us to **YIELD** to the Father's will in His prayer, **"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."** Matthew 6:10

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way, and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 Because, God's love in His Son, this is the greatest gift causing this love to be the only way, **"God so loved the world that He gave up his only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."** John 3:16 (ONE WAY)

When it looks like a dead end, look again! In Christ death is not the end! **"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, will live, even though they die.'" John 11:25** At the crossroads of life and death, even then Jesus is there for all, "Then he said, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" (DEAD END)

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Mother's Day Thoughts

Why God made Moms – brilliant answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions!

Why did God make mothers?

- She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
- Mostly to clean the house.

How did God make mothers?

- He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
- Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring
- God made my Mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

- God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

- We're related
- God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

- My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
- I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
- They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

- His last name.
- She had to know his background.
- Does he make at least \$800 a year?
- Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

- My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my Mom eats a lot.
- My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

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May Themes and Scripture

May 5, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: Paul becomes a Christian. Peter is Restored. Jesus changes Lives!

Scripture: *Acts 9:1-22* The Conversion of St. Paul.
Revelation 5: (1-7) 8-14 A new song is sung in heaven.
John 21:1-14 (15-19) The risen Jesus restores Peter.

May 12, 2019

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER MOTHER'S DAY

Theme: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He Shepherd's us through Adversity!

Scripture: *Psalms 23, Acts 20:17-35*
 Paul's farewell to the elders of Ephesus
Rev. 7:9-17 The redeemed multitude
John 10:22-30 The Good Shepherd leads us to eternal life.

May 19, 2019

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: Maturing in Christ! Understanding God's Grace For Everyone and Living it.

Scripture: *Acts 11:1-18* Peter testifies to the wideness of God's mercy.
Revelation 21:1-7 The new creation.
John 16:12-22 Your sorrow will be turned to joy. Or (John 13:31-35)

May 26, 2019
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Theme: God is in Control: In this World We Will Have tribulation – But Be of Good Cheer, I have over come them all. God Opens The Door for Paul to Share the Gospel!

Scripture: *Acts 16:9-15* God's victory is realized in Philippi.
Revelation 21:9-14, 21-27 God's victory is celebrated in the heaven at the end of the age.
John 16:23-33 Jesus reminds His followers that He has overcome the world.



Summer Sunday School and Bible Class coming soon. Watch for more information!



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM
Traditional Worship

9:45 AM
Adult Bible Study and Sunday School

11:00 AM
Contemporary Worship

The Lutheran Hour

The Lutheran Hour can be heard each Sunday on WCCO (830 AM) at 6:05 am. And it can be streamed online too, www.lhm.org. Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.



May 5

"The Good Fisherman"

Guest Speaker: Ryan Tinetti

Jesus is not only the Good Shepherd; He's the Good Fisherman, who draws the fish and fills the nets.

(John 21:1-14)

May 12

"Home"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Dean Nadasdy

With Jesus, we have a home.

That's the good news for today.

(John 14:1-7)

May 19

"Up Close and Personal"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

You can't get to know a person from a distance. The same is true for knowing God.

(John 15:26-16:4)

May 26

"Sculptor Spirit"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

The Holy Spirit is the Sculptor. Our lives are His medium. The image of Jesus is His goal.

(John 16:7-15)



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) invites you to volunteer for "A Minnesota Lumberjack Experience". From July 10-15, CSP will be hosting nearly 10,000 youth and leaders for District Events during the National Youth Gathering. Joy-filled volunteers are needed for checking people in, serving food, way-finding, and more. Register to volunteer at www.ave.csp.edu/nygvolunteers. Email questions to districtevents@csp.edu.

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The road narrows on Palm Sunday in Jerusalem. Early in ministry Jesus said, **"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."** Matthew 7:12-14. **"Therefore, Jesus said again, 'Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.'" Grace and forgiveness in Jesus is the narrow gate, there is no greater love than being found by the shepherd. (ROAD NARROWS)**

Jesus says, **"This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. ...This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you."** Luke 22:19-20 Jesus also said, **"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them."** John 6:54-56. Jesus dines with us and is in fact sustains us with His meal in with and under the bread and wine in this New Covenant of the Passover. Jesus is our Passover lamb and takes my sin. **(FOOD)**

At the **CROSSROADS** of life and death, Jesus is there for all, **"Then he said, 'Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.' Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:42-43.** Jesus doesn't stop giving grace even from the cross He keeps caring for all! "Jesus said, **'Father forgive them , for they do not know what they are doing.'** " Luke 23:34 **(CROSSROAD)**

2And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here, for He has risen, as He said. Come, see the place where He lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead, and behold, He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him. See, I have told you." Matthew 28:2-7 **(ROCK SLIDE AREA)**

Missed the Voters' Meeting-See the Highlights below!

Voters Meeting Highlights

- Wish you all could have been there, good food, good fellowship, and a Great Voters' meeting.
- Treasurers report was good, boards are keeping on budget and we have been blessed with the giving goals being on track. Praise the Lord.
- In Pastors report we have had two transfers out, The Polleys and Joanne Naas have transferred.
- Bd reports were gone through with most focused on getting their FY19-20 budget proposals in.
- Congregation picnic will be on 5/19 to end SS year.
- Missions will have a booth at Lakefront days on 8/10 and will need volunteers.
- Church Cleanup day is set for 5/11 from 8:30-noon, hope you can join us.
- The Parking lot and drive will be redone this summer, sometime after Memorial Day.
- New Business approved Mike Harvey as Secretary, Judy Weimer on board of Stewardship for 2nd term, and Rich Vanette on board of Trustees.
- Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget was proposed and passed at \$261,515, down from current year due to staffing changes.
- Motion made and passed to change from Fiscal to Calendar year budget for 2020, will introduce new budget in Oct for Calendar year 2020 to put things on a better time frame for planning purposes.
- All boards have openings, pray for God's guidance in where you might enjoy serving, from a onetime helper to a full-fledged board member, the Lord welcomes cheerful volunteers.
- Blessings on your week, if you have questions about the meeting see a board member, elder, or Pastor.

Regards, Mike Harvey Sec.



Christ has Risen. He has Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

Thank you to everyone for your time and talent given during the Easter season and Easter celebration. You truly blessed our services.

Also thank you to everyone that purchased Easter lily's or donated food items both during lent and for the Easter breakfast. Everything was very much appreciated!

Thank You!

Mother's Day Thoughts

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Who's the boss at your house?

- Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
- Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
- I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

- Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
- Dads are taller & stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's
- Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

- Mothers don't do spare time.
- To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

- On the inside she's already perfect.
- Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your Mom, what would it be?

- She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
- I'd make my Mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.
- I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head

**Happy Mother's Day!
God's Blessings!**

May Stewardship Article

St. Paul teaches, "Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches" (Galatians 6:6).

And again, he says, "Do you not know that those who are employed in the temple service get their food from the temple, and those who serve at the altar share in the sacrificial offerings? In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel" (1 Corinthians 9:13–14).

In other words, ministers of the gospel are supported by the offerings of those who are served by them. And this is how the Church lives even now. It is standard practice.

But this deserves closer examination. For it instructs us not *just* that we are to give but also *what* we are to give. And it does so with four little words: "In the same way ..."

St. Paul is building his case for supporting the preachers of the Gospel with the sacrificial giving of individual members on the example of the Old Testament people who supported the Levites with their offerings and sacrifices.

We're to support the Gospel ministry "in the same way." But how did the Old Testament people support the Levites?

Moses records this: "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat

the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always" (Deuteronomy 14:22–23).

The Levites were supported by the tithe, 10 percent of all the yearly yield of that which was harvested.

Does that seem like a lot? Does it surprise you that St. Paul instructs us that we are to support the New Testament Gospel ministry "in the same way?"

If it does, ask yourself: is the Church's job in the New Testament bigger or smaller than the Levites' job in the Old Testament? Back then there was one Temple, and the ministry was almost exclusively located in one nation among the descendants of Abraham.

Jesus calls us to teach and baptize all nations (Matt. 28). And there are churches and ministries all around the world. How could we support this new Gospel ministry with anything less than the Israelites supported the Old Testament ministry?

Of course, we are free to give more, for we have received more than those in the Old Testament. We have received the fullness of God's revelation, the fullness of His salvation, the fulfillment of everything that God promised to do.

For we have received Christ, God's own Son, in the flesh, who took upon himself our sins and in exchange gave us his righteousness. The Father claimed us as his own in Holy Baptism.

He gathers us together in the place where his name dwells to feast on the first fruits of the resurrection, the risen and living body and blood of his Son, our Lord, Jesus. He reminds us that we are His, that all things are ours because we belong to Him. He blesses us here in time with physical and spiritual gifts.

In the same way, and in response to his fatherly divine goodness and mercy, we gladly give to those who proclaim to us "the excellencies of him who called us out of darkness and into his marvelous light."

For once we were not a people, but now we are God's people; once we had not received mercy, but now we have indeed (1 Peter 2:9–10).



CAMP OMEGA SCHOLARSHIPS

The Board of Education has set up scholarships for children attending Camp Omega this summer.

Camp Omega is Rooted in Christ and dedicated to nurturing the spiritual, physical, emotional, and intellectual growth of people of all ages. It is located in Waterville, MN, approximately one hour south of Prior Lake.

Information and registration forms for Camp Omega are online at <http://www.campomega.org/about-us/>.

The Board of Education will have scholarship application forms on the Administration assistant's counter. Deadline for submitting the scholarship application is June 2nd.

EATEN ALIVE BY THE BEARS? THE CURRENT REALITY OF CHURCH

written by Jock Ficken 4/22/19.

Friends in Christ, I caught this article from one of my emails from the PLI ministry group for the LCMS. I believe what the writer shares can help us remember that ministry is truly about a real relationship with Christ and to be real with others, sharing the truth in love about ourselves and Christ's forgiveness. Here is the article:

"Remember the joke? It's an old one. Ironically I heard it again when we were in Ethiopia in February and Columbus, Indiana, in March. Two guys are walking barefoot in the forest. They meet a bear that's planning his lunch. The one guy starts to put his running shoes on. The other explains: "You're never going to outrun the bear." The guy with his shoes: "I don't have to. I just have to outrun you."

The pastor in the Columbus learning community said: "So, what most churches are trying to do is 'outrun' and 'out program' other churches to reach a smaller and smaller segment of our communities that still looks to our churches for Good News. As long as you can do better, you might attract more people...for a few more years...but most will lose."

As a result of this failed strategy most churches are declining in numbers and increasing in average age. The fastest growing segments on the religious landscape in America are the "nones" and the "dones." "Nones"... No religious preference. Pressing toward 50% of the youngest of millennials. "Dones"... Former members... Oftentimes they were lay leaders...done. Great capacity but, tired of church politics, structure, limited impact. They decided they're better off without organized religion.

Most church members and most church leaders are content with a vision of competing with sister congregations for a shrinking pool of interested participants in the United States. Especially if they seem to be "winning," while the next 20 churches around them are being eaten by the bears. Few give thought to the strategic challenge before us in the United States. It's a challenge for which the average Christian in the average church is desperately ill prepared.

It would seem that the giving over of the ministry, and more fundamentally the Mission of God, to paid professionals who do the work is showing less and less promise as the world becomes more and more unwelcoming of established Christianity. It's...Crushed the pioneering "sentness" entrusted to the Church. Limited ministry to preaching and teaching and pastoral care. Made great listeners but unengaged participants. So, God bless you if your church is putting on its shoes and outrunning the 20 other churches around you that are struggling and declining but what are you doing today for five or ten years from now when the Nones and the Dones have caught up to you?

And, if you already know you can't successfully out run the 20 churches around you... you're ahead of the game! What are you and the leaders in your church waiting for? You're a leader! It's ours to take responsibility for our current reality. It's ours to take responsibility for the changes we need to make.

Through much of the first four centuries A.D.? No buildings. Not much for programs. Plenty of bears. And the church grew from a few to a majority of the Roman empire.

Maybe it's time we remember farther back when we consider our future!"

