

# Holy Crossings

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

November 2019



## YOUR FAMILY'S WELLNESS AND YOUR PERSONAL WELLNESS

**SATAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO DESTROY WELLNESS!**  
**YET, GOD USES THE FAMILY TO BRING THE SAVIOR!**  
**HIGHLIGHTS FROM PASTOR/EDUCATORS' CONFERENCE**

by Pastor James Jobst

**Family and Personal Wellness** was the topic of the October 17, MN., South District Fall Educators and Pastors Conference at Mayer Lutheran High School during MEA. Nearly four hundred church workers were in attendance from the District. The main focus for the conference was centered around questions on personal and family wellness in our Lutheran Schools, Churches, and with professional church workers. "How well are you and how well is your family" was our focus for the daylong conference.

**One of our speakers, Rev. Dr. John Oberdeck**, had us reflect on those questions, "How well are you?" How well is your family? He then had us reflect on several areas of wellness and how well we thought we were with a show of hands in these areas.

**Overall, we looked at 7 major areas of "wellness"** that are important in the overall understanding of "being well," and affect our life relationships. The seven areas of wellness include spiritual wellness, social, emotional, environmental, occupational (along with financial), intellectual, and physical wellness. All the areas are important and interconnect with one another. **But the key is all these areas have been created by the Lord.** He knows our needs, every one of them, and cares deeply how they manifest themselves in our lives.

**So, now I ask you! How well are you?** If you would take a few moments to rank where you think you are from 1 to 5 with 5 being the most well and 1 the least well. How well are you? Based on how well you are you might then understand that might reflect on how well is your family, but back to your wellness. Is there a time you have been better or worse than now? What support do you think you need to improve your wellness? Most of us know what we need, but may be too worn out to do anything about it. This is where the Lord and one another, the church, come in to play to support each other in being well.

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**Super Saturday VBS** is almost here. Join us **Saturday, Nov. 16th**, 9:30am – 1:30pm. Check-in will begin at 9:20am.

We will have morning sessions, lunch and a short session following. Crafts, song, lunch, games and best of all Jesus, will fill our day. Please invite relatives, neighbors and friends!

Volunteers are the cornerstone to a successful VBS. Many areas, large and small, are available to help out. You can register students and to volunteer on-line @ [vbsmate.com/HolyCrossPriorLakeVBS](http://vbsmate.com/HolyCrossPriorLakeVBS) Volunteer sign-up sheets and registration sheets are also available on the VBS bulletin board in the Commons. Domino's pizza will be served as well as fruit, veggies and cookies/bars. A food donation board is posted in the Commons. Further details cc decorating, etc. will be shared in "The Happenings. For questions, contact Pam Hunter, 952-250-1756.



**LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
November 2019  
Newsletter Article**

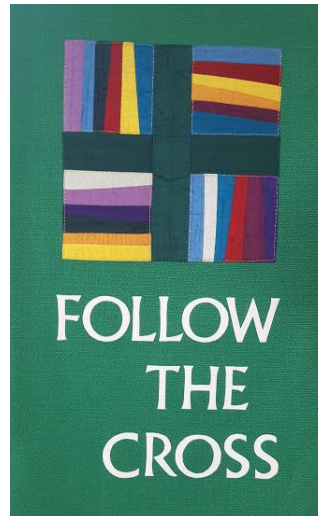
St. Paul wrote to the Church of Christ in Corinth: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). God loves a cheerful giver. But who is a cheerful giver?

Abel was. By faith, Abel gave the firstborn of his flock, and it was acceptable in God's sight. Abraham was. By faith, Abraham prepared cakes and a tender choice calf for God and entertained angels unaware. So also were David and Solomon. By faith, David would not make a sacrifice to God that cost him nothing, so he paid Araunah his due. By faith, Solomon built a house for God, where his name would dwell and thereby where He would dwell to be Israel's God and they His people.

What more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of all those who gave not simply for the joy of giving but for the joy of knowing the One to whom they gave.

So also our Lord, who for the joy set before Him, gave everything, yes, even His life, enduring the cross and scorning its shame. He gave to the shedding of His blood, willingly and resolutely setting His face toward Jerusalem to die for the life of the world. Though He was rich in every way, He became poor, so that by His poverty we might be rich beyond measure.

So then, let us – like Abel and Abraham, like David and Solomon, and even like our Lord Jesus Christ – give cheerfully to God for the work of His kingdom in our midst. Like them, let us decide in our heart – for the joy set before us – the joy of knowing the One to whom we give is the One who gives us all good things.



## November Sermons

**Nov 3, 2019**

**Twenty-First Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**Theme:** When He Appears We  
Will Be Like Him! No  
longer your old Adam!

**Text:** 1 John 3:1-3

**Nov 10, 2019**

**Twenty-Second Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**Theme:** The Lord is Omniscient.  
He is Lord!

**Text:** Luke 20:27-40

**Nov 17, 2019**

**Twenty-Third Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**Theme:** The Dawning of a New  
Day

**Text:** Luke 21:5-28



**Nov 24, 2019**

**Last Sunday of the  
church year.**

**Theme:** Jesus suffers and  
dies for us but warns of the  
end for some and what will  
be.

**Text:** Luke 23:27-43

**Nov 27, 2019**

**Thanksgiving Eve**

**Theme:** The Glory of  
Humility through Christ  
Towards Others.

**Text:** Luke 19:1-10

**PLANNING AHEAD**  
**Advent Services Weds.**  
**Evenings at 7:00pm**  
**Dec. 4, 11 & 18**



## Sunday Schedule

**8:15 AM**

**Traditional Worship**

**9:45 AM**

**Christian Education Hour**

**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](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.



November 3

### "Stranger Danger"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Genesis Series - The different ways we relate to strangers reveal the contradiction of being human.  
(Genesis 18)

November 10

### "For Such a Downer"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Genesis Series - The cross of Jesus is not a downer, but it is an equalizer. If you think you're up on top and you're pushing others aside, the cross of Jesus will bring you down. And if you're down and desperate for some company, you have a friend in the crucified Jesus.  
(Genesis 21)

November 17

### "The Dawn Wall"

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Genesis Series - Sacrifice is acting on the hope of a better future by offering up something valuable in the present.  
(Genesis 22)

November 24

### "God Is Love"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Jeff Cloeter  
(1 John 4: 7-12)



## PACK A SHOE BOX FOR A CHILD IN NEED

From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Boxes and information are located in the commons area for anyone interested. Please have all packed boxes back to church by November 11th. For more information, talk to Diane Mullenbach or visit the web <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child>.



The Burnsville (IFC) International Friendship Center  
Would like to invite you and your family to a



**THANKSGIVING DINNER**

**There will be Bingo & Gift Drawings!**

**Join us on Friday  
November 22 @ 6:00pm**

**Lutheran Church of the Ascension  
1801 Cliff Rd E  
Burnsville**

**Please RSVP: Call or text  
Georgette at  
(402) 889-6162**



**Dr. Oberdeck was very supportive leading with the Gospel!** He shared an important insight and encouragement from scripture that sometimes we forget. Dr. Oberdeck said, **“Jesus wants us to be well!”** Then he repeated it. “Let me repeat that if you didn’t hear me. **Jesus wants you and all of us to be well in our life!** How do you know? Just listen to what Jesus says, **“I’ve come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.”** (John 10:10b). Pretty straight forward. Jesus came to give us life abundantly.” How great is that! That abundant life that Jesus brought two thousand years ago to people (to families), was grace (healing, teaching, understanding, listening, enjoying, rejoicing, rebuking, failing, forgiving, grieving, suffering, dying, and rising from the dead to new and everlasting life) are all part of the abundant life the Lord brings to our world today.

**Another insight for this day and from the Gospel is God’s revelation of Himself to us throughout the Old and New Testaments.** In the beginning, God made this world perfect; but in His divine wisdom, allowed it to become imperfect! Why? In order to redeem it perfectly and more glorious with His love through the life of His own Son. Even in life’s brokenness, the Lord’s grace in Christ, brings a perfect solution with abundant life starting now and continuing in His consummation of eternal life. The revelation is exciting for all of us. This abundant life created by God, has an exact order and plan which is guided by His divine Word and Spirit again to show the Lord’s glory in His love coming through His Son and Spirit restoring His people from death to life that bring us “Wellness.”

**Below are a few more highlights from the conference to ponder when considering wellness of the family and individual wellness. The Lord bless you as you read through these highlights.**

**1. Time in the Lord for self and family to guide your lives. Weekly Family Meetings Help!**

- A. Do you yield time with God to order your life? Do you have quiet reflective and prayer time thus giving Jesus your schedule for a certain amount of time for His sharing His enduring message of God’s love and strength for your life and your family’s lives?
- B. Do you have weekly Family meeting and schedule time planning and guiding the coming week? Incorporate, prayer time at the end of the family meeting reflecting on the past week giving thanks for the Lord’s guidance and for the coming week’s activities for blessing and safety.
- C. Do you have good communication: It takes time. Learn about reflective and empathetic listening which then gets at the core of conflicts. This can help how to reconcile conflicts and stress with workload, hours, and schedules, for self, spouse and children and teens. No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care which takes reflective listening.
- D. If you fail (to take time) to plan, you plan to fail (with your time)! Plan your week in advance for your family by setting time for the Lord together and baptize everything together in prayer to the Lord!

**2. Teach them to Your Children!**

- A. **Parents as Teachers and Role Models.** Education of Scriptural Family Values taught by Parents. Deuteronomy 6:1-9. (Please read this section of scripture for abundant life promises from the Lord.)
- B. **God’s Values:** The 10 Commandments to show our Sin and need for a Savior. Memorize and discuss them at home monthly.
- C. **Erosion of Life Issues:** Values of secular society based on evolutionary ethics of self-causes these problems:
  - 1) Life not honored as sacred any longer. Tolerance of evil practices concerning life issues.
  - 2) Evolution theory embraced and moving to self-deity (totalitarian dogma and government).
  - 3) Truth is relevant. God’s Word viewed as myth, though historically and grammatically authentic.

4) Natural Law and created order is no longer accepted changing even medical and hormonal proofs verses an ideology of hedonism, fascism, and Marxist philosophy.

- a) Marriage no longer between male and female based on created and natural order.
- b) Same gender marriage, though no DNA or gene evidence of this biologically viable or true.
- c) State laws put in place for public school children to question their natural created gender.
- d) Elderly Medical discrimination: Justification not to give life medical support if insurance doesn't approve. Medical oath to do no harm but to save life is no longer the norm.
- e) Socialism and government control rejecting Democracy and Constitutional Freedoms as best.
- f) Abortion and Euthanasia for convenience of self and socialism beliefs.

3. **Practice apologetics: Share the truth in love.** Model grace when people disagree with Christian values when time is appropriate, after work, or over coffee. Listen and ask questions why they believe what they believe. You may find out past hurts or abuse in their life where they have lost trust in God and people. It takes a great deal of time for people to open up and face the evils that hurt them and to trust that God loves them and wants them to be well and have abundant life. Sin and evil must be acknowledged as being real and not an end to life but just part of the journey of realizing God brings us through evil, through Christ's going through the evil of all the sin of the world abusing him to the cross. Yet Christ, still having mercy and love, died for all the sins of the world to bring hope to all, to free all, from evil and sin as well as the judgment for those rejecting the gift of Christ's truth and love.

4. **Remember Evil is Lurking.** Solomon said, "There is nothing new under the sun." The Old Testament witness reminds us that the Saints of Old were protected by the Lord from destruction by His promises and helped them endure evil days. As they were helped, He will help us today. We learn the families and nations in the Bible had dysfunctional lives. But that is not all. Besides human sin, St. Peter warns us there is evil, **"Be self-controlled and alert, your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a (hungry) roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings."** 1 Peter 5:8-9 Paul warns us in *Ephesians 6*, to **"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power; put on the full armor of God so that you may take your stand against the devils schemes."** Jesus confronted demons in the Gospels and His ministry. From the Old and New Testament, we learn that the devil is always trying to turn people from God's ways, 180 degrees opposite of what's best for our lives. The devil creates fake idols for us to worship to draw us away from the true love of God. But Jesus says in *John 16:33*. **"In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome them all."**

- A. **The devil, since Genesis chapter 3 tries to corrupt the family.** With Abraham's Biblical account, as well as archaeology that gives witness to evil, we have several examples of evil. The twin cities of Sodom and Gomorrah were an abomination to God's created order. The Lord, graciously working with Abraham, looks to spare the cities, however, unable to find even 10 righteous persons God destroys the wickedness so this dark evil would not spread around the world and to families. But before destroying those cities the Lord needed to rescue Abraham's nephew, Lot and his ordeal with his family being persecuted along with the Lord's angels there to assess the situation. Lot was guided through the twin cities to Zoar before the Lord destroyed the cities, though his wife was causality, by not listening to the warning of one of the angels to not look back at the destruction; she looked back and turned to a pillar of salt.

*cont. on pg. 6*

- A. Another Old Testament account chronologically after Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was the infanticide with Pharaoh, trying to keep the Children of Israel from multiplying in area of Goshen in Egypt. Thus Pharaoh ordered the killing of all the male babies, yet God's will prevailed with a baby boy escaping through means of family, being floated in a basket by his sister on the Nile to the Pharaoh's household. God works through the family and brings His will through family even the Pharaoh's family ironically, that again God rescues His family Israel from destruction. Also, we see that Canaan, the center of location of the world (the three major continents where the majority of the population of the earth resided), has become an instrument of evil practices including child sacrifice. The Lord wants to bless and not to destroy therefore brings a new focus in the center of the world, His family, Israel. Thus, the Lord becomes the center of abundant life for all passing through for economic tract from the continents.
1. **In Christ, the family of God, the invisible church, is protected by Grace and Eternal Life in Christ!** The family, their mind, body, soul and spirit united in the body of Christ is where life happens and happens abundantly. Satan has been trying to destroy the family by attacking throughout History. Adam and Eve were the mirror and image of God's love and unity. Satan infuriated with this beauty of perfect love caused a wedge to come between God and man, but at just the right time in human history God sent his son, born of a virgin to become the Way, the Truth and the Life, the very lamb of God to take away our sin and the power of the devil and mankind's conflict with each other.

*For more information on wellness for the church and church worker family support see devotions written weekly online at <https://blogs.lcms.org/category/leader-blog/>*

*Have a very Blessed Thanksgiving  
from all of us at Holy Cross!*

*Pastor Jim, Meg, Dorene, Mui & Becca*

