

Holy Crossings

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

August 2020



International Friendship Centers (IFC) - TWIN CITIES

POBLO International Ministries
Local Newsletter

Dear Friends in Mission ...

The Preamble of the Constitution reads, “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

As the U.S. celebrates her 244th birthday, it makes one thankful about the blessings of liberty to worship with no real persecution. And although summertime brings a sluggish ministry schedule, especially with COVID-19 IFC social disruption, we are working harder to make IFC zoom classes possible. With so many unknowns in the near future, we trust that God is giving us quality time to having straight talk and Bible study with Muslims.

One particular family has a special situation. Originally Palestinian, this family was born and raised Muslim, until one day the mother, let’s call her Andrea, was fed-up with the mistreatment of women in that specific region she lived in.

The culture, dominated by Islam, favors men over women. Andrea’s strong personality helped her pave her way to become a lawyer, and she ran for office during the general elections. Of course, the radical Islamic groups defied her ambitions and helped her fail by voting in record numbers against her. Her disappointment was profound. One day, the Imam was performing the ‘Athan’, the Muslim call-to-prayer through the mosque’s speakers, as this is the norm in predominantly Muslim cities. Her soul refused to hear this call to prayer while, on the other hand, experiencing extreme suppression of basic rights because she is a woman. It was the last push to make her reconsider Islam as a faith and a way of life.

Andrea always noticed how the minority, Palestinian Christians, were different; respectful in their way of treatment; gentler in responses, and do not display discrimination against Christian or Muslim women.

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So she asked an older Christian friend of hers about Jesus. The lady friend expounded and referred Andrea to local pastors to better-equip her with Christian resources about Christianity and Christ's teachings. In Islam, Jesus Christ is revered but only a prophet, and was not crucified. Muhammad is the ultimate role model.

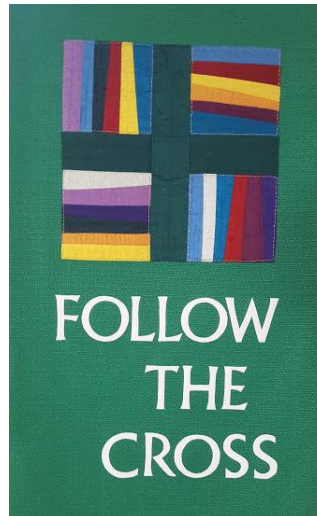
As she grew fond of Christians, she was wondering whether Christ is Who He claimed He was, according to the Gospel. She read Jesus' commandments, and she was blissfully surprised by His teachings. In the Muslim world, the religious leaders installed in their followers' minds to avoid touching the Bible, accusing it of being distorted and having powers that alter one's thinking about Islam. Only the Quran is acceptable by Muslims.

After her husband immigrated to the U.S., the Lord Jesus showed up in Andrea's dreams, several times! He did not identify Himself by name, but every time she saw this gleaming Man in the dream, He hugs her, comforts her, and holds her neck and calls her 'sister.' Andrea was tearful recounting her testimony, realizing how personal and friendly God can be.

"Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters." (Hebrews 2:11)

Astonishingly, her mother-in-law (MIL) saw the same dream Andrea had.

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August Sermons

August 2, 2020

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: God's Word does not fail! Gentile and Jew – we all fail, and even more, need saving.

Text: Romans 9:1-6

August 9, 2020

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Faith comes from hearing the Gospel. Faith as little as a mustard seed can move mountains.

Text: Romans 10:5-17

August 16, 2020

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: God will have mercy on both Jew and Gentile. Even after falling there is hope still yet to God's Glory!

Text: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: Think not more highly of self than you ought! Different gifts but we belong to one another.

Text: Romans 11:33-12:8

August 30, 2020

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: With genuine love, overcome evil with good. Let me say it again, "Overcome evil with good!"

Text: Romans 12:9-21



Sunday Schedule

9:00 AM Worship
In-house and online

10:15-10:45
Drive Up Communion

11:00 AM
Virtual Christian Education

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.



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The MIL, of course, did not recognize the Man as Jesus. She told Andrea that she tried to fight this Man off but He would tell the MIL, "No, she is mine," referring to Andrea. Indeed!

The bottom line: Andrea believed, was baptized, and now she is living with her husband and two adult children in Minnesota. Each one in the family knows she is a Christian now, which could be life-threatening if she continued to live overseas. Each family member is at a different stage, spiritually, not knowing or trusting Jesus yet. We are in talks with some family members and planning on seeing more.

As you read this newsletter, we are conducting a Bible Study three times a week at a local church. Andrea and her daughter are thirsty to know God's word, and how it applies to their daily activities.

Andrea's story is much longer than the marvel above. We all should know how extraordinarily vital it is for missionaries to be around, fishing for souls to be with Christ in His Kingdom. My family would have never imagined meeting with such a family, who is still suffering from multiple offenses committed by other family members. The Devil constantly attempts to discourage Andrea and her family in many different ways but Christ is Awesome. This ministry is yours. Please share POBLO Twin Cities with your pastors, clergy, family, staff and church members. We truly appreciate your prayers for this family and ours, and we value your financial support that allow us to be encouraged and available in Muslim lives so they may just know one thing: the Love of Christ!

Many Blessings! Nadar

August 2

"Christ's Resurrection Makes Everything New"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

August Archives - There is power in doing good works for the sake of others, but that kind of civic righteousness can't compare with the perfect righteousness of God which covers us through faith in Jesus Christ. In a classic radio message, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann shares the power of Christ's resurrection that overcomes death. (Philippians 3:7-11)

August 9

"Over The Darkness, God Hovers"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

August Archives - A 5-year-old boy once observed, "God has the whole world in His hands-but sometimes He drops it." Hear how Dr. Dale Meyer responded to that young philosopher in a classic message titled "Over the Darkness, God Hovers". (Genesis 1:2-3)

August 16

"Seeing Is Believing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

August Archives Believing in Jesus Christ, we truly see things the way they are.

August 23

"A Wrong Comparison"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Wallace Schulz

August Archives - How do you compare to your next-door neighbor, your brother-in-law, or the person you were five years ago? Comparing ourselves against God's requirements can prompt us to turn in repentant faith to Jesus, the Savior beyond compare.

August 30

"It's Not Over 'till Jesus Says It's Over"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

It's "Archives August". (Luke 24:36-49)



Stewardship Ministry

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – August 2020 Newsletter

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord’s life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God’s Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).





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FALL IS ON ITS WAY – PREPARING FALL MINISTRIES DURING COVID-19

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Just a short note for this newsletter! Really! I want to first apologize for not getting all the calling done during our Covid-19 days that are still going on. I am back at it and you should be hearing from me soon so I can hear how you are doing and pray with you for your needs.

Many of you I am seeing at worship or drive up communion and it is great to visit outside after church or for a few minutes after drive-up communion. We continue to open up gradually and have begun some in person Bible studies with social distancing for men and a women's groups at church and in August, we will have a Wednesday evening silent prayer time in the sanctuary with social distancing and wearing masks. Prayer lists will be provided.

As we get started looking at the Fall ministries and the coming 2021 year, I hope you have been in prayer and brainstorming possibilities for ministry. We will begin contacting board chairs to see what ideas you have and what Fall ministries will look like. I will be discussing with confirmation parents of those to be confirmed when we can have larger numbers in our sanctuary with family, aunts and uncles, grandparents, cousins, as well as members for the Confirmation Rite Worship and celebration. Usually, with a large class we have over 100 people. Currently, we are not allowed with the number ratio and social distancing to have that large of group. We also have a few families that have high risk health factors that want to be able to attend if at all possible, so we are in a holding pattern until we can open all the way up for large services. We are so thankful that we moved to first communion and our confirmation class is communing already in the real presence of Christ our Lord. What a blessing. To Him always be the glory!

Last but not least, without being able to hold a voters' meeting the past two quarters and elections, we hope all are alright with waiting until the end of the year, when we hope we can have an in person voters' meeting and elections. The Covid -19 team leaders who meet almost weekly, to work with each week's ministry needs of Holy Cross and feedback from the congregation, will be working and planning for ministry support. The last 5 months of Covid-19, grieving for loved ones (7 people called home of members and family loved ones and funeral services since Thanksgiving) and the turmoil of our society, has hurt so many of our members' hearts and soul. So please lift-up prayers to the Almighty who knows what we need even before we pray or ask.

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and calls to us on the passing of my brother Terry. We appreciate all of our church family's love and support.

The Lord bless you as we pray for a vaccine before years end and then be able to see that the harvest is great. Please pray for more laborers to bring those who do not yet know our Savior and best friend, Jesus!

In Christ's love and His name, serving by grace through faith,
Pastor Jim

