



THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

"Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together."

(Hebrews 10:25)

Rebecca D. on Christian Net posted this blog: Some churches are boring. They have a routine and they know what to do or sing and say by their schedule. When they sang that song "I shall not be moved", boy they weren't kidding. Yes, I went to a Church one Sunday morning; It was boring.

What should we do when we find that church is boring? It's time for a change! Now the question is, change what? I can work to make my sermons more interesting, and I do try, I can try to select more meaningful songs. I can write the prayers and give more thought to what we say. However, when worship as God directed is boring, the main change that is needed is in the heart of the worshiper.

When we go to church, we should want to be in the presence of the Lord. We should want the Holy Spirit to come down and have His way with the church. God not only desires us to continue meeting with one another, He desires His church to be the direct opposite of boring. The author of the letter to the Hebrews understood this, **"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."**

This is exactly what my goal is.. I want t to encourage each of us to "not give up meeting together" It is so very easy for us to fall into a habitual habit, isn't it? If we find ourselves getting nothing out of church, it's time to ask: "What am I putting into the church?" It might just surprise you to learn that church doesn't simply ask for your attendance. Church requires your participation.

First of all, we need to participate by Leaving. Yep, I said it, by leaving! As soon as you sit down in your comfy pew that more than likely is YOUR spot and no one else's, leave your burdens at the foot of the cross. Jesus said, **"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"** Matthew 11: 28-30. So name all your worries, stresses, concerns, and guilt. In your mind, wrap them up tight in a bundle and give the whole thing to Jesus. By leaving all of our worries, hurts, pains, concerns, and negative feelings, we are able to focus more clearly on the things that God has for us in church and boredom will be the furthest thing from our minds.

Second, realize that church is not meant to be boring, we need to participate by listening. With your mind fully engaged, listen to the reading of Scripture and to the message in which God has planned for the day. Listen to the words as you sing. The Holy Spirit works through all that is said and through all that is done in the church. So come into the church ready to receive the Good Word by opening not only your ears but your heart. I firmly believe that God has a message for each person every time we gather. od has a message for you today and every day you meet Him in His house. So ask yourself, You may be here with your presence but are you really here?

As your pastor, I pray that each of you hear from God as we gather. I have often told people that I wish they could see what I see each week as I stand before God's people. I do wish that each of you could see the blank stares and glazed over looks or closed eyes that I often see as I present God's Word each week. Sometimes I truly do wonder if anyone is listening at all.

(continued on next page)

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

Yes, I know, it happens to all of us at some point in time. One moment you are listening to a reading of the day and the next you are mentally composing a shopping list. By the time you tune back in, you have no idea what was said. Listening is a mental process that requires you to think rather than just hear. God desires to have your attention because He has a message for you but you can only receive it if you are listening. I agree, church would be a boring place if we came here with no intention of listening to God's Word. To get anything out of church we need to focus our attention and open our ears and hearts to what God has in store for us.

Lastly, we need to participate by Meeting Others.

Get to know the people with whom you worship God with. You might just be the one God sent to offer a much needed compliment to a person that may have had a horrible and trying week in the world. Someone else might be the one through whom God will give you the blessing of friendship. You'll never know unless you're willing to smile, shake hands, and share a few good words with the people around you. Ecclesiastes 4: 10 reminds us that ***"If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!"***

But I am afraid to say, I cannot honestly say that we are a place where everyone knows each other's name. Can you name each person in here? Do you know

each person that attends our church? God wants to give us so much more than many realize. This is His house and it was never meant to be a boring place. Why would He want you to come here week after week, bored stiff, day dreaming about the end of the service, and to receive nothing at all that will help your life that he has blessed us with?

God wants to give you an abundant rich life and I guarantee you that He desires to give it to you in Church over any other group setting in the world. Sure you can become a regular attendee at the bar and yes you can meet some lifelong friends that you would feel very close to but ask yourself just one simple question this morning: Is that what God wants for you? Do you think God desires you to be part of the bar crowd, hanging out, giving God no glory at all or do you believe He wishes that we are a part of His crowd, meeting on a regular basis in His house, giving Him Glory and meeting with His people?

When we go to church we need to meditate on the awesome mystery of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We need to think deeply. He willingly and actively gave His life for you. We need to actively participate in giving thanks, praise and worship in the presence of our brothers and sisters in Jesus. Doing these things will not get us bored in church but rather keep us focused and excited.



Jacob Dobberstein	August 1
Carol Ham	August 5
Jace Fitzwater	August 11
Alanna Hentges	August 11
Esther Brunner	August 13
Mary Deluhery	August 13
Charlie Vig	August 14
Wendy Fitzwater	August 16
Sheri Brunner	August 24
Dave Albrecht	August 31

Upcoming EVENTS

August 11–13	Annual Garage Sale
August 26	Free Movie Night "Up"
September 9	Mum Sale
September 11	Sunday School Rally Day
September 13	Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Starts
October 8	LWML Women's Event
October 15	Fall Festival
November	Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes
December 4	CAP Agency Adopt a Senior

GARAGE SALE



August 11-13, 2022

Thursday and Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Closer, closer, almost here! Thank you to those who have already brought items for the garage sale. Timeline for items to be brought is as follows: **Last drop-offs** are Sunday, August 7 & Monday, August 8. Tuesday, August 9th is a primary voting day at Holy Cross (in the preschool room). It will not be conducive to dropping off items. We will, however, be setting up things in the Commons area and the SS rooms. Items can still be dropped off the week of August 1st. Please call ahead to make sure someone is here.

Sign-up sheets are posted in the Commons. Please consider helping out. Yes, it's work but we have a fun time coming together and helping with our Holy Cross garage sale! Food will be served again this year. Helpers eat free! If you are in need of help with heavy items, please talk to Buffy or Pam. They have people!!!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS

Join us for Bible Study series in the back of the sanctuary after worship as we continue the series on the Hard Sayings of Jesus. If you have any you are struggling with, come join the bible Study! Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start at 10:15 am.

COMMUNITY PICNIC



The community picnic was a huge success! Thank you to all who volunteered their time and talent to sponsor this annual community event. By plate count, we had about 200 folks attend; including at least 140 guests. The children loved the pony rides, petting zoo, face painting and blowing bubbles. The food was greatly appreciated. We gave away bibles, prizes, and had several inquiries about our preschool for 2023. Kids signed up for Sunday School this fall. More importantly, God answered our prayers for a crowd. It was a day of Christian fellowship that many will remember. Again, thank you to all our volunteers. It could not have happened without your help.

WEBSITE SIGNUP

Subscribe to Blog via Email

Enter your email address to subscribe to this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

You may not be aware, but on our website www.holycross-pl.org there is an email sign up on the home page. It's on the very bottom of the page, where is says "**Subscribe to Blog via Email**". If you enter your email address you will receive updates on church news and events and newsletters. So please sign up if you haven't already, so you don't miss out on anything!

MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

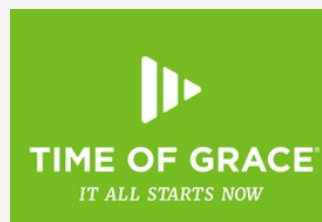
www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities

PRAYER TIME

We will meet in the sanctuary on **Thursday evenings at 7 pm** from June through August for informal prayer time. We will be praying for our new Pastor, current needs at Holy Cross, and many more things. Please join us for one or all of these evenings. There will be prayer list available to pray for, or bring your own lists.



TIME OF GRACE



Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Subscribe to **Time of Grace** (www.timeofgrace.org) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

Pastor Mike Novotny
The Core, Appleton, WI
KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am
www.timeofgrace.org

CAMP OMEGA GOLF BENEFIT



Join the annual Camp Omega golf tournament at Cannon Falls Gopher Hills Golf Course! The proceeds from the tournament support the camp's campership endowment fund. These funds support the camp's commitment to providing camp experiences for all, including those with financial needs. Gifts received designated to "For the Children Campership Endowment Fund" are deposited into an LCEF fund and the interest gained is used to help balance the costs. The Camp Omega Golf Event is one of the ways to grow this fund.

Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 1:00 pm
Gopher Hills Golf Course, Cannon Falls

[Take a look at the event flier.](#) To register for the golf benefit, contact Russ at russ@campomega.org or call 507-384-7947.

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.

Uber

Ride-sharing apps are one of the greatest inventions ever. Whether Lyft or Uber I love having someone else drive me around in their car. I get to ask questions. Discover their story. Find out what drove them to drive people for a living. Being carted around in someone's back seat also gives me time to think about other stuff. Get ready for the meeting I'm heading to. Make a few phone calls. Lots of reasons I love Uber. Especially since I already used the word.

Back before Uber was cool I used it as a pre-label announcing something super cool was about to show up. Uber speaks of "lots and lots." Or "over and above." Or "very very much." Something in the neighborhood of abundant. With lots of -ly's on the end. A whole garden of -ly's. So many -ly's you couldn't count them all if you wanted to. Abundantlylylylyly. Yeah. Like that. Exactly what Paul meant when talking about God's grace and how much grace Paul had received. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (1 Timothy 1.14) God gave Paul an uber amount of grace. Bunches and bushels and baskets the size of boulders of grace. A plethora of ubers of grace. So many uber tons of grace you can't find an uber scale to weigh them all.

What I love most about this passage? Paul doesn't speak so much about himself. (Although, face it, he had been a murderer. A hater of all-things-Jesus. A terrorist-type when it came to Christians. And then, bingo boingo, lightning flashes and crazy divinity sightings. Instant life-change into lover-of-all-things Jesus. #divinecraziness) No. Paul just talks about Jesus and how insanely much grace God was willing to give Paul so that Paul wouldn't have to live in the mess he'd created. Poured crazy amounts of grace into Paul's past for the sake of Paul's present and future.

That's how uber much Jesus loved Paul. How uber much He loves you. Weigh out all the uber guilt and uber disappointment and uber craziness you've had in life. Jesus has uber and uber more grace that will cover it all over. Won't leave any showing. Like an uber ocean covering a little itty bitty tiny pebble. That's how much uber love He has for you.

Uber cool.

Rev. Bill Woolsey,
President and Founder,
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! www.fivetwo.com/2mm

MOWING VOLUNTEERS



We are still in need of volunteers willing to mow at the church this summer. Please call or text Dave at 952-913-0006 or Denny at 952-454-7097 if you are interested in helping, and we can get your name on the list.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Do you feel like summer has flown by? September is almost here and then school will be in full swing. And with it comes the start of Sunday school. Rally day will be September 11th. Curriculum is being looked at. We are still in need of a Sunday school Supervisor. AND, if we are going to have a Sunday school, we need teachers. Kinda goes hand in hand! So, what exactly does all that entail? Please talk to Pam Hunter with questions. Wouldn't it be great if teachers could job-share with another person?!!! Please pray for our Sunday school.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, AUGUST 2022

The Ceremony of the Offertory

Have you ever noticed the subtle ceremony involved in receiving the offerings during the Divine Service? After all the offerings have been collected, they are brought forward and given to the pastor or one of his assistants. The pastor then turns toward the altar, and as he slightly bows his head, the collection plates with the offerings in them are raised slightly to the Lord and then placed either on the altar or a table for the offerings. Why do we do have this ceremony? And what does it teach us? For that is what ceremony does; it teaches, as the Augsburg Confession tells us, what we need to know about Christ (AC XXIV, 1–3).

Originally, this ceremony included more than simply bringing forward what was collected in the offering plates. The elements for the Holy Communion—the bread and the wine—were brought forward along with the offering plates. As the offering plates and the elements were lifted toward the Lord, and placed upon the altar, the elements would be put in the center and the altar, now made a table, would be set for the Lord's Supper.

These gifts brought to the altar came from the sweat of the people's brow. It is the bread and wine, the fruits of the peoples' labor in this fallen world. After six days of labor and toil, the people would bring a generous proportion for the Lord's work. It was set upon the altar and offered to the Lord for Him to take up and press into His service for His gracious work in and among them.

For what they offered to the Lord from the sweat of their brow, the bread of anxious toil, came back to them as the bread of life, the bread come down from heaven that whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup would receive life through the forgiveness of their sins.

This is not unlike what the Lord did for His people in the Old Testament:

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. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household.

What a blessing! God provides for us in all things. He provides bread from the sweat of our brows, and He receives this from us in the first fruits offerings we give to Him in thanksgiving and praise. He receives and turns it into spiritual bread, heavenly bread, the bread of eternal life and gives it back to us so that we might have joy. So, the next time you are in the Divine Service, watch this ceremony in wonder, that the Lord gives back to us, what we have given to Him so that we may rejoice in the salvation He has won upon the cross and gives to us in His supper.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE**Luke 12-13 Discipleship: Trusting God**

Since the way of Jesus is different from that of the world, understanding the nature of discipleship is crucial. These chapters address such concerns. Disciples must fear God and stand up for Him in the midst of persecution. They must avoid dependence on material things. They must trust God and realize that they are accountable to Him. The essence of discipleship is fearing God and putting Him first. To share God's priorities is the disciples' call. To learn from God means to follow Him.

August 7	9th Sunday after Pentecost	"Don't Worry About It"	Luke 12:22-40
August 14	10th Sunday after Pentecost	"Saving Us From Ourselves"	Luke 12: 49- 53
August 21	11th Sunday after Pentecost	Rev. Dr. Mark Schuler	
August 28	12th Sunday after Pentecost	"The Great Reversal"	Luke 14:1-14

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.

AUGUST 7

"These Are Not Our Kind of People"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

Prejudice says, "These are not our kind of people." Charity says, "These are all people for whom Christ died." (Matthew 5:43-48)

AUGUST 14

"Everything Is So Expensive"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

Everything is so expensive-but do we really need everything? (Luke 12:15)

AUGUST 21

"Facing the Worst"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

(John 11:25-26)

AUGUST 28

"The Vision We Need"

Guest Speaker: Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

(Romans 8:18-23)

PRAYER REQUESTS



If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to megan@holycross-pl.org.

COFFEE TIME



There's nothing like coffee and a treat after worship; it's the Lutheran way!!! A signup is posted in the Commons, so please sign up to help out! Never provided goodies or made coffee? Talk to Pam with any questions. We ALL enjoy the refreshments, please be a part of putting a smile on everyone's faces!!!

THE WRINKLE FREE WOMAN



Holy Cross will be hosting the LWML Southwest Suburban zone Women's Event, The Wrinkle Free Woman, on **Saturday, October 8th**. It'll be a wonderful opportunity for women to come together to learn, grow in their faith and have lunch together. More details will be coming in the September Newsletter.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

What??? It's only August, it's hot out! That's all very true, but... I just wanted to give you a heads-up, with plenty of lead time! The shoeboxes, labels, and pamphlets are already here. It seems Samaritan's Purse wanted to get an early start as well! All this to say, as you're shopping have this in the back of your mind and when you see something that would work, buy it and stash it. Just remember where you put it! Holy Cross' Collection deadline is Monday, Nov. 14th.



TEN GOOD REASONS TO GO TO CHURCH

Why on earth would you, a busy person, want to sacrifice what little R&R time you have to attend public worship regularly? In the final analysis, those who attend public worship regularly do so because they believe they are gaining much more than they are giving up. The benefits of attending far outweigh any deficits (real or imagined). If you have never attended a Christian congregation regularly or have fallen into a habit of not doing so, and especially if you don't feel ready or motivated to go, I invite you to read the following: "**Ten Good Reasons to go to Church.**"

1. To have fellowship with the crucified and risen Christ

If you knew that Jesus Himself was going to be at a particular place on a regular basis, would you not be motivated to go? The local Christian congregation is that place. Christians gather publicly to be with their risen Savior. When they worship, the Lord Himself is present!

Though it is true that Christ is always with individual believers, He is present in a unique and special way where Christians gather around the Word. Further, Scripture calls Christians assembled together, "the body of Christ." In other words, the answer to the question, "Where can I find Jesus today?" is "Where Christians gather " for they are His body.

2. To be forgiven

Why come to church? Because the Lord Jesus is there. And He is there primarily to grant forgiveness to all who repent and believe. Proclaiming the full forgiveness that Jesus won for us on the cross is the main point of all Christian worship services. This is the amazing thing about our God. He comes among His people not primarily to receive but to give. To give the precious forgiveness of sins. He does this through the preaching of the Gospel, holy Absolution, and the Lord's Supper. What a joy it is to weary souls who have been struggling with their sin all week to hear and receive God's pardon given through Word and Sacrament.

3. To hear the voice of God

Never before have people been confronted with so many voices. Never before have people been confronted with so many choices. Life can be confusing and at times overwhelming as we try to sift through and sort out right from wrong, truth from error. All the more reason to go to church regularly. For there the voice of God Himself speaks to us through sermon, Scripture, liturgy, and hymnody. God speaks to His people as a whole and He speaks to them individually, guiding them into truth, reminding them of what is right, warning them about what is wrong. His is a voice of strength and comfort, a voice of healing and binding up. His is a voice of sanity amidst the insanity. His is a voice that tells the truth when so many other voices cannot be trusted. How sad when believers pray for

guidance but fail to show up at the place that God has chosen to give that guidance.

4. To grow in the knowledge of the Bible, God's Word

This reason is related to the previous one but is not redundant. Here I am responding to a common excuse: "I don't need to go to church to hear the Word; I can read the Bible on my own." On the one hand, private study of God's Word is wonderful. Would that all believers had a daily diet of God's Word! But private study of Scripture must not be a substitute for hearing the preached Word.

Why not? There are two reasons, the first theological, the second practical. Because the Pastor, who holds the divinely appointed preaching office, is, by God's will, the chief teacher of God's Word, the one through whom Christ Himself speaks (see Luke 10:16; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; Hebrews 13:17). The Pastor has been blessed with a gift of teaching. Furthermore, he has gone through extensive schooling and study so as to become an "specialist" in God's Word (though he also is always growing and learning). He has learned Biblical Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. He has spent many years in prayer and study learning God's Word. Why not benefit from his area of expertise?

I find it ironic that though we are willing to acknowledge and turn to self-proclaimed experts in every branch of human knowledge, we do not see the need for an expert in the Word of God. In other words, in so many areas of knowledge we freely admit that we lack the expertise to form judgments and we seek out the experts to help us. We turn to doctors for our health, CPAs for our taxes, auto mechanics for our vehicles, psychologists for our problems, etc. However, when it comes to the Word of God, some apparently know it all. Yes, every Christian can and should read the Bible. Yes, the people of God are to judge the teaching of the Pastor. I am not promoting clergy tyranny. I am warning against lay anarchy.

5. To feed your soul

Feed the soul? Does the soul need nourishment? According to Scripture, yes. There we are reminded that "man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD" (Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4). There we are encouraged, "like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). God's Word is food for the soul. Public worship is the best place to give your soul the Word-of-God-nourishment it needs. In another place Jesus says, "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you" (John 6:27). How tragic to see people zealously provide for their bodies but not their souls.

(continued on next page)

TEN GOOD REASONS TO GO TO CHURCH (continued)

6. To be loved and encouraged

Why go to church regularly? To be loved and encouraged. We all have troubles. We all face dilemmas and disappointments. We all wrestle with discouragement and heartache. Life can be cruel in a fallen world. What God said of Adam applies to us all: "It is not good for man to be alone." Why bear your burdens alone? Coming to church means interacting with your fellow Christians, the body of Christ. It means receiving an encouraging word, a hug and a smile. It means having someone listen. More profoundly, it is often through His body that Christ speaks the comfort and crucial direction that we need. How often a timely word of Gospel spoken by one Christian to another dispels the gloom! How often one Christian will have a spiritual insight that benefits another. Come to church to be loved and encouraged.

7. To be prayed for

Jesus once promised, "if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19). There is power when the people of God pray. But for those unfortunate souls who have cut themselves off from regular attendance at the Christian assembly, their needs are unknown, and they pray alone. An often overlooked reason to come to church is to be prayed for.

8. To love and encourage your fellow Christians

At the heart of the Christian ethic is the obligation to love our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus sharpens this in John 13 when He says, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). The apostle Paul echoes this when he writes, "Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2) and "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Galatians 6:10).

Failing to attend public worship regularly not only transgresses the Third Commandment ("Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy"). It is also transgresses the law of Christ, to love one's fellow Christians and to bear their burdens. When we refuse to gather with our fellow Christians, this is not love! By such refusal we lose touch with them and in most cases have no idea what they are going through. And if we have no idea what they are going through how can we encourage and help them? Furthermore, our absence is a powerful nonverbal discouragement to them. But our presence is a powerful nonverbal encouragement, even when no words are spoken.

9. To worship

That Christians are to worship God publicly is a Biblical given. Behind this given is the reality that we are creatures and God is the Creator. Everything we are and have is a gift from Him. Therefore God richly deserves our worship, our praise, thanks, and prayer. At the heart of New Testament/Christian worship is the gift of forgiveness that God has given us in Jesus Christ. Because God through Christ has forgiven us and given eternal life to us out of pure grace, He richly deserves our public praise and thanks through word and song.

When we worship the true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we are doing what we were created to do. Worshiping our Creator is being in sync with who we really are. It is not by accident that the book of Revelation pictures heaven as a place where the ransomed of the Lord will worship God forevermore.

Because we were created to be worshiping beings, we will worship someone or something. Either God, our Creator, who alone deserves our worship, or someone or something else: ourselves, possessions, wealth, a cause, a career, a hobby, or another person.

10. To promote the Gospel

One last reason to attend corporate worship regularly is that by doing so we promote and defend the Gospel. Remember, the Christian Church exists, ipso facto, "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). We exist to tell the good news that through Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, God has forgiven humanity and offers heaven as a gift to those who believe this. The Church's main mission is to populate heaven not to make people better (though through the Gospel this happens, too!).

How does attending church regularly promote the Gospel? In a variety of ways. First, by supporting the local congregation through weekly offerings, you allow the Gospel to be preached to our local communities. Without the financial support of faithful members, such local mission work would cease. Can't financial giving be done without attending? Yes, but apart from the inappropriateness of such non-attending giving, this rarely happens. In reality, only those who attend regularly contribute regularly. Second, as we hear and receive the Gospel through preaching and Sacrament, we are empowered and motivated to share the Gospel out in the world. Third, those who attend regularly give a very positive message to others about what Jesus Christ means to them. He means enough to set aside several hours a week to hear His Word and praise and thank Him. This can't help but attract others to Christ. Fourth, when we come regularly we will from time to time invite others to hear the Gospel.

We hope to see you in God's house soon.



AUGUST 2022



Holy Cross

A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	3 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	4 7:00 pm Prayer Time in the Sanctuary	5	6
7 9th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study	8 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	9	10 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	11 Garage Sale — August 11-13th	12	13
14 10th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study	15 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	18 7:00 pm Prayer Time in the Sanctuary	19 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due	20
21 11th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study	22	23	24 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	25 7:00 pm Prayer Time in the Sanctuary	26	27 8:00 pm Free Movie Night "Up"
28 12th Sunday After Pentecost 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study	29	30	31 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due			