



## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

### You Were Born to be You!

**Who am I? Why am I here? Do I have a purpose? What was I created to be and to do? Does God have a plan for my life?**

These are all questions we struggle with from time to time — questions some struggle with all the time. How about you? Ever wonder why you were placed on this earth? Does another year passing make you sad because it means you still do not know why you were born? Recently I was reading an older English version of the New Testament translated by J. B Phillips and found the easy English prose rather insightful. So maybe the apostle Paul can offer us some help:

***As your spiritual teacher I give this piece of advice to each one of you. Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance, but try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith that God has given to you all. For just as you have many members in one physical body and those members differ in their functions, so we, though many in number, compose one body in Christ and are all members of one another. Through the grace of God we have different gifts. If our gift is preaching, let us preach to the limit of our vision. If it is serving others let us concentrate on our service; if it is teaching let us give all we have to our teaching; and if our gift be the stimulating of the faith of others let us set ourselves to it. Let the man who is called to give, give freely; let the man who wields authority think of his responsibility; and let the man who feels sympathy for his fellows act cheerfully.***  
(Romans 12:3-8 J.B. Phillips)

What I found refreshing about the way he translates is that he makes it easy to summarize the insightful issues that can make us take our eyes off the goal that Christ has set for us.

### INSIGHT NUMBER ONE:

**Maybe we think too much about ourselves.**

In verse 3, Paul says: ***"Don't cherish exaggerated ideas of yourself or your importance..."*** Maybe one way to read that would be, "Don't spend so much time thinking about yourself." Use sober or clear-headed judgment about yourself. Maybe we spend too much time trying to figure ourselves out when we should spend more time focusing on God and what He is doing, and how we are to fit into His plan.

### INSIGHT NUMBER TWO:

**God's plan for us is not necessarily a puzzle to be solved.**

It is mysterious but the puzzle has been solved. Here is St. Paul's summary of how he saw His commission in the kingdom of God:

***I myself have been made a minister of this same Gospel, and though it is true at this moment that I am suffering on behalf of you who have heard the Gospel, yet I am far from sorry about it. Indeed, I am glad, because it gives me a chance to complete in my own sufferings something of the untold pains for which Christ suffers on behalf of His body, the Church. For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God's word—that sacred mystery which up to now has been hidden in every age and every generation.***  
(Colossians 1:25-26 J. B Phillips)

Did you hear where Paul's focus was? It wasn't on himself. Look again at where Paul found plan for His ministry: ***"For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose..."*** That is a major part of the reason you are here, "to

(continued on next page)

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

allow Christ to be revealed in you as a benefit for others". That happens when you have made your life a living sacrifice as Paul says in Romans 12:1-2, ***"Do not let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God re-mold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God for you is good, meets all His demands and moves you towards the goal of true maturity."***

**INSIGHT NUMBER THREE:  
You were born to be you.**

God makes it clear that we are all different, but we

are all joined in Christ's Body to be one. We all have different gifts, but we make up the one body. We cannot be someone else. We do not have their gift. Although we may have similar qualities as our parents, as our siblings, as our closest friends, we are not them. We were not created to be them or to be like them. We were formed in our mother's womb to be us. We are to be part of the Body of Christ as designed by God, and as He designed us. **You were born to be you.** That is where you can be your best. That is where you will flourish. So, be who you were born to be: be you to the glory of Christ!



Steve Oak	Sept 4
Mike Harvey	Sept 5
Kara Petrie	Sept 5
Rostina Vannett	Sept 12
Ann Sasse	Sept 15
Randy Baldwin	Sept 16
Dennis Waderich	Sept 17
Joyce Drenckhahn	Sept 23
Denny Case	Sept 27
Morgan Schulze	Sept 27
Eli Petrie	Sept 28
Nathan Hentges	Sept 30

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Men's Tuesday morning bible study starts back up on September 13th from 8-9am. Please join us!

### PRESCHOOL OPENING

Holy Cross gave approval for reopening a preschool in 2023 at the voter's meeting. The plan will be for a full-day preschool and include a partnership with Poble to provide subsidized preschool for immigrant families in our neighborhood. Please contact Michael Hentges for more information.



### Upcoming EVENTS

- September 8** Mum Sale
- September 11** Sunday School Rally Day
- September 13** Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Starts
- October 2** LWML Sunday
- October 8** LWML Women's Event
- October 15** Fall Festival
- November 25** Santa Photos for church members and their families
- November 26** Santa Photos for the public (must pre-register)
- November** Samaritans Purse Shoe Boxes
- December 4** CAP Agency Adopt a Senior

## 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](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities)

## CONFIRMATION SIGN UP



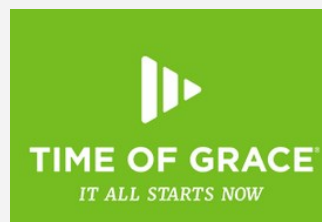
Confirmation classes being on September 14th at 4:00 pm. Sign up now to reserve your spot.

## SANTA IS COMING!

On **November 25th** we will be holding a free event for church members and their families to visit with Santa and have your picture taken. On November 26th we will have paid sessions with Santa for the general public as well. The real Reason for the Season will be shared with the children. Watch for more information to come!



## 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](http://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](http://www.timeofgrace.org)

## SUNDAY SCHOOL



Sunday School Rally Day is **September 11th!** Rooms are being set up and bulletin boards refreshed! Sunday school will be from 10:30-11:15 am.

At this point our teachers are Pam Hunter, Bonnie Nowak and Michele Lein. Substitute teachers are Sheri Brunner, Shari Schulze, Wendy Fitzwater and Joy Anderson. Thank you to these ladies for their willingness to share Christ with our children. Please pray for our Sunday school program.

## PRAYER TIME

Join us for prayer at church every **Thursday evening from 7-8 pm**. What a great way to de-stress from your day/week or busy life. There is something special and sacred about praying.... and praying at church is the best. We have the most calming stained glass and the presence of the Holy Spirit is mighty. We can pray anywhere at ANY TIME... but there is something special about setting aside an hour a week to pray at church. May God bless you as you pray at home, at church and throughout your days and weeks. Come join us for all or part of the prayer hour from 7-8 pm every Thursday throughout the fall.

## 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

**Fresh**

I noticed the tiny tears when I was folding up the bag. Two little slits sneaking by until sunlight shone through and called them out. I had grabbed the bag of popcorn in search of a mid-day filler. One of those 100 calorie guilt-free varieties. Guilt traded places with disappointment. The entire batch was stale. Compliments of those pinhead holes above. Staleness didn't win. I powered through like a runner being waved home by the third-base coach.

Stale seeps into life like a leaky faucet. Matters not how much you tighten it. The new car gets stale after a few months. The new house? Stale after the first year. Marriage? Stale seeks to steer the car right after the honeymoon.

We act like God's the same way. Too old-school. Too hard to swallow. Want something exciting. Something fresh. New and improved. When you're in Jesus, every day is new. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 5.17, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has

come: The old has gone, the new is here!" God's grace ushers new in every morning. It adds flavor to marriage. Seasons disappointment. Pulls you through the afternoon when once again you forget to pick up the kids. Send the thank you email. Or simply choose not to do what you promised.

When you look in the mirror and see nothing but a stale you staring back. In Jesus you have a new future. New family. New forgiveness that lasts forever. New wisdom. New power. New take on life that makes even the most stale relationship, fresh. Jesus has made you a new creation. Stamped you with "never expires." Where do you need Jesus' Spirit to breathe fresh into your life? What stale stuff does He need to repackage with grace?

**Rev. Bill Woolsey,**  
*President and Founder,*  
**FiveTwo Network**

**Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)**

## WHO'S IN CHARGE OF YOUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

Not enough is said about finishing well. Yet God considers it a virtue of sticking with something until it's done . . . of hanging tough when excitement and fun fade into discipline and determination. We've become a people who embrace the "let's-just-quit" mentality. Dieting requires discipline, so we stay fat. Working through conflict is wearying, so we divorce. Sticking with an occupation is tough, so we resign. It's no different with spiritual matters. So many Christians start like lightning—hot, fast, and dazzling. But how many continue the course with sustained enthusiasm and vigor? Oh, some do, but why so few?

Our problem isn't that we're ignorant of God's expectations. His standard stretches from Genesis to Revelation. I could pick many verses to show this but I believe St. Paul expresses this so well in Romans 12:

**"Brothers and sisters, in view of all we have just**

**shared about God's compassion, I encourage you to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, dedicated to God and pleasing to Him.'**

God has made it possible for us to walk in an intimate relationship with Him, but He has given us the responsibility of walking. It takes deliberate, daily decisions for singles to remain pure... for parents to keep training their children... for all of us to continue pursuing godly living. So as we begin a new Fall where we traditionally put our focus on educating our children, may you also realize that as God's child, He wants you to also put this emphasis into your life to grow in His Wisdom and understanding. I urge you to *finish well* by pursuing God's will every day you walk with Him on this earth. As you do, let me also urge you to come alongside *me* as I encourage others to do the same.

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, SEPTEMBER 2022

**What is Stewardship?**

What is a steward? Most people, when asked this question, will reply: "A manager." That is correct, but it is only half right. A steward is indeed a manager, but he is a manager of what does not belong to him. Someone else is the owner, and the steward manages the owner's property on the owner's behalf.

We are God's stewards. Our stewardship is that God has made us managers of what belongs to Him. For we have brought nothing into this world, and we can take nothing out of it (1 Tim. 6:7). Everything that we have and everything that we are comes from God's fatherly Divine goodness and mercy. God is the owner. Not only because, as the Creator, He created all things. But also, as the Redeemer, He has redeemed, that is, purchased and won all things. It all, therefore, belongs to Him.

We are simply managers of everything in this world. Like Joseph in Egypt, we are put in charge of managing what belongs to God. What a privilege. Think about that for a minute. The all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise God has asked us to manage His possessions on His behalf here on earth. And by doing this, He invites us to take part in the allocation of His good gifts. He wants us to give our input and advise Him in where His gifts are to be used. What a privilege indeed.

What a responsibility. For to whom much is given, much shall be required (Luke 12:48). We are not the owners. And while He puts us as managers, we are still to do

with His property what He wants done with it. That means we need to know what His desire and will for His property is.

How do we know this? How can we know the will and mind of God? We find the will of God in the Bible. There God tells us what His will for all His gifts are to be used. He tells us how we are to spend our time and use our talents and treasures. He instructs us in the use of our minds, bodies, and souls.

There is nothing that we have that doesn't belong to Him. "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19-20). He informs us of the big picture, the overarching policy, of how we as His stewards – His managers and custodians – of His property are to do the managing.

And that is what stewardship is. It is simply doing what God wants us to do with what He has given us. As St. Paul said: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness" (Rom. 6:13). So, let's dive into the God's Word and listen to what the owner desires from His stewards.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

## SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<b>September 4</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>"You Cannot But He Can And Does"</b>	<b>Luke 14:25-35</b>
<b>September 11</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>"Jesus' Joy Our Joy"</b>	<b>Luke 15:1-10</b>
<b>September 18</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>"Blessed to Be a Blessing"</b>	<b>Luke 16:1-15</b>
<b>September 25</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>	<b>"He Taught Them Many Parables..."</b>	<b>Luke 16:19-31</b>
<b>October 2</b>	<b>LWML Sunday</b>	<b>"For Us and With Us"</b>	<b>Romans 8:31-39</b>

## 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.

## GARAGE SALE RECAP

As they say "it takes a village..." and our village showed up! Thank you to everyone who participated. From set up to clean up, the teamwork was extraordinary. We raised a record-breaking \$4451.00 to support our missions outreach goals. We are truly blessed!



## 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.

### **SEPTEMBER 4**

#### "Count the Cost"

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

Jesus offers a gracious buyout, even as He speaks of counting the cost of following Him. (Luke 14:25-35)

### **SEPTEMBER 11**

#### "Lost and Found"

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

When Jesus told stories about lost sheep and lost coins, He was really talking about lost people. (Luke 15:1-10)

### **SEPTEMBER 18**

#### "Fresh Start"

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

What does the canning of a corrupt and incompetent accountant teach us about the undeserved mercy of God? Hear Jesus' Parable of the Shrewd Manager, this week on The Lutheran Hour. (Luke 16:9)

### **SEPTEMBER 25**

#### "Take This Personally"

**Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler**

Jesus wants us to take His Word seriously, not as a personal attack but as a word of warning—and promise. (Luke 16:19-31)

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A reminder to keep Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child on your mind as you are shopping. That way it's not the last minute rush to pick up items. Who me?!!!! Deadline isn't until **November 14th** but...!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

SEND  
US YOUR  
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](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## FALL MISSION FESTIVAL

Mark your calendar! Our Fall Mission Festival will be held on **Saturday, October 15th from 5:00-8:00 pm**. The plan is to have international offerings for the meal. If you have an ethnic meal you grew up with that you still make today, talk to Buffy Mobroten. A silent auction will be held and money raised will help support Josie's House of Love and Hope Orphanage/Haiti, Pastor Thomas Bernard's church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School/Haiti and the Holy Cross future Preschool. Tickets will be available at the end of September. As always, they are FREE! More details will be coming!

## THE WRINKLE FREE WOMAN

Save the date for the LWML Fall Women's Event "The Wrinkle Free Woman" on **Saturday, October 8 from 9:30am-1:00pm** at Holy Cross. Rotate through three stations: Be Pampered, Be Spiritually Fed, Be the Hands & Feet of Jesus. Gifts from the Heart will be assembling Laundry kits. Please bring a roll of quarters (\$10) to be included in the kits. Lunch will be served with time for fellowship. Tickets are available to purchase from Pat Harvey.

## SEPTEMBER COMMEMORATIONS

You may have noticed in on pages x-xi in the front our Lutheran Service Book, a list of Commemorations commonly observed in the Lutheran Church. There are also listed historic commemorations of some of our forebearers in the faith on pages xii and xiii. The following brief descriptions of the significance of these commemorations in September are from the Treasury of Daily Prayer.

### Holy Cross Day (September 14)

One of the earliest annual celebrations of the Church. The cross on which our Lord was crucified has become the universal symbol for Christianity, replacing the fish symbol of the early church, though the latter has been revived in recent times. After the end of the persecution era, early in the fourth century, pilgrims began to travel to Jerusalem to visit and pray at the places associated with the life of Jesus. Helena, the mother of the emperor, was a Christian and, while overseeing excavations in the city, is said to have uncovered a cross, which many believed to be the Cross of Christ. Holy Cross Day, traditionally commemorated this discovery of the original cross of Jesus on September 14, 320, in Jerusalem. Later a basilica was built on the site of the Holy Sepulchre, so in conjunction with the dedication of a basilica at the site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, the festival day was made official by order of Constantine in AD 335. Holy Cross Day has remained popular in both Eastern and Western Christianity. Many Lutheran parishes have chosen to use "Holy Cross" as the name of their congregation.



### St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist (September 21)



St. Matthew, also known as Levi, identifies himself as a former tax collector, one who was therefore considered unclean, a public sinner, outcast from the Jews. Yet it was such a one as this whom the Lord Jesus called away from his occupation and wealth to become a disciple (Matthew 9:9-13). Not only did Matthew become a disciple of Jesus, he was also called and sent as one of the Lord's twelve apostles (Matthew 10:2-4). In time, he became

the evangelist whose inspired record of the Gospel was granted first place in the ordering of the New Testament. Among the four Gospels, Matthew's portrays Christ especially as the new and greater Moses, who graciously fulfills the Law and the Prophets (Matthew 5:17) and establishes a new covenant of salvation in and with His own blood (Matthew 26:27-28). His symbol is three blue money bags on a white shield.



Matthew's Gospel is also well-known and beloved for its record of the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12); for the Sermon on the Mount, including the Beatitudes and the Our Father (Matthew 5-7); and for the institution of Holy Baptism and the most explicit revelation of the Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:16-20). Tradition is uncertain where his final field of labor was and whether Matthew died naturally or a martyr's death. In celebrating this festival, we therefore give thanks to God that He has mightily governed and protected His Holy Church through this man who was called and sent by Christ to serve the sheep of His pastures with the Holy Gospel. The *Winged Man* (left) represents St. Matthew because his Gospel lays stress on the Incarnation of the Son of God.


### St. Michael and All Angels (September 29)

The name of the archangel St. Michael means "Who is like God?" Michael is mentioned in the Book of Daniel (12:1), as well as in Jude (v. 9) and Revelation (12:7). Daniel portrays Michael as the angelic helper of Israel who leads the battle against the forces of evil. In Revelation, Michael and his angels fight against and defeat Satan and the evil angels, driving them from heaven. Their victory is made possible by Christ's own victory over Satan in His death and resurrection, a victory announced by the voice in heaven: "**Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come**" (Revelation 12:10). Michael is often associated with Gabriel and Raphael, the other chief angels or archangels who surround the throne of God. Tradition names Michael the patron and protector of the Church.



# September 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>4</b> <b>13th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	<b>7</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time Mums Delivered	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> <b>14th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School Starts	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>14</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>15</b> 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due 7:00 pm Prayer Time	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>15th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>21</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>16th Sunday After Pentecost</b> 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:30 am Sunday School	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 8:00 am Men's Bible Study	<b>28</b> 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Prayer Time	<b>30</b>	