

# Holy Crossings

# Newsletter

MAY 2024



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

► ***"Redeem the time because the days are evil."*** Ephesians 5:16

I had many thoughts on what to write for this article... the National Day of Prayer, Ascension and Pentecost, not to mention the days set aside to honor Philip, James and Matthias are this month as well, as our remembrance of our Armed Services Sunday and Memorial Day all occur this month. Yet when I read the article that follows from former Minnesota Twin pitcher, Frank Voila, I couldn't help but pass on what he shared.

A long, long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, I wasted my time being a high school student. I skipped classes, did the least amount of work required to skirt by, quit baseball my junior year, earned a Ph.D. in passing notes during lectures, and was never able to muster the courage to befriend the girl that I had a two-year crush on.

Incidentally, I was a pitcher for my high school baseball team. And like many other young dudes, my dream was to play in the Majors. So when I saw myself on TV for the first time, my first reaction was to pinch myself.

Anyways, when the day came when many of my classmates were being rewarded with full-ride scholarships, I was crestfallen. I had wasted my time as a high school student. Well, dear Christian, you can do the same with your walk with the Lord. You can waste your time as a Christian.

Paul exhorts us to ***"redeem the time because the days are evil."*** (Ephesians 5:16) Make no mistake: It takes time to know the Lord. It takes time to learn to live before Him. It takes time to grow in His life. And you can easily waste that time. In fact, there are specific things that you can do (or neglect) that will throttle your spiritual life.

Namely...**10 Ways in Which You Can Waste Your Time Being a Christian:**

- 1. Allow yourself to be bitter against someone who has hurt you.** Bitterness will destroy your spiritual life and take others down with you (Hebrews 12:15).
- 2. Use your time, your money, and your resources only for yourself and your needs.** In other words, live life for yourself (and your immediate family) rather than for others.
- 3. Spend little to no time with the Lord in solitude – just you and Him alone.** Fill your life with all sorts of other activities. Stay busy.
- 4. Neglect reading the Scriptures.** They reveal Christ and contain God's life (John 5:39; 6:63; 2 Timothy 3:16). They are food for your spirit. To neglect them is to starve your spirit.
- 5. Defame others or misrepresent them or their work (especially fellow believers).** Don't go to them directly if you have a concern or problem and ask them for clarity. (And if you do go to them, don't listen to what they have to say.) Be not deceived: To speak ill about or misrepresent another follower of Jesus is to speak ill about or misrepresent Jesus Himself. And He doesn't take it kindly (Matthew 25:40; Acts 9:1-4; Titus 3:2).
- 6. Rarely (or never) read books with spiritual depth ...or listen to Christ-centered messages by other servants of God.** Forget the contribution of the body of Christ, past

*(continued on next page)*



### MY SWEET MOM

I've tried so many times, dear Mom,  
 To write my thanks to you  
 For all your love and tender care,  
 Your prayers and blessings, too;  
 But seems the words would never come,  
 The ones that had to be,  
 To tell you just the way I feel.  
 And what you meant to me.



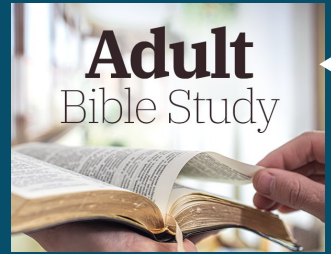
Your life has been a sacrifice,  
 In serving young and old;  
 In sorrows, heartaches and hardships,  
 You came forth pure as gold.  
 The memories that I have today,  
 That your true love and faith in God,  
 Though tested, did not sway.  
 On this dear Mother's Day

I am so grateful to my God,  
 And I shall ever be,  
 For favoring me so very much,  
 By giving you to me.  
 I have one goal I hope to reach,  
 Before my time is through,  
 And this, my precious darling Mom,  
 Is to be as sweet as you.

- Mary Rice Monroe  
 Newberg, OR

### SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**A Journey Through the Holy Week** based on the reflection of the Gospel of Luke. The week of May 5th, we look at Luke's account



of Good Friday beginning with Jesus' prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. After Jesus is betrayed by Judas on Holy Thursday, He is arrested and led off to fulfill the saving work that He had foreseen long ago. This is the day that the angels wept, that the veil in the Temple was ripped in two and the day that changed the world forever.

- May 12 – Good Friday (part 2)
- May 19 – Holy Saturday
- May 26 – Easter Sunday

### TIME OF GRACE®

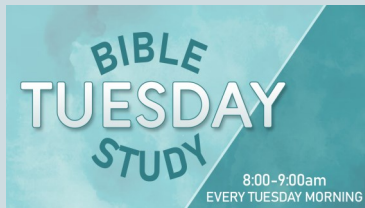
Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

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

### TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Tuesday from 8:00-9:00 am as we look into the book of Jonah. Throughout the book of Jonah,



God demonstrates again and again that His way of working in the world can be, and often is, fundamentally different than we'd either like or even expect. God does not restrict Himself to reaching out to those we reach out to, blessing us in ways we see as blessings, or even giving us objectives that we would like to achieve. Instead, He does what He knows is best.

### GARAGE SALE

Save the date! We will be holding a Missions garage sale this year on August **8, 9 and 10th**. As you declutter, remember our sale. You can put your donations in the Preschool Room. Proceeds benefit various mission efforts.





### WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

Worship For Shut-Ins is a 30 min television service that is distinctly Lutheran. It is a



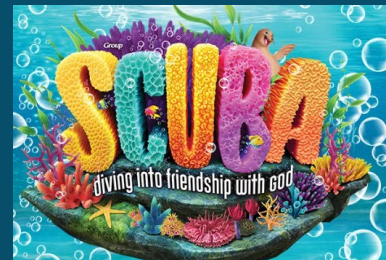
traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able or choose not. You can view this program on DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am, or you can go to their website at [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org).

The next Voters' Meeting will be held on **July 28th at 10:15 am.**



### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Vacation Bible School Team at Fish Lake Immanuel would like to invite you to join us for some SCUBA fun this



year. We are hosting VBS June 23-27 in the evenings from 6:00-8:30pm and the theme is an underwater adventure of "SCUBA - Diving Into Friendship With God". It is a free VBS and open to the community.

Teams are already working hard on decorations to bring the ocean fun up close for the kids and we are coming up with some creative ways to get the kids motivated for our mission project of clean water.

We wanted to reach out and invite Holy Cross to join us. Registration is already open on our church website if you know anyone that might be interested in attending.

We are still in need of volunteers to make this a great success. There are a variety of positions open, from leading a station to being a crew lead guiding the kids around through the fun, to being a substitute (because we know life happens). It's really easy - we use the Group curriculum and everything is basically laid out for you. All you need is a heart open to sharing joy and love with the kids (and the adults too...because we have a lot of fun).

If anyone is interested in joining us please reach out to our VBS team to volunteer. We would love to have you join us!

Tessa Braatz  
lechner4@hotmail.com 612-618-9173

Majken Tutty  
mthd03@yahoo.com 210-410-3153

Brooke Brockhoff  
brookebrockhoff@gmail.com 507-351-0063

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Rich Vannett ..... May 7
- Kelly Kruse ..... May 16
- Nancy Baldwin ..... May 18
- Cameron Fitzwater ..... May 18
- Colin Kruse ..... May 22
- Andrew Sasse ..... May 29
- Justin Schulze ..... May 29
- Megan Anderson ..... May 31



### CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, May 13, at 7:00 pm.** All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



### NEWSLETTER REMINDER!

Reminder to get you newsletter additions in to Megan by the 15th of each month. **We'd love to have some new ideas, articles, anything you find relevant to add to the Newsletter!**



# Happenings

Please submit all articles for the Happenings by Wednesdays at 10 am! We also need some new and fresh content for the Happenings, so if you have any great ideas, please send them over to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

- MAY 5** Confirmation Sunday
- MAY 7** Elder's Meeting
- MAY 10** Spring Flowers Baskets Arrive
- MAY 13** Council Meeting
- JUN 4** Elder's Meeting
- JUN 10** Council Meeting
- JUN 12** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 19** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 26** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 10** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 17** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 23** Bible Bookenders
- JUL 24** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 28** Voter's Meeting
- AUG 8-10** Missions Garage Sale

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



## WOMEN'S TEA



An enjoyable time was had by 53 ladies attending our 'FROM the CRADLE to the CROSS' tea held on March 9th. The tasty finger sandwiches, scones and sweets were wonderful as was the fellowship. Ladies expressed how much they had missed the opportunity to get together and loved this opportunity. Ten different churches were represented.

## IMMANUEL FISH LAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Fish Lake 5K Festival / 20th Anniversary Run/Walk

Sunday May 5, 2024 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm

Spring Lake Township Hall, 20381 Fairlawn Ave, Prior Lake, MN 55372

Register: <https://www.cognitofrms.com/FishLake5KImmanuelLutheranChurch/FishLake5KRunWalkRegistration2024>

- 5K run/walk on certified course
- Children's ¼ mile fun run
- Silent Auction
- Kids activities
- Food for purchase



# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER

FIVE TWO

A WEEKDAY 2-MINUTE DEVOTION THAT HELPS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK IN YOUR WORLD

## Difference

Word-of-mouth sent me there. "I'm looking for a great seafood restaurant. Thoughts?" Google suggested multiple options. I'm not a fan of pouring over on-line reviews. Asked a live-body local resident. "St. Paul Fish Company." No hesitation. No doubting. Prophetically announced, "That's where you need to go."

A seafood lover's gift from heaven. Oysters. Shrimp. Grouper. Scallops. Salmon. Walleye. Halibut. Flounder. Name a fish. Want it for dinner? They've got it. Stood at the counter for 10 minutes as people politely avoided the out-of-towner laughing like a kid on Christmas.

When was the last time God bubbled joyful laughter in your life? Led you to take photos for family and friends. "You've got to see this?" I get the sense the Bible writer Paul was that way with the resurrected Jesus. Not immediately. That Damascus road encounter didn't cause laughter. More like a "fear of God" moment.

But to be chosen by the very Creator you doubted. To be called by the God of the people you led to slaughter. To be redeemed by the Redeemer you

thought a hoax. So in 1 Corinthians 15 right after speaking of the resurrected Savior Paul writes: "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. - 1 Corinthians 15.10

God's grace created a lifetime of joy in Paul's life. Not in lieu of but in addition to. It brought joy into suffering. Joy into struggles. Joy into pain. Joy because grace gave Paul meaning. Grace set him on a new course. Delivered a new purpose. How has grace reframed your life? Given you a new table to eat at? New friends to share clam chowder with?

Consider how God's grace in His Son covers over every broken part of your life. Removes every drop of guilt. Every bit of divine judgment. Receive God's grace deep in your life this morning. Stand at the counter in awe of the grace-banquet He's laid out. Just for you.

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)

## MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. For more information [www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities)



## WOMEN'S ONE NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Women of Holy Cross are invited to a Bible Study on **Tuesday, May 14 at 6:30pm**. Bring your Bible and join us at church for a casual evening.

Invite a friend or neighbor to come along for the evening. Be renewed by God's word and encouraged by the fellowship of those in the faith. Contact Joy Anderson at 612-423-1204 if you have questions.





## ▶ LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – MAY 2024

### More Than a Negative

Even if you've never had to testify in court, a thousand TV shows have made you familiar with the question, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?" Why not just make people swear to tell the truth? Or make them promise not to lie?

Any parent who has ever had to interrogate a child about a broken cookie jar or a scuffle over a toy knows the answer. There are plenty of ways to try to get out of trouble without *technically* lying. You tell *just enough* of the truth to skate on by.

We often play the game of seeing *how close* we can get to sinning without *technically* going over the line.

But in our heart of hearts we know that this is not what God intended when He gave us the commandments. He's not giving us a merely negative rule and challenging us to just barely stay away from this or that. There is much more to each commandment than a prohibition. We shouldn't just avoid murdering people — we should be of service to our neighbor.

For each negative prohibition in the commandments there is a positive good that we are to cherish and protect. In the Eighth Commandment, that gift is the reputation of our neighbor and our relationship with him:

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Your relationship with your family members (who are your nearest neighbors), the other members of your congregation, your coworkers and your friends is one of the most precious gifts you have been given. You need to exercise good stewardship with this gift just as much as you need to exercise good stewardship with your life, resources, time and income. This is an especially fragile gift because it's easy to ruin a relationship with slander and talking behind someone's back.

But speaking well of your neighbor in Christian love is absolutely free; it costs you nothing, yet it pays you great dividends. If you find this challenging at times, if you are tempted to speak ill of others, just remember that this other person is also a beloved child of God for whom your Lord Jesus suffered and died. Your Lord Jesus loves you both.

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



## THEOLOGICAL CONVOCATIONS

In 2024 the *Minnesota South District* will sponsor

## THEOLOGICAL CONVOCATIONS

Hosted by a local congregation in each region across the district

**9:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

*Lunch to follow*

Pastors, lay people, and the general public are cordially invited to attend all convocations in all regions.

There is no charge, but we kindly ask you to register to have a count for materials and lunch preparation. Use the QR code to register.



### DATES, TOPICS, AND REGIONS

#### FRIDAY, MAY 31

*Ecclesiology and the Future of the LCMS*  
 (Hosted at Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights)

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

*Worship Theology and Practice*  
 (Hosted at Glory of Christ, Plymouth)

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

*Office of the Ministry & Routes to Ordination*  
 (Hosted at Trinity, Rochester)

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25

*Theology of the Practice of the Lord's Supper*  
 (Hosted at St. Paul's, Fulda)

## ▶ 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.

### **MAY 5 — "Rejoicing On the Way"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes  
God empowers His people to share the Gospel with those they meet along the way. (Acts 8:28-39)

### **MAY 12 — "Unforecastable"**

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
It's been said that God's call often comes as a surprise. In Acts 9, we meet three men who found themselves called in ways they could neither forecast nor control. (Acts 9:31)

### **MAY 19 — "Waiting, But Not Alone"**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge  
Jesus leaves His followers waiting for Him to return but He promises they will not be left alone. (Acts 2:1-21)

### **MAY 26 — "Penultimate Sacrifice"**

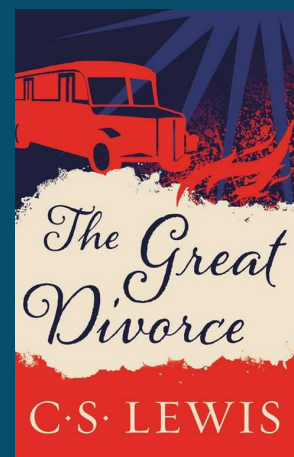
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Memorial Day honors those who made "the ultimate sacrifice" in service to country, but there was one Sacrifice infinitely greater. (Acts 10:1-2)

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).

## BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Our next meeting will be **July 23, 2024 at 7pm**. We will be reading "**The Great Divorce**" by C.S. Lewis. We will be discussing this book and touch on other works of C. S. Lewis as well. Invite your friends to join us, all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. If you have any questions, please ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein. Mark you calendars for these other Bible Bookenders dates:



**October 23, 2024 "The Hiding Place"** by Corrie ten Boom. This is also a selection we have read. Feel free to reread or read a newer book called "**The Watchmakers Daughter**" by Larry Loftis.

**January 21, 2025 "Shepherd's Abiding"** for the 30th Anniversary of the release of Jan Karon books. (The Mitford Series)

## ▶ SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Join us for the Summer Women's Bible Study on Ecclesiastes. Solomon shares a very human perspective on life in Ecclesiastes that matches our own frustrations with the world and our lives, and things that may seem meaningless. Join us for our women's study this summer on this great and unique book of the Old Testament that gives us much hope amid despair.

The dates are June 12, 19, 26 and July 10, 17, and 24. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm. Invite your friends, family and neighbors. Watch for sign up and more information coming. Questions contact Michele Lein.





## 2024 Theme

### LIFT UP THE WORD - LIGHT UP THE WORLD

*For you are my lamp, O Lord, and my God lightens my darkness.*

*For by You I can run against a troop, and by my God I can leap over a wall.*

*This God—His way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true;*

*He is a shield for all those who take refuge in Him.*

*2 Samuel 22:29-31*

## The National Day of Prayer exists to mobilize unified public prayer for America

### The First Thursday of May

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. Our Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to communicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer, to create appropriate materials, and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

### Why We Pray

As American troops stormed the beaches of Normandy, President Franklin Roosevelt called for our nation to unite in prayer. He also offered a prayer to prepare each citizen for the road ahead. "Let our hearts be stout, to wait out the long travail, to bear sorrows that may come, to impart our courage unto our sons wheresoever they may be. And, O Lord, give us faith. Give us faith in Thee." The victory that followed on June 6, 1944—also known as D-Day—began the march to Berlin. Eighteen months later, WWII was over and one of the world's greatest evils had been defeated. The prayers of a nation had been a powerful force.

Prayer has always been used in this country for guidance, protection and strength—even before we were a nation or a handful of colonies. The Pilgrims at Plymouth relied on prayer during their first and darkest winter. Our founding fathers also called for prayer during the Constitutional Convention. In their eyes, our recently created nation and freedoms were a direct gift from God. Being a gift

from God, there was only one way to insure protection—through prayer.

President Abraham Lincoln knew this well. It was his belief that, "it is the duty of nations as well as men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God." When it came to the fate of the nation, he practiced what he preached. Before the battle of Gettysburg, he turned to God in prayer. "I went to my room one day and I locked the door and got down on my knees before Almighty God and prayed to him mightily for victory at Gettysburg." Won by the Union, Gettysburg was one of the turning points in the war that ended slavery and kept the states united. Today the need for prayer is as great as ever. Our nation again faces battlefields, along with an epidemic of broken homes, violence, sexual immorality and social strife. As the heroes of our nation did in the past, we must again bow our heads in prayer. We must ask the Lord to bless our leaders with wisdom and protection, and that we will have the fortitude to overcome the challenges at hand. If Roosevelt, the Pilgrims and Lincoln never underestimated the power of prayer, neither should we.

***If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.***  
2 Chronicles 7:14

It is our goal that you, your family and friends would participate in the National Day of Prayer. We pray that the event impacts your life, and that praying for our nation moves from a one-day event to a lifetime endeavor. So join us on the first Thursday in May and pray with conviction that God would continue to shed His grace on thee.

# MAY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School			10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 8:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice			
<b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am Adult Bible Study 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 8:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice			
<b>Pentecost Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	MN North/South Pastor's Convention 8:00 am Adult Bible Study 6:30 pm Women's One Night Bible Study	10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 8:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice			
<b>Trinity Sunday</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School		8:00 am Adult Bible Study	10:00 am Happenings 6:00 pm Articles Due 8:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice			