

Holy Crossings

Newsletter

JUNE 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

▶ LOVING OUR COMMUNITIES TO CHRIST

"When the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about Me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Have you ever wondered where the ends of the earth are? In Luke's day as he wrote this second letter to Theophilus the ends of the earth was seen to the north as the isles of Briton where according to legend Joseph of Arimathea traveled with the gospel. Paul desired to go to Spain (Romans 15:24), the end of the earth in the west. The apostle Thomas journeyed east to India and Philip encountered the Ethiopian from the south (Acts 8:26ff). Yet today, the former ends of the earth have come to us. The Twin cities is now home to the largest Hmong community outside of SE Asia and the largest Somalian community in the US. Immigrants from the former USSR countries; the immigrants from African nations of Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania, not to mention the Philippines, Viet Nam, Cambodia, China, and India from the east and the rising numbers from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Ecuador and Panama from the south. The ends of the earth are now our own cities and communities. Yet the one thing that hasn't changed is God's promise that we will receive His power and that we are to tell people everywhere of the love and salvation that is now ours in Jesus.

Our International Friendship Center and relationship with POBLO and our emphasis on reaching our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ just touches the surface of the diverse opportunities God is placing before us to touch peoples' lives with the genuine love of Jesus. What an incredible gift we have been given from God. It is one that

God so desires for us to share. Yet before we can share this gift, God has a surprise for you. This gift must first, by God's power become ours in such a way that we are transformed. The disciples waiting in the upper room could never have imagined the transformation that took place in them on that first Pentecost Sunday when the Holy Spirit opened their hearts and minds and mouths to share what God had done through Jesus Christ. This transformation for spiritual growth hasn't changed in 2000 years. There still remains at the heart a deep desire by Christians for community-wide spiritual transformation the following things:

- 1. Brokenness before God and one another for lost people.**
- 2. A foundation of prayer, a lifestyle of care and a willingness to share.**
- 3. A personal commitment by leaders to model praying, caring and sharing, while mentoring others by sharing personal experiences.**
- 4. A time commitment and dedication to real congregational and community transformation.**

The local church is God's chosen vehicle for evangelism. For the Church to be the Church, its culture must change through repentance, revival and renewal. As one church leader said whose name escapes me, "Those who have a passion for the spiritual transformation of their community are ***true servants of Jesus and are the hearts and hands***

(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

of ministry. "Yes, people are transformed when God transforms them. This happens when God works the means He surrounds us with:

An Occasion to Worship where we desire to acknowledge the supreme goodness and holiness of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our individual and corporate worship around Word and Sacrament.

Participation in a Community of Believers who are Seeking God and Finding Fullness of Life in Jesus Christ where we desire to learn more of the Christian faith, experience the transforming power of Christ's love through spiritual disciplines (prayer, Scripture reading, worship, meditation), and discern God's purpose and unique call to each of us to live out whom God has created us to be.

Opportunity to Know the Scriptures Christian people and congregations grow in faith when they are firmly grounded in the knowledge and use of the Scriptures where God in Jesus Christ has shown unconditional love, justice and mercy to us, so we believe in showing unconditional love and mercy in our relationships and common ministry, and will work for justice in the human community.

At Holy Cross, that lesson is beginning to blossom as our eyes are focused outside of ourselves. God is blessing us with the ends of the earth right here in our Christian fellowship. By calling His people together, God is sounding a trumpet call to unity and to action. May we have the ears to hear and the eyes to see that **Communities are transformed when people are transformed by God's Spirit, one life at a time.**

- JUN 4** Elder's Meeting
- JUN 10** Council Meeting
- JUN 12** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 19** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUN 23** Immanuel VBS
- JUN 26** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 10** Women's Summer Bible Study
- JUL 17** Women's Summer Bible Study



THE MASTER GREETER

Seven Ropes that Land People in Your Church

Rope #2 Becoming Familiar with the Environment, Schedule and Beliefs of your church

If your visitor gets disoriented in your parking lot or building, he will want to leave. If he does not understand your schedule of services and classes, he will become too confused to want to stay. If your beliefs are hidden or wishy-washy, he will have little to hold on to. Many churches have an information flier that is given to new people that shows the weekly schedule, a layout map and a brief statement of their beliefs. Make your environment, schedule and beliefs simple and accessible. It helps to settle him into your church.

JUNE

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

JUNE 2 - 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

"Treasures in Jars of Clay" **2 Corinthians 4:5-12**
Deuteronomy 5:12-15 2 Corinthians 4:5-12
Mark 2:23-3:6

JUNE 9 - 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

"Who Is Jesus To YOU?" **Mark 3:20-35**
Genesis 3:8-15 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

JUNE 16 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

"Heart Transplants" **2 Corinthians 5:17**
Ezekiel 17:22-24 2 Corinthians 5:1-17
Mark 4:26-34

JUNE 23 - 5th Sunday after Pentecost

"The 'I' of the Storm" **Mark 04:38**
Psalm 107:1-3,23-32 2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

JUNE 30 - 6th Sunday after Pentecost

"Intrinsic Worth" **Mark 5:25-26**
Lamentations 3:22-33 2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

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



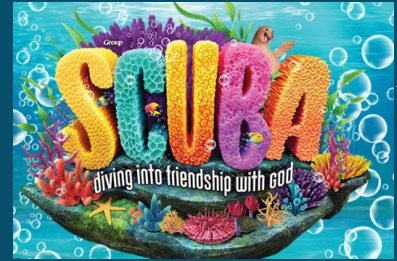
traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able 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.

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

- Sue Waderich June 1
- Joy Anderson June 5
- Cheri Mattson June 5
- Evelyn Jabs June 9
- Kris Hentges June 10
- Pat Harvey June 17



CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, June 10, 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!**



STEWARDSHIP

June used to be the most popular month for weddings. "She's a June Bride" was a phrase that worked itself into our vocabulary. June may no longer be the most popular month for weddings but weddings do give us an image of how God relates to His people. In Old Testament times God referred to Israel as His bride. He stated clearly that He as her husband would be faithful to all His promises of love, care and protection for His bride.

Marriage was instituted by God as a special relationship in which one man and one woman pledge themselves to love each other in good times and in bad times, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, remain faithful to each other so long as they both shall live. God was faithful to His bride, but His bride was unfaithful again and again. God in His love sent "wake up calls" after "wake up calls" to win His bride back. The story of Israel in the Old Testament and, sadly, in the church of today indicates that God's bride is not nearly as faithful as He is.

In the New Testament, especially in the Book of Revelation, the image of Christ and the church is also that of a bridegroom and His bride. Jesus loved the church, His bride, and gave Himself up for her because He wanted to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or

wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (Ephesians 5:25-27 NIV).

As Christian stewards we are members of the body of Christ—His church, His bride. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be faithful stewards who seek to honor God and bless others through our wise stewardship of time, talents, treasure and all the other blessings God pours out upon us.

By the way, Father's Day also falls in June. Those of us who are blessed to have godly fathers know what it means to have someone in authority who really loves and cares for us. God, our Heavenly Father, loves us far more than any earthly father could. He demonstrated this by sending His only begotten Son to be our Savior and by showering so many other spiritual and material blessings upon us.

Our response to God's love and lavishness is what we call stewardship. Stewards are those who recognize that God is the Owner of all things and they are simply managers or trustees of that which God has entrusted to them. To make this even more personal think of it in this way: *"God's redeemed stewards, in partnership with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."*

COFFEE SERVERS

JUNE 2	Mike & Kris Hentges
JUNE 9	Wendy F. & Joyce D.
JUNE 16	Jason & Kelly Kruse
JUNE 30	Norma & Evelyn Jabs

If you are not able to serve on your assigned day, please find an alternate to fill in, and make the notation on the serving list on the bulletin board. Thanks!



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.

▶ 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.

JUNE 2 — "Lit Up"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The Law and Gospel light of Jesus is both an exposing searchlight that reveals our shortcomings and a warm grow light that nurtures us. (Acts 11:24)

JUNE 9 — "Selfless Sending"

Guest Speaker: Pastor Jeff Cloeter
The Christians of ancient Antioch were known for their spirit of selfless sacrifice. The spirit of Antioch continues in the Church today because Christ Himself is with us. (Acts 11:19-30; 13:1-3)

JUNE 16 — "Water Power"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
God's mission is like water. Without changing what it is, the Good News of God's Kingdom takes the shape of its cultural container, crossing boundaries and barriers. (Acts 16:5)

JUNE 23 — "You're Really into This, Aren't You?"

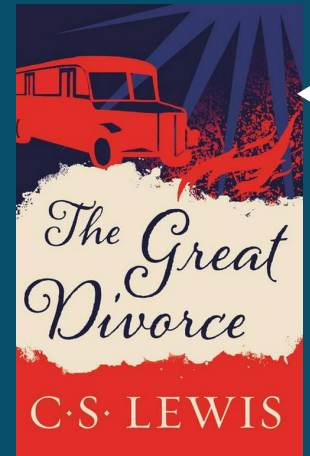
Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
People can be passionate about sports, gardening, video games, or family. All those things can be good, but none of them can save you. (Acts 16:30)

JUNE 30 — "An Eager Conversationalist!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Keith Haberstock
The Holy Spirit empowers us to open our mouths and share Jesus, so that all might have what none of us deserve. (Acts 17:16-31)

BIBLE BOOKENDERS

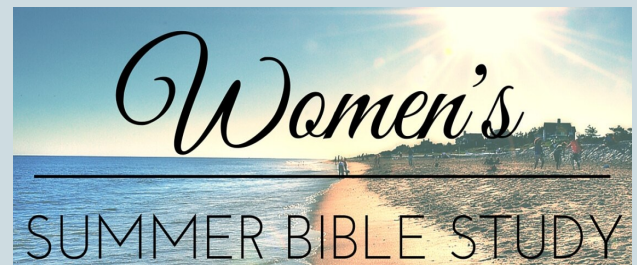
Our next meeting will be **July 23, 2024 at 7pm**. We will be reading "**The Great Divorce**" by C.S. Lewis. We will be discussing this book and touch on other works of C. S. Lewis as well. Invite your friends to join us, all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. If you have any questions, please ask 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.

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

U-Haul

I needed a 5'x8' trailer to pick up two mattresses. Found a local guy who rents U-Hauls next to his auto repair shop. An extra source of income. The inspection on the trailer found two of the side lights weren't working.

"What about the tail lights? Brake, turning signal, night time," I asked. "They're all good," he said. I took it. I'm not hauling the mattresses at night so the running lights won't be an issue. The trailer - in the moment - was good enough.

I'm usually not a "good enough" guy. I tend to run issues to perfection. Overthink. Even overwork. Drill down on words. Evaluate attitudes. Shoot for A+++ . Unless it's about me. I'll cut myself slack. Make excuses. Explain away my poor attitude about helping out.

In the moment and when under fire my defenses promote a "I'm good enough" attitude. Deep down I know it not to be true.

The God who created us knows our deep down reality. He sees our brokenness. He grasps our selfishness. He is no stranger to our failures and faults. Especially since they break our relationship with Him.

He doesn't ignore them, though. He doesn't pretend they're not there. He chose His Son to step in for us. To be the sacrifice that makes our failures not count. To be perfection for our imperfection. To make us "good enough" even though we're not.

My U-Haul is good enough. Thanks to Jesus' sacrifice and love, so am I. So are you.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

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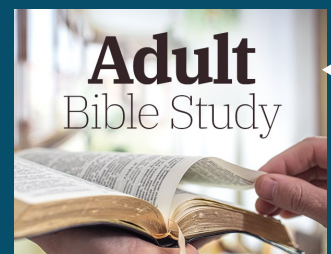
Subscribe to **Time of Grace** (www.timeofgrace.org) resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions.

Pastor Mike Novotny

The Core, Appleton, WI • KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

HABITS - It's like we have moral muscles that are trained in the same way our biological muscles are trained when we practice a golf swing



or piano scales. And so we do not merely try to be more like Jesus, more patient, generous, and faithful, we train for it, just like we train for any other challenging goal in our lives. On June 2nd we began a five week study looking at what is real in of Christian training using the titles: **Real Desire - Real Prayer - Real Restraint - Real Celebration and - Real Life**. Are you ready?

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – JUNE 2024

The Gift of Contentment

As children grow up, they often feel cramped by their parents' restrictions. Dad says to be home by 11. But why can't I say out 'til midnight? Mom says to clean your room on Saturday morning. But I want to sleep in late, then roll out of bed, hop in the car and go to my friend's house without delay. I want to do what I decide is best.

The older we get, and especially when we have kids of our own, we begin to see the truth. Mom and Dad were not cramping our style or trying to crush our personal freedom — they were looking out for us, providing for us and teaching us a better way of life.

If that's how it is with fallible human parents, how much more so with our Heavenly Father! We sinners often feel cramped by the Law of God. Our sinful flesh wants to go its own way, do its own thing and be in charge. But in our heart of hearts, we know how foolish this is. We know that God loves us, and therefore all of His commands are for our benefit. Each one of His commandments is meant to bless us. Consider the last two commandments:

You shall not covet your neighbor's house. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it. (SC II)

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty. (SC II)

The commandments against coveting are warning us against losing one of the greatest gifts we can possess: contentment. Being content and thankful with what God has provided for us is a necessary building block of living a happy life. Unthankful coveting of what we have not been given will only make us miserable, so God warns us against it.

God has proven His love for us in sending His only begotten Son to shed His blood for us, cleanse us of our sins and brings us back into His family. If He loves us this much, then when percentage of His commandments do you think are meant to harm us? Probably no more than one or two percent, right? Of course that's absurd. God means to bless us with everything He says to us. The Law of God simply describes what a truly happy life, lived in thankfulness to Christ, looks like: It's a generous, merciful, contented life that uses all of the resources God has given us for His purposes.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

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.



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.

June 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 2	6:00 pm IFC 3	7:00 pm Elder's Meeting 4	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice 5 8			1
3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 9	6:00 pm IFC 7:00 pm Church Council 10	11	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice 12 15			14
4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study HAPPY Father's Day 17	6:00 pm IFC 17	7:00 pm Bible Bookenders 18	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice 19 22			21
5th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 23	6:00 pm IFC 24	25	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC 8:00 pm Choir Practice 26 29			28
6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 30						