

# Holy Crossings

# Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### ▶ The Wall of My Faith

**... a flimsy wall is built, and they cover it with whitewash.**

**Tell those who cover it with whitewash, it is going to fall. (Ezekiel 13:8-16)**

If a carpenter built a flimsy wall and painted it up to look pretty, his reputation would be shot in no time. The first time a heavy wind came through or someone leaned a bit on that wall, it would be gone and so would the carpenter's career. A few years ago, I passed an ongoing construction project daily for weeks. They cleared the land for the home and then began laying the block. They laid the first course and then the second. Slowly but steadily, row by row those block began to grow.

However, it was while the first row was being laid that I thought, "That wall will never stand." What I saw was that they had put the first course of block right on the ground. There was no foundation. The result was that when the rain came the first time (after the free standing basement had all 10 courses complete), the entire structure fell. To the untrained eye, the wall looked fine, but to those who knew about construction, it was flimsy.

The real tragedy is that all across America, and perhaps throughout the entire world, flimsy walls are being built every week. Yes, some are structural and lead to the collapse of construction projects and careers. But many are spiritual. These spiritually flimsy walls collapse under the strain of life. Some begin the rebuilding process immediately, while others flounder for years before they find someone who can help them put the blocks back together. For a few, they'll give up on the process all together and never reach their full potential in life.

You see every day there are spiritual walls being built with weak foundations. These are the walls built on the foundation of good works, rules, rituals and traditions. They are being constructed with self-help books, motivational speeches and world values. They look beautiful, like the whitewashed walls of Ezekiel's time, but the first strong storm that comes, the wall begins to crumble. Some may even withstand the first few torrents, but eventually, without the foundational bedrock of salvation in Jesus Christ, those spiritual walls will cave in, and many will never be able to rebuild.

It's not just an Old Testament concept, in 1 Corinthians 3, Paul dealt with this matter as well. He said that some Christian leaders were building with sticks and straw, materials that would burn when they went through the fire of life. So my question for you today is this, "How is your wall?"

Do you have a strong foundation? Is your faith built on the foundational love and knowledge of Jesus Christ or have you been trying to be "good enough?" Are you putting things that will last on that foundation? You can choose building tools like God's Word, Bible Study, Christian Fellowship and the like. Or you can use books other than the Bible, ignoring God's commands and trusting in your own goodness to build your wall?

*(continued on next page)*

### FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

In Ezekiel's day the prophets and leaders were building flimsy walls of faith. During the time of Paul, in the early days of Christianity, it was still a problem. Today is no different. I pray that each of us will look at our lives daily. I hope we'll look at our foundation to be sure we are building on nothing other than the truth of Jesus Christ. And once that foundation is solidly laid, may we only build using gold, silver and costly stones, not material possessions of the world, but precious nuggets of truth from God's Word. So when those storms come that Jesus predicted in Matthew 7, our house will stand strong and firm on the Rock of our foundation, Jesus Christ.

### MUMS DELIVERY

The new delivery date for the mums is **Thursday, September 12th.**



### SEPTEMBER

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### September 1 - Pentecost 15

Pastor Nowak

Exodus 12:21-32  
Matthew 26:26-29

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

#### September 8 - Pentecost 16

"Hearing and Speaking"

Isaiah 35:4-7a  
Mark 7:(24-37)

Mark 7:32-35

James 2:1-10, 14-18

#### September 15 - Pentecost 17

"Light in the Darkness Peace in the Chaos"

Mark 9 14 29  
James 3:1-12

Isaiah 50:4-10

Mark 9:14-29

#### September 22 - Pentecost 18

"The Glorious Discomfort of Servanthood"

Mark 9:30-37  
James 3:13-4:10

Jeremiah 11:18-20

Mark 9:30-37

#### September 29 - St. Michaels & All Angels

Guest Pastor

Daniel 10:10-14; 12:1-3  
Matt. 18:1-11

Rev. 12:7-12

### HOLY CROSS MISSION OUTREACH - 2024 DONATIONS YTD

	Goal	YTD \$ Sent
1) HLMS (Good Shepherd and Josie's Orphanage)	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2) Mission of Christ Network (Sarah Parrish)	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00
3) POBLO	\$2,500.00	\$2,000.00
4) Lutheran Hour Ministries	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
5) Lutherans for Life	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
6) Samaritan's Purse	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
7) Voice of the Martyrs	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
8) Night to Shine	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9,000.00</b>	<b>\$9,350.00</b>

**We have met all of our 2024 goals!**  
**Thank you for your continued support of Holy Cross Mission Outreach!**

#### Fundraisers to support our goals and tentative dates:

Spring Hanging Baskets	May 10th
Garage Sale	August 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>
Fall Mum Sale	September 6 <sup>th</sup>
Missionfest	Date TBD

### 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).

### CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will begin on **Tuesday, September 10th**, with class at 4:00-5:30 pm. If you have children that are planning on being in Confirmation, please fill out a registration form (found on the visitors table by the secretary's office) so we can order enough materials for class.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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



### THE MASTER GREETER

#### Actions That Build a Friendlier Church

Train your eyes to look for new, unknown and seldom spoken to people in your midst. By habit we have trained our eyes to look for our friends. Conversely, we have also trained our eyes to look beyond those we do not know. We are very friendly to our friends and too often leave the others out. Let us train our eyes to see the unknown and the new faces. Let us think about meeting their friendship needs instead of our own.

### COFFEE SERVERS

- September 1** Charlie & Donna Vig
- September 8** Dave & Carol Albrecht
- September 15** Ralph & Allie Wagner
- September 22** Denny & Vicki Case
- September 29** Youth Group



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!

### TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning bible study starts again on **Tuesday September 10th at 8:00 am**. All are welcome, please join us!



## 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).

## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – SEPTEMBER 2024

### Stewards, Called to Forgiveness

Human beings were created and redeemed to be stewards. Bearing the image of God (Gen. 1:26–28), the steward was created to reflect the Creator within creation. In a way, stewards are simply mirrors. Mirrors cannot do anything to the image that is placed in front of them.

A mirror was the first item in creation that embodied the computer term GIGO. “Garbage in, Garbage out.” In a computer, if you enter good data, you get a good result. You enter bad data; you will get a garbage result.

In photography, you can run an image through a filter, which can remove imperfections. Myriad apps allow for the option to cut people out, add people in and change backgrounds all in an attempt to make the perfect image. Mirrors cannot do that. They do not provide anything new. Mirrors are created to reflect, not process, an image. They simply reflect the person standing in front of them.

Stewards are like this. Created to reflect, a steward will reflect the God in front of them. The steward will either reflect a godly stewardship that holds that God is the owner of all things (Ps. 24:1) and is the One to whom they are accountable, or they will reflect the god of self and see the created order as something to be possessed, used, and in far too many cases, abused. It is not a question of IF the steward reflects, it is really a question of WHO is being reflected.

For this reason, the *Lutheran Service Book* has included a necessary hymn worthy of meditation: “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788). Its first verse reads:

Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness,  
For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,  
For songs of praise for food and harvest press,  
While of Your richer gifts we’re unaware.

This is a fitting call to repentance for every steward. Our thankfulness is so often shallow. We get comfortable with the overflowing blessings we have entrusted to us by the Lord. These trusts are so many that the steward often forgets the One who entrusts them. Worse, with so many physical trusts evident, the steward loses sight of the greatest trust: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The failed steward sees so much plenty that they lose sight of the treasure: Jesus!

So, we confess our shallow thankfulness. In absolution, the imperfections of the failed steward are wiped away and a new image is sent into the world. We release our hold on stuff. We rethink our relationship with the created order and recall that it is all to be used FOR JESUS! This keeps the richer gifts in view, for us and for those we know and love who need Jesus.

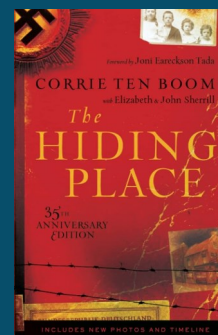
**LCMS Stewardship Ministry**  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

### PRAYER REQUESTS

As a community of faith, we are called to lift each other up in prayer and support. We invite you to share your prayer requests with us so that we can pray together as a church family. Whether you have personal concerns, joys, or challenges weighing on your heart, we are here to pray with you. Your requests can be submitted confidentially through email at [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org) or given to Pastor Gade. Let us join in prayer, knowing that together, we can make a difference through the power of prayer.

### BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Our next Bible Bookenders meeting will be **October 23, 2024 at 7pm**. We will be reading “**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.



Mark your calendars for this other Bible Bookenders date:

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



## PRAYER REQUEST

Buffy Mobrotten's great grandson was born with the cord wrapped around his neck twice and has been in the NICU since birth. They did a cool down and put him on a ventilator, then tried a CPAP. He is having breathing issues and now has an infection. We were told that he will be in the NICU for at least a month.

Please keep Baby Ronan in your prayers! A Go Fund Me account has been set up if anyone wants to help the family cover the costs for Baby Ronan. Here is the link:

<https://gofund.me/c096da30>



## WOMEN'S EVENT

**The Have you heard of Global Health Ministries?**  
Do you know what they do?

Join us **Saturday, November 9th, 9:00 am**



Registration, 9:30 am program at Holy Cross to learn about Global Health Ministries and help assemble Newborn Kits. Their goal is 10,000 kits assembled in 2024. We will use Thrivent Action cards for these kits as well as toward the catered lunch. Anyone having a Thrivent policy can apply; let Pam Hunter know if you are willing to apply for an Action card. **We will also be collecting items for the Newborn Kits.**

They are:

- 1 bath towel (approx. 52" long)
- 1 bath-size white Ivory soap (in original wrapping)
- 1 newborn cotton t-shirt or "onesie" sz 0-3 or newborn
- 1 newborn stocking hat – sz small, knit or crocheted
- 1 baby receiving blanket (approx. 30" x 30"), cotton or light flannel, can be knit or crocheted
- 2 cloth diapers
- 2 diaper pins

This list will also be posted on the LWML bulletin board. Enjoy a morning ~ learning, participating in a servant event, fellowshiping with other Sisters-in-Christ, and a delicious lunch at Holy Cross. Tickets (\$12) are available from Pam Hunter or Joy Anderson through **Monday, November 4th.**

## 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 1 "The One"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The Universe does not have a plan for your life--but God does! (Genesis 24:14)

### September 8 "Conditioned by the Unconditional"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
God's forgiving love for you in Christ is love that your accomplishments can't enhance and your failures can't diminish. (Genesis 25:23)

### September 15 "Bent Necks and a Better Brother"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The Book of Genesis is no fairy tale. It depicts real people--people like us, with half-truths, crooked ways, and sore necks--but also the God Who created us and bears with us because He loves us. (Genesis 27:35-36)

### September 22 "All He Has to Say"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
The story of Jacob's Ladder is not a prompt for us to climb higher; it's a promise that God comes down to our level. (Genesis 28:15)

### September 29 "Love at First Sight, Love That Lasts"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola  
God loved us at first sight, from eternity. And He has given us Jesus so that we can know His love. (Genesis 29:20)

# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

## Unexpected

Waking up to unforecasted rain against the window. Waking up to 85° at 6 a.m.

"I'm pregnant," after praying for years to hear such words. "Still nothing," after praying for years to hear the opposite.

Overwhelmed and humbled at how amazing your staff is. Overwhelmed when having to do the work yourself.

Being told your friend's leaving his wife of 22 years. Being told your friend's decided that's a dumb idea.

A phone call from a buddy last heard from years ago. A phone call from a son needing help.

Ushered into the boss' office for a promotion. Ushered into the boss' office for a severance.

The amount of wind at the top of a hill. The amount of wind in some speeches.

The importance God places on speech. How God used speech to create the universe. To convict your heart. To turn your heart. To encourage your heart. To assure you of your place in His Family. Speech full of truth. Of promises. Of accurate depictions of how sin destroys and grace restores. Of how Speech became flesh and lived among us. To insure we will live forever with Him. Spoken promises secured in a crucifixion. Verified in a resurrection. Dependable.

No matter how good or bad today's unexpected.

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)

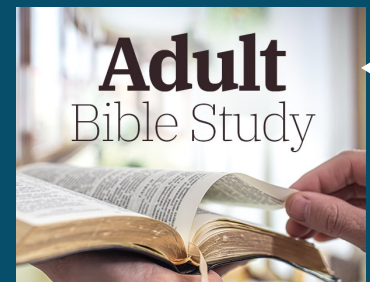
## UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 3 Elder's Meeting
- SEP 8 Sunday School Starts
- SEP 8 Bible Study Starts
- SEP 9 Council Meeting
- OCT 1 Elder's Meeting
- OCT 14 Council Meeting
- OCT 23 Bible Bookenders
- OCT 27 Voter's Meeting
- NOV 5 Elder's Meeting
- NOV 11 Council Meeting
- NOV 27 Thanksgiving Worship
- DEC 3 Elder's Meeting



## SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday Bible study will start back up on **September 8th**. Please join us after the service! We will begin a new study on understanding the creeds we confess. While the Apostles Creed may be easy to understand (though there are some questions) The Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creeds have phrases that are much more challenging.





# 2024 THEOLOGICAL CONVOCATIONS



## Speaking Up for Life in Minnesota

Pro-Life Convocation

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024  
9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
2500 7th Ave. NE | Owatonna, Minn.

Scan the code to register online



The Christian Church firmly believes in the sanctity of human life. For, as Scripture teaches, human beings are made in the image of God and the will of God is to promote life and see it defended from all danger.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed laws that defy God's Word. Rather than protect life—a basic duty of government—a series of laws were passed that contribute to the availability and practice of abortion, which ends life. It has been said that "abortion degrades and damages everyone it touches: the baby, the mother, and the doctor." Contrary to what propaganda tells Americans, abortion is not healthcare. It is an evil, flagrant violation of the divine commandment, "You shall not kill."

Throughout history, the moral duty of the Church has been to oppose evil, not cooperate with it or become complicit through silence. Join us for this event and learn how you might speak up for life in Minnesota!

Speakers include Dr. Robin Goldsmith, Catholic Medical Association Midwest Regional Director and co-founder of St. Gianna Clinic (De Pere, Wis.); Rev. Fred Hinz, LCMS Public Policy Advocate; Minnesota Family Council CEO Jeff Evans; and LCMS Minnesota South District

Register online by Sept. 11 at:

[goodshepherdowatonna.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2397242](https://goodshepherdowatonna.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2397242)

Sponsored by LCMS Minnesota South District Faribault Circuit and LCMS Life Ministry

## TIME OF GRACE

The mission of **Time of Grace** is to connect people to God. Using a variety of media, we teach tough topics in an approachable and relatable way, accessible in multiple languages, making the Bible clear and understandable for those who do not know God.

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



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

### DATES, TOPICS, AND REGIONS:

**FRIDAY, MAY 31**  
*Ecclesiology and the Future of the LCMS*  
(Hosted in Region 1)

**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)

**REV. DR. LUCAS WOODFORD**, the MN South District President, will facilitate each convocation. Two speakers from the MNS will present perspectives and responses on the selected topics at each convocation. The goal is to provide opportunity for robust and fraternal theological conversation across the district.



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, MN South District President

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.



Register by following the QR code

The next Voters' Meeting will be held on **October 27 at 10:15 am.**

**VOTERS' MEETING**

## CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, September 9 at 7:00 pm.** All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.

church council **MEETING**

# SEPTEMBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship	2	7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	5	6	7
16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC 7:00 pm Church Council	3	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	12	13	14
17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	10	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	19	20	21
18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	17	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	26	27	28
19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	24	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 6:00 pm IFC	23	29	30