

Holy Crossings

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

When I say the word "church," what comes to mind?

A Brownish red brick building with a cross standing high above a steeple or a large gothic European cathedral? An enormous suburban megachurch or a small, but crowded home-church?

Depending on our cultural context and personal experiences, different images pop in our head when we think about a church, but hopefully we all understand that those buildings are not a church. With such contrasting pictures in our minds, however, how can we tell what truly constitutes a church? That's where ecclesiology comes in.

"Ecclesiology", the theological study of the church, is a big theological term, and rightly so. It must bear a great deal of theological weight. What we believe about ecclesiology shapes the way the church is structured, how the people relate to one another, and how it goes about accomplishing its mission.

Historically, ecclesiology has been an important aspect of Christian theology. Every generation has outlined certain distinguishing marks of a church. The Reformers said it was **"the right administration of the sacraments" and "the right preaching of the word."** Catholics pointed to, among other things, apostolic succession. For 2,000 years, people have been talking about what makes a church a church—until recently.

Regretfully, the extent of the ecclesiology in most of our churches today is weak. People identify a church simply because it meets and has the word "church" in its name. But

beyond that, there is an acute misunderstanding as to how we identify biblical churches.

While many people today understand the church as a building, being a majority doesn't make it right because this is not a biblical understanding of the church. The word "church" comes from the Greek word **ekklesia** which is defined as **"an assembly" or "called-out ones."** The root meaning of "church" is not that of a building, but of people. It is ironic that when you ask people what church they attend, they usually identify a building. Romans 16:5 says **"... greet the church that is in their house."** Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

The church is the body of Christ, of which He is the head. Ephesians 1:22-23 says, **"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way."** The body of Christ is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from the day of Pentecost (Acts chapter 2) until Christ's return.

The universal church consists of all those who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. **"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink"** (1 Corinthians 12:13). This verse says that anyone who believes is part of the body of Christ and has received the Spirit of Christ as evidence. The universal church of God is all those who have received salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

The local church is described in Galatians 1:1-2: **“Paul, an apostle ... and all the brothers with me, to the churches in Galatia.”** Here we see that in the province of Galatia there were many churches—what we call local churches. A Lutheran church, Baptist church, Catholic church, etc., is not the church, as in the universal church—but rather is a local church, a local body of believers. The universal church is comprised of those who belong to Christ and who have trusted Him for salvation. These members of the universal church should seek fellowship and edification in a local church and be reaching out to those in the darkness of the world who needs to hear and experience the love and salvation of God as it is lived out in the church. This is what missional living is all about.

It is living with a commitment to learn how to live a lifestyle of building relationships with people who may not know the love of Christ. This process involves spending time building a community of fellow believers who pray for and encourage one another in establishing relationships with people outside the body of Christ. Living in a missional community requires a significant commitment of time and energy in learning a lifestyle of caring and outreach.

In summary, the church is not a building or a denomination. According to the Bible, the church is the body of Christ—all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13). Local churches are gatherings of members of the universal church. The local church is where the members of the universal church can fully apply the “body” principles of 1 Corinthians chapter 12: encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, October 14 at 7:00 pm.** All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 6 - Pentecost 20

LWML SUNDAY

“Ready to Serve” Luke 1:38

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Psalms 34:1-3

Philippians 2:5-11

Luke 1:26-38

OCTOBER 13 - Pentecost 21

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalms 90:12-17

Hebrews 3:12-19

Mark 10:17-22

OCTOBER 20 - Pentecost 22

“Following Jesus Into The Storm” Mark 10:23-31

Ecclesiastes 5:10-20

Psalms 119:12-17

Hebrews 4:1-13

Mark 10:23-31

OCTOBER 27- Reformation Sunday

Revelation 14:6-7

Psalms 46

Romans 3:19-28

John 8:31-36

COFFEE SERVERS

October 6 LWML

October 13 Wendy F. / Joyce D.

October 20 Jason & Kelly Kruse

October 27 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!

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.

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Jocelyn Einarson October 4
- Donna Hoehn October 5
- James Anderson October 6
- Brian Fitzwater October 7
- Evan Kruse October 9
- Harold Brunner October 11
- Allie Wagner October 15
- Dorene Oak October 19
- Bryce Olson October 20
- Ruth Lein October 23
- Laura Petrie October 24
- Thomas Lein October 29



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Tuesday morning for Bible Study from **8:00–9:00 am**. All are welcome!



2024
MN South 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

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.



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 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)



Register by following the QR code

THE MASTER GREETER

Actions That Build a Friendlier Church

Reach out to new, unknown people and the seldom spoken to. Don't expect them to come to you. Perhaps the hardest part of making new friends is reaching out to them. We want to hold back and not extend ourselves because we are uncertain how they will accept us, but let us look at them from their point of view. They are thinking the same things we are. They deeply desire to be wanted and accepted. They want to build good friendships with others. They are holding back because they are uncertain how you will accept them. You be the one to break this stalemate. You be the one to extend the smile and the handshake. You be the one to satisfy the friendship needs of both of you.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – OCTOBER 2024

“The Singing Church”

Lutherans have historically been called “the singing church.” There is no doubt that music has been a major component in the theology and practice of the Lutheran church. Luther once remarked about music, “We can mention only one point, namely, that next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise.”¹ Music has a power and purpose that cannot be understated in our worship and the life of the congregation.

But music does more than touch the emotions. Music is a vehicle that carries both the musician and the hearer deeper into connection with the truth of the Scriptures. This is true of the most complex Bach chorale and even the simplest of songs like “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know.” Each musical selection within the church shapes the thoughts, minds and faith of the people who experience them.

This is also true of stewardship hymns. We are currently considering the verses of “Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness” (LSB 788) as it shapes our understanding and practice of stewardship. This month we take a deeper dive into verse two:

Teach us to thank you, Lord, for love and grace
For life and vision, for a purpose clear,
For Christ Your Son, and for each human face
that shows Your message ever new and near.

The stanza begins by touching on the truth of the Law. Thankfulness is not a natural posture for fallen humanity. For sinners curved in upon themselves, thankfulness for

love and grace is something that must be taught. We are those who hoard and clutch. Our confession of our shallow thankfulness highlights the need for us to learn thankfulness to God.

Thankfulness also points to what we are stewards of: love and grace! All the things we have traditionally called stewardship aren’t actual stewardship. Rather, what matters is how we steward the one, true and only treasure: the love and grace of God revealed to us in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. So, all stewardship is stewardship of the Gospel! How can we gaze at the cross and empty tomb and not be thankful?

The LCMS defines stewardship as “the free and joyous activity of God’s family — the church — in managing life’s resources for His purposes.” God’s love and mercy give us a clear purpose as we live out our Baptism and practice this joyous stewardship. All we are, all we have entrusted to us, and all we are called to do is to connect others with the love and mercy of God revealed in Jesus!

The faithful steward sings with lips and life of this love and mercy that is ever new and near. In the Scriptures. In the Lord’s House. At the Lord’s Table. This is where our stewardship song starts and ends. Our family, our co-workers and classmates, and our world need to hear this song!

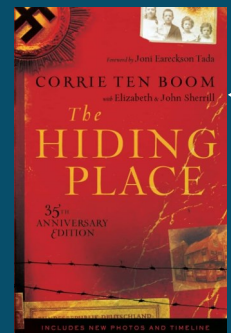
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship



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 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 22, 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)

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.**

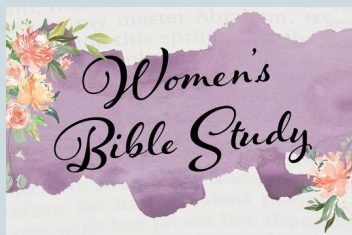
They are:

- 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.**

WOMEN'S ONE NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Women of Holy Cross and Immanuel Fish Lake are invited to a Bible Study on **Tuesday October 8th at 6:30 pm.**



Bring your Bible and a treat to share (optional) 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.

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.

October 6 "Fit to Be Tied"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
A strong knot in the right place holds everything together. God made Jesus to be the "Master Point" to bind all people to Himself through faith. (Genesis 30:8)

October 13 "Difficult People"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
With God, all things are possible, even how to deal with that difficult person in your life. (Genesis 31:6-7)

October 20 "Children of God - No Longer Losers"

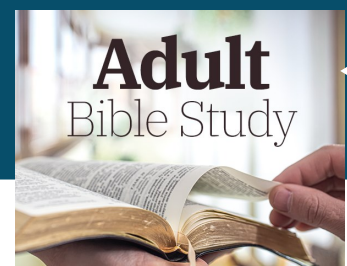
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leopoldo Sanchez
God turns lost losers into forgiven sons and daughters. Through Christ, we too become children of God's kingdom, members of His household. (Hosea 12:2-6)

October 27 "God-Struggles"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
It's been said, everyone you meet is fighting an unseen battle. God calls us to enter the struggle of those around us because, in Jesus, God has entered our struggle. (Genesis 38:28)

SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us every Sunday at 10:15 am after the service.



2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

Unexpected

Prayer requests introduced us to his granddaughter. I had asked the group to share celebrations and needs we could pray for each other. He asked for his little birthday girl. "She turns four today. She wore her sparkly pants to school."

Sparkly pants. Images of dancing sparkly pants invaded my prayer time. Replaced the more solemn ones. Pants screaming celebration. Reflecting excitement and laughter. Shouting to the world, "Party!"

I confessed my distraction after "Amen." Curious if he had a photo. Of course he did. There she stood. Sparkly pants topped off with a huge smile. "Celebrate" occurs most in the Bible connected to the Passover. The celebration of the Angel of Death passing over the Israelites in Egypt. Thanks to the blood of a lamb painted on their door frames.

Christians now celebrate the Lord's Supper. Passover's younger brother. Same thanksgiving. Same outcome. Different Lamb.

Sacrificed once and for all on a cross. Leaving us a meal where we receive His presence on our calendar. Surrounded by family. Securing us to His promise of never-ending forgiveness. A celebration worthy of thanksgiving. A celebration worthy of sparkly pants.

I'm thinking we all need a pair.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network



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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 1 Elder's Meeting
- OCT 8 Women's Bible Study
- OCT 14 Council Meeting
- OCT 22 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
- DEC 4 Advent Midweek 1
- DEC 9 Council Meeting
- DEC 11 Advent Midweek 2



SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join us every Sunday at 10:15 am after the service. All children are welcome!

DID YOU KNOW...



Women's Ministry at Holy Cross offers education, inspiration, and service where faith and missions are the focus and is for all women at Holy Cross. We are part of a larger group called the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML), an organization that has been around since 1942.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others. Our group meets a variety of times throughout the year for faith, fellowship, and service activities. Watch the bulletin for future dates of activities. Learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission at lwml.org.

OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH!

Thank you... For the countless times you have stretched out your hands in service to others in times of need.

Thank you... For the early Sunday mornings and many hours in preparations for your sermons.

Thank you... For the thousands of prayers you have prayed for your congregation and others.

Thank you... For the time spent out of church to help those who needed help, or need a friend.

Thank you... For not judging people, and always embracing everyone with open arms.

LWML MITE BOXES

Over the years, many Lutheran Women in Mission groups used a box to gather funds in support of local and synod ministries.



Instead of "mite boxes" some groups called their ingathering devices "blessing boxes" or "mission boxes" or "thank offering boxes."

Mite boxes have changed in color and design over the years, but what has never changed is the dedication of freely given offerings for the purpose of reaching out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite, the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to the congregation and the Synod. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants. In fact, over **\$100 million dollars** has been collected since 1942. Yes ... these coins have and will continue to make a difference. Thank you for contributing to the Mite Box and providing the opportunity for us to spread the Gospel to the world.

The large Mite Box in the back of church will be out all month for your donations. Drop your coins/mites in the box and join us in making a difference and spreading the Gospel around the world. Grab a small Mite Box for your home or office and collect your mite offerings all year long.

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

**VOTERS'
MEETING**

A Christian Perspective For An Election Year

The year 2012 is crucial for America. Even those who only casually follow politics can identify the high stakes and differing visions that exist for the future of our nation. But what should be the actions and approaches of believers in Jesus Christ during this election season and beyond? After all, aren't we all concerned that God's will be done? I would like us to consider an idea that may get lost in the noise of election-year ads, polls, debates and sound bites.

Certainly, prayer should be an indispensable activity for Christians at such a time as this. Isn't it important to wrestle with the content of our prayers for America to ensure they are Biblical? Are they motivated by the heart of God and His priorities? We do not want the prayer lives of followers of Christ in America to fall in the category of either failing to pray or praying with misguided motives.

Two New Testament prayers give us solid direction not only for what we should pray, but also what to do as a result of the prayer. The first prayer came as a result of local leaders in Jerusalem prohibiting Peter and John from preaching the gospel of Christ. When word reached the church, they responded with a remarkable request in **Acts 4:24b-30**

*"Lord, You are God, Who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, Who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: **Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the Lord and against His Christ.**" Psalm 2:1-2*

*"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and **grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word**, by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."*

The ones praying here acknowledge that their leaders and culture are persecuting them, just as they had done with Jesus. But their request is not for policy change or comfortable treatment. Their priority was the gospel and an open door to be able to keep sharing it. No boycotts, no protests. Just child-like faith that believed God would continue to let them freely proclaim the message they had been called to spread.

The second prayer shows that we don't have to speculate on what Paul's goal was when praying for his government. In 1 Timothy 2:1-4 Paul plainly taught what should be the content of our prayers for leaders.

*First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, **for kings and all who are in authority**, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of **God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

This isn't just a call to pray for leaders without specificity. The motivation and results are clear. Pray for the salvation of our leaders. Pray for them to grow in knowing God and His will. How will that happen? It must be part of the Church's mission – we need to go to them, not with placards of protest but with spiritual care. Speak the truth of God's Word into their lives in emails, letters on the phone or if possible with face-to-face townhall meetings. Pray for their hearts to be opened to the gospel. For believing lawmakers, encourage them in their walk not to compromise God's principles found in Scripture.

Do we know who our leaders are at all levels of government? How can we pray for them if we do not? In a representative republic, it's great that we can be a part of the process by voting and contacting leaders with our opinions, but how often do our words to them communicate our concern for their eternal destination? Prayers for leaders are required of God's people. But they must be underpinned with a motivation to see God glorified, not just save our land for our children. The goal must not be just a change in laws, but in the hearts of lawmakers.

OCTOBER 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		8:00 am 7:00 pm Bible Study Elder's Meeting	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
		1	2	3	4	5
20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am 6:30 pm Bible Study Women's Bible Study	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
	7	8	9	10	11	12
21st 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	8:00 am 7:00 pm Bible Study Bible Bookenders	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
	14	15	16	17	18	19
22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am 7:00 pm Bible Study Bible Bookenders	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
	21	22	23	24	25	26
Reformation Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	6:00 pm IFC	8:00 am Bible Study	10:00 am 6:00 pm Happenings Articles Due IFC	7:00 pm Choir Practice		
	28	29	30	31		