

**Cross Words**

**Monthly Newsletter of Cross Ev. Lutheran Church**

**August 2014 Volume 14, Issue 8**

**Love in Action**

**REMINDERS TO LOVE**

Reminders! We need reminders! We write notes to ourselves so we don’t forget something. Perhaps we list things to do or to take with us so we don’t forget anything. We keep calendars with dates marked for important meetings and events.

Our faith needs reminders too. Not just because we are forgetful but also because a part within us still doesn’t want to do what we know we should. Even the apostle Paul had trouble from time to time. He wrote, ***“I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing”*** (Romans 7:18,19). The reason he didn’t always do what God wanted was because sin was living in him (v. 20).

When it comes to putting our love into action, we are faced with the same challenge. We want to come and worship. We want to live as God’s people in this world. We desire to bring our offerings to the Lord. All these things show our love for Jesus. But we sometimes don’t. We let other things become more important.

We need reminders to live as God’s people and to let our love show by our actions, as we are gentle, kind, compassionate, and faithful. We will need reminders from time to time that we are God’s people and we love Jesus because he first loved us. Then we can overcome the sinful nature that still lives within us and troubles us.

When we think we don’t need to come to worship with our fellow believers, we need a reminder: do not give up coming together to worship God and to encourage one another. The reminder is important because coming to worship God not only gives us a chance to show our love for God but also to receive his comfort and strength for our journey through life.

We need reminders about our offerings too. God encourages us to excel in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7). Paul reminds us to set aside a sum of money in keeping with our incomes (1 Co 16:2). We are to give as much as we are able out of love for Christ. Our gifts show our love and gratitude. It’s love in action!

These reminders come so that our love for the Lord will not grow cold or lukewarm. We do love the Lord. He has shown his love for us in giving us eternal blessings. He simply asks that we show our love for him by our actions each day.

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Scripture is taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®.

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| KMSP |  | Channel 9 | Sundays | 6:30 AM |

**News From Church Council**

**19 MINUTE BIBLE STUDY**

Our “19 Minute Bible Studies” will continue during the month of July. At about 10:20 am (giving time to part take in refreshments and fellowship) everyone is invited to come back in to the sanctuary for a brief Bible Study. Our study will look at and discuss one or more of the day’s Scripture lessons Come and make use of this time to grow in God’s Word.

**A REPORT FROM THE WELS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORSHIP, MUSIC & THE ARTS**

Last month, July 22-25, Chuck Landeck and I attended the WELS National Conference On Worship, Music & The Arts, held on the campus of Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. The Conference was attended by over 1,000 WELS members – pastors, teachers and many lay people. It was a thrill and blessing to see how the Lord has blessed so many people with talents to conduct, play and sing, as well as using talents in drawing, painting and sculpture.

The conference kicked off with a Festival Concert, featuring a Festival Choir and Orchestra. The morning worship services celebrated Epiphany, the Baptism of Our Lord and the Transfiguration. Each service featured special choirs and musicians. Many of the services featured compositions written just for this conference.

The Wednesday evening service, themed “Many Voices, One Lord”, included Koine`, Braches Band, The Lutheran Ceili Orchestra and the United Voices of Praise from St Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. It was a wonderful example of using music to spread “the eternal gospel to every nation, tribe, language and people.” (Rev 14:6)

The Thursday evening service was a Festive Choral Vespers as it may have been celebrated in 1724, featuring music by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The closing service on Friday featured a High School Honor Choir, a Conference Children’s Choir and the Conference Orchestra. It was led by WELS president Pastor Mark Schroeder.

The Key Note address was delivered by Pastor Jonathan Hein on Compelling Worship. Each day there were a variety of workshops and presentations, ranging from choral directing and reading music to preaching to getting the most out of the church year and various liturgies to church art and church design.

This was the 7th Conference on Worship, Music and the Arts. It is the largest of its kind in the nation. The conference was inspiring and uplifting. We were thankful to be able to attend and look forward, God willing, to attend the next one in three years.

**MINISTRY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Ministry Planning Committee (formerly the Long Range Planning Committee) will meet on Monday, Aug 4 at 7:00 pm.

**CROSS LIGHTS**

Cross LIGHTS will resume it’s monthly meetings in August on Tuesday the 5th at 7:30 pm. All the women of the congregation are invited to attend. It is a good opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth.

**RIVER DAYS PARADE**

The annual River Days Parade will be on Sunday, Aug 10 starting at 12 noon. Again Cross will have a float in the parade. The float will reflect the upcoming VBS theme, “Dive In”. We will be handing out bottled water and VBS fliers to the parade spectators. If you would like to walk along with the float and help distribute water and fliers, meet us up at the Rockford Mall parking lot by 11:45 am.

**BOTTLED WATER DONATIONS**  We are planning to hand out bottled water again during the River Days Parade (Aug 10) from our church float. Our goal is to have at least 30 cases of bottled water. Donations can be left outside the church office.

**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

The August edition of MBBS will be on Aug. 16th at 9:00 am. We will start with a pancake breakfast, followed by the next part of our study of Noah. All confirmed men of the congregation are invited to attend. Invite a friend too!

**CHURCH COUNCIL COOK-OUT MEETING**

The annual August Church Council Cook-Out/Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 14, 6:30 pm and Mark Kettenacker’s place. Council members are reminded to bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share – and your spouse.

**YUC is also planning a trip to Valley Fair on Saturday, Aug 16, leaving from church at noon. If you are planning to go, please let Pastor (477-5292) or Dennis Goneau (477-5754) know by Aug 10.**

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**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

The Sunday School staff will have it’s first meeting of the year on Tuesday, Aug 26 at 7:00 pm. Please remember our Sunday School teachers and students in your prayers!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS will be Monday Aug 11 through Wed, Aug 13, 9:00am to 4:00pm each day. Be sure to enroll your children and grandchildren, neighbors and friends (Preschool through 5th Grade.

You can help in various ways including:

* Volunteering to help with crafts, food & teaching.
* Donating food items
* Donation materials for arts & crafts.

A list of needed food and arts & crafts material will be posted soon.