**Cross****Words**

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

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**The Bible is God’s Precious Gift**

Surveys taken over the last several years have yielded similar results: about one-third of Americans believe the Bible to be the Word of God. What about us? As Lutherans we believe that the Bible is the Word of God. It’s a truth we learned in our days of catechism instruction.

Luther depended on the words of the Bible five hundred years ago when he confronted teachers who depended on the words of scholars and human authorities. Luther led a return to the Bible. He sought to reform the visible church of his day.

The church of Luther’s day had turned away from the Bible and had placed more importance on human teachers and authorities. Luther defended and proclaimed the Bible as the ultimate authority in matters of faith and life because the Bible is God’s Word. He did not create new teachings or doctrines but wanted to return to the simple truths of the Bible and the early Christian church.

As Lutheran Christians we hold the same high regard for the Bible as Luther did. We love, defend, and proclaim the Bible because it is God’s precious gift to us. It is the Word by which God explains our relationship with him. It is the vehicle by which the Holy Spirit speaks to us so that we might learn of God’s love, trust in Jesus Christ, and be saved. It is the message with which our loving heavenly Father warns, comforts, and guides us. It’s the book in which God teaches his purpose for us and equips us for life as his people, both now and after the grave.

As Lutheran Christians we cling to the Bible as God’s precious gift, a most valuable treasure. Luther explained: “As the dear children and heirs of God, we ought to glory in neither our wisdom, nor strength, nor riches, but in this, that we have the ‘pearl of great value,’ the dear Word, through which we know God, our dear Father, and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. That is our treasure and heritage, and it is sure and eternal and better than all worldly possessions. Whoever has this treasure may let others gather money, live riotously, be proud and haughty. Let him not be troubled by such things, though he be despised and poor in the eyes of the world. But let him thank God for his inexpressible gift and pray that he may abide by it” (*Luther’s Works,* American Edition, Vol. 12, p. 161).

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

**Our Congregation’s Mission Statement**

This statement, in a concise and novel way, summarizes our mission and purpose for existing. All other groups and activities within the congregation ought to be carrying this mission out.

**C**ross Ev. Lutheran Church exists to give glory to our God and Savior by

**R**egular worship and faithful use of the Means of Grace with

**O**utreach to the community, nation, and world through our prayers and offerings by

**S**erving our fellow Christians and community, in turn

**S**trengthening our faith and promoting Christian fellowship.

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Please check out our congregation’s Facebook page and “like” us. Check us out every few days and “like” some of the inspirational and encouraging pictures and share announcements about events with your friends. This is one easy way to share information about our church and God’s Word with others.

**News From The Church Council**

**Membership** Receivedby transfer from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Clarksville, TN – Zach & Holly Fraker and children, Elias and Scarlett . Welcome to our congregation. May the Lord bless the Fraker’s as members of our congregation!

**Trustees** We thank Sean Lawrence for the installation of additional lighting in the back of the sanctuary.

 Estimates on replacing the carpeting in the various areas of the church are being obtained.

 The painting of the restrooms is being considered. Suggestions for colors are being sought.

**Synod Convention Delegate:** Our congregation is up for sending a lay delegate to the 2017 WELS Convention, to be held July 31 through Aug 3 at Luther Prep School in Watertown, WI. Any voting member of the congregation is eligible to attend,. Let the pastor know if you are interested.

**Endowment Fund Committee** A committee to look at starting a ‘Cross Endowment Fund” is being established. The fund would provide a vehicle for members to make special gifts or bequests to the congregation and not have it go into the general fund.

**Worship Schedule:** Here is the schedule of special worship services through the New Year:

 **- *Mission Festival*** – Nov 6, 9:00 am – Rev Ross Stelljes, Director of Admission from MLC guest preacher. Lord’s Supper) NO service on Wednesday, Nov 2)

 - ***Stewardship Emphasis*** – “364 Days of Thanksgiving” Stewardship Program Nov 12,19 & 22/23

- ***Thanksgiving*** –Nov 22, 7:00pm & Nov 23, 9:00am

- ***Children’s Christmas Service*** – Dec 18, 9:00 am

- ***Christmas Eve*** – Saturday, Dec 24 4:00 pm (NOTE: Only one service)

- ***Christmas Day*** – Sunday, Dec 25 9:00 am ( No Wed service on Dec 21&28)

- ***New Year’s Eve*** – Sat Dec 31 at 7:00 pm (Lord’s Supper)

**“Hanging of the Greens”** The annual church decorating for Christmas will be held on Sunday, Dec 4. It will begin with a pot luck dinner at noon. From there we will break out into groups and put up the Christmas Tree and other decoration around the church. ERVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURED TO COME AND TAKE PART IN THE FUN AND FELLOWSHIP.

**CROSS LIGHTS** will meet on Tuesday, November 1st at 7:30 pm. All the women of the congregation are invited to attend!

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**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE FOR OCTOBER IS**

**Barb Usset**

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**MEN’S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY**

The November MBBS will be on the 19th at 9:00am. French Toast will be on the menu. We will feed our souls by look at lesson 1 of :***“The Hard Sayings of Jesus” –****-Pearls Before Swine and Bread to Dogs*

***ALL MEN IN THE CONGREGATION ARE INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!***

**November Birthdays**

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We wish a Happy Birthday for those members of Cross who celebrate this month. If we missed your birthday contact someone in the church office! Thanks.

1 – Phil Ernst

4 – Jeremy Bredeck

5 – David Boedreau Jr.

5 – Cassie Vergin

7 – Eric Peterson

7 – Grant Beise

8 – Cassie Pollard

9 – Willard Sipe

10 – Gary Zimmerman

10 – Jean Vergin

10 – Ryan Schuman

11 – Aleatha Marquardt

15 – Harvey Drew

15 – Jared Krause

16 – Sharon Beise

17 – Lorraine Roush

20 – Amanda Beise

21 – Michael Ohm

21 – David Leerssen

22 – Ann Ohm

23 – Jackie Koehler

24 – Diane Barlau

26 – Bradley Taylor

28 – Janet Beise

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

 The Senior Fellowship is sponsoring an outing to the Plymouth Playhouse on Sunday, Nov 6 (2:00 pm) to see the latest offering in the “Church Basement Ladies” franchise .

 For those who wish, we will be doing dinner after the play in the Green Mill restaurant



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**YOUTH UNDER CHRIST**

 Youth Under Christ will be serving a Mission Festival Dinner on Nov 6, starting at 11:45 am. All are invited to join in the feasting, fun and fellowship!

 YUC will also have its monthly meeting on Sunday, Nov 20 starting with worship at 9:00 am, Bible Study at 10:15 and meeting & lunch at 11:30 am



**TOOTHBRUSH COLLECTION:** The Sunday School is sponsoring a Children’s Tooth Brush Collection for the Central Africa Medical Mission. CAMM partners with *Teeth Savers*, an organization that provides free dental care to children. The toothbrushes will be distributed to children at the clinic in Zambia and Malawi . A box is on the handbell cabinet for donations of new children’s tooth brushes.



We will observe a Mission Festival Sunday on November 6. Our emphasis will be Ministerial Education – the training of pastors and teachers who might one day serve in our mission fields at home and abroad. Rev Ross Stelljes, Admission Counselor at Martin Luther College, our synod’s college of ministry, will be the guest preacher and Bible Study presenter. Youth Under Christ will also serve a Mission Festival dinner. **NOTE: because of the special service on Sunday, Nov 6, there will be NO service on November 2.**

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**SENIOR FELLOWSHIP THANKSGIVING**

The ***Senior Fellowship*** of Cross Ev. Lutheran Church invites the seniors (age 55 and up) to attend our annual ***Senior’s Thanksgiving Dinner*** on Thursday, Nov 17, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of Cross. The day will feature a potluck Thanksgiving dinner with turkey provided and those attending asked to bring a traditional Thanksgiving dish to pass (potatoes, vegetables, salad, dessert, etc). After dinner there will be a presentation by Rev Joel Gartner, from the Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine on the Christian response to assisted suicide. A SIGN-UP SHEETHAS BEEN POSTED TO HELP WITH PLANNING-. Hope to see you there.

# Are you getting ready for your future?

 We always seem to be getting ready for something, don’t we? We get ready for dinner. We get ready for a date. We get ready for work. It’s surprising how much time we spend getting ready for something. Sometimes we look forward to special events in the future and get ready for them. Vacations. Birthdays. Holidays. What about our future with Jesus?

 Jesus wants us to be with him forever. And he’s made all the preparations. He became one of us. He paid the ransom to release us from the punishment for our own faults and failures. He bled and died in our place. Then on Easter morning he left death behind and rose from the grave. He did all that for us, so we could live with him forever. Because of Jesus, our future with him in heaven is waiting for each one of us.

 So what have you done to get ready for your future with Jesus? Is there anything you should do? Any-thing you can do? Well, there is something you can do. You can get ready by worshiping with others who are going to heaven too. It may not seem like much, but it’s important. We always seem to have a thousand other things to do, but worship prepares us for our future with Jesus.

 In worship we listen to Jesus tell us that he wants us to live with him forever. That’s a reassurance we need to hear. You see, we forget so quickly. When things are going well for us, we don’t think about our future with Jesus. We just enjoy the present. But sometimes we forget our future with Jesus when life is difficult. When things are bad, we worry and fret. Sometimes we even blame Jesus.

 In good and bad times, it is important to come to worship. As we sit in church, sing the hymns, listen to the readings and the sermon, and receive the Lord’s body and blood; Jesus touches our hearts. In worship we hear the message of Jesus. He doesn’t promise to touch our hearts when we’re fishing, watching TV, or sleeping. But he does promise to get us ready for our lives with him when we worship.

 So what are you doing to get ready for your future with Jesus? Don’t forget that regular worship is one thing you can do to get ready for your eternal future.

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