

2018 Congregational Planning Y'all Come! Strategic Planning Saturday, March 3, 8:00 AM – 12:00 AM

WE NEED YOU! The entire Congregation is welcome to attend! We'll begin with a potluck breakfast at 8:00 am. Please sign on the bulletin board at church or email the office and/or Pastor Jim if you plan to come for our potluck breakfast and refreshments. We will wrap up by 12 Noon! Planning begins at 9 AM.

Dr. Phil Johnson from the MN. South District will be with us again in our second session of developing a vision and mission for who we are and can be through the gifts of God to be a blessing to our community to gather people to build relationships in Christ.



Tentative Schedule

8:00 AM	Set up Breakfast
8:15 AM	Prayer, Breakfast, Fellowship
8:45 AM	Opening Devotion & Prayer – Pastor Jim Jobst
9:00 AM	Session 1 – Dr. Phil Johnson – Core Values & Shared Statement of Purpose
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Session 2 – Dr. Phil Johnson – Continue process of strategic planning.
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	Session 3 – Dr. Phil Johnson – The next steps? Homework assigned.
11:45 AM	Summary, Thank You, and Closing Prayer

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Showing Love to those Who Value of LIFE

January was Life month where we heard about valuing life at all stages on Life Sunday. During the month of February join with the Holy Cross Ladies Guild and show your love for those that value life. Image Clear Ultrasound (ICU Mobile) is a local medical facility which operates from a 31-foot renovated RV, furnished with an ultrasound, exam table, and flat screen TV for viewing ultrasounds. Formerly known as Alpha Women's Center, ICU Mobile has existed since 1982 to support women with

unintended pregnancies through the provision of spiritual, physical, and emotional support. Their confidential free medical services enable women of all financial circumstances to receive a free pregnancy test and, if appropriate, a free limited obstetrical ultrasound.

ICU Mobile give little gift packs that include pampering items, a bible and prayer book to the moms-to-be that visit. It's their way to help show someone cares for

them when so many of them aren't yet too excited about having a baby.

During the month of February we will be collecting lip balm, small lotions, cozy socks, small wrapped chocolates, or \$5 gift cards to area coffee shops or Subway.

Items can be dropped off in the collection box under the LWML bulletin board in the Commons Area. Contact Joy Anderson at 612-423-1204 if you have questions.



Lenten Midweek

The Lenten sermon series for the midweek Lenten and Holy Week services, is **"The Cross and the Mission of God."** It is in connection with the congregational emphasis from the Sunday Morning Bible Class "Joining Jesus on His Mission."

February 14 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Theme: "What is the Mission of God?"
Text: Colossians 1:19-20

February 21 – Lenten Midweek II

Theme: "Why is the Cross Necessary to the Mission of God?"
Texts: Matthew 16:21-25 (Romans 5:12, 15)

February 28 – Lenten Midweek III

Theme: "The Mission has a Church" Texts: Matthew 28:16-20; (Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 12:27)

March 7– Lenten Midweek IV

Theme: "Joining Jesus on His Mission"
Text: Mark 1:14-18

March 14 – Lenten Midweek V

Theme: "The Mission of God through the People of God"
Texts: Luke 4:16-21 (Matthew 13:33, John 12:23-27)

March 21 – Lenten Midweek VI

Theme: "Focused Prayer Impacts the Mission"
Text: Matthew 9:37-38

Holy Week 2018

March 25 - Palm Sunday

Theme: "Why Jesus Pursued the Cross"
Text: Hebrews 12:1-3

March 29 - Maundy Thursday

Theme: "Jesus' Invitation to Missional Community"
Text: Hebrews 10:24-25

March 30 - Good Friday

Theme: "It Is Finished so It Can Begin."
Text: John 19:30

April 1 – Easter Sunday,

The Resurrection of Our Lord

Theme: "Jesus is on the Loose! Let the Adventure Begin!"
Text: Revelation 21:5

Lenten Suppers



As a church family, we gather to share a simple meal on the Wednesdays of Lent at 6:00 pm. It is a perfect opportunity to reconnect! You can get involved by providing different services for each supper: coordinator, set-up, main dish/soup, beverages, dessert, and clean-up. Those that wish to assist can sign up on the sheets posted on the bulletin board in the Commons. Lenten Suppers dates are: February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, and 21. The Lenten Supper are followed by a midweek Lenten service at 7:00 pm.

Sunday of February

February 11, 2018

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

Theme: "The Surprising Glory!"
Text: Mark 9:2-9
Synopsis: Jesus is revealed in all His glory in front of Peter, James, and John.

February 18, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: "Our Ways Are Not His Ways – His Way Leads to True Life!"
Text: Genesis 22:1-8
Synopsis: Abraham is called by the Lord in faith to sacrifice his son, Isaac.

February 25, 2018

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Theme: "Our Ways Are Not His Ways – His Way Leads to Faith!"
Text: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Synopsis: God makes His Everlasting Covenant to Abraham.



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM

Traditional Worship Service

9:45 AM

**Adult Bible Study
and Sunday School**

11:00 AM

Contemporary Worship Service

Wednesdays

6:00 PM

Lenten Supper

7:00 PM

Midweek Lenten Service



Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Join us **Saturday, February 17** as we help assemble food packets bound for various areas of the world where children are starving. We will be working at the Chanhassen FMSC location from **9am - 11am**. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Missions board. Questions - contact Pam Hunter.

Free Lectures at Concordia University

"Living as a Christian, Wittenberg Style: Reformation Heritage Lecture"

The Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb, world-renowned scholar of the Reformation, will discuss one of the most powerful changes rendered during the time of Martin Luther: Redefining what it means to live as a Christian and its impact for today. This lecture will be held at **7:00 pm** on **Thursday, February 8**, in the Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University, St. Paul. The event is free and open to the public.

"Conversation on Faith and Life: Spring 2018 Hoffmann Lecture"

James Wetzstein, LCMS campus pastor at Valparaiso University, will deliver this year's Hoffmann Lecture, "The Provisional Nature of Truth," at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, February 20. The event is free and open to all students, faculty, staff, and members of the community. The event will be held at the Buetow Music Auditorium at Concordia University, St. Paul.

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.

February 4

"Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?"

There's much in science that witnesses to God. Dr. Meyer says telescopes and microscopes can further evangelism more than soap boxes.

(Isaiah 40:21-31-The almighty God of all creation)

February 11

"Was Blind, But Now I See"

Would you rather be blind or visioned? That's an easy one. But, how does a spiritually blind person become seeing
(2 Corinthians 4:3)

February 18

"Pay Attention to What You Hear (Mark 4:24)"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer Lent calls us to take deep into our being the life-changing words of God. The result? Obedience, changes in desires, and blessings.

(James 1:12-18)

February 25

"Living and Dying"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus Looking at sinful mankind, Jesus found what he was willing to die, and to live for. Are we willing to do the same?
(Romans 5:1-11)



Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

FPU is in session on Tuesdays, now through March 13th at 7 pm. FPU is a class that teaches you common sense and Biblical application of personal finance. Even if you are not enrolled in the class, you are welcome to attend **one** of these sessions for free if it is of interest to you.

Lesson 4 - Tuesday, February 6, 2018:
Dumping Debt - Stumbling into debt can be easy—banks, credit card companies, and stores are all working hard to push us over the edge.

Lesson 5 - Tuesday, February 13, 2018:
Buyer Beware - We're bombarded with advertisements on all sides every day!

Lesson 6 - Tuesday, February 20, 2018:
The Role of Insurance - You will learn that your insurance plan can make or break your whole financial life.

Lesson 7 - Tuesday, February 27, 2018:
Retirement and College Planning - We think we'll never get there.

“Joining Jesus on His Mission... underway!” by PJ & GF

2 Timothy 1:6, “For this reason, I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God (please read the article first then the rest of “His” Bible reading at the end of the story. Thank you! Pastor Jim)

Dear friends in Christ, I hope the past month wasn't too cold or snowy for you! I loved it! Now, you might think, “Pastor Jim is crazy if he likes 12 below zero, and 12 inches of snow,” but it keeps me cool! I can't help it. I've just been hot blooded all my life and the cold keeps me, well....chill(ed)! Sorry for the “cold” pun! Okay, I'm a bit excited about the cold and snow! But what I'm really excited about and what I am getting fired up (fan into flame) for is the joy of seeing what Jesus has, is, and will do through us in the near future at Holy Cross! The apartments and homes continue to be finished up and soon people will be living all around our area. It's time to get fired up (fan into flame) for the opportunity for “Jesus to mess with us!” “What??!” you might ask, “What do you mean?” What I am meaning, you will discover in the article I took off the blog from Pastor Greg Finke whose book we are “underway using to prepare us to get fired up on Sunday mornings in Bible class. But now the rest of the story; yes (in the December newsletter I shared I'm also crazy about Paul Harvey and might just see this from time to time), okay the story from Greg's blog:

“Because You Just Never Know... Fellow Neighborhood Missionaries, this is why we do what we do. This is why we cast the seed of attention, conversation and interaction with our neighbors – because you just never know what Jesus may be up to.

Mark and Malinda had lived in their neighborhood for 20 years. And for 15 of those years they had diligently tried to avoid a certain couple that were... well, shall we say, “rough around the edges.” They drank, smoked and had tattoos. They were a little too loud for everyone else in the neighborhood. You know the type. Then Jesus decided to intrude on Mark and Malinda's tidy little attitude and routine. (Yep, this is what we refer to as “Jesus messing with us.”) You see, their congregation had gone through a book called, “Joining Jesus on His Mission” and, in a word, Mark and Malinda knew it was time to repent of their attitude. They knew it was well past time for them to go down and re-introduce themselves to their neighbors of 15 years.

And, wouldn't you know it, just as they decided to do this, a “For Sale” sign went up in the neighbor's yard! They couldn't believe it. They felt terrible. Here they had successfully avoided their neighbors for 15 years and now that they were finally ready to get over themselves and join Jesus, their neighbors were going to move. Wow.

However, instead of giving up in defeat, Mark and Malinda immediately headed down the block to do something they knew they should have done long ago: knock on the door, say hi, and ask how their neighbors were doing.

And when they did, well, like we said, you just never know what Jesus may already be up to. Turns out Mark and Malinda were warmly received and had a great conversation with their neighbors. They found out their neighbors were worried about the sale of their home. They needed to get a certain price in order to be able

to do what they wanted to do in their next season of life. Their realtor, unfortunately, was not optimistic.

When it came time for Mark and Malinda to go, Mark took a bit of a chance and asked, “Before we go, would you mind if I prayed for the sale of your house?” Surprisingly, the couple quickly agreed and even wanted to hold hands for the prayer! Afterwards, Mark and Malinda headed back to their house truly amazed at how Jesus had set everything up. But it was only the beginning. They hadn't been back in their home for 15 minutes before the phone rang. It was their neighbor. She was breathless. “You're not going to believe it!” she said. “We just got off the phone with our realtor. We got an offer on the house and they offered ABOVE THE ASKING PRICE!”

Fellow Missionaries, this is why we do what we do. You just never know what Jesus may be up to! Don't judge your neighbor or ignore your neighbor. Have fun casting the seed of attention, conversation, and interaction with your neighbors.

Because you just never know.”

Opportunities: Consider hosting or being part of a small group as we want to offer more studies on “Joining Jesus on His Mission this winter and spring!” (now, please read the rest of “His” scripture below to fire you up!) Amen! In Christ Jesus, Pastor Jim

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February Stewardship Article

"I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:8-9).

Without commands or even arm-twisting, St. Paul encourages, even challenges, the Church in Corinth to demonstrate the sincerity of their faith by their generosity in giving. He does this because giving generously is a gift of the Spirit given to us through the Gospel.

St. Paul wrote: "But just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:7). In other words, just as we grow in faith and speech and knowledge of eternal things by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, so also do we grow in giving from the same Spirit through the same Word.

The problem is that the grace of generosity often grows cold in us. It's not so much that we stop giving, but we don't put it first. We treat it like all the other bills that must be paid. It becomes a chore, just one more thing to check off a list of things to do. That empties it of its spiritual power and robs us of the joy that Christ and the Scriptures assign to it.

On top of that, since this generosity is linked to faith and knowledge of divine things, a lack of excelling in giving is a sure sign that our faith



and knowledge of God are under attack as well.

Thus St. Paul points to the foundation of generosity: the generosity of Christ Himself. Even though He was rich, He became poor so that we who are poor might become rich. Thus, the incarnation, suffering, and death of our Lord on the cross is the reason, source, and driving force for our generosity in giving to the church.

And since Christ who was rich became poor so that we might be rich in His grace—of which generous giving is part—so we also who are rich in His grace can excel in pressing His grace into service toward the gracious work of the church.

Pay attention to what you give to the church so that you may excel at it. And if you find that your heart has grown cold or indifferent toward it, immerse yourself in God's Word. Read it at home. Attend Bible Class. Hear and listen to it preached in the Divine Service.

Be reminded of what Christ has done for you in His incarnation, suffering, and death. For this will strengthen your faith and knowledge. And where that excels, so will the grace of giving excel also.

"Joining Jesus . . . "

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....to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

- 2 Timothy 1:7-11



Bible Bookenders (Book Club)

In April, we will be discussing "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger. A copy of each of these books is available for checkout on the counter or in our church library located in the Youth Room. All are welcome to join us for our discussions, even if you have not read the book entirely.

Congregational Planning: Values

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To identify the Purpose of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

participants need to clarify the congregation's chosen core values. The values identified at the event included:

- a. Christ-centered
- b. Faithful to Scripture (2)
- c. Fidelity to God's Word (2)
- d. Sacraments
- e. Faith (3)
- f. Volunteer Opportunities for service
- g. Biblical
- h. Community of Believers
- i. Accommodation for various needs
- j. Outward love from knowing Christ
- k. Family Friendly
- l. teaching
- m. God's word
- n. Prayer
- o. Multiple Worship services
- p. Christian Fellowship (2)
- q. Mission-Outreach
- r. Love in all its forms (2)

Our assignment for March:

Dr. Johnson recommends that specific work needs be done by leadership to develop a shared Statement of Purpose. No more than 5 clear, simple, biblical words or phrases that can then be honed to a single statement that describes the purpose of the congregation. This will be crucial moving forward in this process.

From values are found in the culture of the congregation. The task of leadership here is to IDENTIFY existing values. Looking carefully at the congregation values are DISCOVERED. They already exist. An audit could be done by honestly

asking and answering some of the following questions:

- Identify some congregational traditions, both good and bad
- Who are the congregational heroes? (teachers, musicians, evangelists, prayer warriors)?
- What are congregational expectations? (conversions, dynamic worship, engaging bible study, parking, kids programs)?
- What are the norms and standards (do's and don'ts)?
- What stories do people tell (myths and memories)?
- Review meeting minutes – on what issues do we spend the most time?
- What are the church's rituals (retreats, VBS, testimonies, special services)?
- What are the special objects (windows, pictures, books, hangings)?
- Review the congregational budget – Outside of staff what are funds dedicated toward?
- What does the church tend to reward? Discourage?
- What makes us distinctive? What sets us apart from other congregations? From other organizations?
- How are we known OR how would we wish to be known in our community?

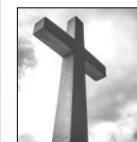
After all of this you will want to **bring your values down to a single sentence** that describes "**how we do things around here**"? Examples of this were shared back in September of 2017.

This will require some time and thought and prayer on the part of congregational leadership. This process isn't something that should



be voted on. Values are not optional – they are operational. They already exist within the culture of the congregation.

The task of leadership is to identify the biblical core beliefs of the congregation that touch the heart of the members and elicit emotions. They may need to be communicated and talked about in order to move them from the unconscious level to the conscious level for much of the membership, but I assure you that your values are already active in your fellowship. You may even want to ask guests to provide feedback from the perspective of an "outsider". What was attractive? What didn't they understand? What was off-putting?



March Newsletter

Articles for the March issue of the Holy Crossings are due on **February 15, 2018** at 11:57 pm. If you have an activity, event, or meeting date that needs to be added to the church calendar, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Send all items to
lehman.mlr@gmail.com.
 Thank you for your assistance.