

Holy Crossings

Our Mission... to seek, share, and serve our Savior

June 2018

Being Prepared for Muslim Walk-ins—is Your Church Ready?

Don't be surprised. It's already happening! Across the U.S. Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs and others are walking into our LCMS churches to check out our Christian faith. There are more people from these groups who now live around us. They see our churches. They are curious, interested. But what happens next? What does it mean for those who walk in without knowing a soul? Well, I must say, these are really brave people, and they should be respected as such. In their minds they are taking a chance. Will they be received or turned away?

And there are questions for the church as well: Is the church ready? Is the pastor ready?

We at POBLO Ministries know of Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs who've walked into LCMS churches around the country, wanting to connect, wanting to learn about Christian faith.

Then, there's Pastor Gary Siefert's story: Hi, I'm pastor Gary Siefert, and I had never ministered to a Muslim woman until the day the phone rang. An Arab Christian man asked if I would be willing to talk with an Arab Muslim woman. She came to the church. Her English was poor. We struggled to communicate. But everything in her voice and body language told me she was thrilled—thrilled to walk into the sanctuary—thrilled to hold a Bible in her hands. What I got from that first visit with Sophia is that she did not want to be Muslim any more. She wanted to be Christian. She wanted to be baptized!

In order to help Sophia, know the Bible basics, and actually be a Christian, know the Savior and be baptized, **our church helped her to overcome some hurdles.** She needed **rides to get to church.** Due to **language barriers,** I took a lot of time to teach Sophia one-on-one. But it was so worth it. Other hurdles for Sophia became opportunities for our church to welcome and love her, and to offer her some of our "stuff". Her **bare apartment** was soon filled with household basics, donated by our members. Everyone loved on her. Soon, Sophia became someone very dear to our members. Her baptism, and that of her 5 year old daughter, was the greatest thrill for our church. This was my first direct chance to evangelize a Muslim person. With the growing population, I'm sure it may not be my last.

Continues on page 6

78th Minnesota South District Convention

June 21-23

Gangelhoff Center

Concordia University, St. Paul

Opening Service: Thursday, June 21

Time: 7:00 PM

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Offering: Coins for Missions Offering (To All Generations)



"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." - 1 Peter 2:9

Minnesota South District LWML Convention

Verizon Center
Mankato, MN
June 29-30.



The convention Gifts from the Heart (GFH) are Baby Kits and Hospice Kits. All the information concerning the contents of the kits, are posted on the LWML bulletin board in the Commons. We will be collecting them till mid-June.

**FEEL ALONE? NEED HELP?
NEED REST?
BE RESTED & RESTORED WITH
FRIENDSHIPS!**

Enjoying People! In the Riches of People We are Revived in the Spirit of God, Sharing His Love!

We are not perfect in our relationships. Actually, we are almost the opposite. We are not one in Spirit we are not one in the Lord, unless we join our stories, lives and prayers with one another. Jesus said, "I want them to be one as we are one, Father." I in you, you in me, and they are one in us.

**"Kick the Tires" Transition from
"Joining Jesus on His Mission"**
June 3, June 10, June 17

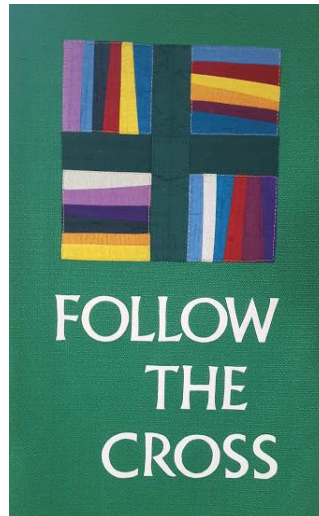
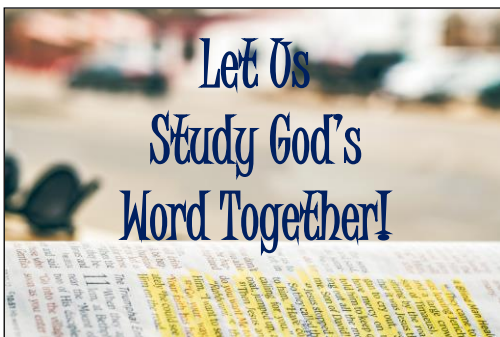
"Joining Jesus, Show Me How"
June 25, July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22,
July 29, and August 5

SEEKING First the Kingdom of God -
Discipleship, SHARING, SERVING

Our Mission:

Enjoying People God Loves! Fun!
Seeking His Will with People! Prayer!
Sharing His Gospel Love with People!
Serving People! Follow Up Being Real
for Each Other and Others.

Enjoy - Everyone
eNjoy - Neighboring
enJoy - Jesus knows our needs
enjOy - Obvious Care
enjoY - You Need Him Too!



June Sermons

June 6, 2018

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: "THE HOLY PLAN – God's Holy Sabbath For You and More!

Text: Mark 2:23-28

Synopsis: Though the disciples look like they've broken God's Law, Jesus shares the Divine Truth that King David's taking the sacred bread when hungry was fine to continue God's battle over Israel's enemies. The Son of David is here to enlighten more than the Sabbath Law.

June 13, 2018

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: "THE HOLY PLAN – Changed by His Holy Death. The Sting of Death Brings Life!"

Text: Genesis 3:8-15

Synopsis: The serpent will be crushed and all evil forever by the one he pierces the heel of by that ones death that brings life? It can't be, but it is. The sting of death brings life.

June 17, 2018

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost & Father's Day

Theme: "THE HOLY PLAN – Can One Life Save All? A Single, Miniscule Seed ... Surprises."

Texts: Ezekiel 17:22-24 & Mark 26-34

Synopsis: Parable of the top smallest twig of the Cedar tree will become the Root of God's Holy Plan. And parable of the mustard seed ties in with the Old Testament Prophecy of God's Humble Holy Plan.

June 24, 2018

Nativity of John the Baptist

Theme: "THE HOLY PLAN – The Improbable Forerunner's Parents are part of the Holy Plan."

Text: Luke 1:57-80

Synopsis: Zechariah miraculously declares his son's name, John, though mute 9 months.



Sunday Schedule

8:15 AM
Traditional Worship

9:45 AM
Christian Education Hour

11:00 AM
Contemporary Worship

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.

June 3

"The Battleground of Time"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Military personnel know what it means to be on the front line in combat.

This message is about a battleground where we're between opposing forces and could easily lose our life, the Battleground of Time.

(Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-3:6)

June 10

"A Light Momentary Affliction?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

Paul had his problems. You've never met anyone who didn't. And yet, Paul called his problems "light" and "momentary". Today's message deals with the question, "What does Paul know that we don't?"

(2 Corinthians 4:17-5:1)

June 17

"Tell Me a Story!"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Jesus loves to tell us stories. In His stories about the normal things of life, Jesus teaches us about the reign of God in our lives. This Father's Day, what makes for a godly father, or mother or Christian? The willingness to tell our stories.

(Mark 4:26-34)

June 24

"Jesus, Don't You Care?"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus

After seeing one of the Savior's miracles the disciples asked, "Who is this Guy?" After Pentecost, they knew Who Jesus was and why He had come. Even so, the world keeps coming up with wrong answers when they ask, "Just Who is this Guy?"

(Mark 4:38-41)



Camp Omega Open House Saturday, June 9



Looking for a camp for your child? Haven't been there in years? Or maybe you are looking for a free family outing. The Camp Omega Open House is the event for you!

Activities include a 10:00 am opening sing-a-long and devotion, free picnic-style barbeque, swimming, horse drawn wagon rides, pontoon boat rides, zip lining, archery, canoeing, and a variety of other Camp Staff led activities for the whole family. The day's event concludes around 4:00 pm.

This is a **free** event for people of **all ages!** RSVP is preferred to help with meal planning, but not required. To RSVP, contact the camp office at (507) 685-4266 or info@campomega.org. Check out the Camp website – www.campomega.org for more information.



Summer Ladies Events

The warm weather beckons us to spend time together in the sunshine! And the MN Landscape Arboretum is a wonderful place to visit in the summer. Join women on Sunday, July 22, and plan to visit the Arboretum where you can enjoy beautiful flowers and amazing origami by artist Kevin Box. Cost is \$15 for adults 16+. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the LWML board.

Summer Women's Bible Study on the Book of Esther

Starting Wednesday, June 6 from 7:00-8:30 pm, we invite all women to join us for a study on the book of Esther. We will be reading and discussing this amazing book from Scripture. Join us for one or all six Wednesdays as your schedule permits. Calendar of dates, study tips and sign up are on the Bulletin Board. Friends, neighbors, and other women you know of all ages are welcome to join us.

The Schedule for the Book of Esther

June 6:	Chapters 1-2
June 13:	Chapter 3-4
June 20:	Chapters 5-6
June 27:	No Study
July 4:	No Study
July 11:	Chapter 7
July 18:	Chapter 8
July 25:	Chapter 9-10

Sunday School: MOSES

Nine year old Joey, was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday school.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then, he used his walkie-talkie to radio headquarters for reinforcements.

They sent bombers to blow up the Bridge and all the Israelites were saved."



"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Vacation Bible School

... She's a hero! He's a hero! Wouldn't you like to be a hero too?... Bring a friend and come to VBS in August and learn about some heroes in the Bible and how God empowers His children, you and me, to be heroes right here, right now on earth every day!



WHEN: Sunday, August 5 – Thursday, August 9, 2018 (5 nights)

TIME: EVENINGS 6:15 – 8:15 (light meal offered 5:30-6:00)

WHERE: right here at Holy Cross

WHO: 4 yr. olds to 5th graders with their friends AND Grownups and friends who want to strengthen their hero powers is a possible option as well. We are praying about that opportunity.

Baby-sitting will be provided for any volunteers.

NEEDED: Volunteers (youth and adults) to be Station leaders, Crew leaders, and Assistants to help with Food/Meal, Games, Bible Power time, Crafts, Science time, and Music, Decorating, Preparation, Set Up and Take Down/Cleanup. There will be training/guidance for all volunteer positions, so have no fear and volunteer!

Be on the lookout for Registration and Volunteer Signup Information coming soon!

Summer Sunday School

Plans are being made starting Sunday, June 3 – August 26! Yep, yep, yep . . . we are offering Summer Sunday School (Sx3) with a multi-age focus. All ages are welcome and needed to help make this a special time of growing in God's Word, sharing highs and lows, praying, and having some fun together. There will be signup sheets for expected



attendance and also for young adult/adult volunteers to help facilitate activities for each Sunday. See a bulletin board in the fellowship area for signing up to attend and/or help facilitate. Contact person is Vivian Jobst. Email: vrjobst@gmail.com or by phone or text at (913) 486-2626. Join the Sx3 team!

June Stewardship

By Rev. Jason Braaten
Immanuel Lutheran Church – Tuscola, Ill.

“There are three conversions necessary to every man: the head, the heart, and the purse.” Attributed to Luther, though yet to be located in his vast writings, this statement echoes what Jesus taught about hearts and treasures. He said, “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21; Luke 12:34).

But which conversion comes first? I submit that the order is this: first the head, then the purse, then the heart. Let me explain.

Our Lord Jesus Christ dwelt among us to save us. He took on our flesh, fulfilled the demands of the law in our place, became sin for us, and suffered torture and death on our behalf, in order that we would be free from sin, death, and hell. He gives us what He accomplished through Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord’s Supper.

And so, He doesn’t just do it for us but gives it to us, makes what He did ours by making us His. Thus, we are called by His name: Christians. We have a new life in Him.

Through the preaching of Law and Gospel, God grants us repentance, a changing of our minds. It is a conversion of the mind. We are called to turn away from our sins and turn toward Him for forgiveness, life, and salvation. For when God calls us away from something, He is, at the same time, calling us to something.

And thus, He calls us to a new life, with new deeds. This is the



conversion of the purse. Jesus said that “it is easier for a camel to enter through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Notice that our hearts follow our treasures, not the other way around. As Christians, God calls us to invest our treasures in His Kingdom to ensure that the gospel is preached and the sacraments are administered. He calls us to share all good things with the one who teaches us the doctrines of Christ. He calls us to be generous in giving to the church, for it is more blessed to give than to receive.

So where is your treasure? If it is not invested in the kingdom of God, then the only response is repentance—a conversion of the heart—and to begin doing just that. And as our Lord promised, where your treasure is there your heart will be also.

This is not to say that you earn your way into heaven. It is simply to say that as Christians, those who have been made to be temples of the Holy Spirit, who have been given a new life in Christ, who are dead to sin and now alive in Him, we are, actually, to live — think (conversion of the mind), do (conversion of the purse), and be (conversion of the heart) — a new life in Him.

And when you fail, know that God in Christ loves and forgives you and still calls you away from that and to Himself.

A Different Way to Give to Holy Cross

The Joyful Response Electronic Offering Program through Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) provides Holy Cross members a way to:

- Give offerings consistently.
- Never worry about forgetting their offering at home.
- Fulfill their stewardship promises.
- Share their financial blessings efficiently and predictably.
- Give while on summer vacation or wintering out of state.

Pick up a form located in the tract rack in the entry and learn more about this easy to use program. Completed forms should be given to Jim Anderson. The electronic donation program is free to use! For those currently enrolled with Joyful Response and feeling the need to put something in the offering plate as it passes each Sunday you are invited to place the preprinted offering donation cards or your offering envelope in the offering plate. The preprinted cards are located on the corner counter in the church entry. If you use your empty offering envelope simply write “Joyful Response” or “Electronic Donation” on the front. You can change your offering amount at any time.

Contact Jim Anderson at 952-374-9462 if you have questions, want to enroll or change your current giving amount.

Continued from page 1

Being Prepared for Muslim . . .

To be ready to welcome such seekers when they walk into our churches we need to:

1. Show them hospitality, according to their standard.

Take time for them. Don't look like you're too busy to ask about their family. Treat them like your own family. Don't allow them to sit alone in church—sit with them. Introduce them to others. Be their friend.

2. The assimilation person or the pastor should assign sponsors for them. Three families can be assigned to: be with them before, during, and after worship, call midweek to say "hello", visit them in their home, get to know the whole family, invite them for dinner, accept their hospitality, and pray with them for their needs.

When a newcomer comes to you from Egypt, Iran, or Pakistan, etc. wanting to learn about Christ, give them a hearty welcome--they've come a long way, both physically and spiritually, in order to become your brother or sister in Christ.

By Rev. Gary Siefert & Rev. Dr. Gary Rohwer



Christian Parental Guidance

Begin each day with prayer. We all need divine guidance as we take on the challenges each day brings. Let children know you'll be praying for them while they're away from home - then do so several times throughout the day.

Teach children that each new day is a gift from God. Be grateful for it. Wake children with humor. Caress them lovingly. Tell them God wants the best for them, and encourage them to get ready for whatever surprises the day might hold.

Make children's daily homecoming a cheerful occasion. Listen carefully to their experiences. Affirm that you're proud of them and pleased to be their parent.

Make home life joyful and memorable. Play games, tell funny stories, take walks and eat together. Build pleasant memories that kids will remember for a lifetime. Tell children you love them.

A Lesson for Children and Parents

St. Paul records, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." Ephesians 6:1-4, NIV

Father's Day . . . More than a Day

Father's Day was first observed in America in 1910. In 1923 the third Sunday of June was set as the official day and in 1924 President Coolidge recommended its national observance. Today it has a fixed place in the calendar of special days in our country.

But devotion to and pride in fathers does not need to wait for official approval. As long as there have been families, love and respect for fathers has existed.



Are you listening?

A father asked his 7-year-old son to say the mealtime prayer. "All right," the boy said. "Let's pray."

When every head was bowed, the boy prayed, "Lord, we thank you for the pancakes we're going to eat tonight. Amen."

"Jimmy," his mother said. "I think you should know we're having chicken, not pancakes, tonight."

"I know," Jimmy answered. "I just wanted to see if God was paying attention."