

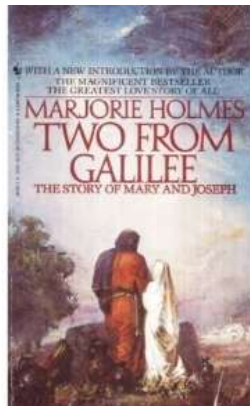
HAPPENINGS

December 25, 2022 - January 1, 2023

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WELCOME GUESTS AND MEMBERS – Welcome to the Lord’s House. God bless you as you hear the Good News today of His unconditional love! Jesus promised wherever two or three are gathered in His name, His presence is there. Jesus is here! We pray and know He will bless you with faith, hope, and love for your daily life through His Word and Spirit! If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to one of our ushers or greeters.

BIBLE BOOKENDERS Our January book is an old classic, **Two From Galilee** by **Marjorie Holmes**. Join us at church from 7:00-8:30 pm on Monday, January 23rd. Blessings on your reading of first and foremost God’s Word, and the fun books we read and share for Bible Bookenders. Questions? Contact Bonnie Nowak, Pat Harvey or Michele Lein.



TIME OF GRACE Straight talk about God’s Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.



Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with “Grace Moments” written devotions and “Grace Talks” video devotions. Pastor Mike Novotny, The Core, Appleton, WI, KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am www.timeofgrace.org



ADULT BIBLE STUDY is 10:15 after the church service. Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start. **Reminder - No Bible Study today December 25th and January 1st.**



MAIN STREET LIVING airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. For more information or to watch the program, go to www.mainstreetliving.com select the “Twin Cities” tab.



COFFEE TIME Thank you to those who have faithfully made coffee and provided treats each Sunday morning. Please consider signing up to help out.

WHAT DOES FREE WILL MONEY BUY? We thank you for donating during Sunday coffee hour. Your giving provides the LWML with more buying power. Coffee, creamers, cups and napkins too. All these we are able to buy for you! Treats and juice our members supply, but for the coffee and stuff on your generosity we rely.





PRAYER REQUESTS If you have a prayer request for today, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email

weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to the office at megan@holycross-pl.org.

Happenings

HAPPENINGS ARTICLES Don't forget to turn in your Happenings articles each week by Wednesday at noon! Email to megan@holycross-pl.org.

POBLO - PEOPLE OF THE BOOK LUTHERAN OUTREACH Poblo's mission is to meet the physical, social, and spiritual needs of Muslims and other immigrants and refugees in the United States by sharing the love of Jesus in practical and culturally relevant ways.



One of the ways to accomplish this is through the offering of free classes. POBLO Twin

Cities has new classes starting up, including English as a Second Language (ESL) classes meeting on **Monday & Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm at Mt. Hope in Bloomington.** Volunteers are needed! For more information, please contact Shari Schulze, POBLO Twin Cities Coordinator, at shari@poblo.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL will be on break December 25th and January 1st. We look forward to resuming on January 8th. Wishing all a Blessed Holiday Season!



Has your address, phone, or email changed? Have your adult children moved away from home? Check with Megan in the church office and see what we have on file for you and your family, or you can pick up a form to fill out in the commons area. There are some members and guests that we do not have an email or cell phone number for. Help us have accurate information in case we or other church members need to contact you.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Save the date! Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia will be hosting a Lutherans for



Life / Lifelines event on **January 21, 2023 at 10:00 am.** The topic, presented by Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, is "Wonderfully Made: The Divine Value of Being Human," and will include a biblical conversation about abortion and end of life issues. For more information, please contact Corinne Allen (Lutherans for Life / Lifelines) at narrfarm@aol.com or 612-599-0021.

Life QUOTES

DECEMBER 25 "There is no more clear-pointed, rest-giving demonstration of the love of God for you than the gift of His Son." *Paul Tripp, pastor, author, and conference speaker – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • www.lutheransforlife.org*

VACANCY PASTOR GADE'S church hours are Monday & Tuesday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Other times can be arranged, call 763-333-5896.



HIGHER THINGS REGIONAL RETREAT Higher Things offers one- or two-day regional retreats for youth that are filled with all of the great things of a summer conference, but in a smaller setting. Youth who attend a Higher Things retreat are challenged to *Dare to be Lutheran* and inspired to a deeper faith and love for their neighbors. Upcoming events include:



- **"Unboxed"** January 6-7, 2023
St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Fort Wayne, IN
- **"Born that Way"** January 6-7, 2023
Faith Lutheran Church; Pierre, SD
- **"Ten"** January 27-28, 2023
Immanuel Lutheran Church; Broken Arrow, OK
- **"Life by Drowning"** February 17-18, 2023
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church; Lititz, PA
- **"Baptized Rite!"** February 18-19, 2023
Trinity Lutheran Church; Sheboygan, WI
- **"Who Am I?"** March 24-25, 2023
St. Paul's Lutheran Church; Minot, ND

For more information or to register, visit the Higher Things website. higherthings.org/events/retreats



NOTE: Megan will be out of the office the week of **December 26-30th**. If you need anything please contact Pastor Gad



MEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - Stories for Witness Every Tuesday from 8:00-9:00 am join us for Men's Bible Study. Discover the witness value of stories. We will review the great sacred story arcing over every disciple's life and find themselves in the stories Jesus tells in the gospels. We will also consider their own stories for witness. The point of witness is just where the Christ story, the story of another, and my own story intersect. To emphasize the visual nature of Jesus' stories, art will be used extensively.

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated weekly. Our belief and practice is Confessional. Jesus clearly teaches He is truly present in His supper in the bread and wine. We receive miraculously, in the gift of faith, His true body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. If this is your confession and you have been baptized and confirmed in our church body, please commune with us. If you have questions about communing, please wait to commune until receiving instruction in one of our communion classes. Thank you. **Note:** *Communion Kits are available, if needing one please contact Pastor.*



SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DEC 25, 2022

Elder: Dennis Waderich
Lector: Dinah Gilberts
Ushers: Steve Oak
Acolyte: Colin Kruse
AV: Eric Brown
Offering Count: Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, JAN 1, 2023

Elder: Brit Weimer
Lector: Carol Albrecht
Ushers: Dinah Gilberts & Allie Wagner
Acolyte: Tate Kruse
AV: Eric Brown
Offering Count: Carol Albrecht & Pam Hunter

CHURCH OFFICE REPORTS - RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Contributions needed each month (General Fund): \$21,844.00 • Contributions received in October \$18,106.00

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022 - 9:00 AM ATTENDANCE

Worship: 50

Communion: 50

Bible Study: 14

Sunday School: 6



THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS	
SUNDAY 25	Christmas Day 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
MONDAY 26	
TUESDAY 27	
WEDNESDAY 28	12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due
THURSDAY 29	
FRIDAY 30	
SATURDAY 31	Worship and Game Night
SUNDAY 1	New Year's Day 9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. ***Psalms 90:12***

In his best-selling book *A Brief History of Time*, the late Cambridge University physicist Stephen Hawking theorized that ***"time has no beginning and no end; time exists from eternity, to eternity."*** Hawking is partially correct in his description, but he is describing the wrong thing. It is not time itself that has no beginning and no end, but the Creator of time, the eternal God. God has no beginning and no end; God exists from eternity, to eternity. It is difficult to put this concept into words, but this is how Moses expresses the eternity of God in Psalm 90:1-2: ***"Lord, You have been our dwelling place throughout all generation from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."***

Contrary to Hawking's theory that time is infinite and eternal, the Scriptures report that the phenomenon of time was created by God: ***"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."*** And God said, ***"Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons, days, and years"*** (Genesis 1:1, 14). So, the Bible tells us that the steady march of time had a definite beginning, and it will also have a definite end, at the end of all things. : ***"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare..."*** (2 Peter 3:10).

Like a clock that is wound and slowly progresses through the hours, God has set time into motion, and He has fixed a certain point at which time will end. This is not only true in the grand scheme of the universe, but also for each of us as individuals. As Psalm 139:16 says, ***"All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to pass."*** God has set your life into motion, and He has allotted to you a certain number of days. As Psalm 31:15 says, ***"My times are in your hands,"*** and Psalm 90:12 says, ***"Teach us to number our days aright."*** God has fixed a time when your earthly life will end and He will take you out of the realm of time and into His eternal kingdom.

While you remain here on earth, your most precious possession is the time God has allotted you. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30), about three men, each given a certain amount of money by their master to invest and use while the master was away on a trip. And when he returned, two of the servants had wisely used the money and gotten a good return, but one of the servants, wicked and lazy, hid his portion away, did not use it, and had not gained anything for his master. Like the master in the parable, God has allotted to each of us a precious treasure: a certain amount of time, to serve Him here on earth. When He comes again, He expects to see that we each have used our time wisely and well, that we have invested our time to serve Him and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. St. Paul says in Colossians 4:5, ***"Make the most of every opportunity."***

When God calls for an accounting of the time allotted to you, will He commend you for making the most of every opportunity, for serving the Lord with gladness, for giving to Him and His service the proper portion of your life? St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:29, ***"Brothers, the time is short."*** Another year has passed, so quickly. Over this past year good resolutions and good intentions have fallen by the way. The precious treasure of time has too often been wasted.

Jesus says in Revelation 22:7, ***"Behold, I am coming quickly!"*** Your master is returning, the clock is running, your time on earth is precious. Make not just good resolutions and good intentions. Make the most of every opportunity. As St. Paul says in Colossians 3:17, ***"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*** So in this New Year, use your most precious, irreplaceable treasure—your time—to serve the Lord with gladness. Even as the Lord has blessed you in ages past, He will bless you in the year to come, and He will finally grant you the gift of everlasting time in the eternal bliss of heaven.



Dinah Gilberts
 Ben Huston
 Mui Cheng
 Earl Drangstveit
 Vivian Jobst
 Karly Oak

December 4
 December 7
 December 9
 December 9
 December 11
 December 19

Jason Kruse
 Lois Helms
 Carol Albrecht
 Bo Brunner
 Nivedita Fulbert

December 20
 December 25
 December 26
 December 28
 December 30

Upcoming

EVENTS

December 31
January 14
January 23
January 29
February 10

New Year's Eve Game Night
 Christmas Decoration Take Down
 Bible Bookenders
 Voter's Meeting
 Night to Shine