



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

Holy Crossings

JANUARY 2023

FROM THE PASTOR...

In his best-selling book *A Brief History of Time*, 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 generations... 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, 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.”***

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.

MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH



Main Street Living is an hour-long Lutheran television program that airs new episodes each Sunday morning. The Twin Cities program is broadcast at 9 am Central time on WFTC channel 29/9-2. Each Sunday, viewers enjoy a 30 minute remastered episode of "This is the Life," a popular Lutheran Hour Ministries series from the 70s and 80s. The episode is followed by a modified Lutheran worship service—led by a different local pastor each week. Main Street Living (Twin Cities) is endorsed by the Minnesota South District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; however, the program receives no funding from the District. It is totally funded by viewers and congregations of the WFTC viewing area.

www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities

LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION



"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" is the theme for the 40th Biennial LWML Convention, to be held **June 22-25, 2023** at the Wisconsin Center in Milwaukee.

Registration Costs:
 January 9 - March 14: \$160
 March 15 - May 10: \$180
 May 11 - June 10: \$205

Information is available at lwml.org/2023-convention

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.

THANK YOU!



We would like to thank all of you at Holy Cross for the cards, goodies, and gifts we received during this Christmas season. I feel blessed to be in ministry with you here in this place.

Vacancy Pastor & Diane Gade

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The new offering envelopes for 2023 appear to be missing!

Delivered last spring, the case of envelopes evidently got lost somewhere during the construction/reorganization of the church offices and storage spaces. Until the replacement order arrives, please place your offerings in a plain envelope marked with any designations beyond general fund giving (Missions, Building Fund, Special Offerings), or use a 2022 envelope you haven't used yet.

If you use a plain envelope, please include on the envelope your name and offering envelope number if you know it, especially if you are giving cash, for recording purposes. If you need an envelope, there will be envelopes available on the work counter opposite the kitchen marked for the next few Sundays. Once the replacement envelopes for 2023 arrive, you can pick them up on the counter as well.

The 2022 giving statements will be emailed out in January. If you prefer a printed statement, please contact the financial secretary, **Sheri Brunner** at 952-807-6473 or sheri.brunner@gmail.com.

TIME OF GRACE

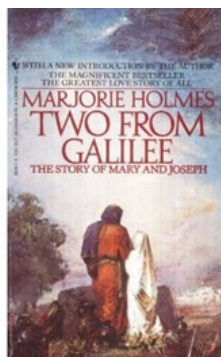


Straight talk about God's Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

Subscribe to **Time of Grace** (www.timeofgrace.org) 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

BIBLE BOOKENDERS



Bible Bookenders will now be meeting on Tuesday evenings instead of Monday evenings. Our January book is an old classic, **Two From Galilee** by **Marjorie Holmes**. Join us at church from 7:00-8:30 pm on Tuesday January 31st. 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.

ANOTHER NEW YEAR



Another new year – what shall I make of it?
God gave it to me as a loan.
Shall I search for earth's cheer with its pretense and
take it –
Not bread for my soul but a stone?
Another new year-what shall I gather,
Earth's tinsel, her glitter to show?
Another new year-what would I rather;
A flash or a deep inner glow?
A year full of getting or a year full of giving
The best that I have to give?
A year full of fretting or a year full of loving
The way that God wants me to live?
Another new year-what shall I make of it?
God gave me the right to choose.
Another new year-God helping, I'll take it
And give it to him to use.

WHAT IS EPIPHANY?



The day after the twelve-day celebration of Christmas is January 6th which is celebrated as the Epiphany. The English word "Epiphany" comes from the Greek word "epiphaneia", which means "appearing" or "revealing." Epiphany focuses on God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ. While some traditions pay special attention to the visit of the Magi, others focus on the baptism of Jesus, especially the voice from heaven that identifies Jesus as God's Son. In either case, the emphasis is upon God making Himself known to the world through Jesus, the divine Son.

The theological essence of Epiphany is found in 2 Timothy 1:10: ***"And now He has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News."*** If you were reading this verse in Greek, you'd find the word "epiphaneia" where we have "appearing." God has made "all of this" plain to us through the epiphany of Christ.

But what is "all of this"? We find an answer in the previous verse: ***"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time-to show us His grace through Christ Jesus."*** The original language makes it clear that "all of this" is God's plan (or purpose) and grace. In other words, though Jesus, God not only reveals Himself to us, but also reveals His plan to save us, a plan that is centered in Jesus. If we want to know God, we need to turn our eyes to Jesus. In His words and deeds, and most of all in His sacrificial death, He reveals God's love to us. So during this Epiphany season, let us thank God for making Himself known to us in such a marvelous way. And let us renew our commitment to sharing this good news with the world.



- Amanda Fitzwater January 14
- Mitch Hoehn January 16
- Rich Mobroten January 16
- Emily Mae Lein January 26
- Donna Vig January 26
- Chloe Einarson January 27
- Pastor Gade January 29
- Quinn Fitzwater January 29

CONTACT UPDATE



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.

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.

JANUARY 1

"Out of Egypt"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook

"Out of Egypt I called my son." With these words the Gospel of Matthew reveals the rich and interconnected history of the young nation, Israel, and the young Savior, Jesus. Follow them on their journeys to discover the true Israel and what He means to your life today. (Matthew 2:13-23)

JANUARY 8

"Gifted"

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

What if we learned to see this world and everyone in it as gifts from God? (Colossians 1:16)

JANUARY 15

"Gifts to Share"

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

A body of water becomes stagnant when there is no outflow. The same could be said of us. (Colossians 1:29)

JANUARY 22

"Whatever You Do"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Jason Broge

The mundane just isn't mundane when seen through heaven's eyes. (Colossians 3:17-21)

JANUARY 29

"Hopelessly Hopeful"

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Having hope for humanity is not the same thing as hoping in humanity. (Colossians 1:27)

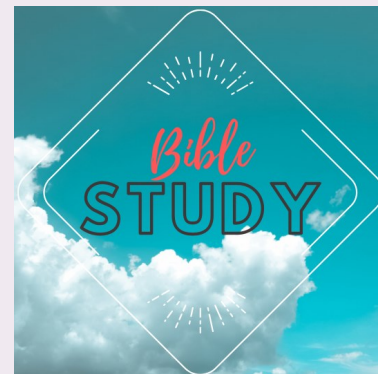
PRAYER REQUESTS

SEND
US YOUR
PRAYER
REQUESTS

If you have a prayer request on Sunday, 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 megan@holycross-pl.org.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for Bible Study in the back of the sanctuary after worship. Feel free to get a cup of coffee first and snack before we start at 10:15 am.



Upcoming EVENTS

January 14	Christmas Decoration Take Down
January 22	Youth Sunday
January 23	Bible Bookenders
January 29	Voter's Meeting
February 10	Night to Shine

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A weekday 2-minute devotion that helps you see Jesus at work in your world.

Memories

The highway I live off of consists of hilly curves that hide approaching cars. I look both ways - repeatedly - before pulling out. Then continually in my rearview mirror once I take the leap. Same thing when I'm about to turn. Watching behind me. Is he going to stop? Does He see me? The rest of the time? Straight ahead.

We spend most of our time looking into the future. Wondering. Worrying. Today's a good day to look back. To consider the bad and the good. To celebrate the wins. The weddings. The promotions and graduations. The milestones that say life is progressing as life should. To also consider the sadness. The hurts. To contemplate what pain's captured our hearts and cemented us to the past year - or years. A loss we keep lugging forward. Disappointment we return to daily. What if's we wallow in and wish were true.

Our humanity takes time to process broken hearts. Jesus offers healing. Stops and starts and fits of

healing. But healing, nevertheless. Jesus came to redeem our suffering. To lighten its burden. To help us experience joy even in the midst of struggle. To welcome an attitude of thankfulness. An outlook of hope. All given by His Spirit daily sweeping the floor and dusting the furniture. Ensuring the truth that Jesus has you keeps pushing the doubts to the edge.

Moreover, when God gives someone wealth and possessions, and the ability to enjoy them, to accept their lot and be happy in their toil—this is a gift of God. -Ecclesiastes 5.19

Whatever the view behind you looks like, may you know God's incredible grace for you in 2023. And may His joy miraculously grow in you day by day.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the 2 Minute Multiplier emailed to you! www.fivetwo.com/2mm

988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

If you or someone you know is in a crisis or emotional distress, call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline! This free and confidential lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. It is comprised of a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Men's Tuesday morning bible study is every **Tuesday from 8-9am**. Please join us!

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, JANUARY 2023

Your Past Does Not Define Your Future

New Year's is a celebration of the past and the future. We take stock of the past with thanksgiving and sometimes even relief (that it's over), and we look to the future in hope and anticipation, and perhaps with some worry, for what it holds.

The point is that New Year's celebrations remind us of who we are as opposed to who we would like to be, what we have done in comparison to what we want to do. It reminds us of our accomplishments, but mostly it reminds us of our failures. What we've lost. Who we've lost.

New Year's is our own version of Charles Dickens' classic, *A Christmas Carol*. And we all play Scrooge. We are visited by the ghosts of our pasts, presents and futures.

St. Paul writes: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor. 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord will both supply and increase what we need to give to the church for its work in the world. He tells us that this work God does in us will enrich and bless us in every way, and through this, will produce thanksgiving to God. With this in mind, here is some practical advice to help you take stock of your giving in years past and change what needs to be adjusted, improved, or done away with altogether.

First, attend the Divine Service to receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. If you've not been faithful in attending worship to hear the preaching of God's Word, to receive forgiveness and feast on the rich

food of our Lord's body and blood for the eternal benefit of your body and soul, then repent and come to receive the gifts God freely gives. God doesn't want your money. He wants you — all of you (Matt. 22:20–22).

Second, pray for the Lord's help. Your right as a Christian is to speak with your Father, the King of all creation, freely through His Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Go to the throne of grace and ask for strength and wisdom to follow His bidding faithfully (John 15:1–16).

Third, consider what the church is and what the church does. The church is a place of mercy. It inhales the mercy of the Father by the death, resurrection and ascension of His Son through the preaching of the Gospel and the Sacraments. It exhales this mercy in love toward neighbors. You are a member of the church, of God's family. Thus, you are not only a recipient of God's mercy, but a bearer of that mercy for the life of the world. You spread that mercy through the generous giving of your income to support the work of the church in the world, as the Israelites did in the Old Testament (Lev. 27:1–34).

Fourth, take stock of your current giving in light of the New Testament's teaching on supporting the work of the church. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? The Old Testament required a tithe, or ten percent. The New Testament gives freedom to be generous, to give more for the Church's work. Are you relying on God's promise to provide and increase what you need to do His work? If your answer is no to any of these, repent. If God gave you His only Son, will He not provide for you all things, even physical things? Trust Him, His Word, and heed it.

So, don't let your past define your future. Rather, commit for the year a generous proportion of your income, which is God's gift to you for this body and life.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

**January 1**

The Circumcision and Naming Of Jesus
"What's in a Name?"

Luke 2:21

Numbers 6:22-27; Psalm 8;
 Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 2:15-21

January 8

Baptism of our Lord
"An Epiphany of Another Kind"

Matthew 3:16-17

Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29;
 Romans 6:1-11; Matthew 3:13-17

January 16

2nd Sunday after Epiphany
"Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord"

John 1:41

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1
 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42a

January 22

3rd Sunday after Epiphany
Youth Sunday

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-14;
 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25

January 29

Sanctity of Life Sunday
"Morality Or Mystery"

1 Corinthians 01:18

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15;
 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



January 29, 2023

JANUARY 2023



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 New Year's Day 9:00 am Worship/Communion	2	3	4 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	5 7:00 pm Choir Practice	6	7
8 Baptism of our Lord 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	9 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	10 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	11 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	12 7:00 pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 2nd Sunday in Epiphany 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	16	17 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	18 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	19 12:00 pm Newsletter Articles Due 7:00 pm Choir Practice	20	21
22 Youth Sunday 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	23	24 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	25 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	26 7:00 pm Choir Practice	27	28
29 4th Sunday in Epiphany 9:00 am Worship/Communion 10:15 am Voter's Meeting	30	31 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class				