



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

Holy Crossings

MAY 2023

WHO IS JESUS?... REALLY WHO IS HE TO YOU?

Most Christians would say they know Jesus, but do they really know Him? Through the years, our understanding of Jesus has been shaped by different cultural influences, and many Christians have forgotten that Jesus was a Jewish man living in a Jewish land, observing Jewish customs, and investing His life into Jewish men and women. Trading the popular, but inaccurate Western perspective of the Bible for the context in which Jesus actually ministered in 2000 years ago, I would like you to walk with me through Scripture to help you determine how you answer that question.

Although Jesus was meek and mild, He wasn't weak. He could call down at any moment "twelve legions of angels from heaven" (Matt. 26:53). The Gospel writer Mark was the one who focused on communicating Jesus's authority over all things. In Mark 1:13, we see Mark highlighting **Jesus's authority over the animals**. Mark is careful to tell us, "And He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And He was with the wild animals." The word "with" in the language of the New Testament implies being in harmony or communion with. Jesus had no need to fear wild animals because He was in harmony with them as a direct result of His authority over them.

Not only does He have **authority over the animals**, but Jesus also has authority over the angels. Mark continues by telling us, "and the angels were ministering to Him." Normally, man was made lower than the angels, but in this case the angels are the ones ministering to Jesus (c.f. Ps. 8:5). Both the animals and the angels serve this Man. Will we?

In Mark 1:22 we read about **Jesus's authority as a teacher**: "And they were astonished at His teaching, for

He taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes."

Jesus also demonstrates His **authority over sickness**, as we see in Mark 1:30–31 "Simon's mother-in-law was lying in bed with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. So He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she began to serve them."

He even had **authority over nature and the demonic**, as we read in Mark 1:34: "And He healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And He would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew Him."

Jesus displayed **authority to forgive sins**, something only God could do, in Mark 2:10–11 "But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—He told the paralytic—"I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

He proved He **was Lord over the Sabbath** in Mark 2:27–28 : "Then He told them, 'The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore, the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.'"

Finally, **Jesus could extend his authority to others**. We see this when He gives His disciples delegated authority to cast out demons and preach in Mark 3:14–15 : "He also appointed twelve—whom He also named apostles—to be with Him, to send them out to preach, and to have authority to drive out demons." In the New Testament era, the word Apostle was used to denote a title given by someone with authority to another person who was designated to carry and deliver an royal message.

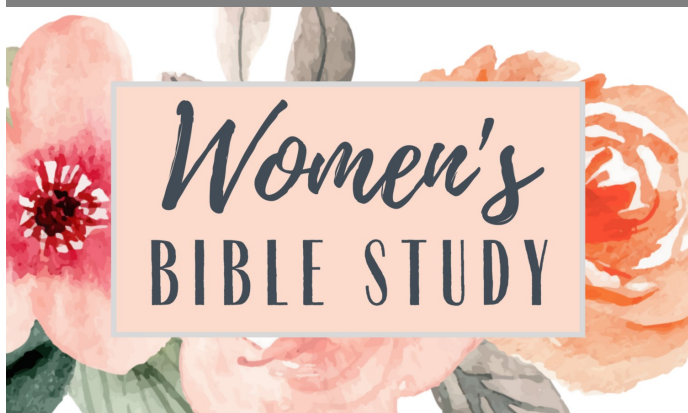
(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Mark's cumulative case for the authority of Jesus points us to one truth: **Jesus does things with the authority of God.** We are left to conclude that this Man is God, because only God possessed sole authority to heal, forgive sins, set people free from Satan, and to disseminate that authority to others. Over the past 2,000 years, much has been said about the person and the teachings of Jesus, and the majority of what we know is good and reliable. But we still need to study the Bible, to dig out the truth for ourselves, and to be willing to move beyond our cultural assumptions of who we think Jesus is to uncover the Jesus who has sometimes been forgotten.

So I end with this question for you... **Is the Jesus we know the man who was born to a virgin, reared in a Jewish land, and raised in a Hebraic culture, or is He a Jesus of our own imagination who resembles an American pastor or a life coach?**

SUMMER WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Calling all Women!! Friends, neighbors, co-workers. We will be studying 1 and 2 Peter in June and July this summer and will be meeting on Wednesday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. A sign up and schedule of chapters each week will be available very soon. Mark your calendars for the dates of **June 7, 14, 21, 28 and July 19 and 26.** Please join us for one or all of these Wednesday evenings as schedules permit. Questions? Contact Michele Lein.

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.

May 7

"Sojourn"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Prosperity preachers promise health, wealth, and happiness--but that's not what Christians should expect. (1 Peter 2:11-12)

May 14

"Reason to Hope"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
A brand-new violin needs to mature through time and use. The same goes for followers of Christ. (1 Peter 3:15)

May 21

"Responses to Suffering"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
Why does God allow suffering? The answer cannot be that God is indifferent or detached from our pain. (1 Peter 4:12)

May 28

"A Timely Invitation"

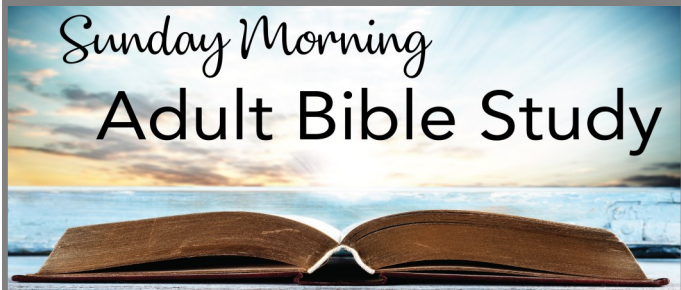
Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Hector Hoppe
Jesus provides unlimited living water that refreshes us and is meant to be shared. (John 7:37-39)

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP



What, NO coffee?! Don't panic! Sign up sheets are posted in the Commons. Haven't served before? Sign up with another person/couple to help. The consensus is that we only need about four dozen of something each Sunday. When we have a lot of leftovers, quite often they dry out and end up having to be thrown out after a couple weeks. This way we can eat everything up each Sunday!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Join us for Sunday Morning Study on **THE TRUTH PROJECT. Be Transformed By The Renewing of Your Mind.** The Truth Project is a ground-breaking small group curriculum on the Biblical worldview. This video-based home Bible study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Join Dr. Del Tackett, as he takes you through 13 engaging video lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life.

MOWING VOLUNTEERS



I know it doesn't seem like it, but Spring will eventually be here! And we are in need of some volunteers to help with mowing the church grounds. It's a great way to get outside and get some sunshine, fresh air, and exercise. Lawn mowing can also be a form of therapy, no one bothers you and you can't hear your phone! Talk to Dave Albrecht, Denny Case, or Rich Vannett to help out.



- Rich Vannett May 7
- Brit Weimer May 13
- Kelly Kruse May 16
- Nancy Baldwin May 18
- Cameron Fitzwater May 18
- Colin Kruse May 22
- Justin Schulze May 29
- Megan Anderson May 31

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

MAY



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

MAY 7**5th Sunday of Easter****Rev. Robert Nowak**

Acts 6:1–9; 7:2a, 51–60

1 Peter 2:2–10

John 14:1–14

MAY 14**6th Sunday of Easter****“Windows of Opportunity” Acts 17:16-18**

Acts 17:16–31

1 Peter 3:13–22

John 14:15-21

MAY 21**7th Sunday of Easter****“Living in Between”**

Acts 1:12-26

Acts 1:4

John 17:1-11

1 Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11

MAY 28**Pentecost Sunday****“The River of Life”**

Numbers. 11:24–30

John 7:37-39

Acts 2:1–21

John 7:37-39

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Membership Directory

The membership directory has been updated! You can pick up a new copy in the back of the church. If your contact information is incorrect or needs updating, please let Megan know.

MAIN STREET LIVING NORTH

*Main Street Living*

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

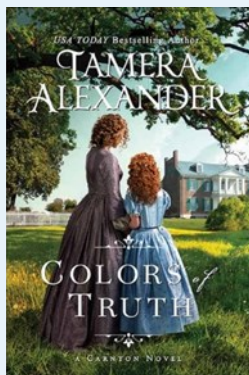


MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Be Transformed By The Renewing of Your Mind.

The Truth Project is a ground-breaking small group curriculum on the Biblical worldview. This video-based home Bible study is the starting point for looking at life from a biblical perspective. Join Dr. Del Tackett, as he takes you through 13 engaging video lessons on the relevance and importance of living the Biblical worldview in daily life.

BIBLE BOOKENDERS



Bible Bookenders will be meeting on **Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 pm**. Our selection for July is Colors of Truth by Tamera Alexander.

In 1866 Catriona O'Toole arrives in the town of Franklin, Tennessee, searching for her younger brother, Ryan, who, according to his last letter, was headed for Franklin only days

before the catastrophic Battle of Franklin. Ryan's last note contained a stack of cash -- enough money to bring his entire family across the ocean from Ireland. But after disease and illness tear through County Antrim and the O'Toole family, only Catriona and her seven-year old sister Nora are left to make the journey.

Our next meeting Bible Bookenders meeting will be Tuesday, October 24 at 7:00 pm. Invite your friends to join us. All are welcome, men and women and teenagers. Questions? Ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein.

Upcoming EVENTS

- June 7** Summer Women's Bible Study
- June 14** Summer Women's Bible Study
- June 21** Summer Women's Bible Study
- June 28** Summer Women's Bible Study
- July 19** Summer Women's Bible Study
- July 25** Bible Bookenders
- July 26** Summer Women's Bible Study

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.

CAMP OMEGA



Get ready for the best summer ever! Summer camp registration at Camp Omega is now open! There are camps available for a wide range of ages. Register now www.bit.ly/campomega.

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.



2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

Varmints

"Please send me photos. Just take some when you go out in the morning. I want to make sure they're still there."

This year marks a first in our Hill Country living. My vet friend says it's because the deer have plenty to eat. Maybe. I hope their refrigerator stays stocked for another month or so. Already they bit off the tops of my red yuccas. Instead of showy towers of red that pop against the white house I have nibs and nubs.

Already they've munched many of the flower stalks on my sotols. Leaving stems that continue to grow with no blooms. Sad deformed outcroppings.

However...

For some reason the sotol flowers in front of the garage remain intact. Reaching for heaven. Longing to live a full life. Perhaps an elderly deer taught the younger deer the definition of "private property?"

Whatever. I leave on trips asking for photos that bring me hope for when I return. Praying I get to finally see a finished flower forgotten by varmints masquerading as Bambi. Crazy what we obsess over. The anxiety we allow to grow unchecked.

No matter it's beyond our control. No matter beside camping out all night every night could we even begin

to stop what we hope doesn't happen. King David, in one of his Psalms, wrote, "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts." (Psalm 139:23) He invited God into his anxiety. The first step in God removing it from him.

Jesus teaches us: "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" (Luke 12:25,26) Worrying subtracts from life. Adds burdens that weigh down rather than lift up.

The church planter Paul wrote, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Philippians 4:6) Echoes of David from Psalm 139. "Here's what I'm stressing over today, Father. I'm going to leave it here on your desk for you to handle."

Humans worry. Some of us more than others. Jesus invites us to rest in His Lordship. His Sovereignty. He's got death conquered. He's got life under control.

Even when the varmints aren't.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

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

DONE WITH YOUR SPRING CLEANING?

Now might be a good time to update your answering machine message. Try some of these on for size.

1. Hi, I'm not home right now but my answering machine is, so you can talk to it instead. Wait for the beep.
2. Hi. I'm probably home, I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you.
3. Greetings, you have reached the Sixth Sense Detective Agency. We know who you are and what you want, so at the sound of the tone, please hang up.
4. Hello. I'm home right now but cannot find the phone. Please leave a message and I will call you up as soon as I find it.
5. I can't come to the phone now because I have amnesia and I feel stupid talking to people I don't remember. I'd appreciate it if you could help me out by leaving my name and telling me something about myself. Thanks.
6. I can't come to the phone right now because I'm down in the basement printing up a fresh new batch of twenty-dollar bills. If you need any money, or if you just want to check out my handiwork, please leave your name, number, and how much cash you need after the tone. If you're from the Department of the Treasury, please ignore this message.
7. Hi there. This is Joe speaking. I'm home right now, and in a moment I'll have a decision to make. Leave your name and number and I'll be thinking about it...
8. This is Dan Cassidy's answering machine. Please leave your name and number, and after I've doctored the tape, your message will implicate you in a federal crime and be brought to the attention of the FBI.
9. You have reached the CPX-2000 Voice Blackmail System. Your voice patterns are now being digitally encoded and stored for later use. Once this is done, our computers will be able to use the sound of your voice for literally thousands of illegal and immoral purposes. There is no charge for this initial consultation. However, our staff of professional extortionists will contact you in the near future to further explain the benefits of our service, and to arrange for your schedule of payment. Remember to speak clearly at the sound of the tone. Thank you.
10. Hello, this is David. I don't live here, so if you were trying to call me, you've dialed the wrong number. On the other hand, if you were trying to call John, Jim, or Eric, please leave your name and number at the tone. I don't guarantee that one of them will call you back – only that I won't.
11. Hi, this is George. I'm sorry I can't answer the phone right now. Leave a message, and then wait by your phone until I call you back.
12. Hello, this is Ron. I'm not home right now, but I can take a message. Hang on a second while I get a pencil. (Open a drawer and shuffle stuff around.) OK, what would you like me to tell me?
13. Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets.
14. This is not an answering machine. This is a telepathic thought-recording device. After the tone, think about your name, your reason for calling, and a number where I can reach you, and I'll think about returning your call.
15. You're growing tired. Your eyelids are getting heavy. You feel very sleepy now. You are gradually losing your willpower and your ability to resist suggestions. When you hear the tone, you will feel helplessly compelled to leave your name, number, and a message.
16. Hello. I am David's answering machine. What are you?
17. Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need an auto warranty, nor another option for Medicare Advantage. They do not need new windows, siding, or a hot tub, and their carpets are clean. They give to charity through the office and don't need their picture taken. If you're still with me, leave your name and number and they will get back to you.

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – NEWSLETTER ARTICLE, MAY2023

Follow Him in Generosity

Our Savior calls us to follow Him in generosity. “For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you” (John 13:15). We cannot give our lives for the salvation of the world, of course. Praise God, that job’s already done! But with hearts full of thanksgiving for what Jesus has given us, we can follow His example of generous giving. And Jesus’ generosity is not merely an example. Our Lord also commands us to act according to our gifts: “The one who contributes, [let him give] in generosity” (Rom. 12:8).

So, when we bring offerings to the Lord, we should strive to heed His command and follow the pattern He has established for us. Jesus did not give us leftovers. He gave His best. We should not give leftovers, either, but the first and best of what He has given us. Jesus did not give as an afterthought — He gave according to the plan of salvation God established from the foundation of the world. So, when it comes to our own offerings, we should make a thoughtful plan to give generously, in proportion to the way He has blessed us. Like the Macedonian Christians, who gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability (2 Cor. 8:3), we should honor the Lord by giving a generous portion of the income that God provides us.

We should also give freely, just as Jesus gave freely for us. There is no compulsion involved in our works of love and our offerings to the Lord. We do not give grudgingly, but willingly and cheerfully, each “as he has decided in his heart,” as the Lord says (2 Cor. 9:7). There is no New Testament ceremonial law involved here.

Rather, we are free to give as generously as our Savior has given for us!

In the same way, our Lord teaches us to give generously out of our love for Him and for our neighbor. Jesus shows us that genuine love is always love “in deed” (1 John 3:18). It is love that sees our neighbor in need and gives generously to help him. It is love that hears the Word of the Lord and does what it says. If we truly love, we give generously. If we give without love, our giving is not truly following Jesus.

Finally, we follow Jesus in generosity when we support His Gospel ministry and other works of mercy. The people of Israel gave generously to construct and support the operation of the tabernacle, for that was the place where the Lord received the Old Testament sacrifices, through which He bestowed the forgiveness of sins on His people. So, they gave abundantly, so abundantly they had to be told to stop giving! (Ex. 36:5–6). In the same way, we should bring generous offerings to support the Lord’s work. We support our congregations in the preaching of His Word, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which bestow His gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation, and we take care of those who are poor and needy.

Our Savior calls us to follow His example in generous giving. Let us then, with thankful hearts, rededicate ourselves to following Him in generosity.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

A SENIOR CITIZEN’S CONFESSION

I am the life of the party...even if it lasts until 8 pm.
 I am very good at opening childhood caps... with a hammer.
 I am awake before my body allows me to get up.
 I am smiling all the time because I cannot hear what you are saying.
 I am sure everything I cannot find is in a safe place somewhere.
 I am wrinkled, saggy, and lumpy, and that is just my left leg.
 I am beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.
 But as a senior citizen I think I am having the time of my life.
 Spread the laughter - Share the cheer – Let’s be happy – While we’re here!
 - Thanks to Lutheran Senior Services Newsletter





2023



A Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Congregation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 7:00 pm Elder's Meeting	3 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	4 7:00 pm Choir Practice	5	6
7 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	8 7:00 pm Church Council Meeting	9 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	10 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	11 7:00 pm Choir Practice	12	13
14 Happy Mother's Day	15	16 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	17 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	18 7:00 pm Choir Practice	19	20
21 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	22	23 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	24 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due	25 7:00 pm Choir Practice	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	29	30 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 4:00 pm Confirmation Class	31 12:00 pm Happenings Articles Due			