



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

# Holy Crossings

JANUARY 2024

## FROM THE PASTOR

### ***The Twelve Days of Christmas***

Many do not think much of the Twelve Days of Christmas, and yet it is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days *before* Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of **Epiphany** (January 6th) The 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th).

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song for children with secular origins. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction, perhaps dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Christian Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

Many have questioned the historical accuracy of this origin of the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. While some have tried to debunk this as an "urban myth" out of personal agendas, others have tried to deal with this account of the song's origin in the name of historical accuracy. There is little "hard" evidence available either way. The reality is that the "evidence" for both perspectives is mostly in logical deduction and probabilities. Lack of positive evidence does not automatically provide negative evidence. On the other hand, logical deduction and probability do not provide proof either.

The view of the song as a secret catechism may be legendary or anecdotal so without corroboration and in the absence of "substantive evidence," we probably should not take overly rigid positions from either perspective. It is all too easy to turn the song into a crusade for personal opinions. That would do more to violate the spirit of Christmas than the song is worth. However, on another level, this should not prevent us from using the song in celebration of Christmas.

Perhaps, when all is said and done, historical accuracy, as important as that might be on one level, is not really the point. Perhaps more important is that Christians can celebrate their rich heritage, and God's grace, through one more avenue during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Now, when they hear what they once thought was only a secular "nonsense song," they will be reminded in one more way of the grace of God working in transforming ways in their lives and in our world. After all, is that not the meaning of Christmas anyway? So let's take a walk through the song to experience that Love again!

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#### **On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me. A Partridge in a Pear Tree**

**The partridge in a pear tree is Jesus the Christ, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on December 25, the first day of Christmas. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge that feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, recalling the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered you under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but you would not have it so..." (Luke 13:34)**

*(continued on next page)*

## FROM THE PASTOR (continued)

### **On the 2nd day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 2 Turtle Doves**

The Old and New Testaments, which together bear witness to God's self-revelation in history and the creation of a people to tell the Story of God to the world.

### **On the 3rd day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 3 French Hens**

The Three Theological Virtues: 1) Faith, 2) Hope, and 3) Love (1 Corinthians 13:13)

### **On the 4th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 4 Calling Birds**

The Four Gospels: 1) Matthew, 2) Mark, 3) Luke, and 4) John, which proclaim the Good News of God's reconciliation of the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.

### **On the 5th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 5 Gold Rings**

The first Five Books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch: 1) Genesis, 2) Exodus, 3) Leviticus, 4) Numbers, and 5) Deuteronomy, which gives the history of humanity's sinful failure and God's response of grace.

### **On the 6th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 6 Geese A-laying**

The six days of creation that confesses God as Creator and Sustainer of the world.

### **On the 7th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 7 Swans A-swimming**

The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1) prophecy, 2) ministry, 3) teaching, 4) exhortation, 5) giving, 6) leading, and 7) compassion (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

### **On the 8th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 8 Maids A-milking**

The eight Beatitudes: 1) Blessed are the poor in spirit, 2) those who mourn, 3) the meek, 4) those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, 5) the merciful, 6) the pure in heart, 7) the peacemakers, 8) those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake. (Matthew 5:3-10)

### **On the 9th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 9 Ladies Dancing**

The nine Fruit of the Holy Spirit: 1) love, 2) joy, 3) peace, 4) patience, 5) kindness, 6) generosity, 7) faithfulness, 8) gentleness, and 9) self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23)

### **On the 10th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 10 Lords A-leaping**

The ten commandments: 1) You shall have no other gods before me; 2) Do not take My name in vain 3) Remember the Sabbath Day; 4) Honor your father and mother; 5) Do not murder; 6) Do not commit adultery; 7) Do not steal; 8) Do not bear false witness; 9) Do not covet your neighbors' possessions. 10) Do not covet your neighbors' relationships. (Exodus 20:1-17)

### **On the 11th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 11 Pipers Piping**

The eleven Faithful Apostles: 1) Simon Peter, 2) Andrew, 3) James, 4) John, 5) Philip, 6) Bartholomew, 7) Matthew, 8) Thomas, 9) James bar Alphaeus, 10) Simon the Zealot, 11) Judas bar James. (Luke 6:14-16). The list does not include the twelfth disciple, Judas Iscariot who betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders and the Romans.

### **On the 12th day of Christmas my true Love gave to me... 12 Drummers Drumming**

The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed: 1) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. 2) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. 3) He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. 4) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell [the grave]. 5) On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. 6) He will come again to judge the living and the dead. 7) I believe in the Holy Spirit, 8) the holy catholic Church, 9) the communion of saints, 10) the forgiveness of sins, 11) the resurrection of the body, 12) and life everlasting.

#### **Epiphany, January 6**

**Many thanks to Dennis Bratcher for providing such a wonderful remembrance of God's Love this Christmas Season**

## CALENDARS

If you'd like a Washburn McReavy calendar, there are extras on the table outside the Altar Guild room.



## JOYFUL RESPONSE

If you'd like to make a change to your electronic donation there are forms to fill out on the table outside the Altar Guild room. If you have any questions, please contact James Anderson.

## FORGETTING WHAT IS BEHIND

"Forget about it." It's a phrase we may say to ourselves when we don't want to face up to something.

Perhaps we give it in the form of advice to someone who's complaining about an offense he's received. According to Paul, it's a good thing to do. It's counsel he followed himself: *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me Heavenward in Christ Jesus"* (Phil 3:13b-14).



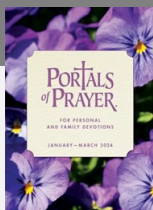
Paul had a past anyone would want to forget. In his Pharisaical zeal, he had caused the imprisonment, persecution, and even death of many who were followers of the Way. All that changed, we know, when he himself faced Jesus on the road to Damascus. Yet, from our reading of Scripture, we know he didn't *"forget what was behind"*. He brought it up many times as he explained the change that Jesus had brought about in his life to the other apostles and as he testified in the highest courts of the day.

Like Paul, we can't forget about our past sins – and maybe that's good, as long as we remember that Christ has forgotten them! Remembrance of our sins serves the purpose of keeping us humble and grateful, aware that we walk in God's ways only as we rely on Him to lead us, thankful that He forgives all sin, past, present, and future. Then we are not encumbered by guilt (1 John 3:20). We can *"[forget] what's behind"* and *"press on toward the goal"* that Christ has lain out before us as we serve Him with all the gifts He so graciously gives us.

We begin a new year in God's grace. We also begin each day, sometimes each moment, as newly forgiven, cleansed stewards equipped through Word and Sacrament to fulfill God's purposes for our lives.

## PORTALS OF PRAYER

They are now available for this quarter. Portals of Prayer is a favorite of readers looking for ways to stay in God's Word with easy, daily devotions. They're a great way to start each day, readings feature a Bible passage, meditation, and prayer in an easy-to-read format.



## PRAYER REQUESTS



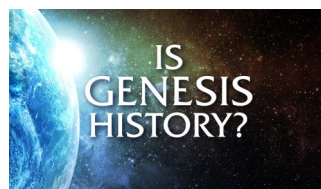
If you have a prayer request on Sunday, please fill out the form in the pew and put it in the offering plate. Pastor will include them in Prayer of the Church during the service. You can also email weekly prayer requests, and any prayers that should go out to the whole congregation, to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

## NEWSLETTER REMINDER!

Reminder to get you newsletter additions in to Megan by the 15th of each month. **We'd love to have some new ideas, articles, anything you find relevant to add to the Newsletter!**



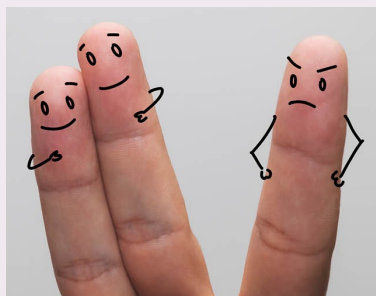
## ADULT BIBLE STUDY



"Is Genesis History" attempts to deal with that one simple question: Is the biblical account of creation and flood meant to be understood as history? And does the world give evidence of recent creation and catastrophic flood? Host Del Tackett tackles these questions head-on and does so in a compelling way."

## THE PROBLEM WITH ENVY

Have you ever looked at another person's possessions, happiness, or success and said, "I wish that was me."? If we're honest, we have all said it at one time or another. The problem



with envy is that when we compare ourselves to others, it can cause us to be dissatisfied or even miserable with our present status. Aristotle, the ancient Greek philosopher is quoted saying, "Envy is pain at the sight of another's good fortune, stirred by those who have what we ought to have." God's word does not fall short when it comes to warnings against the sin of envy, here's a sample:

- Envy Caused the First Murder (Gen. 4:5)
- Joseph's Brothers Envied Him Because of His Dreams (Gen. 37:1-11)
- King Saul Envied David Because of His Victories (1 Sam. 18:6-9)
- Don't Envy Evildoers and Sinners (Psalm 37:1)
- Envy is Rottenness to the Bones (Prov. 14:30)
- Envy of Another's Skill and Hard Work is Vanity (Eccl. 4:4)
- The Chief Priest Envied Jesus, Delivering Him to Pilate (Mark 15:9)
- The Jews Envied Paul's Successful Preaching (Acts 15:45)
- Christian Love Never Envies (1 Cor. 13:4)
- Christians Should Never Envy Each Other (Gal. 5:26)

The opposite of envy is rejoicing at the blessings and success experienced by others (1 Corinthians 12:26), literally "Rejoicing with those who rejoice!" (Romans 12:15) We must congratulate and express our happiness at the good fortune of others, while remaining content and godly which within itself is great gain. (1 Timothy 6:6)

## HAPPENINGS

Please submit all articles for the Happenings by Wednesdays at 10 am! We also need some new and fresh content for the Happenings, so if you have any great ideas, please send them over to [megan@holycross-pl.org](mailto:megan@holycross-pl.org).

Amanda Fitzwater .....	January 14
Michael Schumacher .....	January 15
Mitch Hoehn .....	January 16
Emily Mae Mix .....	January 26
Donna Vig .....	January 26
Chloe Einarson .....	January 27
Quinn Fitzwater .....	January 29
Dean Gade .....	January 29

## MAIN STREET LIVING



Main Street Living airs each Sunday at 9 am on WFTC Channel 29/9-2 with an episode of This Is the Life. Visit [www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities](http://www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities) for more information.

## WORSHIP FOR SHUT-INS

### Worship For Shut-Ins

is a 30 min television service that is distinctly Lutheran. It is a traditional weekly service that includes the assigned readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, Lord's Prayer, sermon, and traditional hymns sung by choirs. The messages, shared by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors, are designed for individuals who do not go to church because they are not able or choose not. You can view this program on DIRECTV channel 377 at 10:30 am, or you can go to their website at [www.worshipforshutins.org](http://www.worshipforshutins.org).



# 2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



A WEEKDAY 2-MINUTE DEVOTION THAT HELPS YOU SEE JESUS AT WORK IN YOUR WORLD

## Wandering

O'Hare is huge. Ranks #4 in world's busiest airports. Over 68 million people like me wander through it every year. Wandering often being the key word. Especially when the gate keeps changing. Like for me last week.

From an F gate to B isn't too bad. 10 minute walk or so. But change B to C and the tunnel-hike to Grandma's house is crazy. Then, in mid-trek, change the gate back to F. Yeah. That kind of change is really frustrating. Causes usually nice pastoral types to act out of character. Sort of what I see happening to pastors and congregations nowadays. They're trying to navigate change as speedy as Formula 1. As abundant as the rocks on my property. Which frustrates. Aggravates. Sometimes humiliates. Because there's not much you can do except roll with it.

Churches today are having to roll with change many of us never saw coming. At least not at the speed it arrived. And those who pilot congregations? No seminary classes on change management, that's for sure. Leads one to

feel like he's simply wandering through life, wondering what's next.

When trusting that at least Jesus know what's next, there's a level of comfort there. But when one change after another keeps heading your way, well, it's exhausting.

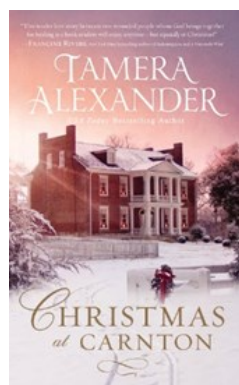
When you find yourself wandering... When you find yourself wondering... Remember Jesus, the Master Travel Guide. Life doesn't rattle Him like it does us. No change happens He didn't see coming. Ultimately let it happen, actually.

He's got your life under control. He knows how to get you from the F terminal to the B by way of C. And then back again. No need to lose any sleep.

**Rev. Bill Woolsey**  
President and Founder  
FiveTwo Network

Sign up to receive the *2 Minute Multiplier* emailed to you! [www.fivetwo.com/2mm](http://www.fivetwo.com/2mm)

## BIBLE BOOKENDERS



Our next Bible Bookenders meeting will be **Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00 pm.** Our selection is *Christmas at Carnton* by Tamera Alexander

Invite your friends to join us, all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. Questions? Ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia 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**

([www.timeofgrace.org](http://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

## WE CELEBRATE THE EPIPHANY!

Epiphany celebrates God's revealing or manifesting of Jesus' identity as true God, Messiah, and Savior of the world. Driven by God's revealing of Jesus' identity to the Magi/Wise Men, as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12. It is a clear example of God revealing the true identity of Jesus as God and Messiah. Through the star and the Scriptures (while in Jerusalem, the magi were directed to Bethlehem on the basis of Micah 5:2). God revealed Jesus to the Gentile magi and they received Him and responded by worshiping Him and bestowing gifts. It not only commemorates the fact that Jesus appeared to save us, but that God revealed Jesus to the world.

### Is the Epiphany worth celebrating?

I believe it is, because Epiphany is permeated with grace and Gospel. In what sense? In the sense that in every epiphany, God took the initiative. In other words, God did not demand that we discover on our own who Jesus of Nazareth is. He revealed His love to us by revealing Jesus to us in ways that we could understand. He sought out the magi and revealed Jesus' Person and Mission to them through the star and Scripture. They never could have discovered this on their own if He hadn't revealed it by God's grace. He had mercy on John the Baptist and others at the Jordan on the day of Jesus' baptism (John 1:29-34). No one there on that day could have possibly perceived the true identity of Jesus (Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!) as John did before he baptized Jesus. Remembering that Epiphany season reminds us that we also have been sought out. God has come looking for us through His Word and Sacraments. Through these He has revealed His Son to us personally, so that through faith we know Jesus to be the mighty God, the Savior of the world; and we believe Him to be our God and our Savior.

## FUNERAL PLANNING

Did you know Holy Cross has a form to help you with your funeral planning or that of a loved one? It is available to you to fill out and it will be kept on file at Holy Cross. Alleviate the stress of an already stressful time and plan your service in advance. See Megan for a form.



## JANUARY

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### January 7 — Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5  
Romans 6:1-11

Psalm 29  
Mark 1:4-11

#### January 14 — 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-20  
1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Psalm 139:1-10  
John 1:43-51

#### January 21 — 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Youth Sunday – Special Assignments

Jonah 3:1-5,10  
1 Peter 3:8-17

Psalm 62  
Mark 1:14-20

#### January 28 — Sanctity of Life Sunday

Genesis 9:1-7  
1 Corinthians 15:20-28

Psalm 139: 13-16  
Mark 6:14-29

## CHRISTMAS WITH DIGNITY

Thank you for the outpouring of love shown through your generous donations of toys to Hospitality House's Christmas with Dignity. There will be many children delighted with their gifts this Christmas and parents who are thankful for the opportunity to purchase their children gifts.



## LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY - JANUARY 2024

### The Chief Stewards of Humanity: Mom and Dad

St. Paul tells the Ephesians that the first commandment with a specific promise attached to it is, "Honor your father and mother so that it may go well with you, and you may live long in the land" (Eph. 6:2). This promise is one indication of the importance of this commandment. The other thing that highlights the special nature of this commandment is its placement within the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments are clearly organized in two big categories. The first three commandments deal with our relationship with God. This category is called the First Table of the Law. The last seven commandments, the Second Table of the Law, tell us how we should relate to other people. These two tables correspond to what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind," and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matt. 22:37-39).

The order of the Second Table of the Law is also important. Murder is a greater sin than adultery, which is a greater sin than stealing, or lying, or coveting. But why is the Fourth Commandment first in the Second

Table, ahead of "you shall not murder"? Is disobeying your parents really worse than murder? Or maybe we should give up on thinking these commandments are ordered?

The overall effect of this order is to get us to see our parents as a connection point between our neighbors and our God. Throughout our upbringing our father and mother stand between us and God and deliver His gifts to us: God clothes us, feeds us, protects us and teaches His Word to us through our parents.

So, parents have a very high calling from God. They are called to be stewards of the greatest gift: the gift of life.

Parenting thus gives us a keen insight into all our stewardship. Parents know that they have been given a great treasure in their children, a treasure that does not belong to them, yet for which they feel a great deal of responsibility. Truth be told, every gift we have been given is like this, because everything we have — whether our own personal skills and powers or our wealth and time — is all from God. He entrusts it all to

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

## COFFEE SERVERS



<b>January 7</b>	<b>Pam Hunter</b>
<b>January 14</b>	<b>Buffy Mobroten</b>
<b>January 21</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>
<b>January 28</b>	<b>Rich &amp; Rostina Vannett</b>
<b>February 4</b>	<b>LWML</b>
<b>February 11</b>	<b>Dave &amp; Carol Albrecht</b>
<b>February 18</b>	<b>Ralph &amp; Allie Wagner</b>
<b>February 25</b>	<b>Denny &amp; Vicki Case</b>

If you are not able to serve on your assigned day, please find an alternate to fill in, and make the notation on the serving list on the bulletin board. Thanks!

## TUESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY

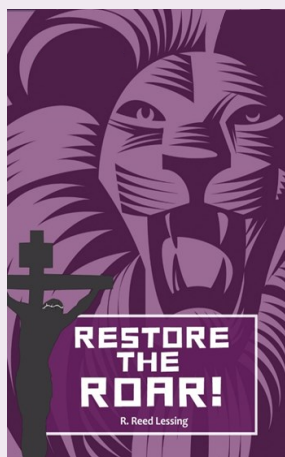
**Join us every Tuesday  
(Women are welcome!)  
from 8-9:00 am** for  
Community Light Hope  
Revealed – Revelation  
Part II (Chapters 11-22).  
Community Light School



of Discipleship is an online Bible study designed to help each of us to grow as disciples to make disciples. These free series equip participants with the resources to go and make disciples wherever God has planted them. Community Light School of Discipleship is a ministry of Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina, MN, in partnership with Concordia University, St. Paul and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - Minnesota South District.

## 2024 LENTEN SERIES

Ash Wednesday is already on February 14th this year! So though a month early I want to inform you of what is coming. Part of this reasoning is that the words of the prophet, Amos, come to us only five times in the three-year lectionary and will be used only twice in this year's Lectionary (B) series, July 14th, and October 13th, so his writings maybe unfamiliar to you. The other part is that I encourage you to read this short Minor prophet's book.



Sometime around the year 762 BC, Amos, a herdsman from the small Judean town of Tekoa, heard the voice of God and compared it to hearing the roaring of a lion, a roaring that causes pastures to mourn and forests to wither (Amos 1:2). That is some kind of roar! The prophet then personally encounters the Lord as a Lion (3:12), and this propels him to confront Israel's movers and shakers who were deaf to God's call of justice and righteousness (e.g., 5:24; 7:1-17).

This Lent, we will listen to the Lion as He rumbles. And gathering under the cross, we will all the more be amazed when the roaring Lion defeats His greatest enemies: the devil, hell, and the power of death. Then with resurrection joy we will say of Jesus, "The Lion of the tribe of Judah . . . has conquered" (Revelation 5:5).

### AMOS — RESTORE THE ROAR!

<b>February 14</b>	Ash Wednesday (1:1-2) "Rescued from the Rubble"
<b>February 21</b>	Midweek 1 (3:1-8) "The Four R's of Election"
<b>February 28</b>	Midweek 2 (5:18-20) "This is the Night the Lord has Made!"
<b>March 6</b>	Midweek 3 (6:1-7) "Grieving for Joseph"
<b>March 13</b>	Midweek 4 (7:1-6) "Locusts Here, Locusts There, Locusts Are Everywhere!"
<b>March 20</b>	Midweek 5 (7:10-17) "Lion Alert!"
<b>March 28</b>	Maundy Thursday (8:11-14) "The Taste Test"
<b>March 29</b>	Good Friday (9:1-6) "Buried!"
<b>March 31</b>	Easter (9:11-15) "Come to the Feast!"

## 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](http://www.lhm.org). Check-out LHM's daily devotions too.

### January 7 "As We Forgive"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Dr. Michael Zeigler discusses forgiveness--what it is and what it isn't. (Matthew 6:12; Luke 11:4)

### January 14 "How Could She Ever Forgive Him?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
Dr. Michael Zeigler explains why it's not a contradiction to offer forgiveness while insisting on justice. (Matthew 18:27)

### January 21 "The Battleground of Forgiveness"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler  
(Psalm 32:1)

### January 28 "Forgiveness Is a Gift from Far Away"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola  
(Psalm 103:11-12)

## MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

# MEMBER DIRECTORY



You can pick up a copy of the Member Directory in the back of the church. If your contact information is incorrect or needs updating, please let Megan know.



## LESSONS FROM GOD'S GEESE

**Today I chose to share with you something to contemplate on as we begin a new year. It's an old lesson but one with powerful truths for all of us. I have no connections with the Baltimore science teacher.**

As we begin a new year I am reminded every day I am at church of the sounds of nature in the air – and so are the geese. Have you seen or heard them flying overhead? Let's take a cue from Psalm 19:1 *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands"*

Look to the sky and let's learn some lessons from God's geese. I have adapted these from the original work "Lessons from Geese," written by Baltimore science teacher Dr. Robert McNeish.

1. **Achieving goals:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an updraft for the birds to follow. By flying in a "V" formation the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone. When we have a sense of community we focus, we create trust and can help each other to achieve goals quicker and easier.
2. **Team work:** When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds in front. So let's you and I stay in formation with those heading where we want to go. Plus we should be willing to both give and receive others' help.
3. **Sharing:** When a goose tires of flying up front it drops back into formation and another goose flies to the point position. It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks. As with geese, people are interdependent on each other's unique arrangement of skills, talents and resources.
4. **Empathy:** When a goose gets sick, wounded, or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to the ground to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. If we have as much sense as geese we will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.
5. **Encouragement:** Geese flying in formation HONK – you've heard them. Why? To encourage those up in front. Make sure your honking is encouraging to your family, church, team or group.

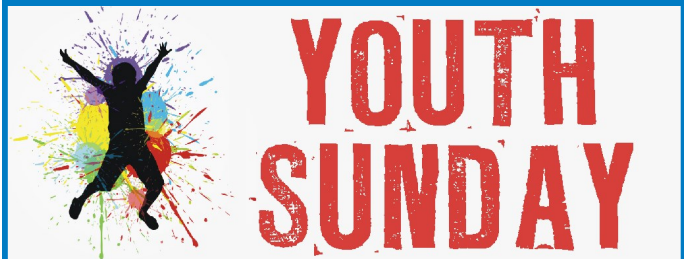
We can learn much from God's creation because He is the Creator. He designed His world this way. Let's be wise and learn from His geese. If not, you're destined to be a silly goose (sorry, I couldn't resist!)

## NIGHT TO SHINE

NIGHT *to Shine*  
SPONSORED BY THE TIM TEBOW  
FOUNDATION™

Night to Shine is looking for volunteers! Please email [mnnighttoshine18@gmail.com](mailto:mnnighttoshine18@gmail.com) for more information. Shari will send you the volunteer link. We have 200 guests signed up for February 9, 2024!

## YOUTH SUNDAY



**January 21st is Youth Sunday.** You won't want to miss our youth as they perform the skit, "Special Assignments" written by Bonnie Nowak! Join us Sunday, January 21st as the youth lead our service.

## 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. We feel blessed to be in ministry with you here in this place.

- Pastor & Diane, and Megan



# JANUARY\* 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		8:00 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation Elder's Meeting	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due			
	1	2	3	4	5	6
1st Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	7:00 pm Church Council 8	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation 9	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 10	11	12	13
2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	15	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation 16	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Choir Practice 17	18	19	20
Youth Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	22	8:00 am 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation Bible Bookenders 23	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Choir Practice 24	25	26	27
4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Bible Study 10:15 am Sunday School	29	8:00 am 4:00 pm Adult Bible Study Confirmation 30	10:00 am Happenings Articles Due 7:00 pm Choir Practice 31			
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