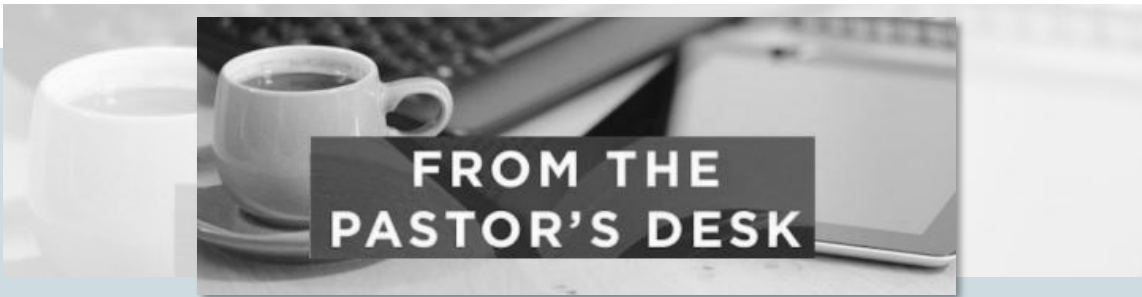


Holy Crossings

Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

▶ LENTEN REFLECTIONS

This year the season of Lent begins on February 14th, Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the forty days of *Lenten* reflection as we prepare for the celebration of Easter. One source defines the season of Lent in this way: "Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *Leneten*, which means 'spring.' Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan, and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His subsequent passion and death. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection."

While Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the preparation for Easter, it is the observance immediately prior to Ash Wednesday that is better known, observed and celebrated. Fat Tuesday is a day typically characterized by indulgence. While many think of Mardi Gras as a penultimate celebration, much of the consumption that is associated with Fat Tuesday actually developed as a necessity to avoid waste. Because many people did not consume sweetened breads or other pastries, desserts, and/or other items prepared with dairy products during the season of Lent, these items would

have to be eaten prior to the beginning of the Lenten season because they could not be preserved for the duration of Lent. (*Remember, this tradition developed before the days when food could be stored using refrigeration.*) "**Mardi Gras**" is actually the French word for "**Fat Tuesday**" and the celebrations, often called carnivals, actually refer to the fact that many refrain from eating meat during Lent. (The word "**carnival**" is derived from the Latin words "**carne vale**" which means "**farewell, meat.**" Somewhat related to our summer carnival's where the livestock, after they were shown would end up being shipped to the markets.

For most, it is irrelevant whether you intend to participate in Mardi Gras celebrations or whether you intend to refrain from eating meat, desserts, foods prepared with dairy products, or anything else, but what is relevant is how you approach and understand the season of Lent.

Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and concentration upon our baptismal covenant.

We are to be signs of God's kingdom in this world. Lent is thus not giving up something but rather taking upon ourselves the intention and the receptivity to God's grace so that we may worthily participate in the mystery of God

(continued on next page)

FROM THE PASTOR *(continued)*

-with-us. Whatever you choose to do or choose to refrain from doing, we should seek to glorify God and live in ways that allow others to feel the love of Christ. From our Baptismal Covenant that we recite each time someone affirms the vows of membership, we say **“with God’s help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ.”** Penitence, which characterized the observance of Lent, means regret for sin and we should remember that no sin is beyond forgiveness if it is followed by true penitence. Another word for penitence is contrition. One of the hymns of the church declares in the second stanza,

Let me at Thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief, Kneeling there in deep contrition; help my unbelief.

I share this because Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sin before God within the community of faith. The form and content of the service focus on the dual themes of sin and death in light of God’s redeeming love in Jesus Christ. It is also recommended that the visual environment for the worship service be solemn and stark. Purple is the most traditional color used throughout Lent; but on Ash Wednesday gray and other dark earth colors, as well as coarse textures are suggested. Will you come to the altar on Ash Wednesday to worship God and begin an intentional time of reflection to ponder the question ‘what more can I do to glorify God in my life?’ God is waiting and God is calling. Are you listening? Are you responding?



“I don’t know how he does it. He preaches entire sermons without using the word ‘cool’, ‘like’ or ‘awesome’.”

2024 LENTEN SERIES

Ash Wednesday is already on February 14th this year! So 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!

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

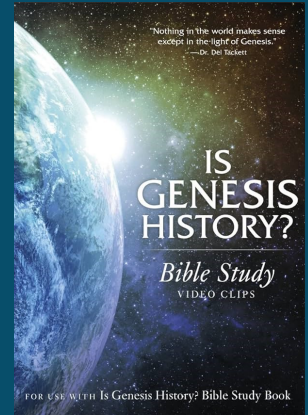
NEWSLETTER REMINDER!

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."



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.

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. For more information www.mainstreetliving.com/twincities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Cheryl Drangstveit February 1
- Lynda Sumpter February 3
- Chris Petrie February 7
- Ann Poe February 10
- Bella Peterman February 12
- Doug Brunner February 13
- Dylan Vannett February 13
- Pam Hunter..... February 16
- Tate Kruse February 17
- Ralph Wagner February 22
- Robert Nowak February 27
- Judy Weimer February 27
- Violet DeRosier February 28



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.



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.

TIME OF GRACE®

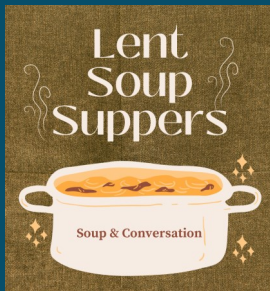
Straight talk about God’s Word and real hope for this life. A strong gospel message delivered in an informal Bible study style.

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

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS



Lenten soup suppers start on February 14th at 6:00 pm (Ash Wednesday) and will continue through March 20th. Sign up sheets are available in the commons area. Join us for this fellowship opportunity and get to know each other a little better!

The next Voters’ Meeting will be held on **April 28th at 10:15 am.**



FEBRUARY

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 4 — 5th Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah. 40:21–31 Psalm 147:1–11
 1 Cor. 9:16–27 Mark 1:29–39

FEBRUARY 11 — Transfiguration Sunday
 2 Kings 2:1–12 Psalm 50:1–6
 2 Cor. 3:12–18; 4:1–6 Mark 9:2–9

FEBRUARY 14 — Ash Wednesday
 Amos 1:1-2 “Rescued from the Rubble”
 Amos 1:1-2 John 3:1-17

FEBRUARY 18 — 1st Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 22:1–18 Psalm 25:1–10
 James 1:12–18 Mark 1:9–15

FEBRUARY 21 — Midweek 1
 Amos 3:1-8 “The Four R’s of Election”
 Amos 3:1-8 John 2:13-22

FEBRUARY 25 — 2nd Sunday in Lent
 Genesis 17:1–7,15–16 Psalm 22:23–31
 Romans 5:1–11 Mark 8:27–38

FEBRUARY 28 — Midweek 2
 Amos 5:18-20 “This is the Night the Lord has Made!”
 Amos 5:18-20 John 12:27-37

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 6** Elder’s Meeting
- February 9** Night to Shine
- February 12** Church Council
- February 14** Lent Worship
- February 21** Lent Worship
- February 28** Lent Worship
- March 5** Elder’s Meeting
- March 6** Lent Worship
- March 11** Church Council Meeting
- March 13** Lent Worship
- March 20** Lent Worship
- March 31** Easter
- April 2** Elder’s Meeting
- April 8** Church Council Meeting
- April 23** Bible Bookenders
- April 28** Voters’ Meeting

2 MINUTE MULTIPLIER



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

Steered

The view out the window painted a muddy green Mississippi. Slashes of white appearing and fading as the north wind pushed through. The Sunrise Queen cargo tanker drifted past. Seeming to float lazily toward the Gulf. All the work happening out of sight. No sound made it through the hotel glass. Like watching a YouTube with the volume turned down and no subtitles.

Wonder where the cargo originated? Where the crew born? How long they'll be on the ship? Are they enjoying the journey?

Got word that a friend's mother died yesterday. Expected, of sorts - she had been declining. But, still. Even when you know death's coming, is "expected" the right word? Are you ever ready for the journey to end? She'd lived over 90 years. Bore children. Buried a husband. A good, long life. Not without its unexpected layovers. Or unanticipated detours.

Plenty of days not following the planned schedule. A variety of storms blowing it off course. Perhaps really off course. Yet navigated from baptism to breathless

by the One forming breath. The Redeemer deciding that breath would be the key to life.

Drawing in what life needs to live. Filling one's body with the oxygen that fuels the blood that feeds the limbs that makes the body go. Confidently captained for over nine decades by the the Spirit of the Most High. The Breath of God who steers His people by faith. Ensuring they arrive at the port from all storms. The port where no storm exists. The port where the Journey continues in unimaginable beauty.

Your journey might meander through Mediterranean blue or brownish Mississippi green. Glassy calm or windy waves. The river's not so much the issue. More important: Who steers the boat. The right captain makes the journey much more enjoyable.

Rev. Bill Woolsey
President and Founder
FiveTwo Network

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

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.



COFFEE SERVERS

February 4	LWML
February 11	Dave & Carol Albrecht
February 18	Ralph & Allie Wagner
February 25	Denny & Vicki Case

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!



LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY – FEBRUARY 2024

Caring for My Neighbor

If any of the Ten Commandments might tempt us to think that keeping the Law is easy, it would be the Fifth Commandment. After all, how hard is it to get through life without murdering somebody? The vast majority of people can handle that!

But Jesus famously blows up this notion by pointing out that the command, “you shall not murder,” goes much deeper — down to the heart.

You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.” But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of fire. (Matt. 5:21–22)

Hatred and disdain come from the same sort of crookedness of heart as murder. With both murder and hatred, you look down on another person and think them of little worth.

In the Small Catechism, Luther also points out that every “do not” in the commandments also includes a “do this:” “We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or

harm our neighbor in his body but help and support him in every physical need” (SC, Fifth Commandment, emphasis added).

We are not called merely to avoid evil; we must also do positive good.

So when Jesus drew near to us and became our neighbor by taking up our humanity, He came not only to avoid harming us, but He came to positively help us, bless us and serve us.

We are now called to show the love to our neighbors that Christ showed to us. Your neighbor is yet another gift that God has given you that requires your stewardship. We are called to show mercy, to be kind, to love and serve our neighbor. One aspect of this stewardship is financial: our neighbors need us to support the church’s work so that they can hear the Gospel and come to faith. Our neighbors need the church’s alms and mercy work. Our neighbors need our faithful service in all we do in the name of Christ.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry
lcms.org/stewardship

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

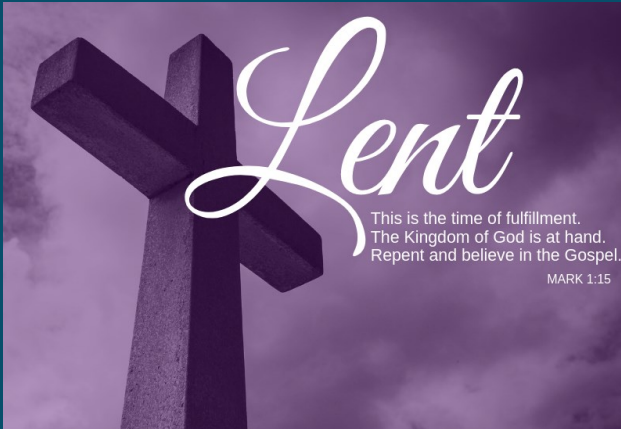
Night to Shine is looking for volunteers! Please email mnnighttoshine18@gmail.com for more information. Shari will send you the volunteer link. We have 200 guests signed up for February 9, 2024!

SUMMER WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY



We will be studying on the Book of Ecclesiastes. Stay tuned for dates in June and July. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings.

▶ FAST FACTS ABOUT LENT



- ⇒ Lent is a 40 day Christian festival beginning Ash Wednesday and concluding on Easter (Sundays are not counted) What we now call Lent was originally a period of fasting and study for catechumens who were to be baptized on the Saturday before Easter. The 40 day fast was said by Athanasius in 339 AD to be celebrated the world over. The 40 day fast of Jesus in the wilderness was responsible for the number 40 being chosen.
- ⇒ The word "**Lent**" comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word **lengten**, which means "**springtime**," named so for the time of the year in which it occurs. As someone has said: "Lent is the Church's springtime. Out of the darkness of sin's winter emerges a people the Church--reborn through baptism into their Lord's death and resurrection from the grave."
- ⇒ The purpose of this extended fast was to practice self-denial and humility. This was to prepare oneself for receiving God's grace and forgiveness in baptism, given on Easter Saturday.
- ⇒ The liturgical color for Lent is purple, the color of repentance and sorrow for sin.
- ⇒ Lent prepares us for the observance of Jesus Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection for us. It is a season of repentance and sorrow for sin. Lent is a time of self-examination in light of the Ten Commandments; it is a time of giving up of sinful behavior, a time of personal housecleaning. It is a time of commitment to the new life of Christ begun in baptism. It is a time of disciplined study of Scripture and a time of growing

in faith. In recent years Lent has become a time to remember our baptisms. It is a time to reflect on the impact of baptism on our lives, and to ask ourselves how we are doing. Most of all, it is a time of renewal and new beginnings, as we through faith apply the complete forgiveness won by Christ's death to our lives. Lent heightens our awareness that we desperately need Jesus Christ.

- ⇒ Lent is an opportunity not an obligation. It is not commanded by our Lord, nor is it even mentioned in the Bible. Those Christians who observe it do so because they find it a helpful opportunity for repentance and renewal, for the strengthening of their faith. Christians are free to observe or not observe Lent.
 - ⇒ Ashes are applied to the forehead of Christians in the sign of the cross (throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head) as a symbol of humility and repentance. The ashes are a reminder that we are "**dust and to dust you shall return**" (Genesis 3:19). Thus, they are a reminder of our mortality cursed as it is by sin. Moreover, the ashes remind us of our limits, of what we are, and how greatly we need God's mercy in Christ.
 - ⇒ Let it be new, in that instead of "giving up" something, we should do something positive and practical and helpful for someone else. One Church suggests that during the first week parishioners express love for someone; in the second week, to write a letter of appreciation; in the third, to make a special phone call. In the fourth they are asked to send flowers, a book, or baked goods to someone new; in the fifth, pray for someone by name; and in the final week attend worship with someone outside their usual range of friendships.
- Let's try it! We might enjoy it! Doing these things for other people is an expression of practical Christianity. Don't worry about being called a "do-gooder". The alternatives of being a "do-badder", or doing nothing, are worse. We still remember the deep spiritual disciplines of discipleship, always aware of the self-denial and suffering of our blessed Lord Jesus. We shall be serious, but not sad;... reverent, but not ultra-pious;... solemn, but not depressed.

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.

FEBRUARY 4

"Nature Abhors a Vacuum"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
What fills the heart that has no room to forgive?
(Ephesians 4:32)

FEBRUARY 11

"What Is Evangelism?"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
How do you encourage someone to receive the gift God has for them? That's what evangelism is all about. (Mark 9:7-8)

FEBRUARY 18

"Redeeming DIY"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
(Mark 1:12-13)

FEBRUARY 25

"When Winning Is Losing"

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John Nunes
(Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16, Psalm 22:23-31,
Romans 5:1-11, Mark 8:8-27)

CHURCH COUNCIL

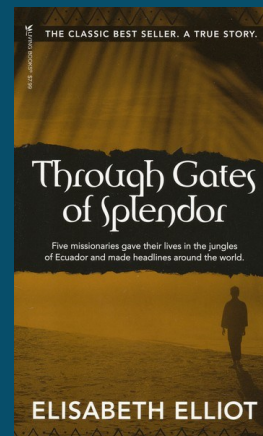
The next Church Council meeting will be **Monday night, February 12th, at 7:00 pm.** All members of the boards are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings.



BIBLE BOOKENDERS

BIBLE BOOKENDERS

Our next meeting will be **April 23, 2024**. We will be reading "**Through Gates of Splendor**" by Elisabeth Elliot. This is a past book we have read. Feel free to re-read it or read any of her other works. She has written many books. We also have three different



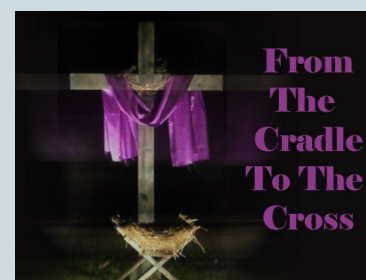
autobiographies on her that we can read and share from. Invite your friends to join us, all are welcome, men, women and teenagers. If you have any questions, please ask Bonnie Nowak, Patricia Harvey or Michele Lein. Mark your calendars for these other Bible Bookenders dates:

July 23, 2024 all things CS Lewis. Book selections will be chosen at the January meeting.

October 23, 2024 book selection to be determined. Come with your ideas/suggestions for Christian fiction or non-fiction.

FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS

A promise kept! And how thankful we are. Our **Women's Tea Event**, "FROM the CRADLE to the CROSS" will be held **Saturday, March 9, 2024 at 11:30 am.**



Come and gather for fellowship, a delicious lunch - think finger sandwiches, scones, sweets and tea! We will be exploring Christ's journey from the Cradle to the Cross. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Commons. Questions, contact Pam Hunter.

