

HAPPENINGS

December 24-31, 2023

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

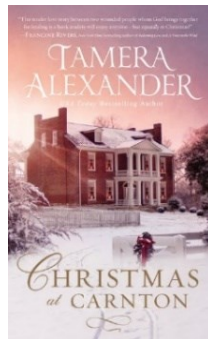


CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 24 – Christmas Eve 9:00 am and 5:00 pm

December 25 – Christmas Morning 9:00 am

BIBLE BOOKENDERS Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 pm**. For January Bible Bookenders we will be reading *Christmas at Carnton* by Tamera Alexander. 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.



HAPPENINGS ARTICLES We are in need of some new and fun ideas to get people reading the Happenings! If you have anything you think would be a good addition, please email it to Megan at megan@holycross-pl.org. Please submit all additions by 10am on Wednesdays.

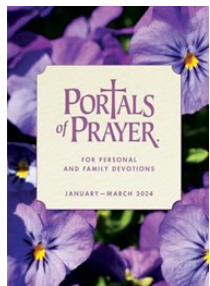
NIGHT TO SHINE is looking for volunteers! Please email mnnighttoshine18@gmail.com for more information. Shari will send you the volunteer link. We have 200 guests signed up for February 9, 2024!

TIME OF GRACE connects people to God's grace—his love, glory, and power—so they realize the temporary things of life don't satisfy. However, through Jesus we have access to the eternal God—right now and forever. Subscribe to Time of Grace resources to be delivered to your email inbox daily. You will receive daily devotion emails with "Grace Moments" written devotions and "Grace Talks" video devotions. Pastor Mike Novotny, The Core, Appleton, WI, KARE (NBC 11) 10:30 am www.timeofgrace.org



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!!

The volunteer schedule for January to April of 2024 is done, but we can still use more volunteers! If you're interested in volunteering for Lector, Usher, Acolyte, Audio/Video, or Offering Counting please let Megan know. Don't worry if you have never done it before, someone will train you in! Any and all help is appreciated!



PORTALS OF PRAYER are now available for next quarter, January – March 2024. 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.

TUESDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY

(Women are welcome!) Join us every **Tuesday from 8-9:00 am** for Community Light Hope Revealed – Revelation



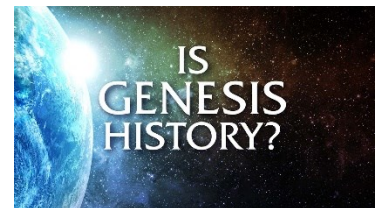
Part I (Chapters 1-10). Community Light School of Discipleship is an online Bible study designed to help each of us to grow as disciples to make disciples. These free series equip participants with the resources to go and make disciples wherever God has planted them. Community Light School of Discipleship 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. **NOTE: There is no bible study December 26th.**



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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"Is Genesis History" attempts to deal with that one simple question: Is the biblical account of creation and

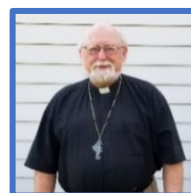


flood meant to be understood as history? And does the world give evidence of recent creation and catastrophic flood? Host Del Tackett tackles these questions head-on and does so in a compelling way." **There will be no bible study today, December 24 or December 31.** We will meet back up on January 7th with Lesson 1: Genesis as a Book of History | The Doctrine of Revelation... Differing Views: History, Science, and Authority.



UPCOMING COFFEE SERVERS

Dec 24 – Charlie & Donna Vig
Dec 31 – Jimmy & Joy Anderson



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

ONLY ON CHRISTMAS As I write this article I am anxiously anticipating our Sunday morning gathering. The smiles, hugs, handshakes and encouragement are always welcome. To be able to spend time with people you love, respect and appreciate is truly one of life's great blessings. I look forward to Sunday because I'm pretty confident that we will have a good attendance. Why this prediction? Because my calendar says that it is the Christmas season and we have a tradition in our country where on certain holidays people go to church, Christmas being one of those holidays. Many of you will have family visiting and they will attend church with you. Perhaps we'll have some visitors from our community who are responding from an invitation from one of our members. And then we may have some in our assembly who practice traditional church attendance on such holidays as Christmas and Easter. First and foremost let me say that everyone is welcome anytime here and we encourage your regular attendance.

As we're thinking about attending church only for special occasions, we must turn to the Bible for God's instruction concerning worship and all that we do in life. When you begin looking into the "perfect law of liberty" you will quickly see that God expects more from you and me than just an occasional visit to the church building. In *Acts 20:7* we read that "on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread..." We usually use this verse in teaching the

necessity of having the Lord's Supper each week. But I want you to notice that the same logic we use to support that doctrine can be used to show that the Christians in the first century church gathered each and every first day, not just every once in a while, just on a special holiday or when it was convenient. But it doesn't stop there; the Saints of the early church practiced their faith every day, not just once a week. They enjoyed fellowship, encouragement, and faith building practices as a part of their daily lives (*Acts 2:46*). Christians studied the scriptures everyday (*Acts 17:11*) to confirm what the Apostles were teaching them was true. The early church shared the Gospel with their friends and neighbors every day and the church continued to grow not just on Sunday mornings, but daily! (*Acts 16:5*)

From these examples we can see that being a Christian is not something we do just once a week on Sunday or on an occasional holiday. Jesus said that to be His disciple we must live for and serve God every day. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me. (*Luke 9:23*) Let us encourage you to begin a daily walk with the Savior and participate in the daily fellowship, love, faith and encouragement that can be found in the church of Jesus Christ.

Jay Launius
Maud church of Christ Maud, Texas



CHRISTMAS TAKE DOWN Come join us on January 6th as we take down and put away all the Christmas decorations. The more hands we have helping the quicker it will go!

HOT COCOA CHRISTMAS COOKIES These Hot Cocoa Cookies are chewy, chocolaty and delicious! They start with a brownie-like cookie base, then get topped with a marshmallow, fudge glaze and sprinkles. Recipe is here



<https://www.glorioustreats.com/hot-cocoa-cookies/>

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





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dinah Gilberts December 4
- Ben Huston December 7
- Mui Cheng December 9
- Earl Drangstveit December 9
- Karly Oak December 19
- Jason Kruse December 20
- Lois Helms December 25
- Carol Albrecht December 26
- Bo Brunner December 28
- Nivedita Fulbert December 30

THIS WEEK AT HOLY CROSS

SUNDAY

24 9:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Worship

MONDAY - MERRY CHRISTMAS!

25 9:00 am Worship

TUESDAY

26 8:00 am Adult Bible Study

WEDNESDAY

27 10:00 am Happenings Articles Due

THURSDAY

28

FRIDAY

29

SATURDAY

30

SUNDAY

31 9:00 am Worship

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DEC 24 - 9 AM

- ELDER:** Dennis Waderich
- LECTOR:** Robert Nowak
- USHER:** Lance Lerum
- ACOLTYE:** Colin Kruse
- AV:** Dinah Gilberts
- OFFERING:** Dave Albrecht & Denny Case

SERVING THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE, DEC 24 - 5 PM

- ELDER:** Doug Brunner
- LECTOR:** Ben Woltmann
- USHER:** Steve Oak
- ACOLTYE:** Allie Wagner
- AV:** Dinah Gilberts
- OFFERING:** Wendy Fitzwater & Doug Schulze

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 - 9:00 AM ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP: 67 | BIBLE STUDY: 12 | SUNDAY SCHOOL: n/a



14085 Pike Lake Trail NE, Prior Lake, MN 55372 • Phone: 952-445-1779
 Music & Choir Director: Mui Cheng • Praise Band: Nathan Hentges & Greg Albrecht
 Office Ministry Assistant: Megan Luckfield • Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Dean Gade