



May 2018 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

- 5/1
Chick-fil-A Night
- 5/3
Pioneer Meeting
- 5/5
Adopt-A-Highway
- 5/18
LifeLine Screening
- 5/18
Grandparents' Day
- 5/19
Pioneer Day Camp
- 5/24
PTN Field Day
- Pioneer Grave Decorating - Riverview
- Pioneer Meeting
- 5/27
Pioneer Grave Decorating - Elmhurst
- 5/28
MEMORIAL DAY
- 5/30
8th Grade Graduation
- 5/31
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
- PTN Field Day
- Early Dismissal

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

It wasn't exactly their Confirmation Day, but it's almost as if Joshua treated the Israelites like Confirmands in the questions he was asking them and the kinds of decisions he wanted them to make. It was time for the Israelites to make a decision regarding their spiritual life. They were either going to move forward in their commitment to the Lord or they were going to abandon the Lord and go worship somebody or something else. (Joshua 24:15-18)

That makes me think of confirmands. Essentially, they are going to have to answer the very same questions and make the very same decision. Of course, we are not talking about a decision to believe in Jesus. Only the Holy Spirit can do that inside someone's heart. Our young men and women are already Christians. They do work with the Holy Spirit. They do make spiritual decisions. We call on them to make a choice. We could remind them of everything the Lord has done for them in their lives so far. We could remind them of how Jesus lived and died for them to win their forgiveness, or how God made sure they were baptized (sins washed away!), or how God worked out a Christian education through Pastors and teachers and parents for them. It was all a part of God's grace. But perhaps they know these things already. And so we say, "so Confirmands, what's it going to be? Are you going to fear and serve the Lord for the rest of your life, or are you going to decide to serve someone or something else? What's it going to be?"

Perhaps the Israelites would have responded to the question the same way our Confirmands would. Perhaps any Confirmand – past or present – would

continued

reply with...“that question is almost insulting. Of all the easy decisions that I could make. This one’s as easy as falling off a log. Of course I will remain faithful to the Lord for my whole life, even if I have to put my life on the line – I’ll do it.”

The Israelites thought it was an easy decision to make, too. They very quickly said, we too will serve the Lord, because he is our God. Here was the problem: These were many of the same people who promised to obey the Lord, but then a few weeks later they were worshipping a golden calf. Their sinful nature, the pressures of society and the deceptions of the Devil himself work very hard to blur the most obvious of choices, the easiest of decisions to serve the Lord.

The problem for every Confirmation class – any class from any year – is that everyone starts out with the firmest of decisions and the finest of choices when it comes to your spiritual life and your faithfulness to the Lord when you are in the friendly confines of your church, but the battle is so fierce against the Devil, the world and your own sinful flesh once you leave those four walls that those choices and decisions get so blurry and confusing to the point where you’re not sure what the right decision or best choice really is.

The Devil is very good at convincing us: “take a break from the studying,” “investing in friendships is most important,” “making money is paramount and God will understand.” He has been lying to us about priorities for years. And we fall for those lies all too often.

In fact, the last statistic I read a few years back about the spiritual death rate, the percentage of Confirmands who fall away from faith after they had originally made the right choices and the best decisions on their Confirmation day...is 50%. The numbers say that one out of every two of our Confirmands this year will some day leave the church and decide to serve – most likely – themselves. Every year I refuse to believe the statistics. Not this year. Not my church. Not these young people. They have come too far, shown too much maturity, studied too much for something like that to happen. But the truth? 0% of us

would ever make it if we think we will remain faithful on our own.

And yet Joshua could firmly say, as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. How could he say that? How could he be so sure? He was basing his whole life on the Lord’s undeserved love toward him. He was recalling the Lord’s powerful acts of rescue that had been on display for years as He guided His people. He thought of how the Lord had never, ever gone back on a promise – not once going back on a covenant He had made. They were all evidence of God’s grace.

A Confirmand’s greatest asset is the Lord’s grace. He decided He was going to love us and save us long before the world was even created. Jesus came to live the life of obedience and faithfulness that our Heavenly Father demands. In His grace, Jesus made that decision to continue on toward the cross and pay for our sins, every one of them – even for the times where we make a sinful decision and carry it out to its worst potential. Jesus decided to love us and forgive us even though there really wasn’t anything particularly lovable about us. He gives us His grace, the grace of His forgiveness, the grace of His obedience, the grace of His guidance for our life, the grace of His protection, the grace of His peace in our hearts, the grace of having a sure hope of eternal life in heaven.

It’s God’s grace that empowers a Confirmand to say, “as for me and my household, we will always serve the Lord” and then go out and live their life and do it. Why? Because God in His grace goes with them. He graciously forgives them when they fail. He graciously gives them strength and courage to stand up for Him throughout their lives as they continue in His Word. God will help them to make good decisions.

Some decisions are easy and some are difficult. The decision before us on your Confirmation day is an easy one. Staying true to that decision for the rest of your life always proves to be difficult. But we don’t worry. Our Lord goes with us. Our prayer for our Confirmands is also what we pray for ourselves: Lord, help me to stay in the Word. Help me to be faithful in worship. In your grace, always help me to say and to live: as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

The Christian Lifestyle

What makes the Christian Lifestyle different from any other religion? What motivates us to be different? These and many more questions answered at Wednesday evening Bible Study in Eagan. Classes run 6:30-7:30. All are welcome!

Bethlehem Revisited

Friday
December 21
6:00-8:00 pm

Saturday
December 22,
4:00-8:00 pm



Long awaited spring is in the air and we are all looking forward to summer.

However, at Crown of Life, this year Christmas comes early...

Friday and Saturday, December 21-22, we hope to present **"Bethlehem Revisited."** We intend to recreate the streets of Bethlehem, in our gym, as they might have been that first Christmas night, culminating with the live manger scene surrounded by live animals (including a camel).

We want this to be our Christmas gift to the community, as well as our congregation and friends.

We will need over 200 CoL congregation and school members to help with the effort. There will be a variety of areas where you can get connected. Individuals or families, people of all ages, will be needed to serve as shopkeepers and villagers of Bethlehem. Others are needed as tax collectors, census takers, Roman soldiers, wise men, shepherds, and many children



to play beggars. We will also be looking for 4 babies born between Thanksgiving and Christmas to be baby Jesus.

There will also be a need for set construction, costumes, musicians, food, volunteer coordinators, set up and cleanup, publicity, parking lot attendants, prop people, etc.

We also ask for everyone to pray and ask God to bless our effort to spread the Gospel in this unique way.

Work will begin in earnest when school ends in June, but we want everyone thinking about it now and considering areas where they can serve. Formal signup will begin June 1. If you are interested in finding out more or want to become involved in planning now, please contact Dave Noack (651) 280-9883, dave.noack@colwsp.org



??? DID YOU GUESS WHO

HINTS

- Graduated from Central Lutheran Grade School
- Likes to sing
- Big Vikings fan
- Loves almost any kind of pie



Jim Haberkorn is a lifelong member of Crown of Life (Trinity) and is currently serving on the Evangelism and Property Committees at COL. He also is the current chairman of the Elmhurst Cemetery Association and serves on the Riverview Cemetery Board as well.

Jim and his wife Dorothy have been married over 51 years, have 3 children all graduates of St. Croix Lutheran and 7 grandchildren. Four have graduated and two others are currently enrolled. The 7th grandchild is 5 and is still in pre-school...and we have 1 great grandchild too!

Jim retired from the trucking industry but continues working part time a couple of days a week.

Dorothy and I are grateful for our church family and for all the blessings that we have received from our Lord.

Food Drive

Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the CoL Food Drive last December. We collected over 630 lbs. of food and toiletries for Neighbors, Inc., a local organization that serves 7 communities in northern Dakota County.

In speaking with the Director at Neighbors, she stated there is a huge demand for food and supplies over the summer and their reserves often run low. So, we are going to renew the CoL challenge of a 500 lbs. goal by the end of school in May.

The 7th grade is overseeing the project once again. Please bring your donation to the table in the hallway near the 7th grade classroom or bring it to your child's classroom and 7th graders will transfer it to the collection spot.

We will give you weekly updates on the progress.

Thank you for your support.



Vacation Bible School

Tuesday-Thursday, June 12-14

June 12-13: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

June 14: 9:00 am-1:00 pm.

Teachers and helpers are needed!!
If you're interested, please contact the office.

What's Happening 5th Grade?

From class murals to field trips, the 5th grade class looks forward to finishing the school year with some great memories. It was exciting for the returning COL students from fourth grade to be introduced to 5 new classmates at the start of the fifth grade school year. The new students have been a blessing to the class. Through sporting events, projects, the students have created new friends and continued to grow in their current friendships.

The buzz around the fifth grade class now are the annual 5th grade field trips. The students already visited the MN History

Center where they learned about the Fur Trade and explored other areas of MN history. They have three more trips they look forward to with eager anticipation. Places like Mill City Museum, the Capitol, Ramsey House and Fort Snelling (to name of few) will give the students a perspective of the history of our state from a hands on approach. Couple that with mural projects (come check out the latest mural at the top of the middle staircase) and launching water bottle rockets, the fifth grade school year is primed for an exciting finish.

Thanks, class for a great year!



Kindergarten class visits Wipaire in South St. Paul!

REPORTS

TREASURER

Our fiscal year runs from July 2017 to June 2018

March ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,278,266 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,234,990 which was \$43,275 above budget. (\$21,000 of this amount are special donations for the Pre-K playground.) Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,251,286 which gave us a FYTD of +\$27,010. (FYTD) Envelope Offerings are \$29,852 less than budgeted. We owe \$40,000 to our special funds account and current available balance is \$15,881.

DEATHS

Irene Haugen died on 3/30/18, funeral at Southview Sr. Living with Pastor Kom on 05/11/18

Rosemary Holen died on 4/20/18, funeral at WSP with Pastor Kom on 4/24/18

BAPTISMS

Maddox Asher Kruse (son) and Madilyn Lois Kruse (daughter) of Mark & Carrie Kruse on 03/25/18

Welcome New Members

Darrell Sasse

Quentin & Sarah Roberts and Josiah

God's Draft Choices - *Stewardship Thought*

Two of the most highly watched sporting events on television are not when teams or athletes are competing against each other; rather they involve the drafting of players for the National Football League (NFL) and National Basketball Association (NBA) teams. For many hours, fans of professional sports will watch intently to see whom their favorite teams will draft.

Most of us won't be drafted by professional football or basketball teams, but, as Christians, we receive a greater calling. We, in essence, are God's draft choices. *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"* (John 15:16). God has made us a part of His team. We are not chosen by God because we are successful in our careers, great athletes, or wealthy. God chooses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things — and the things that are not — to nullify the things that are"* (1 Corinthians 1:27-28).

Through faith, we understand that we are among the foolish and weak through whom God carries on his life-saving work. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is*

from God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4:7). God entrusts us — clay jars — with this treasure — the Gospel. Even though we are frail and unworthy of our tasks, God has chosen us to carry His message of love to the world. As humble people of faith, we are empowered by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He transforms and molds us. *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"* (2 Corinthians 5:17). It is God Who does the drafting and the changing. Through faith, we will stay on God's team, and we will bear the fruit that He calls us to bear.

The professional athletes who are drafted are expected to perform. They are paid large sums of money to do very athletic things. As God's chosen people, we may not receive large compensation, but our benefits are out of this world! Therefore, we are eager to use our lives and resources in God's service for His glory. Paul wrote, *"For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"* (Ephesians 2:10). What a privilege it is to be part of and serving on God's winning team!

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 1) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

MAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, May 1

9:00 am Men's AM Coffee - WSP
 10:00 am The Commons on Marice
 Sr. Living Service
 4:00 pm Chick-fil-A Night
 7:00 pm Evangelism

Wednesday, May 2

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
 7:00 pm Senior Choir practice
 8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, May 3

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

Friday, May 4

NO BUS SERVICE

4:00 pm Track Meet

Saturday, May 5

Adopt-A-Highway - Eagan

10:00 am Bowling Meet
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 6

8:00 am Worship WSP
 9:00 am Worship EGN
 9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
 10:30 am Worship WSP
 3:00 pm New Member Class

Monday, May 7

3:15 pm Lego Club
 6:30 pm Worship WSP
 7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Tuesday, May 8

9:00 am Men's AM Coffee - WSP
 10:00 am The Commons on Marice
 Sr. Living Service
 6:30 pm Education
 Properties
 Handbell rehearsal
 7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, May 9

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
 7:00 pm Senior Choir practice

Thursday, May 10

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 4:15 pm Track Meet
 6:30 pm Craft Club
 7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Friday, May 11

8:00 am Matins & Muffins / Panera

Saturday, May 12

12:30 pm Bowling Meet
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 13

Praise Service and Mother's Day

8:00 am Worship WSP
 9:00 am Worship EGN
 9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
 10:30 am Worship WSP
 3:00 pm New Member Class

Monday, May 14

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, May 15

9:00 am Men's AM Coffee - WSP
 10:00 am The Commons on Marice
 Sr. Living Service
 7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, May 16

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 17

11:00 am Senior Luncheon - WSP
 2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 4:00 pm Track Meet
 Conference Championship
 5:30 pm Piano Recitals
 7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, May 18

Lifeline Screening-EGN

7:30 am Grandparents' Day
 8:05 am Matins
 11:30 am Early Dismissal

Saturday, May 19

8:30 am Pioneers Day Camp
 10:00 am Pioneers Day Camp
 11:00 am Bowling League Tournament
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 20

8:00 am Worship WSP
 9:00 am Worship EGN
 9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
 10:30 am Worship WSP
 3:00 pm New Member Class

Monday, May 21

6:30 pm Worship WSP
 7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, May 22

9:00 am Men's AM Coffee - WSP
 10:00 am The Commons on Marice
 Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, May 23

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 24

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 3:30 pm Pioneers Grave Decorating
 6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

Saturday, May 26

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 27

8:00 am Worship WSP
 9:00 am Worship EGN
 9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
 10:30 am Worship WSP
 1:00 pm Pioneers Grave Decorating
 3:00 pm New Member Class

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day and NO SCHOOL

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
 6:30 pm Worship WSP
 7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, May 29

9:00 am Men's AM Coffee - WSP
 10:00 am The Commons on Marice
 Sr. Living Service
 2:30 pm Kindergarten Graduation

Wednesday, May 30

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
 6:30 pm 8th Grade Graduation

Thursday, May 31

Last Day of School

PTN Field Day (AM)

11:30 am Early Dismissal
 2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| 1 Michelle Povolny
Zach Rich | 7 Lucy Kuehl
Jennifer Lavigne | 16 Carole Stier
17 Corey Bejblik | 24 Pastor David Huebner
Emily Petermann |
| 2 Brooklyn Hart
Kathleen Krueger
Douglas Langfield
Connor Mielke | 8 Suzanne Menth
Jon Wolfrath | 18 Marlin Sachs
19 Timothy Berg
Stephanie Hansen
Dennis Novotny | 25 Robbie Bluhm
Aden Fischbach
Mary Innes |
| 3 Michael Paul
Dennis Schmeckpeper | 9 Pastor Fred Kogler
Allison Kom
Hezekiah Solseth | 20 Robert Berg
Maria Caauwe
Rick Capocasa
Jocelyn Kock
Avis Lorenz
Lu Ann Olen | 26 Jerry Geror Jr.
Amber Johnson |
| 4 Angela Hauck
Ayla Johnson
Logan Kneisl | 10 Karla Monn
Ashley VanCalster | 21 Jessica Biggar
Katie Lasovich
Claire Shaw | 27 Rebecca Lucas
Shirley Owens
Rich Schindeldecker
Sarah Steber |
| 5 Briana Kneisl
Thaddeus Lemmer
Jordon Schletty
Donald Unruh
Diane Wagenknecht | 11 Ernest Fogle
Todd Fox
Karen Haehnel
Pastor Jon Leach | 22 Karley Lanigan
Abbey Ludden
Benjamin Voigt
Johanna Williams | 28 Alisha Johnson
Marc Patton |
| 6 Isabel Burt
Elizabeth Fuller
Jeff Mullins
Ryan Mullins
Miriam Patton | 12 Harold Hunter
Kylee Paul | 23 Hunter Burt
Randy Enger
Ryan Herbison
Nathan Kruse | 29 Irving Langfield
Brittany Oberstadt |
| 7 April Coates
Rebecca Haehnel | 13 Jorie Huebner
Lucas Munoz
Bruce Sachs
Hannah Plattner | | 30 Jacob Haehnel
31 Pastor Mark Kom
Kyle Monjeau
Kyle Swiderski
Gina Taack
Debra Werz |
| | 14 Cora Evenson
15 Derek Haehnel
John Schmahl
George Tako | | |

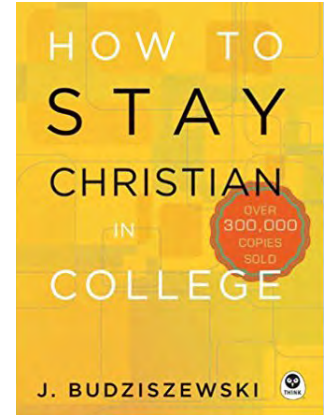
Not seeing your birthday?

Please contact the church office so we can update our records and include you next time!

“How to Stay Christian in College”

BY J. BUDZISZEWSKI | CHRISTIAN | REVIEWED BY LUCAS BOEHM | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

This was a book I did not want to put down. Even with a busy week, I finished its 180 pages in no more than four days. This is a book I will be buying for both of my teenage sons while keeping my copy for myself. The title is almost unfortunate. It is absolutely a must-read for anyone in college or preparing for it - and those Christians who love them. It specifically describes many of the challenging scenarios that any Christian student would likely face in college today. That said, the book is certainly applicable for anyone living in the “real world”. Reading it was like a mental and spiritual inoculation against the onslaught of counter-biblical philosophies and “myths”, as the author puts it.



With the exception of very brief hints of decision theology, Budziszewski effectively explains and applies biblical truth - who God is, whom we are, what we’ve done, and what God has done for us. Two sections from what I read that stuck with me most were those dealing with worldly understandings of truth and those relating to love (and the role of sexual intimacy and marriage). The author’s style of writing is simple to grasp. He uses analogies very effectively and explains worldly and biblical concepts clearly and in ways that I have not heard elsewhere.

If you are in college, or you have a relative in college, or if others ask you about or challenge your faith, or if you have questions or thoughts about what you believe and how it relates to what society says, then you likely will find this book to be a help.

...where to begin???



Snow, no snow, then SNOW AGAIN... ahh the trials of spring in Minnesota. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who hung through the weather to make our two Egg Hunts a success. We could not have done it without you!



ANSWERS TO APRIL QUOTEFALL:

I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Please direct ideas, questions or comments about this issue to ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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 Eagan Campus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122