



December 2018 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

## Holiday Worship Schedule

### Advent

#### Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19

4 & 6:30 pm WSP

Light Supper between services

#### \*No Monday Evening Services

December 3, 10, 17

#### Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 23

8 & 10:30 am WSP

#### Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

6:30 pm WSP – Candlelight

7 pm Egan – Candlelight

#### Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

9 am WSP

#### New Year's Eve

Monday, December 31

6:30 pm WSP



## What Does Christmas Do for You?

BY PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)*

The Festival of Lights is a beautiful and highly symbolic celebration. But, which religion am I talking about when I refer to this festival? Interestingly, many religions celebrate the festival of lights in one way or another. Hindi, Jews, and Christians alike celebrate it. Why? What does it represent? Light is a symbol. It can symbolize many different things, but in each of these religions it contains a similar idea...the triumph of good over evil.

Isn't it interesting that each of us has an idea of right and wrong? What's more, we all know something is terribly wrong with this world. We know there is wickedness, evil, and wrongdoing in this world. And our collective hearts ache for everything "dark" to be removed from this world. That's what all these religions are celebrating with the festival of lights...the triumph of good over evil. So how does that happen?

The world has its ideas on how we will eventually destroy everything wicked and dark in this world. So did the people of Israel. In Isaiah 8 the Lord tells us what the Israelites were going to do when they faced troubles, hardships, and darkness.

*Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land... Then they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. (Isaiah 8:21-22)*

*continued*

What do we see them doing for a solution? They are turning to this world and the things of this world to solve their problems and the darkness they face in their lives. What is the result? What do they find? How does the world help them conquer the darkness? They “see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom.” And to make matters worse, “they will be thrust into utter darkness.” Looking to the world to solve the problems of the world clearly doesn’t work. In fact, it only makes the darkness darker. That was the Israelites’ solution, and it didn’t work.

What do we look to? Do we look to anything better to solve the darkness in our lives? One of the problems we see in this world is poverty. That’s a darkness that’s been around as long as there has been sin in the world. And what are the solutions?

Well, we often look to political solutions. The problem with this is that it seems like looking to politicians and a ruling body to solve the problem of poverty has only caused division and more darkness. Is the best way to help poor people to shrink government and let the private capital markets allocate resources, or is it to expand the government and give the state predominance? Finding in the Bible a clear mandate for complete capitalism or for communism is an impossible task.

And though the Bible isn’t clear and doesn’t give express commands on the best political way to care for the poor, there are people who still believe one way or the other is the gospel truth. The result of this is division, anger, hatred from one side to the other. When people look to politics to be the solution to the darkness of this world, it only makes the darkness worse.

Sickness and disease is another terror that darkens the world. And to what earthly solution do we turn to rid us of this darkness? Don’t we turn to technological and medical advances to bring some brightness to these forms of darkness?

Maybe they have helped with advances in medicine? But haven’t we also created super viruses? Haven’t the advances in technology also lead to nuclear bombs? Technological advances have lead to the stealing of hundreds of millions of personal identities and data. Overall, technology, while it can be a good thing, often becomes a tool for darkness.

And when all these dark problems of the world come crashing down on the brightness of our lives, where do we turn? Often, we turn to people. Relationships are blessings. There’s no arguing the amazing benefits and blessings of having people who love you in your life. However, people fail. People are the ones who steal identities, not technology. People are the ones who run corrupt governments and are more interested in putting money in their own pockets rather than helping people who truly need it.

Doesn’t it seem a little foolish to think people are the solution to the darkness of this world, when people bring darkness into it? What’s the solution to the darkness in this world?

It’s the same solution God gave to the Israelites when they were experiencing extremely dark times. *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* (Isaiah 9:6)

To bring light to a sin darkened world, light had to come into this world. And it had to come from outside of this world. That’s exactly who Jesus is and what he did. He is the eternal mighty God. Though he was rich, for our sake he became poor and took on the likeness of a child.

That’s what Christmas is all about. God coming to solve the darkness of this world. And that’s what Jesus did. Instead of letting us all suffer and die in our misery, he suffered and died in our place. And that means there is hope! There is hope that one day poverty will no longer exist. There is hope that diseases and death will one day be defeated. There is hope that our most perfect relationships will be eclipsed by an absolutely perfect relationship with our loving God in heaven.

Until that day comes, continue to find your hope and place all your hope in Jesus alone. Finding absolute hope and comfort in him you can then be the light this world needs. Care for those who need it, and look for ways to build relationships, not tear them down. In doing so, you can give this world a glimpse of the light there is in Jesus.

**NIGHT TO SHINE  
2019**

**Friday, February 8, 2019**

To volunteer or be a guest  
[www.stcroixnighttoshine.org](http://www.stcroixnighttoshine.org)  
(sign up is OPEN)

# Sharing the Joy of Christmas with others!

Have you thought about sharing the joy of Christmas but don't have much time to volunteer? Here's your opportunity to share so much with little time and effort. On **Tuesday, December 18th** we will share our Christmas joy by caroling at several Sr. Living Homes where some of our members reside. Meet at 6 pm at the West Saint Paul campus where we will organize and travel a short distance to a facility. We will return to church for refreshments and have you on your way home by 8. Individuals and families are welcome. You don't need to be in a choir or even much of a singer. Just join with others to sing your favorite carols. You will be amazed how many smiles you bring to the faces of the residents.

Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call the church office!



THURSDAY - DECEMBER 13, 2018

6:30-7:30 PM

JESUS

CARES

MINISTRIES



## Jesus Cares Ministry Begins

Crown of Life's "Jesus Cares" Ministry, serving people with special needs, begins on **Thursday, December 13**, with a Christmas devotion, crafts, and snack. The program begins at 6:30 pm and will conclude by 7:30. Each attendee will also receive a Christmas gift.

Our intent is to serve COL and area WELS members of any age with special needs, but also serve as an outreach to the community.

We plan to have gatherings the **third Thursday of the month** for devotions, crafts, and snacks at 6:30. Please invite anyone you know who may benefit. Contact Dave Noack or Pastor Burgess for more details.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

# Who Are We, Anyway?

**Scripture Reading:** *“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).*

At this time of year, our minds are drawn to thoughts of our Savior, as they should be. The ages-old story is always fresh and exciting to us as Christians as we rejoice in our Father’s great love for us shown in His sending His own Son for us. That Son came in the form of a Baby who was nurtured inside His mother’s body, a *“treasure in a jar of clay.”*

The angels announced His birth; the shepherds left their sheep and came to worship Him; the Wise Men traveled many miles to adore Him and bring Him their gifts. *“But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Luke 2:19).* She still had *“this treasure in a jar of clay.”*

We, too, have this *“treasure . . . this all-surpassing power . . . from God and not from us.”* We have the Word dwelling in

us! His great power enables and equips us to be stewards who can fulfill any task our Savior lays before us. He gives us courage to witness of His birth and life and death and resurrection. He gives us gifts to serve His people and to reach out to those still outside His kingdom. He gives us financial resources to support the mission and ministry of our churches.

During this time of Advent and Christmas, let us *“treasure . . . these things and ponder them in [our hearts].”* And let us ask God to use us according to His plan to spread the news of that treasure.

**Discussion Thoughts:**

1. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. How do these verses relate to our theme verse, 2 Corinthians 4:7?
2. What does Matthew 13:44 say about the value of the *“treasure”*?
3. What are you doing with the *“treasure in [your] jar of clay”*?

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



## Scholastic Book Fair

**Total Fair Sales: \$4,115.43**

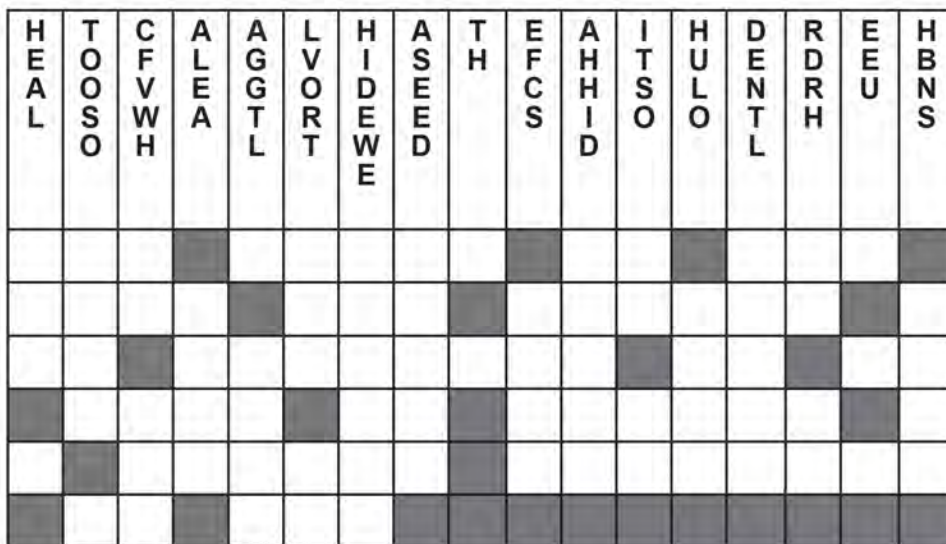
We were able to take 50% of sales and turn that into Scholastic Dollars, also earning an additional 5% by taking all of the proceeds in books.

**Total Scholastic Dollars Reward Earned: \$2,263.48**

This money is used by COL faculty to replenish classroom and school libraries. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make our Book Fair a HUGE success!

# JUST FOR FUN

## QUOTE FALLS



## DOT2DOT



# SCHOOL NEWS



Looking for eagles

## The Crown of Life 7th grade is having a fabulous school year!

We began with **20 monarch butterfly eggs** in late August, cared for them and observed as they grew into adults before releasing them for their migration to Mexico. We ended with 8 female and 6 male survivors.

We are enjoying the high top tables and chairs donated and refinished last summer.

The 7th grade **performed one puppet show**, “We’re Gonna Read the Bible”, a parody of Billy Joel’s “We Didn’t Start the Fire” and are trying to find time in the busy schedule to prepare more performances.

In life science we **dissected earthworms**, crayfish, frogs, sea stars, and will soon examine owl pellets.

We **sent cards and letters to veterans** (we knew about...) for Veteran’s Day.

Our class sponsors a COL school **food drive** from Thanksgiving – Christmas. Last year we collected 675 lbs. We hope to match or exceed that total this year.

Clearly, the highlight of the year so far, was the 3 day, 2 night stay at **Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center** in Lanesboro, MN. God blessed us with fantastic weather as students and chaperones participated in classes such as: Birds, Winter Survival, and Oneota (ancient Native American

tribe). There were naturalist programs on the timber rattler and raptor physics, starring a hungry red-tailed hawk. We had great fun at the campfire, outdoor games, and, everyone who started it finished the “Treetops” high ropes course. COL students also achieved awards for conservation and the “Food-Wise” program (reaching the goal of having less than 1 lb. 8 oz. of food waste for our group’s 7 meals at Eagle Bluff).

We look forward to upcoming trips to the MN Orchestra and Minneapolis Institute of Art and annual ski trip to Afton this winter.



left - “Treetops” high rope course

# Science Museum Exhibit and Service Event



The Science Museum in partnership with NAMI MN and other local business/health care providers have created a special exhibit that educates us about mental health. Statistics say that one in five adults experience mental illness in a given year. The holidays can be an especially difficult time.

As a way to educate and serve those in institutions over the holiday season, Eunice Neubauer is spear heading a group to go the **Science Museum on Dec. 15**. With 15 or more the cost of a ticket is \$16.95 for an adult and \$10.95 for child 4-12 or senior 65+. With Thrivent Action Team dollars this cost

will be subsidized another \$5. As part of the event, we ask that you bring items to be donated to NAMIMN for them to deliver to those in a facility during the holidays: Items suggested are : journals (no spiral notebook), colored pens or pencils, coloring books, puzzle books, Sudoku, games, cards, books.

## TO REGISTER

Call/text **651-402-4186** or email **eunice.neubauer@comcast.net**

**Deadline to register is Dec 10th.**

We will meet at COL WSP at 10:00 am for a 10:30 am time slot.

If you are unable to attend the event but still wish to donate an item, see boxes in the narthex at both campuses. For more information about the science museum and this special exhibit go to [smm.org](http://smm.org) and for more information on mental illness or suggestions on donations see [NAMIMN.org](http://NAMIMN.org).

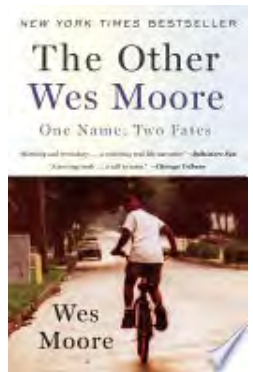
## The Other Wes Moore

BY WES MOORE | BIOGRAPHY | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*The chilling truth is that his story could have been mine. The tragedy is that my story could have been his.*

Two kids named Wes Moore were born blocks apart within a year of each other. Both grew up fatherless in similar Baltimore neighborhoods and had difficult childhoods; both hung out on street corners with their crews; both ran into trouble with the police. How, then, did one grow up to be a Rhodes Scholar, decorated veteran, White House Fellow, and business leader, while the other ended up a convicted murderer serving a life sentence? Wes Moore, the author of this book, sets out to answer this question with alternating narratives that take readers from heart-wrenching losses to moments of surprising redemption.

*The Other Wes Moore* shows there are no easy explanations. Moore the author makes no attempt to justify the imprisoned Moore's actions, even while detailing a familiar litany of neglect, absence of male role models and bad choices. The successful Wes Moore also shows he was far from perfect in his youth, but thanks to his loving family's insistence that he fulfill his potential, he excelled in academics and forged a satisfying career. Through hundreds of interviews, not only with his namesake, but with police, social workers and others, Moore's book reaffirms the impact that even one tough parent can have on a child's ultimate success or failure.



# Trash Clean-up

A huge thanks to all who helped out with our fall Adopt A-Hwy cleanup. Consider joining us in the springtime for our next cleanup and you too might walk away with a brand new, "lightly" used, outdoor rug!

Right: Members sit down to enjoy some pizza and fellowship after cleaning up the streets of Eagan.



## December Calendar

### Saturday, December 1

5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, December 2

8 am Worship WSP  
9 am Worship EGN  
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP  
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN  
10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, December 3

3:15 pm Lego Club  
6:30 pm NO - Worship WSP  
7 pm Mary/Martha - EGN  
8 pm Evangelism-EGN

### Tuesday, December 4

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP

### Wednesday, December 5

4 pm Worship WSP  
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN  
6:30 pm Worship WSP  
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice  
8 pm Praise Band Reh

### Thursday, December 6

2:30 pm Southview Service  
6:30 pm PTN Meeting - WSP

### Friday, December 7

*Crusader for a Day*  
6:30 pm Basketball AWAY Game @ Belle Plaine

### Saturday, December 8

5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, December 9

8 am Worship WSP  
9 am Worship EGN  
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP  
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN  
10:30 am Worship WSP  
Choristers sing

### Monday, December 10

6:30 pm NO - Worship WSP  
7:30 pm Worship Committee

### Tuesday, December 11

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP  
6:30 pm Education Properties  
7:15 pm Stewardship

### Wednesday, December 12

4 pm Worship WSP  
Grades 3 - 4 sing  
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN  
Worship WSP  
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 13

2:30 pm Southview Service  
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club  
7 pm Elders-EGN

### Friday, December 14

8 am Matins/Muffins and Panera  
5:30 pm Basketball HOME Game vs. Cross of Christ

### Saturday, December 15

5 pm Worship EGN  
Piano Recital A-L

### Sunday, December 16

8 am Worship WSP  
8 am Worship WSP  
9 am Worship EGN  
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP  
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN  
10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, December 17

6:30 pm NO - Worship WSP

### Tuesday, December 18

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP  
6 pm Christmas Caroling  
7 pm Council-EGN

### Wednesday, December 19

4 pm Worship WSP  
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN  
Worship WSP  
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 20

2:30 pm Southview Service  
6:30 pm Basketball HOME Game vs. Salem, Stillwater  
7 pm Riverview Cemetery

### Friday, December 21

*Christmas Break Begins*  
*Teacher Inservice - No School*

### Saturday, December 22

5 pm Worship EGN  
Piano Recital M-Z

### Sunday, December 23

8 am Children's Christmas Service  
9 am Worship EGN  
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP  
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN  
10:30 am Children's Christmas Service

### Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve  
6:30 pm Worship WSP  
7 pm Worship EGN

### Tuesday, December 25

*Christmas Day*  
9 am Worship WSP

### Wednesday, December 26

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN  
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 27

2:30 pm Southview Service

### Saturday, December 29

5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, December 30

*Praise Service*  
8 am Worship WSP  
9 am Worship EGN  
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP  
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN  
10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, December 31

6:30 pm New Year's Eve Service WSP

## December Birthdays

1	Quentin Roberts	7	Violet Kutz	14	Annie Gydesen	21	Christian Kneisl	27	Makayla Dennis
2	Steven Berg	8	Nick Koester		Mason Rowe	22	Isabella Evans		Carol Lemke
	Laurie Doyle	9	Annalise Patton	15	Lauren Kelm		Daniel Oberstadt		Sydney Seganek
	Mady Kapanke		Cynthia Pieper		Briston McCall		Michael Spott		Dave Taack
	Lila Steber	10	Brett Gurgel		Cadence McCall	23	Sean Lemmer	29	Lyle Danner
	Becky Stein		Jacob Marzinske	16	Rachel Burgess		Sheila Pottorff		Sara Keppers
13	Ryan Szczerbiak		Charlyn Petermann		Grant Johnson	24	Allen Lorenz		Zachariah Schultz
	Venita Warnke	11	Madylin Mielke		Merry Kreitz		Mya Paul	30	David Doyle
4	Mase Matkin		Maren Steffen		Lori Oberstadt		Carol Thompson		Kirk Rall
	Dominick Olson	12	Connor Aumann		Sarah Waldhauser	25	Sara Ceniceros		Kristopher Swanson
	Erika Rider		Steve Peterson	17	Nicholas Burkhart		James Haberkorn	31	Micah Boehm
	Bernice Schaffer		Philip Steber		Donna Winecke		Charlene Ohmann		Micah Koeppen
6	Jonathan Smith		Robyn Swiderski	18	Josiah Roberts		Chad Otterstatter		AuroraLange
7	Kane Cadwallader	13	Harry Cannon		Isaiah Steber	26	Joseph Myhre		ReneePaul
	Katya Gurgel		Landon Osland	19	Amanda Lorenz		Deb Schultz		
	Tyler Kirchhamer	14	Melissa Dietrich	20	Sophia Rubio		David Tess		

# REPORTS

## October 2018 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$632,969.03	\$519,070.02	\$113,899.01
Expenses	\$602,129.18	\$565,565.16	\$76,676.02
Net Operating	\$30,855.19	-46,495.14	\$77,350.33
Envelope Offerings	\$379,742.69	\$360,815.70	\$18,926.99
Special Funds	\$173,813.88	\$111,000.00	\$62,813.88

A detailed treasurers' report is on the church bulletin board.

### Deaths

- Joyce Franz died 11/15/18, funeral at COL with Pastor Kom 12/1/18

### New members not pictured.

- Jon & Debbie Enter and children Violet, Lydia, Eden, & Maggie
- Elizabeth McNamara

## Welcome New Members



**The Grahl family** recently moved to Eagan from Germantown, Wisconsin. Mike is enjoying his new job in marketing for the Minnesota Timberwolves and Lynx. He also enjoys the outdoors and backyard sports with the kids. Aimee is currently working at getting the family settled in their new home and is also enjoying teaching Spanish to the younger grades at COL. Elena is an 8th grader who enjoys dance, volleyball, reading, and basketball. Alivia is in 5th grade and loves basketball, volleyball, crafts, and having fun. Elijah is a first grader and enjoys playing sports and piano.

## Savannah

BY ZACHARY PUDLO

*If you ever find yourself in Savannah you will find yourself with a myriad of dining options. Last week Heidi and I explored two options and were pleasantly surprised.*

### The Lady & Sons ▶

The Lady and Sons was a great little informal American southern food restaurant. With Paula Deen's name attached to it, we knew we were going to get some great southern food. Apart from the convenience of being in the heart of downtown Savannah, the service was ridiculously fast. We were in and out, bellies full, within 30 minutes. The food was great for the price and the service was excellent.



### ◀ Vic's on the River

For an early dinner, we checked out Vic's on the River. This charming restaurant had southern food options as well. Being on the river, it had a great view and had excellent seafood options. We opted to not purchase the \$3,000 bottle of wine. Apart from being a little pricey, the meal was fantastic, service was friendly, and atmosphere was very pleasant.

If you ever make the trip, check them both out.

