



the word

February 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

February 4-8

Spirit Week

February 9-10

A Team BB Tournament

February 13

Pre K Parent/Teacher Conferences

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 15

No School A Team BB Tournament - MLC

February 17

Kingdom Kids - EAGAN
Jesus Cares - WSP

February 18

Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

February 19

Ski Trip - Grades 5-8

February 23

Winter Game Night - EAGAN

February 26

Culver's Night - WSP



Oh, to Be Loved... and Hated...

BY PASTOR EMILE BURGESS

Momma, why was Jesus baptized? Who poured water on his head? Was Pastor Kom baptized? Was he baptized in a river? Who poured water on his head? What about Pastor Pudlo, Momma? Did someone pour water on his head?

Honestly, I wonder, with Pastors Kom and Pudlo, if Lydia may have been envisioning more of the Ice Bucket Challenge than what she saw happen to her little brother in church last fall. (She still seems a bit skeptical that the grownups she knows could ever possibly have been babies!) But this girl is full of questions! Questions about anything and everything. And I love it! But it can also wear on you after a while. And it can challenge you! She can sometimes ask questions you don't really want a child her age to know the answers to. But I'm not just talking about "the birds and the bees." I'm talking about the big "D" word (death).

I noticed shortly after getting into the ministry that most Christians talk to their kids about death much earlier than non-Christians. It's kind of unavoidable, considering how often they hear about Jesus and his death. It's not necessarily easy subject to talk about with kids. At least we get to tell them how awesome heaven is!

Death, however, is not the only tough thing we have to talk to our kids about. Recently, I was reminded from our daily Bible readings that, as followers of Jesus raising little followers of Jesus, we are raising children the world will hate.

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Jesus said, “**If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. 19 If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you**” (John 15:18-19). And there are a lot of other passages in God’s Word that remind us of the “enmity” (hostility) that God has placed between Satan’s offspring and Eve’s. It is a sobering thought to know that, by virtue of my kids’ saving baptisms, people WILL hate them.

Our natural inclinations as parents is to want our kids to be lovable kids and to be validated by the love of other people. But we dare not wish the love of “the world” Jesus spoke of. I don’t want my kids to “belong to the world.”

God-willing, my children will enjoy the benefits of Lutheran grade school and high school. And, for good or bad, they will be to some extent sheltered from the world’s hate. So how will I prepare them for such a world when the wings of WELS schooling are lifted?

Should they go to a secular college (and even some Christian ones), their teachers will assume because they take the Bible literally that they are ignorant of all scientific facts about the human race’s origins. They will probably ridicule them in front of their classmates. They will be told that their parents have brainwashed them and hooked them on religion as an opiate and crutch for the weak-minded. Others will call them prudes for being old fashioned enough to wait until marriage to have sex. They will probably be called bigots and homophobes.

Should any of my kids ever be business owners, they will probably lose business because of their “good confession” and may even be sued by those who cannot tolerate their intolerance. They will be judged as judgmental. I can only hope and pray that they will take heart the words of Jesus on

days like those, “**Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. 12 Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you**” (Matthew 5:11-12).

So how will I ready my kids to be hated, reviled, and persecuted for their faith in Jesus? Well, it’s a work in progress, but here are some mental (and now written) notes I’ve made recently:

- **Note to self:** first and foremost, show them Jesus and his cross in the Word—Jesus, who was persecuted in the same way the prophets were, and worse. And no servant is above his master; no student above his teacher. Show them Jesus, and show them your love for Jesus, and show them all the reasons they have to love him, because he first loved them.
- **Note to self:** Let them see that the world hates you too. Let them see you be “in the world, but not of the world.” Let them see you and hear you be salt and light and love your enemies. Let them hear you pray for those who persecute you (Matthew 5:44). Let them see you run to the Word for refuge and to the Body of believers for encouragement.
- **Note to self:** Let them practice from early on being “in the world, but not of it.” Don’t shelter them entirely from the hate this world has for them. Wean them off of yourself and onto Christ.
- **Note to self:** Pray specifically about this for them. And trust that the pain and suffering they experience as Christ-followers will bless them in this life and the next.
- **Note to self:** I poured water on their heads in the name of the Triune God. They are baptized. They’re not really mine. They are his. And Jesus takes care of his own. Thank you, Jesus.

Stewardship Thought

In the beginning, God gave, and He continues to give. God’s character is to give. Our Heavenly Father loves us so much that He holds nothing back from us, either in this world or the one to come. “He Who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). To give and to keep on giving is the essential nature of God Who is love. As our faith grows and matures, we also become givers who, by God’s grace, give freely and generously.

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

“I Reject Your Facts”

FEBRUARY 2, 2019 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



Introduction

Disclaimer...this isn't a political blog. That being said, this was a line that caught my attention a few weeks ago. It's not because I agreed or disagreed with the person who said it (again, not intending this to be a political view). It caught my attention because the sentiment behind the statement, "I reject your facts", is one that we all share at times. There are times in our lives where we are faced with overwhelming evidence of something, and yet we reject it because we don't want it to be true. The example I've used in classes I've taught in the past is the example of a sports player who clearly commits a foul and everyone in the building knows it. That player still tries to argue with the referee even though everyone in the building knows it was a foul. Just type "Blake Griffin uses iPad to argue a call" into your web browser and you'll see a basketball player clearly hook and pull a player to the ground, then try to use an iPad to argue with the referee. What's the point? Often times we believe what we want rather than what is clearly the truth based upon facts.

Human Nature and Belief

Human beings struggle to admit failure. Blaise Pascal once wrote, "We have an incapacity of proof, insurmountable by all dogmatism. We have an idea of truth, invincible to all scepticism. Two things instruct man about his whole nature; instinct and experience." *Pensees* 396-397

His point is that evidence is something that people tend to avoid. Instead, he says experience and instinct are the two main motivating factors in a person's life. I've seen that firsthand. It's happened in classes I've taught where the evidence for a specific Biblical teaching is laid out plainly in the words of the Bible, but because a person has grown up believing something different, often influenced by family, that person will not agree to that Biblical teaching.

People will often believe something, not based on evidence, but based on experience, instinct, and I will add one more, emotion. Emotion is a huge factor when it comes to what a person believes. Going back to the example of a person who sees the clear evidence of a Biblical teaching and yet won't believe it because they have grown up believing something completely different. Why won't they believe the evidence laid out before them? I've noticed how often times it is because they are afraid of what their family or friends would say if they changed their belief. Even though they see evidence for something, they will not believe the evidence because they know that emotionally, it will cost them a significant price to change their beliefs.

Jesus speaks to this several times in his ministry. On one specific occasion he spoke these words. "Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it (Mt 10:37-39). Jesus is telling us something that is true of any belief. Faith in anything is going to cost you something. It could cost you family, friends, a reputation, or even a career.

Despite evidence, people often defer to emotion when it comes to belief because they are afraid of what it might cost them to hold on to the truth. I'll use this past week as an example. The Governor of New York issued a statement this past week after signing *New York's Reproductive Health Act* saying, "Today we are taking a giant step forward in the hard-fought battle to ensure a woman's right to make her own decisions about her own personal health, including the ability to access an abortion. With the signing of this bill, we are sending a clear message

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that whatever happens in Washington, women in New York will always have the fundamental right to control their own body.”

What does the scientific evidence say about abortion? Any scientist would tell you that at conception there is human life. Feel free to skim or read [“WHEN DO HUMAN BEINGS BEGIN? ‘SCIENTIFIC’ MYTHS AND SCIENTIFIC FACTS”](#) by Dianne N. Irving, M.A., Ph.D. She separates the scientific evidence from the “myths” floating around. So, isn’t abortion taking a human life, a.k.a. murder? According to science, yes. But to label abortion murder would be a difficult thing for a politician to do. It would mean potentially losing the votes of thousands, maybe even millions of voters. So belief and policy come about because of emotion. What can get votes? What can give people freedom to do whatever they want? What can give a person the possibility to live without consequences for their actions? Those are the determining factors when it comes to belief, not what does the evidence support.

Evidence for Forgiveness

Ok, so we all know that politicians will do whatever it takes and compromise even the lives of the innocent to get votes and stay in power. But all people reject facts to varying degrees. Christians aren’t immune to ignoring evidence. The words and evidence of the Bible suggest we should love all people regardless of their race, age, gender, social class, and even moral behavior. And yet, it doesn’t take long for me to scroll through the facebook newsfeed to see name calling and verbal abuse. I see people who say that God wants them to love all people, and yet they ignore that evidence based on their emotions.

We ignore what God tells us, and we ignore what he has done for us. If we ignore God, shouldn’t he just ignore us. If you read the words of the Bible you do see a God who has emotions. He gets angry time and again with people who ignore him. And yet, his response is that of love time and again. See the evidence for that in every page of the Bible. One could even make the case that is the main point of the entire book...man fails and God forgives.

The greatest evidence for his forgiveness is seen on the cross. It’s on the cross that God stopped at nothing to make sure that forgiveness would be brought to this world. The cross is the greatest evidence of man’s constant and continual failures, and God’s constant and continual love and forgiveness.

Conclusion

What’s all this evidence mean? When we see another person clearly doing something against all evidence we tend to look down on them, condemn them, call names or think bad things about them. I encourage you to do something other than rush to judgment. Instead, first remember that you and I do the same thing at times. It’s human tendency to judge and look down and think ourselves better than others. And despite that arrogance and ignorance, God still loved and forgave us. So when you see a person acting and behaving contrary to evidence see that they are confused. See a person who needs help, who needs the truth, and who, more than anything, needs Jesus.

It’s easy to reject facts and evidence for one’s own personal gain. Jesus’ cross reminds us to look to evidence first. Look to the cross and see the evidence of your own failures and need for a Savior. And look to the cross and see the patient love of your God. That’s something we all need when we deal with one another. When you see someone clearly rejecting the evidence, see someone who is searching for something with their emotions. They are searching for love, family, forgiveness, fame, etc. . . . What they really need is the evidence that they have all those things and more in Jesus.

SCHOOL NEWS

1st Grade Update

1st grade is having a great time learning together this year. Four of our eleven students are new to Crown of Life! They have all been enjoying getting to know each other and making new friends.

Here's what the first graders have been up to lately:

Math: Measuring using nonstandard units such as: linking cubes, pennies, paperclips

Science: Discovering how God created plants to grow and reproduce.

Art: At times, when introduced to a new art project, the students' eyes get wide and they are convinced that "it's just too hard; we'll never be able to do it!" Over the course of the project, students see that it may be hard at first, but hard work and endurance pay off and end up proud of the art they create!

Spanish: Numbers and colors

Christ Light: The 1st graders love retelling Bible stories in a variety of ways: acting out the story, taking turns retelling one part around the circle, making a booklet with their own words or illustrations, and more!



What is your favorite part about COL?

- Learning about God and the Bible – Josiah
- Going to Matins to learn about Jesus – Hannah
- Making new friends – Faith
- Being able to go here since Preschool! – Ana

What is your favorite part of the school day?

Christ Light (4), Math (3), Art (3), Read to Self (1)

What have you learned so far in 1st grade?

- Counting by 2s and 10s and odd and even numbers – Ruby
- A new way to write math problems: up and down – Bryanna
- Lots of math facts - Asher

What do you hope to learn more about in 1st grade?

- Sight words, and using new sight words in sentences – Skyla
- Christ Light stories – Ayla

How is 1st grade different than Kindergarten?

- We learn about Jesus here – Eden (from a public school)
- We have desks not tables – Elijah

Reading:

Long vowel sounds; building confidence and fluency when reading

Music: Accents and measures; singing songs with rhythm syllables (ta, ti-ti)

Writing: Being a storyteller, and putting those stories down on paper; working on putting capital letters and periods in the correct spot

Phy. Ed.: Various jump roping skills

Spelling Bee Champs

3rd Grade

- 1-Micah Wendland
- 2-Jacob Achey
- 3-Dior Traynor

4th Grade

- 1-Cameron Oakland
- 2-Cole Tess
- 3-Cassin Farley

5th Grade

- 1-Noah Miller
- 2-Callie Oakland
- 3-Olivia Footh



6th Grade

Anna Spott, Hannah Achey, Emma Ohm



7th Grade

Sophia Thiel, Anabelle Kinsley, Evan Ludden



8th Grade

Elena Grahl, Jacob Chan, Nick Spott

Grade 1-4 Musical



March 8, 6:30 pm
March 9, 1:00 pm

Spirit Week – February 4-8

Monday

Class Color

Tuesday

Super Fan

Wednesday

Fake an Injury

Thursday

Pajama Day

Friday

School Spirit

The Camp Beneath the Cross



Camp Croix is filling up quickly! If you or someone you know would be interested in a summer kid's Bible Camp hurry and check out Camp Croix at campcroix.org/bible-camp before it's too late!

Session Dates

- Session 1 July 7-13, 2019
- Session 2 July 14-20, 2019 (FULL)
- Session 3 July 21-27, 2019 (FULL)
- Session 4 July 28-August 3, 2019

Rates

The current rate for camp is \$285. If you register by April 1, you will receive an early bird rate of \$260.



REPORTS

December 2018 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$926,333.54	\$811,847.60	\$114,485.94
Expenses	\$884,667.29	\$842,097.74	\$42,569.45
Net Operating	\$41,666.25	-30,250.14	\$71,916.39

FYTD income includes \$58,597.93 of a special bequest.

Envelope Offerings	\$598,463.04	\$574,466.12	\$23,996.92
Special Funds	\$160,144.12	\$96,473.24	\$63,670.88

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

Crown of Life
School

Registration
begins March 1

new fillable registration forms
will be available on the
website Feb 7

Jesus Cares Ministry

Jesus Cares will meet on Sunday, February 17th, 12:30-1:30. We will start with a craft/mixer in the fellowship hall, move to the sanctuary for a devotion about 12:45, and then return to the fellowship hall for more craft and snack, concluding at 1:30.

If you know people with special needs of any age who may benefit from this ministry, please invite them. Please continue to pray God bless our efforts and thank you for your support.



Culver's Night – February 26, 4-7 pm

February Birthdays

1 Jason Myrлие	8 Max Lawrence	13 Andy Coates	19 Jon Harley	25 Darlene Unruh
2 Tracey Beebe	8 Rebecca Boehlke	Amanda Johnston	Roger Knippenberg	25 Kelly Thorburn
Lincoln Bolte	Lucas Otterstatter	Jim Loewen	20 Chase Schindeldecker	26 James Tako
Rachel Stokke	9 Kathryn Danner	14 Robert, Jr. Stokke	James Stueber	Julie Waldhauser
3 Jonah Evenson	Jason Fogle	15 Mike Ahlman	21 Drew Kock	27 Susan Tapp
Paul Stokke	10 William Hastings	Ben Fuhrmann	Orell Pieper	Brad Szczerbiak
4 Andrew Enger	Harper Lavigne	Katie Schletty	22 Adrian Caauwe	28 Pastor Emile Burgess
5 Marie Pietsch	Jean Quinn	17 Raquel Berg	Brian Haehnel	Jesse Green
Evan Sievert	Demetra Redner	Steve Mayne	23 Douglas Danner	Barbara Hartshorn
6 Paul Chan	11 Charlotte Kwasniewski	18 Erin Evenson	Kirsten Fischbach	29 Andrew Rowe
Victoria Rider	12 Joel Bejblik	Laurie Footh	Jack Kapanke	
Gracelyn Szczerbiak	Ryan Lemmer	Emma Homan	James Koeppen	
7 Greta Smith	Logan Lorenz	Elliette Wiplinger	24 Ayden Bilitz	

February Calendar

Friday, February 1

9am Spelling Bee Grades 3-5
5:30 pm Basketball HOME Game vs. Christ Lutheran

Saturday, February 2

5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 3

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

Monday, February 4

Spirit Week
3:15pm Lego Club
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Mary/Martha - WSP
8 pm Evangelism-EGN

Tuesday, February 5

9am Men's Coffee - WSP

Wednesday, February 6

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice
8 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, February 7

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

Friday, February 8

A Team BB Tournament
8am Matins/Muffins and Panera
5 pm A Team Tournament

Saturday, February 9

A Team BB Tournament
5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 10

A Team BB Tournament
8am Worship WSP
9am Worship EGN
9:15am Education Hour-WSP
10:15am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
3 pm New Member Class

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

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

Wednesday, February 13

4 pm PreK Parent/Teacher Conferences
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 14

Valentine's Day
11:30 am Early Dismissal
12 pm Parent/Teacher Conferences
2:30 pm Southview Service
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club
7 pm Elders

Friday, February 15

No School - MLC BB Tournament

Saturday, February 16

MLC BB Tournament
5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 17

MLC BB Tournament
8am Worship WSP
9am Worship EGN
9:15am Education Hour-WSP
10:15am Education Hour-EGN
10:20 am Kingdom Kids - EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
12:30 pm Jesus Cares-WSP
3 pm New Member Class

Monday, February 18

Presidents' Day - No School
Teacher Inservice
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, February 19

Ski Trip - Grades 5-8
9am Men's Coffee - WSP
7 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, February 20

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 21

2:30 pm Southview Service
7 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, February 23

5 pm Worship EGN
6:30 pm Winter Game Night - EGN

Sunday, February 24

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

Monday, February 25

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

Tuesday, February 26

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP
4 pm Culver's Night

Wednesday, February 27

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 28

2:30 pm Southview Service

TEEN MINISTRY JUST for TEENS

Teen Ministry is off to a jumping start as Freshmen - Seniors will attend the kick-off for Teen Ministry at the Rockin'jump Eagan Trampoline park. Pastor Jon Enter and his wife Debbi met with Juniors and Seniors in December while Brett Fuhrmann will be meeting with Freshmen and Sophomores starting in February.

INFO

Pastor Burgess emile.burgess@colwsp.org

Pastor Enter jenter@stcroixlutheran.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 10 – Trampoline Park

6:45-9 pm (grades 9-12)

<https://rockinjumpagan.centeredgeonline.com/waivers>

March 10 – In home gathering

5:30-8 pm

April 7 – Monthly gathering

5:30-8 pm (grades 9-10)

April 6 – No girls allowed Man Cave Meeting

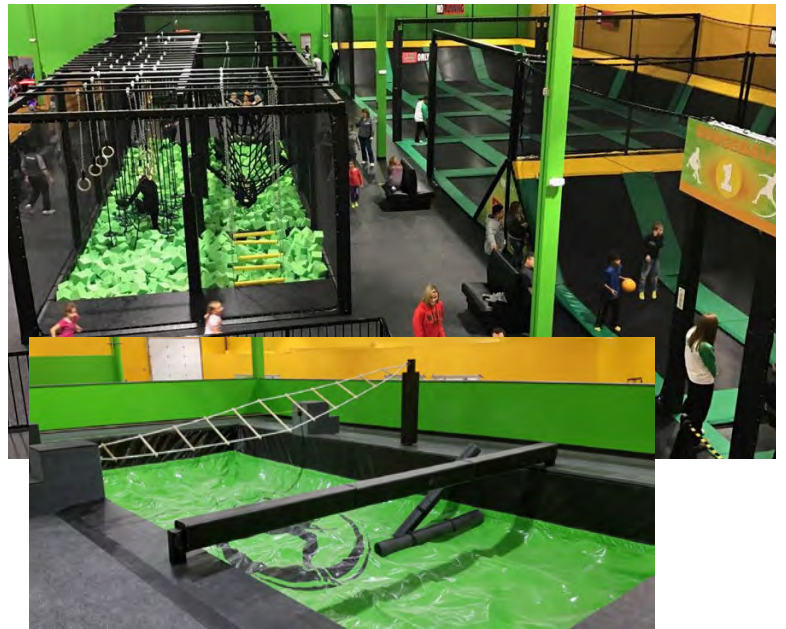
5:30-8 pm (grades 11-12)

April 7 – No boys allowed Girl Time Talk

5:30-8 pm (grades 11-12)

May – The Amazing Race Teen Challenge

Valley Fair – All Day (grades 9-12)



JUST FOR FUN

QUOTE FALL

N	S	G	H	V	A	T	E	A	T	T	I	C	I	D	G	A
O	S	I	O	I	C	H	H	E	U	O	J	V	N	D	P	F
S	A	C	N	N	O	R	F	I	R	O		G	S	E		A
E	R	I	A	E	R	N	R	O	S			U	O	M		A
B	E		K		N							O				

QUOTE FALL JAN ANSWER - Whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned.

WORD SCRAMBLE

ALTROMPIEN

RTSPII

USSJE

UVCRESL

EOAURMNTTN

REVGFOIN