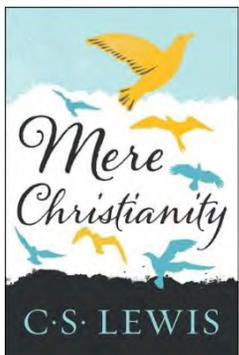


the word

June 2018 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church



Although written nearly 70 years ago *Mere Christianity* remains one of the most relevant books still today as it considers some of the

basic topics we all wrestle with such as: our sense of right and wrong, the different views on God, free will, hope, and others. Join us as we consider some of the winsome and non-threatening ways C.S. Lewis discusses the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

Begins June 6, 6:30-7:30 pm at the Eagan campus.

All are welcome and all materials will be provided. If interested please email, call or text Pastor Pudlo

Walking into Newness

BY PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO

As I sit down to write this cover article new plants are bursting from the ground. The once dormant ground has become fertile and new life is appearing everywhere. Trees are budding, flowers blooming and, for many, allergies are blossoming. The newness of a Minnesota spring gives vibrance to the world. The plant world isn't the only thing with a spring in its step. Eighth graders are completing their final year of elementary education, high school seniors are preparing for what's next, and college graduates are staring life in the face. New opportunities are just on the horizon for many.

The Paradox of Newness

Life is full of new moments: new school, new job, new family member, new home, new...you fill in the blank. It's actually something we crave, isn't it? Don't we get tired of the same old thing day in and day out? That's why we pick up new hobbies, eagerly look forward to a vacation from the same old ins and outs of the week, redecorate our houses, and look for other ways to find a "change of pace" from the ordinary routine of our lives. In all these things we are looking for joy, happiness, peace.

But there's a paradox in it. It's the law of diminishing returns. The law of diminishing returns refers to a point at which the level of profits or benefits gained is less than the amount of money or energy invested...i.e. The more I look for joy and happiness and peace in the newness of the things of this life the less I get out of it. It's like a drug addict who gets his first high. He falls in love with the feeling of euphoria from the drug use. However, he has to invest more and more

continued

High School Graduates



Ian Boehm

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN in the fall



Ronald Joseph Burkhart

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Dakota County Technical College for a degree in Sports Management



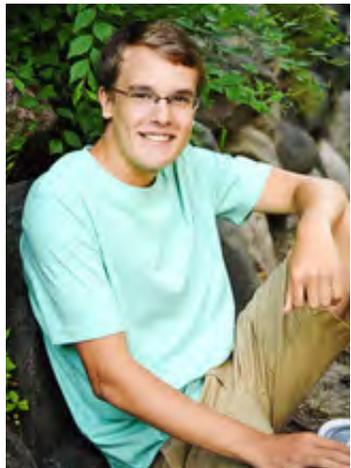
Annie Gydesen

Sibley High School graduate and will attend Bethel University for a degree in Business Analytics and continue her hockey career.



Jack Kapanke

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend University of Minnesota - Duluth in the fall.



Ethan Daniel Koeppen

Rosemount High School graduate and will pursue an apprenticeship in International Union of Elevator Construction



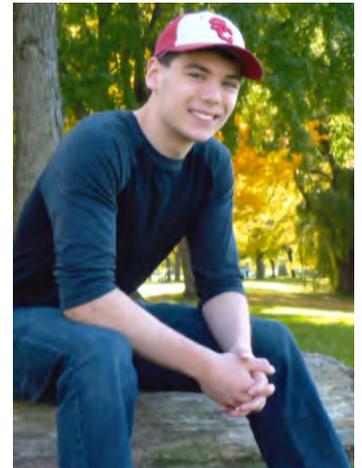
Megan Kom

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend the Drake University in the fall.



Jordon Schletty

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Wartburg College in the fall.



Ryan Swiderski

St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Waldorf University to study Sports Management

Walking into Newness... continued

money into the drug each time he uses in order to get the same feeling as his very first high.

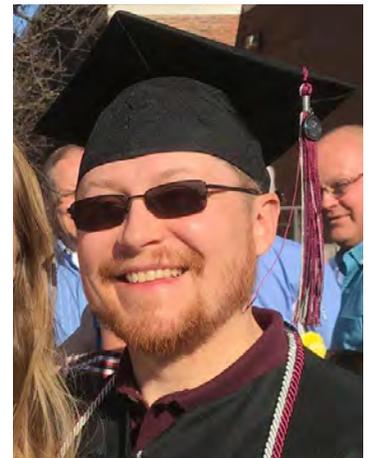
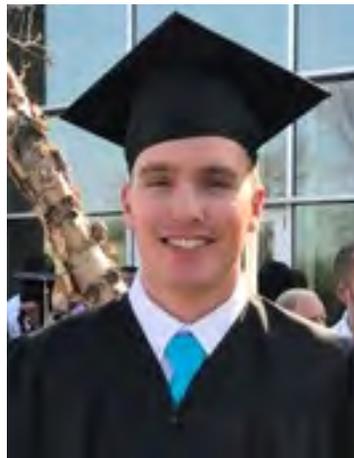
The same is true with the newness of life. We think that new hobbies or vacations or new schools or new jobs are going to give us this high on life that lasts and lasts forever. But the newness wears off. So we invest ourselves even more into a different "newness" thinking it will pay off dividends. But in the end, that newness eventually wears off too. It's a paradox...we crave the high of newness thinking it will give us limitless joy and happiness, but the high wears off. So we keep looking.

The Danger of Newness

In *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis explores how Satan plays off our desire for newness. He describes how it's our "horror of the 'Same Old Thing' (that leads to an)...endless source of heresies in religion, folly in counsel, infidelity in marriage, and inconsistency in friendship."

Ultimately, Lewis is showing how the joy and euphoria of newness can become an idol in our lives that takes the priority over the living God. When newness becomes our idol every new endeavor is going to lead to a diminishing

College Graduates



Nathaniel Jeffrey Burkhart
Associates Degree in Electrical Construction & Maintenance – Dakota County Technical College. Plans to begin apprenticeship.

Jonah Wayne Koeppen
Bachelor of Science – Law Enforcement from Minnesota State University Mankato. Plans to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Kari Marzinske
Bachelor's in Chemistry from Bethany Lutheran College. Plans to pursue a career in chemistry.

Mike Shaw
Bachelor's in business administration and economics from Augsburg University.

return of happiness and/or a life of constant searching for but never finding of happiness. Read through the book of Ecclesiastes and you'll find an extremely wise man who fell into the folly of thinking newness could give him what only God can. In the end, the newness of this life became an idol to him and lead him away from God.

The Joy of Newness

How does one find joy moving forward into the new endeavors of life? Find wisdom in those who have gone before you. Those who have gone before you know how important it is to take God with you in every new endeavor of life.

Consider what Moses told the Israelites concerning the importance of God's word when they entered the promised land of Canaan. **"Talk about them (God's commands) when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."** (Deuteronomy 6:7-9) That seems like the same old thing, doesn't it? Talking about God and his word on a regular basis? How is that something new? How will that give us lasting joy and newness? When we do think and talk about God's commands regularly we see ourselves for who we really are...people who fail God, who turn away from him newly every day, people who make idols out of the new experiences of this world. There's no joy in that.

That's why it's also important to turn to the cross of Christ everyday. At the cross we see a God who loved us despite our daily failures and turning away from him. We see a God who cared enough to die for us. When we turn to the cross we see something that is new every day...God's mercy. Because we sin daily God must forgive daily. And in Christ he does just that.

Jeremiah was a prophet of the Lord tasked with prophesying about and seeing the downfall of the holy city of Jerusalem. The book of Lamentations is a book chronicling the sorrow of seeing the city fall. Though he is filled with sorrow, Jeremiah rejoices, because he knows he will not see ultimate destruction in hell. Because of Christ, he too is forgiven. So he cries out

- 22 Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.**
- 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**

Conclusion

Graduation and moving on to the next steps of life seems exciting because of the newness it brings. So many possibilities! But those new possibilities can never replace the joy of God's new love and forgiveness for you everyday. So take the same Lord with you into every new venture, and there you will find lasting joy.

... Complete the Vision

BY BOB STOKKE, PRESIDENT

Back in 2015, our Church Council and Ministry Team spent some time discussing the future of our congregation and praying about the priorities God might have for us. One thing we quickly realized is that we needed to free up budget capacity to carry out new areas of ministry. We took on a bold goal to eliminate our congregation's \$1.5 million mortgage debt over the next three years --- we called that effort "**Clear the Path**". Well, God clearly blessed our congregation and that debt was fully eliminated nearly a year early!

Our intent wasn't to simply eliminate the debt, though. The reason for eliminating that debt was to free up cash flow to enable us to grow our ministry in areas that would continue to build a thriving congregation with a passion to spread God's Word! We identified six areas of strategic focus that we named "**Complete the Vision**".

These focus areas were:

- Regional Lutheran Elementary School
- Reinvigorate our Youth Ministry
- Marketing Campaign for better name recognition
- Establish a Day Care Program in Eagan and WSP
- Establish a Hispanic Outreach Ministry
- Revamp Our Facilities

To be honest, we haven't been as successful in carrying out these plans and, personally, I haven't done a very good job communicating what we have achieved and what our next steps are. In fact, we have recently re-prioritized our focus on a couple of areas, but I'll get to that following the status of our original focus areas.

Regional Lutheran Elementary School – In 2016, a committee was formed to study ways to expand the reach of our school. In early 2017, our Council reviewed the committee's recommendations, but we haven't created an action plan to carry out those ideas any further. However, in the meantime, we have formed partnerships with several additional sister congregations, offering reduced tuition rates with the expectation of financial support from those sister congregations for the cost to educate their children attending our school.

Reinvigorate our Youth Ministry – We haven't formally approached this area with any new ministry plans. We did, however, include our youth ministry as an area of focus when we called Pastor Burgess last year.

Marketing Campaign – This is another area we haven't put much effort into yet. There has been some effort put into our church and school website and some professionally produced videos have been created to enhance the message about our congregation and school.

Even without a formal plan, God has blessed us and we have made some good progress here.

Day Care Program – A committee has not been formed in this area. Our Principal, Dan Plath, and our Pre-K Director, Amber Johnson, have spent some time studying the requirements of a day care program and we will be evaluating facility needs in West St. Paul and Eagan.

Hispanic Outreach Ministry – This priority really took a turn in another direction! Pastor Pudlo was approached by Rev. Joshua Baion, of Community Deliverance Church, asking if we would allow his congregation to rent our Eagan facility to them for their church services. Pastor Pudlo spent a lot of time with him to make sure Pastor Baion is in agreement with the Biblical doctrines we believe in. After careful study, he concluded that he was in agreement and agreed to keep studying with Pastor Pudlo. Just last month, Pastor Baion applied to begin formal studies with our synod to become a WELS pastor! Community Deliverance isn't focused on the Hispanic community — it is focused on a community of believers with a West African heritage. What a great opportunity for Crown of Life to contribute to the spreading of the Gospel to a group of people that would be difficult to reach without such a partnership!

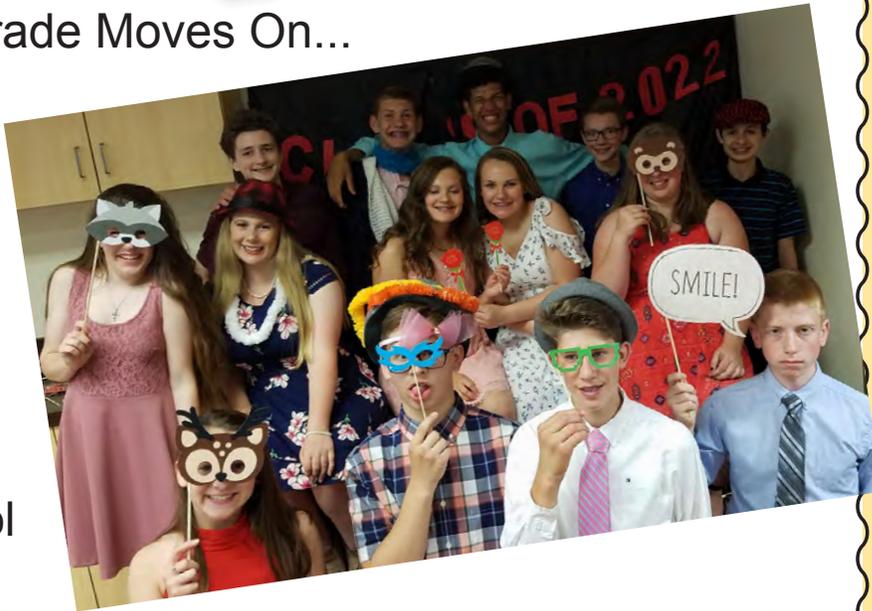
Revamp Our Facilities – A "Facilities Audit Taskforce" was formed a few months ago to study our facility needs in Eagan and West St. Paul. When we merged with Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (our Eagan facility) back in 2013, the numbers in Eagan were shrinking to a point where the congregation couldn't stand alone. Five years later, services on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings are very full and there is a need to expand our capacity. We also have a vision to develop Day Care programs in Eagan and West St. Paul, which will bring new facility needs. The taskforce has been surveying committees and staff to gather facility needs and will provide a readout soon.

So, I mentioned that our priorities have recently changed. We have discovered that it's very difficult to find leaders and volunteers to carry out these strategic plans and we decided that it's not very effective to try to carry out six large strategic initiatives at the same time with limited leadership capacity. We have decided to focus on two things for now...

1. **Revamp Our Facilities** – The Facilities Audit Taskforce will continue its work to establish our facility needs, including seeking input from the congregation as a whole. Once we are aligned on our needs, then they will begin to work to put a plan together to determine how we should move forward.

8th Grade Moves On...

...to
High
School



A Lesson in Dissection!

Crown of Life's 4th and 5th grade students were visited by Mr. Dave Mielke from St. Croix Lutheran and had the opportunity to dissect some crayfish. The students had a great time! Thanks Mr. Mielke for a fun morning.



Teacher's Farwell



Miss Ashley VanCalster will be getting married and moving to the Milwaukee area where her fiancé currently works. Ashley came to

us two years ago as a graduate from Martin Luther College. Over the two years she contributed greatly to our school with her technology abilities especially after Mr. Herbison's departure last year. We wish her God's richest blessings as she begins her married life!



Mrs. Kate Boehlke will be leaving as well. Kate came to us in the fall of 2015 as Miss Kate Wahl. We rejoiced with her last summer as

she and Mathew Boehlke were married. Now we rejoice with her again as God will bless them with a child this summer. Kate and Mat will be staying on as members at COL. May God bless their family as it grows!

We will be wishing these two teachers farewell on Sunday, June 10th between services in WSP.

2. **Leadership Development** – As I said, we've found it difficult to find leadership capacity to move forward with many of these initiatives. To be honest, this starts at the top, with me. Our Ministry Team has set out to develop deeper lay leadership talent within the congregation. We have started at the Council level first. We held a Council "Retreat" last month and brought in a WELS expert on church leadership development. We are also reading and discussing a book about church leadership titled "Courageous Leadership" which has given us the opportunity to

reflect on our leadership strengths and weaknesses and talk about how we could become better leaders for the congregation.

I hope you find this update interesting --- there is a lot to catch up on, so it became a little lengthy. I plan to communicate more frequently through the newsletter, so my next update should be shorter. Please let me (or any of your Council members) know if you have questions, comments or concerns.

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/17 - 6/18

February ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,418,452 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,378,717 which was \$39,735 above budget. (\$21,000 of this amount are special donations for the Pre-K playground.) Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,375,852 which gave us a FYTD of +\$42,597. (FYTD) Envelope Offerings are \$39,974 less than budgeted. We owe \$20,000 to our special funds account and current available balance is \$34,876 All the detailed treasurers' reports are on the bulletin boards at church updated monthly.

Welcome New Members!



Jaci Gorske – Originally from Appleton, WI and married to Josh (a current member and a teacher at St. Croix.) I graduated from Winona State, but I decided to go back to school to study ultrasound technology. I love all Wisconsin sports teams, being outside, and spending time with my family. I look forward to getting to know the members at Crown of Life while growing together in our faith!



Brad and Jeannie Kutz – After traveling the country and world, the Kutz family is happy to call Minnesota their home once again. Brad, an electrical engineer, is currently employed at WipAire in Inver Grove Heights. Jeanni enjoys being a stay at home mom and photographer. Brad and Jeanni are parents to 4 children, Max (13) Ruby (6) Violet (4) and Olive (2). The Kutz's recently moved from Cedar Rapids IA and now live in Lakeville MN.



Steve and Hilary Mayne – Steve works as a manager of workforce analytics at Travelers and Hilary is a dentist at Park Dental Ridgepark in Minnetonka. We spent 5 years living in the Milwaukee area and are now happy to be home in MN. Steve is a car enthusiast and Hilary enjoys cooking. In our spare time we enjoy spending time with our two dogs and getting out to the lake to sail. In August we will be welcoming our first child!

THINGS TO DO

Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus

A Ten-Day Biblical Tour of Israel | April 1-10, 2019

When Jesus said, "Come follow me," he invited the disciples to physically walk with him. Since Jesus has ascended to heaven we cannot walk with him in the same way as did the twelve. However, we can walk where he walked. Pastor Janisch, retired WELS pastor, invites you to join him on his third trip to the Holy Land.

This tour will take us to Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and many other well-known sites of the Savior. The tour is open to anyone who would like to walk where Jesus walked. For more information call **pastor Janisch at 763-232-6826** or email **revbjanisch@gmail.com**



Kingdom Kids

A HUGE thank you to Liz Oldfield for all the work she did with the Kingdom Kids group at Eagan this year! The group grew each month. In June they put together "Blessing Bags" to hand out to the poor and needy! Thanks Liz for investing so much time into the growth of these precious little ones!

JUNE CALENDAR

Saturday, June 2

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 3

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

Monday, June 4

6:30 pm Worship WSP
 7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP
 Evangelism - EGN

Tuesday, June 5

10:30 am The Commons on
 Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, June 6

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
 8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, June 7

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, June 9

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 10

Praise Service
 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

Monday, June 11

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

Tuesday, June 12

9:00 am Vacation Bible School-WSP
 10:30 am The Commons on
 Marice-Sr. Living Service
 Education
 Properties
 Handbell rehearsal
 7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, June 13

9:00 am Vacation Bible School-WSP
 6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 14

9:00 am Vacation Bible School-WSP
 2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 6:30 pm Adult Craft Club
 7:00 pm Elders-EGN

Saturday, June 16

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 17

Father'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

Monday, June 18

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, June 19

10:30 am The Commons on
 Marice-Sr. Living Service
 7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, June 20

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 21

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, June 23

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 24

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

Monday, June 25

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

Tuesday, June 26

10:30 am The Commons on
 Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, June 27

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 28

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, June 30

5:00 pm Worship EGN

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 Pete Chan
 Alyssa Johnson
 Jordan Nied
 June Portz
 2 Raymond Buchholz
 Alexander Cline
 Brandon Dennis
 Nickolas Footh
 Estella Lorenz
 3 Garrett Kapanke
 Stephanie Schindeldecker
 4 Lois Bush
 Stacy Holmes
 Irma Krech
 Ivy Pottorff
 5 Nathan Monson
 Kendra Solseth Williams
 6 Jaxon Footh
 Doug Gaedtke
 Rachael Rowe
 Marlene Schindeldecker

7 Nancy Goette
 Nathan Haehnel
 Joshua Leach
 Nancy Monson
 Charles Schultz
 Rebecca Shaw
 Jalen Solseth
 8 Andy Aumann
 9 Kate Boehlke
 Thomas Hansen
 Daniel Pietsch
 Florence Polzin
 Christine Wolfrath
 10 Nadia Garcia
 Fred Owens
 Jackie Stokke
 11 Rick Frederick
 Eric Gydesen
 12 Lucas Gaedtke
 Kelsey Kowitz
 13 Katie Aumann

13 David Schindeldecker
 Mike Schultz
 Graydon Smith
 14 Zak Coates
 James Fox
 Jean Olson
 15 Owen Kelm
 Lori Little
 16 Rick Berthiaume
 Katelyn Bolte
 Ronald Lemmer
 Clinton Swartz
 17 Richard Constable
 Thomas Werz
 18 Julio Cenicerros
 Yvonne Schumacher
 Andrea Tabor
 Shelley Unruh
 19 Harriet Mulinix
 Abigail Spott
 20 Jonah Dennis

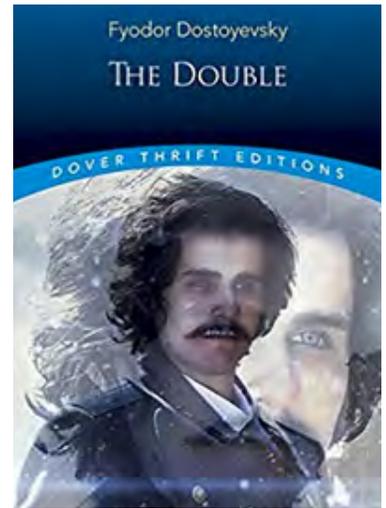
20 Nevaeh Yzaguirre
 21 Florence Espy
 Ruth Petermann
 Jenna Wakefield
 22 Timothy Orton
 23 Ruth Gerke
 Nehemiah Hammick
 Zachary Mielke
 Emily Schaller
 Adam Waldhauser
 24 Jacob Chan
 Mai-Anh Kapanke
 24 Sarah Spott
 25 Alfred Gerke
 Kelly Jean Olson
 26 Caleb Rathje
 27 Tammy Sheldon
 Adam Steber
 Leslee Yoder
 30 Kathleen McCall

“The Double”

REVIEWED BY ZACHARY PUDLO | FICTION | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Double is considered one of the finest short novels of Fyodor Dostoyevsky. This fiction tells the story of Yakov Golyadkin, a government clerk, who deals with psychological struggles as he repeatedly encounters his exact “double”. Yakov Golyadkin’s double looks just like him but his personality is the exact opposite of him.

Throughout the story the reader can relate to Yakov Golyadkin as he deals with his own dual nature. He is always trying to present himself as proper, respected, bourgeoisie, but underneath it all he is terrified that no one likes him. For those who like character development books, this is a great little read.



Adopt-A-Highway

Thanks to everyone for another safe and successful day of cleaning up the streets of Eagan!

JUST FOR FUN

JOKES OF THE DAY:

Why did the scarecrow win an award? *Because he was outstanding in his field.*

What lights up a soccer stadium? *A soccer match.*

Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil? *Because it's pointless.*

If athletes get athlete's foot, what do elves get? *Mistle-toes.*

QUOTEFALLS:

H	W	A	T	H	M	D	P	R	D	A	C	H	M	R	A	N	D
I	M	F	H	I	A	H	E	E	O	D	O	I	H		O	O	G
	N	O	A	I	T	F	A	R	N	E	T	M				U	G
	C	I	N	F	I												



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