



July 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”

1 TIMOTHY 2:1, 2

Thank you, Lord, for giving me leaders and members of the armed service who give up so much of their freedom, so that I can live a quiet and peaceful life. Forgive me for the times I forget this blessing or take advantage of it. Bless those who serve in our country. Amen.



Crown of Life Church

115 Crusader Ave, West St Paul, MN 55118

A Parade for the Ages

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

Do you like parades? When I was a kid, the small town I lived in had a Fourth of July parade that drew people from miles around. There were the normal parade participants: a marching band from an area high school, fire trucks that had been cleaned and polished, a few floats made by area churches, and a line of classic cars that seemed to go on forever. But our parade had something you wouldn't find in other parades. The local fire department used the old pumper truck to have water fights with the kids in town. The kids loaded up with dozens of water balloons, buckets, and even a few really long garden hoses. The volunteer fire department always “won” because they had a high-powered hose on top of the fire truck! I look back on that parade with fond memories.

A few months ago, parades were in the news because President Trump wanted to have a military parade much like other countries do. You have probably seen pictures of Russian military hardware in huge parades in Moscow. In the end, President Trump decided not to have a military parade because of the costs associated with it.

People in Bible times were no strangers to military parades because governments loved to show off, especially after major military victories. Whenever the Romans defeated another nation they had a parade in Rome. The Roman general and his men would march through Rome in full battle regalia. The conquered general and his men would be forced to march in the parade too, shackled and humiliated. All the while, pagan sacrifices were being sacrificed, filling the air with incense and the smell of victory.

In 2 Corinthians 2:14 St. Paul makes use of the imagery of those Roman military parades: But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and

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through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. Jesus Christ is a conquering general! He defeated sin, death and the power of the devil when He died on the cross and rose from the dead. Sin, death and the devil are shackled, humbled by their defeat. Oh, they still cause us many troubles today, but their days and their power are limited. Christ has made us conquerors! We are God's children!

And what of the fragrance Paul mentions? This is not the fragrance of pagan sacrifices. This is the powerful fragrance of the knowledge of our Savior God! When people get a whiff of this beautiful fragrance, they can come to faith just as we have. And that's where we come in. Note that Paul writes that "through us" God spreads this fragrance. When people come in contact with you what do they "smell"? Do they smell a hurried attitude that has no time for other people? Do they smell an attitude of pride and arrogance, looking down on others? Do they smell fear, a fear that makes us remain silent about spiritual matters? May it never be! Pray that the Holy Spirit will work powerfully in our hearts so that others smell the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of God in us. Pray for the boldness and wisdom to make known the great things God has done.

This month when you watch your favorite Independence Day parade be sure to think about the greatest parade of them all. The parade that Jesus Himself leads, the parade you and I are in, the parade that leads straight to heaven.



Summer Food Drive July 2019

In our community, 45-67 percent of students lose access to free or reduced cost meals while school is not in session (that's thousands of students). The Food Shelf at Neighbor's Inc. needs more food to support these students. To help Neighbor's Inc., we will be collecting both food and cash contributions throughout the months of July and August at both Crown of Life campuses.

Items needed: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, juice, applesauce, canned meat, beef stew, soup, chili, rice, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, cereal, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, and ketchup.

REPORTS

May 2019 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$1,655,039.70	\$1,506,701.90	\$148,337.80
Expenses	\$1,599,188.91	\$1,542,429.19	\$56,759.72
Net Operating	\$55,850.79	-\$35,727.29	\$91,578.08

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

Envelope Offerings	Actual	Borrowed	Balance
Envelope Offerings	\$1,088,609.80	1,071,502.52	\$17107.28
Special Funds	\$92,845.33	\$0	\$92,845.33

Welcome New Members!



Sydney Hodge

I moved to Saint Paul from Arizona and am currently studying to be a veterinary technician. I love reading, movies, hiking, kayaking, or anything where I can be on the lake. I currently work as a part-time nanny and waitress. I'm looking forward to being a part of the community COL offers.



The Jameson Family Matt, Lori, Austin (5), Allie (2) Ana (1).

We live in Cottage Grove, MN. Matt works as an engineer and Lori stays home while being a full-time student. We stay busy with kid activities, home projects, and being outside as much as possible! Austin will start Kindergarten at COL this Fall.

New Members Not Pictured

Kelly Hodge and son Wyatt



VBS – A Roaring Success!

VBS at Crown of Life this year had a different format from recent years. ROAR was an African safari adventure the mornings of June 24-27. Lively, catchy music started and ended each day. The children traveled to four different stations in mixed age crews lead by COL upper graders and a few SCL students (also COL alumni).

There was the usual sports/games station, in addition to videos of Africa station, an Imagination Station of science experiments, and “Bible Adventure” where crews experienced the Bible stories. They made bricks with and without straw in Egypt, “abused” Pharaoh during the 10 plagues, walked through a 150 foot parted red Sea, ate manna cornflakes, roasted quail (Peeps) over a campfire, and had a different twist on Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Even the snacks children “built” were tied to the theme each day.

There were 70 children kindergarten – grade 6 and an amazing volunteer staff of over 45 people! Thank you to everyone who contributed to making VBS a great experience.



SCHOOL NEWS



Welcome Becca Kramer!

My name is Becca Kramer and I was born on January 15, 1984 in New Ulm, MN. I grew up on a farm-site a mile north of Gibbon, MN. My parents are David and Gloria Kramer. My older siblings are Josh, Rachel, and Jeremiah. I attended grade school at Immanuel Lutheran School in Gibbon. I then attended Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School in New Ulm and graduated in 2002. I continued my education at MLC and graduated in 2006 with a degree in Elementary Education and was given a one-year assignment to open a preschool at Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Fort Myers, FL. I was reassigned to teach 1st-2nd grade at Zion Lutheran School in Columbus, WI. I enjoyed serving there for 12 years. Some of my hobbies include reading, traveling, fishing, and spending time outdoors (especially in the winter). I look forward to working with you as we serve our Lord and Savior here at Crown of Life in West St. Paul. (Becca will be teaching 2nd grade.)

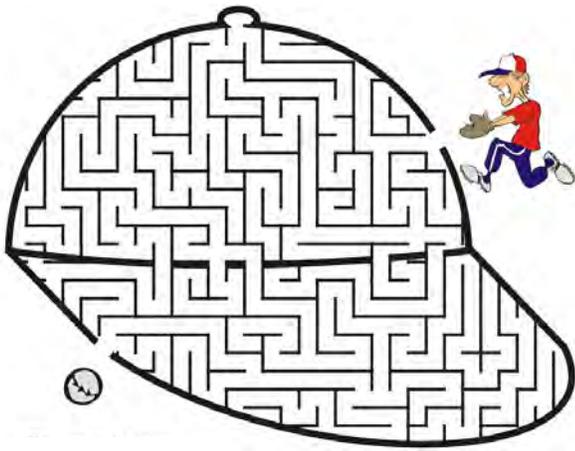
Playground is DONE!

The last time we have provided you an update on the PreK Playground was back in November 2018, since that time the money borrowed against the reserve funds was reimbursed allowing us to move forward with the final stages of this project. The properties committee was able to use this additional time wisely by securing a second bid for the installation of the equipment and surface. This second bid came in lower and once the snow melted we were able to schedule the installation. The installation of most of the equipment was completed on April 25 & 26. It was identified at that time that not all of the pieces had been delivered back in November 2017. After contacting the company they agreed to send us the missing pieces. The installation of the missing pieces of the equipment was completed on May 15th. On June 20th Russ Rider and Paul Oberg worked hard to install a border around playground, which was required to hold the surface in place. The final step was the installation of the surface. "Poured-In-Place" is the type of surface that was



installed June 26-28th, and the space is now available for use during the 2019/2020 school year! This type of surface was selected because it will provide a safe and functional space, while also taking into account the requirement for significantly less ongoing maintenance. Thank you for your support and patience as we were able to work together to provide this new extended learning space for our young students at COL.





BRAIN TEASERS

- 1 Forrest left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?
- 2 A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?
- 3 What makes this number unique: 8,549,176,320?

Answers:
 1 The catcher and the umpire
 2 An hourglass—it has thousands of grains of sand.
 3 It has each number, zero through nine, listed in alphabetical order.

July Birthdays

1 Zachary Hauck Benjamin Koeppen Natasha Miller Robert Uecker	2 Cade Matkin Carol Fetzer Ronald Will	3 LaDene Boody Janet Garcia Marta Haynes Nicole Sherrard Nathan Wolfrath	4 Suzanne Danner Julene Hartfiel JoAnne Sylvester	7 Clair Iburg Derek Lasovich Lynne Wieden	8 Daniel Boehlke Sam Danner Mike Grahl Jamie Thul Jenavieve Vandenbosch Peter Wright	9 Elroy Rechtzigel Cheza Sylvester	10 Lorna Kapanke Leah Moe	11 Mary Hansen Hadley Johnson	12 Amy Pasbrig Sharon Sachwitz	13 Andrew Kinsley Luke Klocow	14 Connor Hunter Austin Thul	15 Sarah Goette Ilah Little Mia Rubio Nick Sachs	16 Noah Bluhm Dustin Mullins Jillian Patton Troy Rich	17 Brenden Steber Abigail Stensland	18 Lenora Munoz Paul Oberg Jessica Staples	20 Savanna Moe Daniel Petermann Renee Wright	21 Ric Gibson Mackenzie Letendre	21 Felix Mulinix Madison Staples Aleya VandenBosch	22 Adeline Swanson	23 Rodney Heitman Will Kapanke Beverly Kraupa Susan Swanson	24 Emma Davis Lois Gydesen Leo Haehnel Chris Maki Gabriel Rowe	25 Arie Hussong Bradley Kutz David Mommsen Sophia Schaller Dior Wallace	26 Ian Boehm Dorothy Haberkorn Brent Kelm Cheryl Stettner	27 Landon Buysse Jordan Goette	28 Seon Dittman Donald Krosting Carla Smith	29 Sydney Hodge Kaci Lasovich Erik Ludden Naomi Marzinske	30 Becky Kruse Sharon Lapointe Jontae Watson	31 Christine Fischer Russ Rider
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TEEN MINISTRY
JUST for TEENS

THE AMAZING RACE
Teen Challenge – Valleyfair
 August 10 (1- 4 pm)

July Calendar

Monday, July 1 6:30 pm Worship WSP 8:00 pm Evangelism-EGN	6:30 pm Fellowship Committee 7:30 pm Worship Committee	10:30 am Worship WSP	Monday, July 22 2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service 6:30 pm Worship WSP 7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education
Wednesday, July 3 8:00 pm Praise Band Reh	Tuesday, July 9 6:30 pm Education Properties Handbell rehearsal 7:15 pm Stewardship	Monday, July 15 6:30 pm Worship WSP	Thursday, July 25 2:30 pm Southview Service
Thursday, July 4 <i>Independence Day</i>	Thursday, July 11 2:30 pm Southview Service 6:30 pm Adult Craft Club 7:00 pm Elders - WSP	Tuesday, July 16 7:00 pm Council-EGN	Saturday, July 27 5:00 pm Worship EGN
Saturday, July 6 5:00 pm Worship EGN	Saturday, July 13 5:00 pm Worship EGN	Thursday, July 18 2:30 pm Southview Service 7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery	Sunday, July 28 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
Sunday, July 7 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	Sunday, July 14 8:00 am Worship WSP 9:00 am Worship EGN 9:15 am Education Hour-WSP 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN	Saturday, July 20 5:00 pm Worship EGN	Monday, July 29 6:30 pm Worship WSP
Monday, July 8 6:30 pm Worship WSP		Sunday, July 21 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 12:30pm Jesus Cares-WSP	

Congregation Meeting

At this writing we are not through our current 2018/2019 fiscal year. Please check out the August edition of The Word for a more complete picture of the financial picture moving forward. In short, the Lord has blessed our ministries tremendously this past year!

On Sunday, June 23, 2019 the congregation approved the budget for fiscal year 2019/2020. It is a balanced budget with \$1,732,700 total income and \$1,732,700 total expenses. Highlights on the income side include a goal for increased envelope offerings of 3.75% (please prayerfully consider!) and increased tuition/school income based on expected additional enrollment. On the expense side our called workers will receive salary

increases of 2% to 4% with an average of 3.4%. Our non-called workers will receive a 3.4% salary increase. Our contributions to Synod and Saint Croix Lutheran Academy were increased after being held flat for the last couple years. The properties budget was increased to ensure our physical assets are maintained.

Thank you for your support of Crown of Life Lutheran Church and School. God blesses us through our collective efforts!

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven

and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” (Malachi 3:10)



STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

Love through Faith

Scripture Reading: *“Increase our faith”* (Luke 17:1-10).

What is it that precedes the disciples’ request of Jesus to increase their faith? It is Jesus’ command to count others so precious as to avoid putting any kind of temptation in their paths. It is His command to love others so dearly that they would forgive without limit.

How is this possible? If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that, in and of ourselves, we cannot follow these commands. Then we, like the disciples, must ask of our Lord, *“Increase our faith.”*

How does Jesus respond to their request? He assures them that even faith as small as a mustard seed can accomplish great things. It is God Who gives the faith, and it is God Who gives us the ability to act on it. It is God Who gives us the love through faith that sacrifices our own desires for the good of others, love through faith that knows no limit, love through faith that serves instead of asking to be served.

It is faith that gives us such love for God and our neighbor that we serve and help and give without thought of reward, so that

we *“when [we] have done everything [we] were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty’”* (Luke 17:10)

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Is there anything you need to change in your life in order to keep someone else from stumbling?
2. How are we to deal with someone who offends us? (In addition to verses 3-4, see Matthew 18:15-18.)
3. How do you exhibit a servant attitude in your home? Your workplace?

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, certainly, in order to measure up to Your standards, we must ask You to increase our faith. Still we fail, for we do not love You with our entire beings, nor do we love our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, we thank You for the gift of Your Son Who has met Your standard of perfection and has lived that standard in our places. Forgive us, Lord, for our failures. Teach us to depend on You to give us grace to be obedient to Your command to love others even as You love us. Through Christ we pray. Amen.