

# the word



August 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

## Upcoming Events

**August 7**

Back to School Night

**August 10**

The Amazing Race  
Teen Challenge – Valleyfair

**August 14**

Parent Meeting

**August 18**

Jesus Cares

**August 21**

School Open House

**August 26**

First Day of School

**August 30**

NO SCHOOL



**Crown of Life Church**

115 Crusader Ave, West St Paul, MN 55118

## Leadership Is Influence

BY PASTOR EMILE BURGESS

“I don’t really consider myself a leader. I don’t do much ‘leading’ of others.” Have you ever thought that? I know I have. Here at Crown of Life we’ve been talking a lot about how everyone is a leader in some way or another. If you still need more convincing, consider this. Leadership expert John C. Maxwell has said, “Leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less.” The quotation has stuck with me ever since I heard it earlier this summer at the *WELS Ed-Tech-Lead Summit*. If leadership is influence, then we’re all leaders to the extent that we have influence on others!

It reminds me also of a buzz word I keep hearing lately: “Influencer.” “Influencer Marketing” is when marketing resources are focused not so much on the target market but on people who have influence over those in the target market. For example, a celebrity talking about their Nikes in a social media post will sell more Nike shoes than Nike’s own social media pages. It’s really just good old “word of mouth” marketing, isn’t it? And when a celebrity-influencer’s “word of mouth” can reach thousands or even millions of their followers instantaneously, that’s influence!

Call it influence; call it leadership; leadership is influence, nothing more, nothing less.

No matter how many “followers” or “friends” you have on social media, no matter what leadership positions you hold, if any, you have influence—you are a leader. You can influence your peers and friends, your coworkers and acquaintances, your family and neighbors. And influence is what Jesus has called his followers to in this world.

*continued*

**“Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven”** (Matthew 5:16).

Just like people often feel like they’re not much of a leader, many people also feel like they don’t have much influence on others either. Both are untrue. We all have influence! We’re all leaders! Our influence on others may not feel very strong, but who says it has to be? Actually, in God’s world, this is his favorite way to operate. He loves to influence the world through the seemingly unimportant!

**“Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 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. 28 God 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 1:26-28).

Jesus himself is the ultimate example of this—the foolish, weak, lowly, and despised man who redeemed the world by his foolish, weak, lowly, and despised death. Not only that, but Jesus’ lowly Word & Sacraments don’t really seem like much on the outside, but what great influence he has on us through them!

And now God wants to operate that way through you in our own “circles of influence”! I’m sure you can think of any number of ways you can be a positive influence on others, but let’s in at least a small way put a face on it.

- What influence it would have on a guest at one of our campuses to get a genuine smile and “good morning”—or a dozen of them!
- What influence it would have to turn off our screens and give even a short time of our undivided attention to our most nearby neighbors—our family!
- What *influence* it would have to consciously do at least one thing every day that would speak to your significant other’s love language!
- What influence it would have if “everyone had one”—that is, if every member of our church had even one small way to be actively involved in our ministry!
- What influence it would have to pray daily for those in your life who don’t know Christ!
- What influence it could have on them and you to make even a short list of ways you could be a positive spiritual influence on them!

*How* you influence others is not really as important as first knowing that you *can*, and secondly, being open to being used by your Savior. What happens after that will come naturally. We often will not know the influence we’re having on others, but know that you are an influencer. You are a leader. So, continue to be influenced by Jesus and his Word to be an influencer.

## Becoming Workers in the Harvest - Stewardship Thought

**Scripture Reading:** *“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field’* (Matthew 9:35-38).

Jesus knew that the people needed a shepherd. He was determined to rescue as many as possible. Jesus said to His disciples, as He speaks to us, *“Ask the Lord of harvest...to send out workers into His harvest field.”* *It is God’s will that all people come to salvation* (2 Peter 3:9). The harvest field belongs to the Lord, and God will see that the people needed for the harvest will be available.

God invites all of us to be His workers in the harvest field. He doesn’t need us, but He gives us the privilege to be involved

in this very important work. In His sovereignty, God has called and chosen to work through us. What we can offer is our time and our talents. In Christ, we can do work that will be blessed into eternity. We begin this all-important work by asking or praying for a successful harvest with many workers being sent into the harvest field. Because of our prayers, He will provide the workers who are needed.

As we pray for God’s work to be accomplished through workers in the field, we are, in essence, allowing Him to make us the answers to our own prayers. God will find ways to use our gifts in ways that will touch others. We are encouraged to pray for God’s work to be done, and to be involved in doing this work personally. God will give us the strength to overcome the excuses that often plague us such as I don’t have the time or I’m not equipped. As Paul wrote, *“I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength”* (Philippians 4:13).

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

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Get Ready! School is almost here!

BY DAN PLATH - PRINCIPAL

I was surprised to see that shortly after July 4th and the sale of fireworks, shelves were quickly replaced with school supplies. It seems every year, the notebooks, pencils, and paper appear earlier and earlier. A bit scary isn't it?

Crown of Life has been a busy place once again this summer. Teachers preparing for the new year, families taking tours and enrolling their children, and the janitorial staff working to deep clean every corner of the building. This year the school hallways were repainted with some accents added which makes them feel warm and welcoming.

We are welcoming a couple of new teachers to our staff. Miss Rebecca Kramer is getting settled in the second grade classroom. She brings a wealth of experience and a great love for reading (along with many, many books) to Crown of Life. Make sure to stop in and introduce yourself to her. She would love to get to know the parents of COL.

Mrs. Gina Chan will be another new face on the COL staff. She will be teaching grades 5-8 music and grade 6, math and social studies. Mrs. Chan has an elementary education degree from Western Kentucky University. She is married

to Peter, and they have three teenage boys at home. I look forward to her enthusiasm and love of learning to show through in her teaching!

We will be welcoming several new families to COL too. If you do not recognize a face, don't hesitate to introduce yourself to them.

This year's theme is "Forward in Faith". As always the teachers and staff are looking forward to ways we all, teachers, parents and students, can step forward in their faith to show others what an awesome God we have!

I am certain that this year will get off to a great start and we will continue that momentum through the school year. Parents, don't forget that "Back to School" night is August 7th from 4-7 PM. Please make every effort to stop in so that you and your student can get all the information needed.



Introducing a whole new Sunday learning program for Kids of ALL ages!

Begins Sept 8  
Check it out

### 5 years – 8th Grade

Students are introduced to the lesson and watch short video in a large group setting. Video Lesson Sample: [youtu.be/Jg-LAlnVmpA](https://youtu.be/Jg-LAlnVmpA) or scan the QR code.

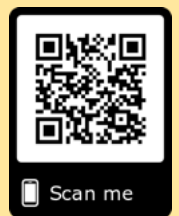
A storyteller reinforces the truths of the lesson before they breakout into small groups for application and activities related to the lesson.

### 2 – 4 years

Another new thing we're doing this year is to have a separate preschool-age program. It has its own curriculum with stories, songs, fingerplays, and even sensory activities.

### Birth – 1 year

For this age group, we want to invite Mom and/or Dad and baby to learn and grow together. Also includes stories, songs, fingerplays, and sensory activities as well as offering parents tools and techniques for raising their children in the Word.



# Beyond Identity

REVIEWED BY PASTOR PUDLO | CHRISTIAN | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In *Beyond Identity*, Dick Keyes explores why it is so many people struggle to find meaning and purpose in their lives. This is a topic that many have wrestled with more and more over the past 50+ years. As a graduate of Harvard University and Westminster Theological Seminary, Keyes brings a Biblical perspective on a topic that has been traditionally viewed from a psychological perspective. Keyes uses many Biblical references in making his case that a person finds ultimate meaning and purpose in life only when they find their meaning and purpose in their relationship with God.

Keyes is a highly educated man and his writings reflect that. It wasn't the fastest read for me, because I had to stop at moments to understand what he was saying. While it was a slower read, I still found it quite beneficial and meaningful.



## Community Service Project

The news is spreading that we at Crown of Life are doing a new community service project this summer. The Evangelism Committee has approved running a school supply drive to collect and donate supplies for the students attending Jackson Elementary School in St. Paul. Since this is a brand-new project, the following is some information about the drive that can answer some questions you might have about it.

### Why a school supply drive?

In April, Matt Otterstatter, on behalf of the Evangelism Committee, wrote an article in the COL monthly newsletter. In it, he encouraged members to brainstorm ideas for service projects that benefited the community without necessarily expecting anything in return. Such service is often more compelling to those receiving the support because they see that we do not directly benefit from helping them. Even if the families we help do not end up coming to COL, the project will provide help for children in need, which may even positively impact our church's reputation in the community. This can be a catalyst for other great projects.

### Why Jackson Elementary?

Certain areas in St. Paul have a higher number of families living in poverty. Minnesota Census and St. Paul Public School statistics show that 26% of households in the area served by Jackson Elementary have incomes that fall below the poverty

level. Yes, the school receives state funding and some additional aid, but the children who attend the school do not. Our supply drive intends to assist these families and children, giving them a better chance at success at school.

Jesus commanded his disciples to go out into all the world to preach the gospel. In the same way, he wants us to shine our lights for him in any way so that the seeds of faith might be sewn everywhere. Perhaps we/COL will not be the ones to harvest what grows from these seeds, but it is our joyful duty to share God's love with all people, and we can rejoice if even one soul is saved.

### How can I participate?

A specific, grade-by-grade school supply list can be found on the Crown of Life website. Students generally need glue sticks, 24-count boxes of crayons, boxes of tissues, No. 2 pencils, washable markers, colored pencils, pocket folders, wide ruled spiral-bound notebooks, and composition notebooks (not spiral). You can also order online, and supplies will be shipped directly to Jackson Elementary. Just go to [yougivegoods.com/colsupplydrive](http://yougivegoods.com/colsupplydrive).

We pray that God blesses our efforts and uses our support to help the children at Jackson Elementary have success in learning this year!

Drop off Ends  
August 25



Eagan Campus

WSP Campus

# REPORTS

## June 2019 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$1,753,087.02	\$1,640,227.34	\$112,859.68
Expenses	\$1,742,654.03	\$1,680,698.41	\$61,955.62
Net Operating	\$10,432.99	\$-40,417.07	\$50,904.06

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

Envelope Offerings	Actual	Borrowed	Balance
	\$1,162,791.96	1,165,463.87	\$-2,671.91
Special Funds	Actual	Borrowed	Balance
	\$93,115.75	\$1,000.00	\$92,115.75

### BAPTISMS

Rose Joseph Kutz, daughter of Bradley and Jeannine on 7/21/19 with Pastor Kom.

Kira Brett Larson, daughter of Eric and Heidi on 7/28/19 with Pastor Pudlo.

Benjamin James Grunwald, son on Timothy and Nicole on 7/28/19 with Pastor Kom.

### MARRIAGE

Marriage of Pastor Zachary Pudlo & Heidi Voigt on 6/15/19 at St. John's Lutheran, Baraboo, WI.

## August Birthdays

1 Damon Bilitz	6 MaryJo Buysse	12 Ryan Swiderski	18 Ryan Bolte	23 Sara Wiplinger
Ruth Boehlke	Jonah Kurth	13 Braden Fischer	Will Gydesen	24 Brett Hussong
Carla Koeppen	Wynn Sandman	Derek Lander	Mark Kruse	Rebecca Maki
2 Elizabeth Dohrn	7 Danielle Wold	Beverly Monjeau	Jameson Pieper	25 Karner Boyer
David Wright	8 Melodee Cannon	Pauline Pagel	19 Zackery Bejblik	Isabella Diaz
3 Timothy Burdorf	Peter Chan	Pastor Zachary Pudlo	Beth Plath	26 Gina Chan
John McCall	Lynette Klocow	Alexander Thul	19 Savannah Valenzuela	27 Ted Dohrn
Bradley Oberstadt	Denise Lemmer	14 Derek Neubauer	20 Brita Kock	Maxwell Hauck
John Schindeldecker	Dick Radmer	Aubrea Southard	21 Ronald Burkhardt	Andrew Otterstatter
4 Jack Evenson	Charlene Schindeldecker	15 Christopher Eckhardt	Keith Danner	28 Duwayne Fries
Vicki Tillman	9 Michelle Koker	Cadence Moe	Amber Rall	Kathleen Mommsen
5 Cydney Bluhm	10 Jacob Stensland	16 Ronald Johnson	22 Dave Footh	30 Cameron Biggar
Luz Cenicerros	10 Christopher Hunter	Colleen Kom	Ellie Mayne	Richard Kraupa
Debra Montgomery	11 Emma Haehnel	Levi Smith	23 Lois Hoeft	Jonathan VandenBosch
Kara Plath	Christie Lawrence	17 Danielle Bethke	Marcia Stueber	31 Rachel Boehlke
Karissa Plath	Corbin Qualy	Kiara Boyer	Jamie Wakefield Jr.	Jazmyn Solseth
Alissa Smith	Gary Sachs	Michael Kohnke	Stu Waldhauser	

## August Calendar

**Thursday, August 1**  
2:30 pm Southview Service

**Saturday, August 3**  
5 pm Worship EGN

**Sunday, August 4**  
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, August 5**  
6:30 pm Worship WSP  
8 pm Evangelism-EGN

**Wednesday, August 7**  
4 pm Back to School Night  
8 pm Praise Band Reh

**Thursday, August 8**  
2:30 pm Southview Service  
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club  
7 pm Elders - EGN

**Saturday, August 10**  
1 pm Teen Challenge  
Valleyfair gr.9-12  
5 pm Worship EGN

**Sunday, August 11**  
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, August 12**  
6:30 pm Fellowship Committee  
6:30 pm Worship WSP  
7:30 pm Worship Committee

**Tuesday, August 13**  
6:30 pm Education  
6:30 pm Properties  
6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal

**Wednesday, August 14**  
6:30 pm Parent Meeting

**Thursday, August 15**  
2:30 pm Southview Service  
7 pm Riverview Cemetery  
7:15 pm Stewardship

**Saturday, August 17**  
5 pm Worship EGN  
**Sunday, August 18**  
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  
12:30 pm Jesus Cares-WSP

**Monday, August 19**  
6:30 pm Worship WSP

**Tuesday, August 20**  
7 pm Council-EGN

**Wednesday, August 21**  
5 pm School Open House

**Thursday, August 22**  
2:30 pm Southview Service

**Saturday, August 24**  
5 pm Worship EGN

**Sunday, August 25**  
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, August 26**  
*First Day of School*  
2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service  
6:30 pm Worship WSP  
7 pm Youth & Adult Education

**Tuesday, August 27**  
7 pm Personnel Committee

**Thursday, August 29**  
2:30 pm Southview Service

**Friday, August 30**  
*NO SCHOOL*

**Saturday, August 31**  
5 pm Worship EGN

# TEEN MINISTRY JUST for TEENS

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



## Jesus League Summer Camp

During the Month of July, Camp Coix hosted a weekly “Jesus League” summer Bible Camp for KIDS. Campers learned what it means to be a hero and how Jesus is the ultimate hero who sacrificed his life for us. They got to meet real life heroes like a police officer and his canine partner, Tracker, and enjoyed the normal camp activities like fishing, swimming, slip and slide, water balloons and even learned how to put on a puppet show.

If you are interested in being either a camper or counsellor, please visit [campcroix.org](http://campcroix.org).

