



the word

August 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

8/9

Back to School Night

8/10

Fellowship BOWLING NIGHT

8/16

Parents Meeting

8/23

School Open House

8/27

Pioneer Kickoff Picnic

8/28

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

8/31

Pioneer Meeting

Baptism's Comfort from Cradle to Crown

BY PASTOR EMILE BURGESS

"Why do you baptize babies?" Have you gotten the question before? Some won't even use the word baptize. They'll say, "Why do you sprinkle babies?" They won't use the term baptize because they claim it's not a valid baptism unless the person *chooses* it for himself.

Right-Hearted, Wrong-Headed

As off-guard as they may have caught you, we must admit this about the person them: they are right-hearted, but wrong-headed. They want to remain true to God's Word, which says that one can only be saved *through faith*. Sadly, they end up exalting human reason above God's Word when they ask, *"How is it possible for a baby to have faith in Jesus?"* Perhaps even more sad, they lose out on the great comfort the Sacrament gives.

How Do We Respond?

One certainly could reference passages that teach that little children *can believe*—and we should! But perhaps what gets even closer to the heart of the issue is to ask, *"who are we to say that faith and mental understanding are one and the same?"* To say that a baby must mentally comprehend the gospel is to say more than Scriptures say about faith or baptism.

A Misuse of Human Reason

If God in his Word says, "baptism saves you" (Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21), who are we to misuse human reason and say that must mean "only adults

continued

who choose to be baptized”? If God in his Word says, **“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me”** (Psalm 51:5), who are we to add to Scripture and say that children are innocent until they reach an “age of accountability.” If God in his Word says that baptism gives “forgiveness of sins” (Acts 2:38), who are we to withhold this great blessing from babies? Again, these are all examples of elevating human reason above God’s clear Word.

Perhaps the question should be turned around. “Why *don’t you* baptize infants?” Since, in addition to what we’ve said so far, God’s Word nowhere tells us *not* to baptize babies, the burden of proof is on those who refuse to. Why would we want to withhold from infants such blessings as God says baptism gives? And why would you ever want to withhold such a comfort from their *parents*?

God’s Glory, Man’s Comfort

One of the classic “Lutheran” tests of false or true teaching is this: *which teaching gives God the greatest glory and man the greatest comfort?* Infant baptism comes out on top in both respects! To see baptism as a choice only adults can make for themselves changes baptism from a sacrament (a work of God) to a sacrifice (a work of man). That means diminished glory to God

who alone saves and diminished comfort to man whose faith now turns inward to examine whether he/she was “sincere” in his/her baptism. There is much more we could say about this, but let us make one more connection of comfort in baptism.

Baptism’s Comfort at the End of Life

Baptism brings great comfort not just for life’s beginnings but also for life’s endings. If, as some claim, faith and mental understanding of the gospel are synonymous, then what about the Christian with Alzheimer’s or dementia? After all, they eventually lose their mental understanding of who Jesus is and what he has done to save them. Does their faith wane with their mental capacity and their memory of “choosing to believe”? This is where the true understanding of baptism shines once again! Baptism is *God’s* work, not mine.

This is why baptism is so comforting to us who have loved ones in memory care. At life’s beginnings, what a comfort that my baby doesn’t need to have mental understanding of the gospel to be forgiven and saved by Jesus! They are baptized! So at life’s end, what a comfort that my loved one with Alzheimer’s doesn’t need to have mental understanding of the gospel to be forgiven and saved by Jesus! They are baptized! All of God’s promises attached to baptism are theirs!

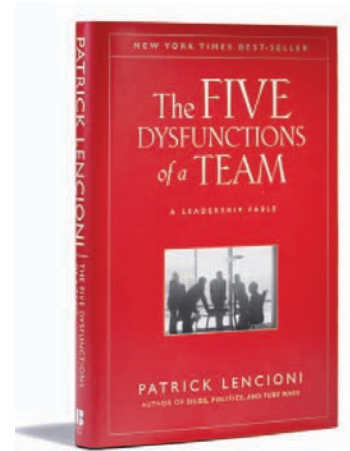
“The Five Dysfunctions of a Team”

BY PATRICK LENCIONI | MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

We all work with other people. Whether it be at our jobs, at home with our family, or in volunteering at church, we all work with other people. Unfortunately, that work doesn’t always play out the way we expect. In *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, Patrick Lencioni writes a fable about a company that was just getting by when it should have dominated the market. Kathryn Peterson was hired as CEO to right the ship. She observed for many weeks without making changes and then she scheduled a retreat with her team. At the retreat she shared with her team the 5 dysfunctions that were keeping the company from growth. You can imagine how the meetings went and the results, or you can read all about it in this very practical book.

Many coaches of professional sports have used this book to help their teams. Many companies have used the principles from this book to help their companies. An easy and short read, this is a great book for all people as it helps us understand why issues come up when we work with others and how to correct those pitfalls.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Emblazoned Blessings

Even into the later stages of diseases of the memory, some Christians can sing along to *Jesus Loves Me* or *Abide With Me*, pray along with the *Lord's Prayer*, say John 3:16, confess together the *Apostles' Creed*, the *Confession of Sins* and other parts of the Liturgy. What a blessing toward life's end to speak and sing God's truths emblazoned on the mind and heart from earlier on.

What an even greater blessing God's Sacrament of baptism emblazoned on the soul—a baptism that leaves our faith and salvation up to God and his work—a baptism that carries us from this life's end to the next life's beginning—a life with Christ that will never end. Baptism truly gives us comfort from cradle to crown!

There are many other ways to respond and angles from which to approach this topic. This is just one. Speak to one of the pastors for more on responding to others about infant baptism.

Pioneer Programs ENDS???

We are in need of helpers/leaders for our Pioneer program. Currently the girl Pioneer program will not be available this fall as we have no volunteers that have stepped up to be leaders.

The boys program also needs additional leaders as one of ours has decided to step aside after many years of leading the program.

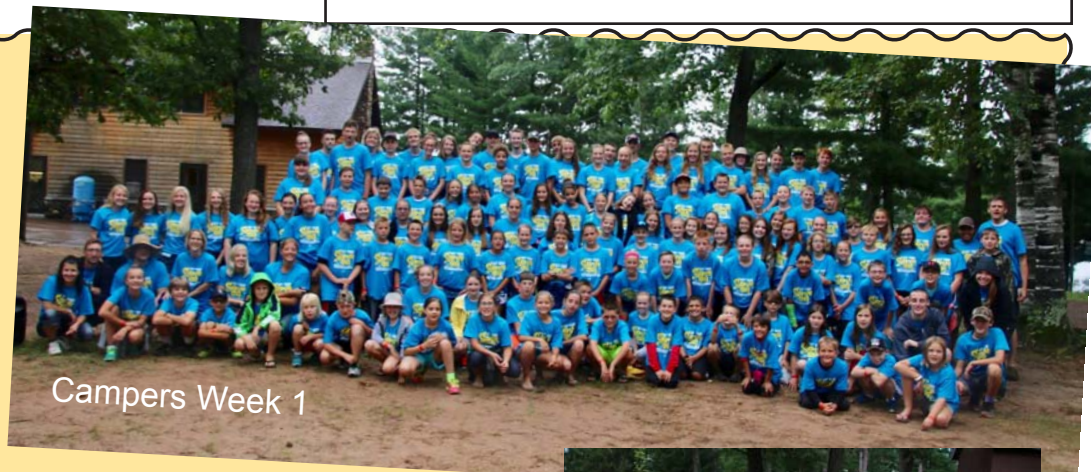
The Pioneer program is a fun youth oriented program for grades 1 through 8 to teach Christian leadership skills as well as outdoor activities, (hiking, back-packing, camping, canoeing, boating) and life skills, (etiquette, cooking, respect).

Please consider helping out this program by volunteering to be a leader. If you would like more information regarding either the girl or boy Pioneer programs you can contact Steve Petermann or Dan Oberstadt, 651-357-7100.

Best Kept Secret

If you are a member of Crown of Life, Camp Croix is possibly the best kept secret. The Summer Camp that has been around for over 60 years is a great way for your kids to get out of the home for a week and enjoy growing in faith while enjoying some time with friends in the outdoors. This year's theme at camp was *Hands in Service*. The children learned all about how the Lord serves them and how to serve him and others.

Maybe you knew all about the kids Summer Camp. But here's the added bonus...as members of Crown of Life you are welcome to make use of the facilities of Camp Croix. There are cabins, tent sites, and even a lodge that you and your family can rent for more than reasonable prices. If you are looking for a place to go with your family to enjoy some fishing, hiking, boating and so much more, consider checking out Camp Croix. For more information about Camp Croix and how you can be a part of this amazing ministry visit the website at <http://campcroix.org>.



REPORTS

TREASURER

Fiscal Year 7/16 to 6/17

June ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$2,284,286 in total income with expected budget income to be \$2,181,193 which was \$103,093 above budget. Clear the Path was \$232,554 over budget which was the biggest reason we were over budget on income. Envelope Offerings are -\$85,647 less than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$2,380,551 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$96,265. All bills are paid to date. We owe \$0 to our special funds account. Special Funds Account available balance is \$38,000. Clear the Path matching funds which we budgeted for is 232,554 above budget income. Total Clear the Path contributions as of 6-30-2017 totaled \$1,352,445 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance down to \$0.

Questions: treasurer@colwsp.org

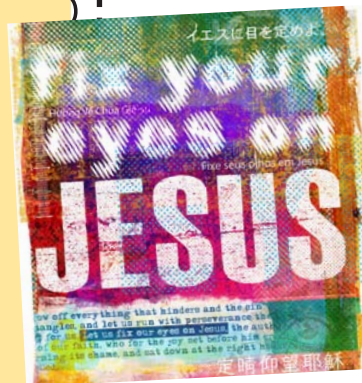
MARRIAGE

Chris Maki and Rebecca Flad on 6/23/17 with Pastor Leach at Salem Lutheran, Stillwater, MN.

Andrew Fenske and Alicia Kielbasa on 7/22/17 with Pastor Kom.

Zach Schultz and Kaleigh Solheim on 7/22/17

DEATH – Marggy Hei died 6/9/17, funeral at Christ Lutheran Church in North St. Paul on 6/16/17.



Back to School!!

BY DANIEL PLATH

I know it is hard to believe that school is just around the corner. I can hear it now... students are groaning, while parents are cheering. Well, maybe that's not entirely true but the 2017-18 school year will certainly have some changes coming.

Dave Noack is the latest addition to the staff at Crown of Life. Dave comes to us with a great deal of experience and is looking forward to the new challenges of another school year.

Mr. Noack will be teaching grades 6-8 Science, PE with Mr. Ohm, and grade 8 Social Studies. I am sure you will find Mr. Noack to be a great addition to our staff.

We also have Mrs. Boehlke on our staff. No, she is not new to our staff, but her last name did change over the summer as Kate Wahl was married to Mathew Boehlke. Mrs. Boehlke is enjoying married life and is looking forward to another school year.

PreK continues to grow. We have at least 25 signed up already and more tours and sign ups to come. Mrs. Johnson just keeps bringing them in! What a blessing!!

Miss Klessig continues to recover from back surgery. Please join me in praying that God bless her recovery so she can have full mobility in the classroom.

We have new students this year from St. John Lutheran in St. Paul. Unfortunately, St. John had to close their doors to their school, but we are pleased to have them in our midst. Please welcome them when you get the chance!

Our theme for this school year is "Fix Your Eyes on Jesus". I know there is no better place to focus than the comfort, love, compassion and rest that Jesus offers. With everyone's help, the 2017-18 school year will be a great one!!

Crayfish Dissection



Seizing the Opportunity to Teach in China

BY BETH PLATH

Heading to China recently with a group from St Croix Lutheran High School brought two of my passions together in one...I love to travel and I love to teach. We were headed to an English camp that brought Chinese students from great distances away. The purpose of the camp was to help these students improve their English skills.

Getting an opportunity to travel to China and be able to teach was challenging, but very, very rewarding. As we prepared for this trip, my niece and I were given the responsibility to teach Science to students between the ages of 8-16. We spent a great deal of time in planning what would be taught and how we could bring each lesson back to Jesus and what he has done for them. How could this be done in a country that strictly prohibits any Bible teaching? Nonetheless, each day we started with a devotion that helped us focus on our purpose – teaching science and sharing the love of Jesus.

The weather was hot and humid. The sleeping conditions were not ideal. The cafeteria food left a great deal to be desired. And the bathroom conditions were nothing like we had ever

experienced. And to top it all off, any comforts of home were a mere 6300 miles away. But one thing was consistent, unchanging, and never, ever wavering. Jesus' love for each of us was evident in every way, every day!

We taught the science classes about snakes and crayfish as well as other animals. Each day we had a Bible verse that we tied into the lesson. Each day, as the students left, I "high fived" each student and reminded them that "Jesus Loves YOU!" What a blessing! What a privilege! What an honor! There is no gift that we can offer anyone greater than the gift of Jesus.

We completed our camp by singing, "Jesus Loves Me". The joy that all of us felt that day was indescribable! The following day we visited a buddhist temple. That truly brought me to tears. Seeing people of all ages offering incense and prayers to a god that does not exist. No joy. No peace. No hope.

The trip helped me to refocus my personal mission and the purpose of each and every Christian. Please pray with me that more and more people of China and every other country, including the United States, hear and learn about the saving message of Jesus Christ.

It was a life changing experience and hopefully I met some students with whom I can enjoy eternity.



Getting to Know You: Dave and Linda Noack

My wife, Linda, and I have been married 39 years and live in Hudson. Linda taught first grade for many years at Salem, Stillwater, and this year will be working in the three year old program.

We have two children. Jennie and husband, Pat, live in Fond du Lac, WI and have our one grandchild, Kaylie, who is going into 5th grade. Jennie is a former WELS teacher, but the last few years has been the Aquatics Director and Family Programs coordinator at the YMCA in Fond du Lac. Our son, Nick, lives in Somerset, WI and is engaged to Amanda. They are getting married November 4. He is in the human resources department at Renewal in Cottage Grove.

I was born in St. Paul, grew up in Mendota Heights, went through District 197 schools, and was in the first graduating class from the current location of Henry Sibley. We could see the lights of the old Met Stadium from our house growing up so I am a Vikings, Twins, and Gophers fan. Linda grew up south of Green Bay, so we have a mixed marriage. Mendota Heights was much more rural while I was growing up so I had a tremendous childhood. We could follow the creek by Somerset School on Dodd Road to Ivy Falls, eat lunch under the falls, build forts, and walk almost to the Mississippi. Yet, downtown St. Paul was 10 minutes away. It is a great privilege to be able to come back and serve in the area I love and call home.

Crown of Life will be the 7th school I've served. I was assigned to Round Lake, IL, considered a far north suburb of Chicago. We had the great privilege of starting a school in Elkhorn, WI in 1981. Our journey then took

us to Eau Claire, WI during our children's grade school years. We moved to Hudson in 1995 to begin service at Salem, Stillwater. After 16 years the Lord led me to begin teaching at Christ, North St. Paul. Four years later my service shifted to The Lutheran Home in River Falls, WI working with Alzheimer and dementia residents. I loved it and thought it would be my "final destination." God had other plans and led me to serve last year at St. Paul's, Cannon Falls.



I always enjoyed school as a child even though I struggled. I had a brief stint at Northwestern College in the pastor tract. During another brief stay at the University of Minnesota, I taught Sunday School and that experience lead me to become a teacher. I have always enjoyed learning and pray that atmosphere is contagious in my classroom.

What I love about teaching in schools like ours is the relationship with the kids. They become an extension of my family and my care and concern for them goes far beyond math, science,

states, capitols, and long after they graduate. I love the moments when "the light bulb goes on". I love being at their athletic or music events to celebrate their achievements and offer comfort in their losses. I love having lunch with them years after they leave my classroom and going to their weddings. (I jokingly tell them in class that I will gladly sing a medley of my greatest hits at their weddings. Fortunately, no one has ever asked...) I love the spiritual connection we share at our schools.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve at Crown of Life and pray God will bless our ministry together.

Welcome to Crown of Life! We are so happy God brought you to our family.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 1

Teacher Inservice
7:00 pm Evangelism
Technology Team

Wednesday, August 2

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

Thursday, August 3

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, August 5

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, August 6

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, August 7

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, August 8

6:30 pm Education
Properties
Handbell rehearsal
7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, August 9

4:00 pm Back to School Night
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, August 10

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Elders-EGN

Saturday, August 12

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, August 13

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, August 14

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

Tuesday, August 15

7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, August 16

6:30 pm Parent Meeting
Bible Class EGN

Thursday, August 17

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

Saturday, August 19

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, August 20

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
6:00 pm School Cleaning

Monday, August 21

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Wednesday, August 23

5:00 pm School Open House
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, August 24

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, August 26

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, August 27

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
5:00 pm Pioneers Kickoff Picnic

Monday, August 28

First Day of School
2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, August 29

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Wednesday, August 30

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, August 31

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

SEPTEMBER 10

Every Member SUNDAY

What do the seven deadly sins and Gilligan's Island have in common?

Lust – Gluttony – Greed – Sloth – Wrath – Envy – Pride

Find out at Every Member Sunday – September 10th – Let's set a record for member attendance!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Damon Bilitz | 8 Melodee Cannon | 15 Cadence Moe | Taylor Olson |
| Carla Koeppen | Peter Chan | 16 Ronald Johnson | 23 Marcia Stueber |
| 2 Elizabeth Dohrn | Lynette Klocow | Colleen Kom | Jamie Wakefield Jr. |
| David Wright | Denise Lemmer | 17 Danielle Bethke | Stu Waldhauser |
| 3 Timothy Burdorf | Dick Radmer | Kiara Boyer | Sara Wiplinger |
| Chad Ellwein | Charlene Schindeldecker | Michael Kohnke | 24 Rebecca Flad |
| John McCall | 9 Michelle Koker | 18 Ryan Bolte | Brett Hussong |
| Bradley Oberstadt | Jacob Stensland | Will Gydesen | 25 Karner Boyer |
| John Schindeldecker | 10 Christopher Hunter | Mark Kruse | Isabella Diaz |
| 4 Vicki Tillman | 11 Emma Haehnel | Jameson Pieper | 26 Gina Chan |
| 5 Cydney Bluhm | Gary Sachs | 19 Zackery Bejblik | 27 Ted Dohrn |
| Luz Cenicerros | 12 Ryan Swiderski | Beth Plath | Maxwell Hauck |
| Debra Montgomery | 13 Braden Fischer | Savannah Valenzuela | Andrew Otterstatter |
| Kara Plath | Derek Lander | 20 Brita Kock | 28 Duwayne Fries |
| Karissa Plath | Beverly Monjeau | 21 Ronald Burkhart | Kathleen Mommsen |
| Alissa Smith | Pauline Pagel | Keith Danner | 30 Richard Kraupa |
| 6 Jonah Kurth | Pastor Zachary Pudlo | Todd Eichmann | Jonathan Vandenbosch |
| Mary Jo Myhre - Buysse | Alexander Thul | Amber Rall | 31 Rachel Boehlke |
| Wynn Sandman | 14 Aubrea Bluhm | Karl Schnobrich | Meggie Marrier |
| 7 Danielle Marzinske | Josette Kauffeld | 22 Dave Footh | Jazmyn Solseth |
| | Derek Neubauer | 23 Lois Hoelt | |

ASK THE PASTORS - Can you guess who they are by their answers?

Paper or Plastic?

- Plastic (for immediate disposal of rank diapers)
- Plastic
- Depends on what mood I'm in

If you were a super-hero who would you be & why?

- Doctor Strange (His cape is amazing)

- Superman (He seems to be invincible)

- Superman (He has lots of superpowers)

What is your biggest fear?

- My kids could somehow/some way lose their faith

- Losing any one of my girls

- Family losing faith

Favorite Past-time?

- Tennis

- Either baseball or flyfishing

- Traveling

Most hated food?

- Beans of any kind (jellybeans are ok)

- Liver

- I'll eat anything and enjoy it

Favorite Food

- Chipotle

- BBQ Bacon Cheeseburger

- Steamed Lobster Tail

Biggest challenge as a pastor

- Balancing time in study with time among people

- Getting everything done with limited time

- Juggling all the different duties

Person you learned the most from

- Professor Daniel Deutschlander at MLC

- My Dad

- Jesus

What is the first question you have for God when you meet face to face?

- Would you do the Road to Emmaus sermon again for me?

- What took so long?

- Why didn't Noah just swat those two mosquitos on the ark?

JUST FOR FUN

QUOTE FALL

S	Y	V	R	H	E	T	O	R	K	D	H	O	U	G	L	I
T	E	A	E	R	D	R	I	N	R	T	O	R	D	W	E	A
T	O	O	L	F		F	O	E			O	E				

ANSWERS TO JULY BRAIN TEASER:

How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you. *Throw the ball straight up in the air.*

PASTOR CHALLENGE



...which two people in the Bible didn't have their bodies return to dust, but both body and soul entered into heaven?

Enoch and Elijah

Please direct ideas, questions or comments about this issue to ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

West St. Paul Campus – 115 Crusader Ave W, West St. Paul MN 55118

Eagan Campus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122