



the word

February 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

2/2

Pioneer Meeting

2/4-5

B-Team Basketball Tournament

2/6-10

SPIRIT WEEK

2/10-12

A-Team Basketball Tournament

2/14

Valentine's Day

2/16

11:30 am Early Dismissal
Parent/Teacher Conferences
Pioneer Meeting

2/17-19

MLC Basketball Tournament

2/20

President's Day
NO SCHOOL

2/22

Ski Trip

2/24

6:30 pm PreK/Kindergarten Musical

2/25

Pinwood Derby

Love Does Not...

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

Did you know that when the Apostle Paul spoke about love and the qualities of love, he mostly talked about things that love wasn't going to do? In the great love chapter of the bible (1 Corinthians 13) you will find that there are eight "negatives" listed verses four "positives" in what love is all about. Most of the time, then, Paul began by saying LOVE DOES NOT... Let's take a closer look at a couple of his "negatives."

Paul said that **love is not** self seeking. Part of our sinful nature is wanting to have our own way. One well-known theologian has said, *cure selfishness and you have just replanted the garden of Eden*. Adam and Eve rejected God's way so that they could have their own way, didn't they? Their "self" replaced God and His will. Exalting your "self" is the opposite of righteousness and the opposite of love at the same time. Love does not get preoccupied with its own interests, but instead takes an active interest in others.

The folks in the Corinthian congregation were a pretty good example of that. They were extreme examples of what love should not be. They would have been terrible at a pot luck dinner because they didn't want to share any of their food at their "love feasts" as they were called – their fellowship get-togethers. They protected their rights to the point of suing their fellow believers in open court among the pagans, and many other things. Paul was very direct with them. **"Love does not** do these things." **Love is not** all about me. It's a sin we struggle with, too.

continued

Or consider another “negative” from Paul: **love does not** keep a record of wrongs. The verb there in the original Greek language looks like this: logizomai. It means “to take into account.” It’s actually a bookkeeping term that means “to calculate or to reckon.” It was used when you were trying to figure out an entry on a ledger. The purpose of an entry is to make a permanent record that can be consulted whenever you need it. In the business world, that kind of a practice is absolutely necessary. In personal matters it’s not only unnecessary – it’s very harmful. Dwelling on past sins, keeping a record of wrongs will destroy you from the inside out and it will do great harm to the people you are keeping records on.

Is that your struggle? Is your first reaction when you don’t get your way is to say, “well, what comes around goes around. Just wait until you want my help with something or you want my support. I won’t forget this?” It’s not that difficult to find our guilt in all of this, is there?

Did you know that the same Greek word, logizomai, “to take into account,” is used often in the New Testament to represent the pardoning act of God because of Jesus’ saving work? In the book of Romans Paul quoted the Psalms and said, blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him. In the book of 2 Corinthians Paul said, *God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.* In the book of Acts Peter said in a sermon, *repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.* That’s a pretty great accounting system that God has in place, isn’t it? Once Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross there is no more record of it. It is blotted out – “wiped away” – as Peter put it. As your name appears in God’s heavenly record there is only one entry after your name.

It says, “righteous.” We are counted righteous in Christ. He was the one who never kept a record of wrongs; he was never out to seek His own interests and give in to selfishness. Jesus lived a righteous life in every way. His righteousness, his moral perfection, was credited as our moral perfection. No other record exists for us in God’s ledger. Jesus made sure of that.

And it’s that love of Jesus that motivates us to put His kind of love into practice – the kind of love that keeps no record of wrongs. No wrongs are recorded in our minds for later reference. Love forgives. Someone once suggested that love does not forgive and forget, but rather love remembers everything and still forgives. Resentment is careful to keep the books on wrongs, which it reads over and over again, hoping for a chance to get even. Love keeps no books, because it has no place for resentment and grudges.

An old theologian once said that a wrong done against love is like a spark that falls into the sea and is immediately quenched. Love drowns wrongs rather than records them. As we remember how God completely and permanently erased the record of our sins against Him, it motivates us to forgive and forget the much lesser wrongs that people do against us.

Love does not. Paul knew that the “negatives” of your life of love are just as important as the positives. With the Lord’s help, show your love to everyone by what you will not do. You will not let selfishness get the best of you. And you will not keep a record of wrongs. Jesus empowers you with his love and forgiveness to refrain from those very things. God bless us to that end. Happy Valentines Day!

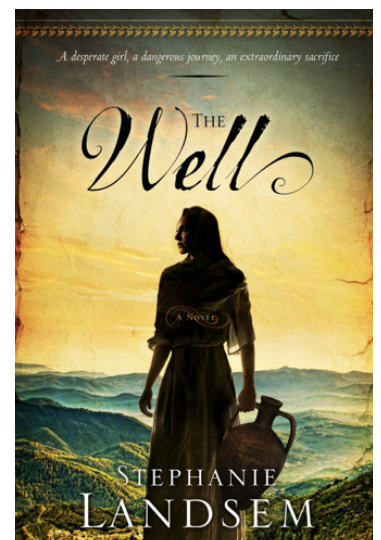
BOOK REVIEW

“The Well”

BY STEPHANIE LANDSEM | CHRISTIAN FICTION

For the women of the Samaritan village of Sychar, the well is a place of blessing — the place where they gather to draw their water and share their lives — but not for Mara and her family. Shunned for the many sins of her mother, Mara struggles against the constant threats of starvation or exile. See how their lives are changed with the arrival of two men.

“The Well” is a wonderful journey which demonstrates the unexpected blessings and courage God gives His children.



Identity in Culture: How Our Personal Identities Affect the Way We Treat Others

January 28, 2017 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



The protests and violence over the inauguration weekend really struck me. One of the boasts of our country and our generation is that we are inclusive. And yet with all the riots, name calling, mocking, hate-speech, etc...that we have seen over the past months and years, it seems like we aren't as inclusive as we'd like to think we are. What has lead us to this point in history where we hear cries of "Peace! Love! Acceptance!" But then we see and hear in the news that there has been another mass shooting, another riot gone bad, another person killed because of their personal beliefs. Even Christians are guilty of crying out "Peace! Love! Acceptance!" And then are heard saying things quite the opposite, posting things far from it, and withholding prayers for it. How have we gotten to this point? Our personal identities are huge factors in the way we treat other people.

Identity Formation

At its core, identity formation can take place in two different ways...outward or inward. We can gain a sense of purpose and meaning from either outward circumstances influences, or we can try to find it inwardly. Let's briefly consider each.

Outward identity formation takes place in many traditional cultures. The sense of self and worth is dictated to you by others, and often times by your family. Imagine a young boy whose name is Tom Baker. His father, grandfather, and great-grandfather before him were all bakers, the best in the village. The gift of baking ran through their blood and everyone knew it. Everyone came to them for their bread and pastries. As a young Tom felt immense pressure to live up to the Baker name. If he didn't then his whole life would be a failure. That's how outward identity formation works. It is constantly looking to others for a sense of purpose and worth. It needs affirmation from something outside of itself.

Even though that isn't the primary form of identity formation within our

*BLOG CONTINUED... To view the entire article go to
church.crownoflifemn.org/pastors-blog/*

PASTOR CHALLENGE winners!!!

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John... which ones were disciples of Jesus? **Matthew and John were 2 of the 12. Mark and Luke were evangelists who never personally met him.**

The Bible tells us the occupations of all the writers except Mark. What were the occupations of Matthew, Luke and John?

Matthew - Tax Collector

Luke - Doctor

John - Fisherman

How many books of the Bible did each of these men write?

Matthew - 1 (Matthew)

Luke - 2 (Luke and Acts)

John - 5 (John, 1-3 John, Revelation)

Which one of these men lived the longest?

John



**Congratulations to the
7th Grade Catechism Class!**

*Can you beat the 7th grade in the
next pastor challenge???*
*We'll see if they can hold their
championship spot.*

Selfless Service

— Stewardship Thought

To teach us selfless service, Jesus demonstrated a perfect example of servant leadership. He washed the dust and dirt off His disciples' feet (John 13:1-17). On the day before His crucifixion, Jesus, Who was both Son of Man and Son of God, took a towel and a water basin and washed their feet. Finishing His task, Jesus told them: *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"* (verses 14-15). With Jesus as our example, we should seek opportunities to serve others. Our service will not only bless those who we serve, we will also be blessed by doing them.

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 2) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

A Huge Thank You to all who donated time, money, food, service and prayers to the **Great Eagan Pew Project!** Everything was finished in less than 2 days and looks great!



SCHOOL NEWS

Preschool Beginnings

It is a new beginning for our preschool program, after undergoing changes this past year we are thriving with 27 students currently enrolled! The program now offers the choice of full day sessions, half day morning sessions or half day afternoon sessions, allowing much more flexibility for families. Parents are able to choose what works best with their schedule.



What We've Been Up To

We've been learning our letters, numbers, colors, shapes and working on our life skills: how to get along, takes turns, share, and most importantly hear God's Word and learn of His love for us.

Some of our favorite moments have been making gingerbread houses, celebrating Jesus' birthday, reading or doing fun projects with our 4th grade friends, making instruments, making ornaments, riding the bus for the first time and attending the St. Croix children's theater. We are very excited and look forward to our upcoming Circus performance we will put on at the end of February.

1st Grade Highlights

We just finished Art Adventure, a program in which we participate every year. Parents and other volunteers come to our classroom and show us some pieces of art from the Minneapolis Institute of Art. This year's theme was "Let's Celebrate Life!", and we looked at different art pieces from around the world, and made fun projects based on those pieces.



The first grade class also welcomed a new student in December, bringing our class total up to twenty students! It's always great to have a new friend to play with, and learn with.

This year the first graders have really taken off in their reading skills. We post our sight words every week on the door, and so far this year, we have learned more than 70 words, which every student can read by sight. Hooray for being readers!

Raider Basketball

The basketball season always brings excitement to the hallways, classrooms and especially the gym at COL. The 5-8 graders look forward with eager anticipation for the start of each season, while the younger grade students count their days until they can put on that Raider uniform.



The teams are looking forward to tournaments where they put all they learned to work as they compete for the championship. The B teams will end their season at the West Lutheran High School Tournament on February 4 & 5. The A teams will compete in the Metro League Tournament held February 10-12 at various locations in the Metro and end the season with the Martin Luther College Invitational held February 17-19 in New Ulm, MN. Good luck to all our teams during their tournament play.

Go Raiders!

The 2016-2017 season started off red hot with all four teams winning their opening games. As the season progressed, our 2 B teams and 2 A teams met their share of challenges, but also triumphs along the way. Facing adversity builds character, determination and teamwork, and the coaches are proud of how the players rose to the challenges. They are playing some of their best ball at the right time. Currently our teams' records are: Girls B (4-4), Boys B (2-7), Girls A (4-6), Boys A (6-4).

ASK THE PASTOR – Can you guess which pastor is which?

What was the one definitive moment in your life that led you to pursue becoming a Pastor? Why did you choose to head in this direction after this moment?

I'm not sure that there was a definitive moment, but there were many moments where teachers, parents and friends took the time to pull me aside and tell me that they could see that I had gifts and talents for being a Pastor. That meant a lot. I suppose that once I came to the end of my college career I was determined to be a Pastor. All of the Greek and Hebrew studies were much less intimidating and I was ready to get serious about pursuing ministry as a profession. I suppose that my graduation from college was my "moment" where I thought that, perhaps, being a Pastor was the best way to use the skills God had given me.

There isn't a definitive moment that led me to pursue being a pastor. I will say that after I spent my apprentice year (called the vicar year) in Las Vegas, I fell in love with serving the Lord in the Ministry of His Word. I chose that direction because I fell in love with people. I loved every day getting up working with God's word and leading people to God's word. It is a joy to see the power of God's word working in people's heart and I wouldn't trade that for anything in the world. God and His people are the reasons I chose to become a pastor.

How many times did you think you were on the wrong path or wanted to give up? Why didn't you?

For the first few years of college, the thought crossed my mind many times to maybe transfer to a different school and pursue something else. But the Lord blessed me with some really great friends and a really great big brother who would pick me up when I was frustrated and encourage me to keep going because they could see that the Lord could really use me for His Church. They were all so great to have around!

While I certainly am aware of my shortcomings and recognize that I am not a perfect pastor, I haven't really looked back. It's dangerous to play the "What would I do if I weren't a pastor" game. Martin Luther talked about his ministry as his own little paradise. And thankfully up to this point, I can share his sentiment. The fact that God would use me, a sinner who daily makes silly mistakes, is truly remarkable. It is an undeserved gift and I truly feel humbled He would call me to be a Pastor.

Is becoming a Pastor what you thought it would be?

Yes - and no. Yes because I grew up in a Pastor's house and saw what my dad did every single day. But "no" because there is no possible way to anticipate all of the situations and challenges that pop up in the ministry. No two days are ever the same. That's what I enjoy!

I tried to keep expectations out of it heading in. I will say that compared to other jobs I have had in the past, it truly is the most draining, and yet rewarding of them all.

What is the most difficult part of being a Pastor and why?

For me, the most difficult part of ministry is also the most satisfying part. Counseling people and families is difficult sometimes because the answer to their challenges isn't always "clear cut." A Pastor also cares so much for the families under his care as their shepherd that it's painful to see the difficult situations and episodes that confront God's people. It's difficult - but very gratifying and rewarding when the advice, comfort and encouragement that I can provide from God's Word bears fruit and really helps someone and their family. It's the most wonderful feeling in the world!

Maybe the guilt. It's part of my nature to be somewhat of a perfectionist. But with the many different hats I wear I often times feel like I can't dedicate myself wholly to those different tasks. And so I often find myself thinking I could have done a better job with a sermon, planning, prep time Bible study, event, something I should have said or maybe I shouldn't have. I could and maybe should have spent more time with that straying member. What was I thinking?

I guess then what goes along with that is the practice of making sure I spend time in God's word each day. Without the message of freedom from guilt and oppression, ministry would be unbearable. What a great God we have who forgives us despite our failures. Glory to Him!

REPORTS

TREASURER – Fiscal Year 7/16 to 6/17

Questions to Perry Abel: treasurer@colwsp.org

December ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,118,185 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,060,768 (**\$57,416 above budget**). Clear the Path matching funds budgeted is \$86,813 above budget income. Envelope Offerings are **-\$32,162** less than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$892,088 (**FYTD of a positive \$225,336**). This positive income includes the matching \$250,000 in December that will be paid out in January. We owe \$30,000 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions as of 12-31-16 totaled \$640,098 paid to reduce loan balance down to \$751,184. All bills are paid to date.

DEATH – Martha Rothi died on 1/4/17, funeral with Pastor Kom on 1/9/17.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 1

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

Thursday, February 2

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

Friday, February 3

8:20 am Matins
5:30 pm Away Game @
Good Shepherd

Saturday, February 4

B Team Tournament
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 5

B Team Tournament
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
3:00 pm Bible Information Class

Monday, February 6

Spirit Week
3:30 pm Lego Club
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Tuesday, February 7

Spirit Week
7:00 pm Evangelism
Technology Team

Wednesday, February 8

Spirit Week
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, February 9

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

Friday, February 10

Spirit Week
League Tournament (A Teams)
8:00 am Matins & Muffins and Panera

Saturday, February 11

League Tournament (A Teams)
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 12

League Tournament (A Teams)
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
3:00 pm Bible Information Class

Monday, February 13

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

Tuesday, February 14

Valentine's Day
9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Education

Tuesday, February 14

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

Wednesday, February 15

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, February 16

11:30 am Early Dismissal
12:15 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, February 17

MLC Basketball Tournament
NO SCHOOL

Saturday, February 18

MLC Basketball Tournament
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 19

MLC Basketball Tournament
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
3:00 pm Bible Information Class

Monday, February 20

NO SCHOOL - Presidents' Day
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, February 21

7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, February 22

Ski Trip Grades 5-8
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, February 23

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Friday, February 24

8:20 am Matins
6:30 pm Pre-K/Kind. Musical

Saturday, February 25

9:00 am Pioneers Pine Car Derby
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 26

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
3:00 pm Bible Information Class

Monday, February 27

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, February 28

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Jason Myrlie
2 Tracey Beebe
Rachel Stokke
3 Jonah Evenson
Paul Stokke
4 Andrew Enger
5 Evan Sievert
6 Paul Chan
Victoria Rider
7 Greta Smith
8 Rebecca Boehlke
Robert Learmann
Lucas Otterstatter
9 Kathryn Danner

9 Jason Fogle
10 William Hastings
Kimberly Olson
Jean Quinn
Demetra Redner
11 Charlotte Kwasniewski
12 Joel Bejblik
Ryan Lemmer
Logan Lorenz
13 Andy Coates
Amanda Johnston
Jim Loewen
Owen Petersen
14 Robert, Jr. Stokke

15 Mike Ahlman
Katie Schletty
18 Erin Evenson
Laurie Footh
Emma Homan
Elliette Wiplinger
19 Jon Harley
Roger Knippenberg
Amber Prah
20 Chase Schindeldeck
James Stueber
21 Drew Kock
Orell Pieper
22 Brian Haehnel

23 Douglas Danner
Kirsten Fischbach
Jack Kapanke
James Koeppen
Jack Oldfield
24 Ayden Bilitz
Darlene Unruh
25 Kelly Thorburn
26 Nathan Kell
James Tako
Julie Waldhauser
27 Susan Tapp
Nancy Wakefield
28 Jesse Green
29 Andrew Rowe

THINGS TO DO

Youth Skills and Development Camp



Learn basic skills and drills of the game of basketball in **Crown of Life's Saturday Morning Basketball Camp**. The goals are to introduce to young athletes the basic rules, terminology, and fundamentals of basketball. All Crown of Life students in grades 1-4 are invited to attend. The cost is \$25 per child which covers a T-Shirt and 4 sessions (SATURDAYS March 4, 11, 18, 25).

Practices

Grades 1-2 practice from 8-9 am

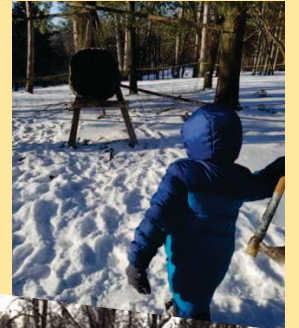
Grades 3-4 practice from 9:15 –10:30

For more information email: Justin.Ohm@colwsp.org

Pioneer Winter Camp Out

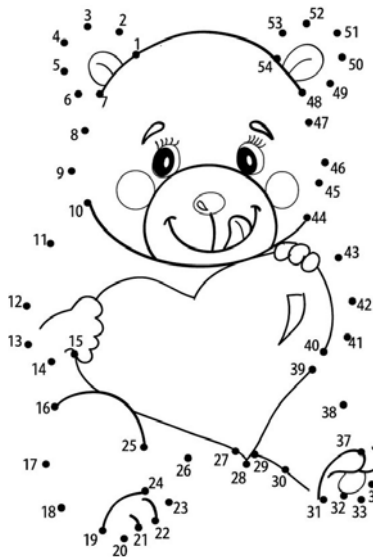
Pioneer boys had fun at this years winter camp out. By day they practiced their chopping, cooking and outdoor survival skills and even left time for some hatchet throwing and fort building. Check out that igloo!

At night they got to enjoy a warm cabin!



JUST FOR FUN

DOT-TO-DOT



WORD SCRAMBLE

KLAETLBAS

YIETIDN

VLEO

ATINEVELN

OAPUTMC

GLESBSIN

ANSWERS TO JANUARY PUZZLES:

WORD SCRAMBLE – SLEDDING, JANUARY SPARROWS

WORD SEARCH



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