

Mark Your Calendar

2/14

VALENTINE'S DAY

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES 4:00 & 6:30 PM – WSP 7:00 PM EAGAN

2/15

Parent Teacher Conferences

2/16

MLC BBall Tournament NO SCHOOL

2/19

Presidents' Day NO SCHOOL

2/20

Ski Trip Grades 5-8

2/21

Lenten Services

2/24

Pioneer Pine Car Derby

2/27

Culver's Night 4-7 pm

2/28

Lenten Services

Within Those Walls....Hope

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

Could you imagine going to prison....because you chose to go there? You know it's not the place where you want to spend your vacation time, but you choose to go anyway. In fact, no police officer, judge or warden is forcing you to go there. You just choose to go because you believe it's the best thing for you, under the circumstances. Once you're there, you find the people who work there to be the nicest, most caring people you've ever met. You can leave any time you wish from their prison. Yet you choose to stay for a while in the hopes that your life will improve and you can go home – but only if the staff believes that's a good idea. And to top it all off, your mind can play tricks on you all the time while you're there, leaving you a different person than when you checked yourself in.

Would you find it funny – or crazy – that what I just described wasn't so much a person's warped view of an actual prison – but their deep-down view of a hospital? Nobody simply chooses to go to a hospital for fun, do they? In more than 20 years of making hospital visits I've never heard anybody say, "yeah, I'm here because the cafeteria food is fantastic and the view from the 7th floor family waiting room is spectacular. We canceled Disney and came here instead."

In many ways, hospitals are viewed as the "necessary evil." Nobody chooses to go for fun, but out of necessity. Of course you'd rather go to Disney World, but that leaky valve in your heart or that brain aneurism or that stroke scream "no." You, instead, find yourself in that place filled with caring physicians and compassionate nurses who don't always have good

news and a group that seemingly gets together to make you wait for any news at all.

And by then it's happened. You have entered a whole different world that is seemingly separate from the "outside" because you are focused, basically, on one thing and one thing only: getting well enough to get out and go home. The outside world just has to wait. You are stuck within those walls of that hospital for a length of time and there's little to nothing that you can do about it.

These are things that affect believers and unbelievers alike. And it's in those very circumstances that the Devil likes to pounce on people with the intention of destroying them from the inside out. Unbelievers see no way out and they see a cruel world that randomly punishes good people. Believers are tempted to believe God doesn't really care about them like He says He does. They still have so many things they want to do – even admirable things like raising a family and spending time in meaningful ways with the grandkids. Essentially, the Devil cleverly and cunningly tries to strip someone – anyone – of one basic thing: hope. If he can strip you of hope, you're done.

The good news is that we, as Christians and as a church, are in the business of giving hope. It's our mission, after all, right? We want to grow as a Christian family so we can reach people with the message of hope through Jesus! That's the only place where true hope is found. And, of course, "hope" in Christ is more than just a wish that things will get better. The original text of the New

Testament describes hope as something that's already in your hand. It's something sure and certain. Jesus won that for us with His saving work. Our forgiveness is sure and certain. Jesus sees us through this life with His forgiveness, guidance, love and promise He will work everything, ultimately taking us to heaven.

It would appear the Lord has put an opportunity in front of us. We want to share hope with the folks who need it so much as they go through some of the most difficult times in their lives within those walls of the hospital. Oftentimes, the bridge to talking about spiritual needs is by showing you care with their physical needs. We can reach the people who might not know Jesus at all or we can even encourage someone whose faith might be shaken because of their stay within those hospital walls by providing things to meet their physical needs and make their stay a little more bearable (and for their family members, too) so that we can share hope, real Hope, at the same time.

It could be a "blessing bag" with a toothbrush, breath mints, crossword puzzles – and a devotion guide – that we make available through hospital or pastoral visits. It could be gift cards to the cafeteria, with a little flyer about Jesus, the Bread of Life. There are so many possibilities and so many blessings that could come.

We would like to form a committee to brainstorm ways to reach these folks within those walls with hope. If you would like to be a part of this effort, contact Pastor Kom. May God continue to bless us as we seek to reach as many as possible with the sure hope that is found in our Savior!

Pazzaluna

REVIEWED BY HEIDI VOIGT | ★ ★ ★ ★

Pazzaluna is an elegant Italian restaurant located in downtown St. Paul whose happy hour prices can make it a more affordable experience than you might expect. It is located two blocks from the Ordway and would make a great pre-show dining experience. Pazzaluna features experienced servers, timely food, and a chic atmosphere. The wine selection is top notch and features a wide variety of styles.

Although it isn't the most affordable, it does make a great restaurant for special occasions. Go on your birthday and receive a free dessert and a \$25 gift card for the next time you visit.



Can I Be Anything I Want to Be?

January 27, 2018 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



"In American books between 1960 and 2008, just be yourself became 8 times more frequent, learned about myself 4.6 times, believe in yourself 6.5 times, express yourself 2 times, respect yourself 2.7 times, be honest with yourself 3 times, love yourself 5.7 times, I love me 6.7 times, and stand up for yourself 6 times." I have to thank Dr. Jean Twenge for doing the research and publishing it in her book Generation Me. What's the point? In the matter of two generations we have become a generation that is quite obviously self-focused. It's no wonder we encourage children to be whatever they want to be. We want them to focus on what they want for themselves more than anything else. But that begs the question, are we leading children down the wrong path? Do we really believe that any one individual can be anything they want to be, or are we leading them down the wrong path in telling them this?

Setting Up for Failure

In What Really Happened to the Class of '93, Chris Colin notes how frequently he and his classmates were told, "You can be whatever you want to be" and "Nothing is impossible." Why is this message being propagated more and more? It's about building self-esteem. We want children to believe they can achieve anything? We want them to reach for the stars and achieve greatness! But is building their self-esteem the best way to motivate them on towards greatness? Is self-esteem the way to success? The statistics certainly don't back that theory.

In 2012, 58% of high school students expected to go on to graduate or professional school, nearly twice as many as in 1976. Yet the number who actually earned graduate degrees has remained unchanged at about 9%. If building a child's self-esteem is supposed to inspire that child onto greatness in academics, why isn't this reflected in the percentage of those getting degrees from post-graduate schools?

The past couple generations have been flooding our minds with the idea, "You can be whatever you want to be." One of their intended purposes in saying this is to build self-esteem which in turn is supposed to lead to great success and achievement. However, it doesn't seem to be having the desired effect. Despite what we think, there is no direct correlation between high self-esteem and success. High self-esteem does not lead

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/17 - 6/18 December ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$806,642 in total income with expected budget income to be \$792,099 which was \$14,543 above budget. (\$27,000 of this amount are special donations for the Pre-K playground.) December (FYTD) Envelope Offerings were \$1,118 more than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$803,742 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$10,107. We owe \$40,000 to our special funds account and current available balance is \$12,722.

BAPTISM – Lenora Amalia Munoz daughter of Jose and Kirsten Munoz on 12/23/17 with Pastor Kom

MARRIAGE -

Tyler Lyngaard & Rachelle Scheierl on 1/6/18 with Pastor Pudlo at St. John's - Mpls

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) News:

The St. Croix Circuit of LWMS will meet April 7th at Christ Lutheran in Eden Prairie. All the ladies of Crown of Life are welcome to attend!

The two Mission projects for this year are: Outreach to the Muslim Community (Home) and The Indonesian Project (World). A door collection on Feb. 25th will be divided for these missions. Thank you for your interest and support. For more information call Carol Lemke at 651-450-5582.

And please save some room on your calendar, ladies, for the LWMS National Convention in Green Bay, WI. June 21-24. Brochures are on the kiosk or entry table.

Can I Be Anything I Want to Be?... continued

to high performance. There are multiple studies that all come to the same conclusion. Asian Americans have the lowest self-esteem and still have the highest academic performance of any ethnic group. Furthermore, Asian American adults have the lowest unemployment rate among all races. If anything, the statistics would show us the lower a person's self esteem the more driven and successful they will be.

If anything, we are setting our children up for failure by giving children false hopes when we tell them, "You can be anything you want." There are countless movies that illustrate someone going from a nobody to the very best practically overnight. Included in that list are some of my childhood favorites: The Karate Kid, Little Giants and Happy Gilmore just to name a few. Is it right to tell young people they can be whatever they want to be? What are we doing when we tell a young man whose

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father stands 5'3 and mother is no more than 5'0 on a good day that he can be an offensive lineman in the NFL? What are we telling a young man whose father is 7'0 and mother is 6'3 that he could ME be a horse jockey if he really wants to be one? Aren't we setting these young people up for failure if we tell them to go against the very

fabric of their nature?

Do we really want the upcoming generation to think they are destined for greatness and it will happen overnight? Furthermore, do we really think successful careers will lead to ultimate happiness? If so, why is depression, drug use, and suicide so prevalent in Hollywood among some of the most successful people in the world? Could it be that being successful doesn't lead to ultimate happiness? Is it possible that we were designed and created for a deeper purpose?

A Deeper Purpose

Psalm 139:13 says God "created my inmost being...and knit me together in my mother's womb." The Christian teaching on this: God was very involved in designing each human being. He is compared to a knitter who will carefully plan their creation, design it and form it delicately by hand. The goal is to create something for a very specific purpose. That's what God goes on to say

in the New Testament as well. In Romans 12 it says we have all been designed with different gifts and purposes. "We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:6-8)

God clearly designed us each uniquely and with an intended purpose. When we try to be something for which we weren't designed we are not only going against the fabric of our nature, but also against the designer's intended purpose. It is foolish to go against

> our design. When I was younger I often liked helping my dad with projects around the house. That included car maintenance projects. I distinctly remember having a number of different tools which all served different purposes. If a screwdriver one day said to me, "I want to be

> > a hammer. Start using me to hammer nails in." I would first off be surprised that the screwdriver was speaking to me. After that initial shock, I would deny it what it wants. If I began to use the

screwdriver as a hammer that tool would soon be ruined. It would be going against

Not only is it dangerous for the tool to go against its design, it is also much more freeing to do what you were designed to do. I am reminded of an episode from the TV show Scrubs where the main character takes a fish out of the stream, tosses it onto dry land and says, "You're free." Despite the fact that it might seem freeing to take a fish out of the confines of a stream, it is actually not freeing at all. It is going to lead to death. Despite what we might think, we are most free when we stick to the confines of our design (see the cover article of our July 2016 Newsletter for more on this).

Conclusion

Some might say, "If we don't tell young people they can be whatever they want then they won't dream big at all". To that I would argue guite to the contrary. As some of the opening stats show, the overwhelming focus on self is only a recent historical phenomenon. But before this shift think of all the people who have dreamed big

continued 4 | February

SCHC L NEW

7th Grade News

Seventh grade began the school year raising 35 monarch butterflies from egg to adult in our classroom. We didn't see any eggs hatch, but were fortunate to observe some emerge from their chrysalis. It was fun feeding the caterpillars milkweed and having them crawl on our arms and hands, as well as chasing the adults flying around the classroom and watching them feed on Hi-C. This year's class of monarchs was heavily tilted to the female gender: 22 female, 9 male, and 4 caterpillars didn't survive.

The 7th grade also headed up a Food Drive for Neighbors, Inc. The goal was for school families to collect 500 lbs. of food between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanks to many generous donations we surpassed our goal

gathering 659 lbs.! We will have a similar program in the spring.

A new addition to COL is the beginning stages of a puppet ministry. The 7th grade performed a blacklight hand mime interpretation of the song "Who Am I?" in early November. (It can be seen on the school Facebook page.) We followed it up with "Baa Baa We're Lambs" and the Christmas story sung to the tune of the Brady

Bunch theme (also shown on the Facebook page). Friday, February 2, the class will do another blacklight performance called, "God's Love" with some specialty puppets. It will be presented after Matins (approximately 8:30) in the gym. Congregation and friends are invited to attend. The show lasts about 4 minutes.



How to tell a male from a female monarch. Males will have two larger spots on their lower wings.

7th Grade Line Art

























How Much to Give? - Stewardship Thought

Scripture Reading: "For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will" (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).

Don't we often ask: "How much should I give?" Unfortunately, from our selfish perspective, we may really be asking: "How little can I give and still call it a gift?" Giving is not something that comes naturally to most of us. By nature, we are selfish people who are only interested in our best interests, which is the accumulation of more and more comfortable and enjoyable things. Without a relationship with Jesus, our giving is nominal at best.

In contrast, the generous giving of God's faithful people is clearly written about in Scripture and is also very evident in the many faithful givers in our churches. The difference between Christians and non-Christians is that, in Christ, Christians become new creations. Our old self, with its selfish and self-centered attitude, has been replaced by the new person who is united with Christ through faith and commitment to Him. We are not perfect, but God has changed us. Out of love for Jesus, we are compelled to give generously to our churches and to those in need. As Christians, we see our time, talents, and treasures as tools that can be used to extend God's kingdom. When we faithfully use our lives and blessings in His service, He is honored and worshipped.

In our Scripture reading, Paul used the giving of the Macedonians as a model for the people in Corinth to see as Corinthians considered their gifts to the distressed Christians in Jerusalem. The Macedonians pleaded for the privilege of sharing. They did not know the people in Jerusalem personally, but they wanted to help fellow believers. The Macedonians gave beyond their ability, which is giving sacrificially. They didn't give their leftovers or what they could afford. They gave to the extent that it impacted their lifestyle.

The Macedonians gave because they were new creations in Christ. Paul wrote, "They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will" (verse 5). Giving came naturally after God had control of their hearts. As we spend time in God's Word and participate regularly in the Sacraments, God will grant us hearts that will plead for the opportunity to give.

Discussion Thoughts:

- 1. What are some indicators that our time and money are overly important to us?
- 2. What should we be giving?
- 3. In what financial condition were the Macedonians. and why were they able to give so generously?

Praver:

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the owner and giver of all things. Help us to acknowledge You as the source of everything. Grant us, Lord, the same grace and faith that allowed the Macedonians to give so willingly and generously. In Your name we pray. Amen.

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

Can I Be Anything I Want to Be... continued

and accomplished great things. The list is too great to even begin!

The Biblical teaching motivates us to great things. God designed us and knew we are all capable of great things simply by living according to our design. A famous quote often attributed to Abraham Lincoln, although it is really in a memoir of Laurence Hutton recalling a meeting with William Makepeace Thackeray, sticks with me. "Whatever you are, try to be a good one." Notice

the focus. It's not on what you want to be, but on what you are, what you were designed to be. This quote is far closer to the Biblical teaching on vocation. God has made us. We are who we are. And we will be most free when we do our best at what we were designed to be. That's what we should be encouraging our young people these days. We should encourage them to find what they are good at first and foremost. What gifts has God given them? And after they have done that, then we can encourage them to dream big about those specific talents. Not only is this according to the design our creator intended, but it is also the most liberating path to take.

New Member Class

A new adult Bible information class will begin in February. This 13 week course covers the main themes and topics of the Bible. Although the class is primarily for those who would like to become members of our church, it also serves as a great refresher for those who want to review topics like "Why Christianity", "What Makes the Bible Reliable", etc. The class and childcare are both free of charge. If you or someone you know might be interested in the class contact Pastor Pudlo at 651-485-0190 or zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org, or simply call the church office at 651-451-3832 to reserve a spot.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Thursday, February 1

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

Friday, February 2

5:30 pm Basketball Away Game @ Cross of Christ

Saturday, February 3 8:00 am Youth Basketball 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 4

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, February 5

Spirit Week

3:15 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship WSP 7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Tuesday, February 6

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Evangelism

Wednesday, February 7

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP 6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

7:00 pm Senior Choir practice 8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, February 8

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Elders-EGN Friday, February 9

8:00 am Matins & Muffins / Panera 4:00 pm A Team BB Tournament

Saturday, February 10

8:00 am Youth Basketball 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 11

Praise Service

8:00 am Worship WSP Worship EGN 9:00 am

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP 10:15 am Education Hour-EGN

10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, February 12

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

Tuesday, February 13

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

4:00 pm PreK Parent Teacher Conferences

6:30 pm Education

Properties

Handbell rehearsal 7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, February 14

Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday

4:00 pm Lent Service WSP 5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

6:30 pm Lent Service WSP

7:00 pm Lent Service Eagan Senior Choir practice 8:00 pm

Thursday, February 15

11:30 am Early Dismissal

12:15 pm Parent Teacher Conferences

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

7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, February 16

MLC Basketball Tournament NO SCHOOL

Saturday, February 17

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 18

8:0 0am 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, February 19 Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL

Teacher Inservice

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, February 20

Ski Trip Grades 5-8 @ Afton Alps

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, February 21

4:00 pm Lent Service WSP

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

6:30 pm Lent Service WSP 7:00 pm Lent Service Eagan

8:00 pm Senior Choir practice

Thursday, February 22

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Friday, February 23

8:05 am Matins

5:00 pm BBall Game & Team Night

Saturday, February 24

9:00 am Pioneers - Pine Car Derby

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, February 25 8:0 0am 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, February 26

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, February 27

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

4:00 pm Culver's Night

Wednesday, February 28 4:00 pm Lent Service WSP

Confirmation Class WSP 5:00 pm

6:30 pm Lent Service WSP

7:00 pm Lent Service Eagan

8:00 pm Senior Choir practice

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Jason Myrlie
- Tracey Beebe Lincoln Bolte
- Rachel Stokke Jonah Evenson Paul Stokke
- Andrew Enger
- Marie Pietsch **Evan Sievert**
- Paul Chan Victoria Rider Gracelyn Szczerbiak
- Greta Smith
- Rebecca Boehlke Robert Learmann Lucas Otterstatter

- Kathryn Danner Jason Fogle
- William Hastings Harper Lavigne 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 Stokke

- 15 Mike Ahlman Katie Schletty
- Raquel Berg Erin Evenson
 - Laurie Footh Emma Homan Elliette Wiplinger
- 19 Jon Harley Roger Knippenberg Amber Prahl
- 20 Chase Schindeldecker James Stueber
- Drew Kock Orell Pieper
- Brian Haehnel

- 23 Douglas Danner Kirsten Fischbach Jack Kapanke James Koeppen
- 24 Ayden Bilitz Darlene Unruh

26 James Tako

- 25 Kelly Thorburn
- Julie Waldhauser 27 Susan Tapp
- Nancy Wakefield Pastor Emile Burgess Jesse Green
- Andrew Rowe



"Give me three words you'd use to describe the most recent Star Wars movie," I said to the eighth graders on a Thursday afternoon.

One young man jumped in right away. "Amazing! Breathtaking..."

"I really didn't wanna go," his classmate jumped in with her own "three word" answer before he could finish his. "It was too long...but the food was good!" Another one jumped in with his own illuminating thoughts, "It was a movie."

I left the room thinking, "That's the last time i ask 13 year olds to describe a movie to me." Critics reviews concerning Star Wars: The Last Jedi seem mixed. Many have said if you are a Star Wars fan then you will love it. Others describe it as long and with too much "fluff". Which one are you?

JUST FOR FUN

QUOTE FALL

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ANSWERS JANUARY 2018

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WORD SCRAMBLE

GENERATION, GRATEFUL, ROUNDUP

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