



2017

the word

January 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

1/5

Pioneer Meeting

1/13

Pioneer Winter Camp out

1/15

Pioneer Swim and Gym Night

1/19

Pioneer Meeting

1/20

Spelling BEE (Grades 6, 7, 8)

1/24

OPENHOUSE 6:30 pm
PRE K & KINDERGARTEN
ROUND UP

1/27

Spelling BEE (Grades 3, 4, 5)

1/28

Pine Car Workshop

1/29

Pioneer Ice Fishing

A Man Facing the Future...Without God

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

Based on 1 Samuel 28:3-25

A man was very concerned about his future, very afraid what the next day would bring. In his fear, this man went to what we would call a spiritualist medium, a woman who claimed to have the power to contact the souls of the dead and speak with them. God had forbidden that in Israel. But as we look at this new year of 2017 this episode will help us to develop a proper attitude toward the future. King Saul was a man facing the future... without God.

A man who faces the future without God may for a long time seem to get along quite well. Saul had been living without God for a long time, and he pretty well controlled what happened in the kingdom of Israel. For a long time Saul thought that he could do just about anything that he wanted to do.

Saul was a man who was trying to make sure that the future would be what he wanted it to be – just like the great philosophers who said that man is the measure of all things, and that man controls his own destiny.

In the whole land of Israel there was no one with greater power. Saul was king. He never had to worry about a meal. If he wanted food, he could order a servant to bring it to him. If he wanted someone to play music in his palace, he could summon him into his presence. If people did not do exactly what he wanted them to do, he could simply order that they be killed, just like he did with the priests of Nob. Or he could send out an army to punish

continued

them as he did with David. A man like that would seem to have the situation well in hand. He acted as though he did not need God.

But when a man faces the uncertain future without God, sooner or later he must always learn what Saul learned. He came face to face with a situation that was beyond his control. The Philistines had invaded the country, and Saul marched out against them. But when he came to Mt. Gilboa and saw how large the army was that he was up against, the bible says, *When Saul saw the Philistine army, he was afraid; terror filled his heart.* It was there that Saul learned that there are some things that even kings with absolute earthly power cannot do, just as people today sometimes have to learn that there are some things that cannot be bought for money, and there are some situations that cannot be fixed, even if you know someone who has a lot of power and authority.

Many times in the past the Lord had spoken to Saul and had told him what to do. Saul, however, chose not to listen to the Lord or his messengers because he thought he knew better. Unfortunately, people haven't learned much since the days of Saul.

The Lord still speaks to us today in his Holy Word and tells us what we are to do. He tells us what we need to know for our salvation. And yet, even though God's directions are plain and clear, people—yes, even people in the church who ought to know better—do what they want to do and pay little attention to the Word of the Lord. Saul had lived that way for many years. Now that he was in trouble, he wanted the Lord's advice, but the Lord wouldn't speak to him in any way. When Saul

saw that the Lord was angry with him, he should have confessed his sin, repented of his past sins, and asked the Lord to forgive him. Instead, he turned to a witch, hoping that there he would find the help and the answers he so desperately needed – even though he knew God had forbidden it.

Of course, those practices brought him very little comfort. He went to that witch, and she called up Samuel-or at least something that looked and talked like Samuel.

It helped Saul none!

He learned that the life of a man who faces the future without God can only end in despair. When Saul heard that God had rejected him and that the army would suffer a bitter defeat with both he and his sons perishing in the battle, he fainted and fell to the ground. Any hope that he might have had was now turned into utter despair. The witch then prepared him a meal, but for his soul and his heart she had nothing to offer.

That is how it will always be for the person who refuses to listen to the Words of the Lord and tries to seek his certainty elsewhere. They may find what they think is comfort, but in the end it will turn to utter despair.

When I think of Saul I'm usually ready to renew my annual new year's resolution: By God's grace, I'm going to seek my hope and help and comfort in the words and promises of God. With that as my goal, I always have a wonderful year – because I'm facing my year with the Lord right beside me. I'd invite you to do the same! Happy New Year!

BOOK REVIEW

“A Fall of Sparrows”

BY PAUL J BENNETT | HISTORICAL CHRISTIAN FICTION

Will Seymour is a Confederate sharpshooter who remains steadfast in his devotion to protect his home, but has found his humanity among the casualties of war. After becoming separated from his unit during battle, Will discovers Evaline, an escaped slave, while trying to locate his unit. Will's initially unsympathetic demeanor changes drastically as the pair face death from forces on both sides of the conflict.

This Civil War thriller is a quick 200 page read that reinforces Christian hope and morality in times of trial while strengthening faith in mankind.



Motivational Factors

January 7, 2016 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



Resolutions

With a new year underway, many people have resolutions on their minds. I would be lying if I said there aren't goals and resolutions I too have in mind this year. Common resolutions for many people include losing weight, exercising more while eating less, reading more, finishing projects, spending more time doing things you love, etc... These all seem like good resolutions for an individual to improve him/herself. They are all about progress, getting better, moving forward. With the topic of resolutions being on my mind it got me thinking about what the different motivations are for establishing and accomplishing resolutions.

Reasons Behind Our Motivation

New Year's resolutions often are about self-improvement. But what is it that drives a person to self-improvement. In his work entitled *The Nature of True Virtue*, Jonathan Edwards wrote about the things that motivate people:

All sin has its source from selfishness, or from self-love not subordinate to a regard to being in general...And no wonder that men, by long acting from the selfish principle, and by being habituated to treat themselves as if they were all, increase in pride, and come to look on themselves as all, and so to lose entirely the sense of ill desert in their making all other interests give place to their own.

Edwards is saying that the ego, love of self, is what drives people. In *The Nature of True Virtue* he also makes the case that the two main motivating factors behind every sin are fear and pride. Is it possible that is true of some of our new year's resolutions?

Are fear and pride main motivating factors when it comes to self-improvement? Let's consider the most common New Year's resolution from 2015, working out more, as an example of how what Edwards wrote

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

Ever wonder how the angel gets to the top of the Christmas tree?



...well, that's one way of doing it.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the decoration of the churches for Christmas. It's a big undertaking and could not have been done without many hands. Thank you!

It's Pine Car Derby Time

What will your pine car look like this year? A Rooster? A Banana? Get those sketches done.

Workshop day is

JANUARY 28



PASTOR CHALLENGE

Who will be the the first to answer correctly??? find out next month

How Well Do You Know the Gospel Writers?

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John...which ones were disciples of Jesus?

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

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

Which one of these men lived the longest?

Answer directly or email answers to: zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org

Getting to Know You: Christine Fischer

Our family joined Crown of Life seven years ago when we moved to Eagan from our previous home in Sartell MN which was the location of my husband's final active duty Army assignment. We were a military family for 22 years, moving a total of ten times before putting down some roots here in the Twin Cities. We lived in places like Colorado, West Point, NY, Texas and Germany throughout our military career and truly enjoyed exploring new places and meeting new people.

I am originally from suburban Chicago and grew up going to Cubs games with my grandfather who taught me the love of sports. While I've cheered on my teams for many years, nothing was as exciting as watching the Cubs finally win the World Series.

I met my husband, Jamie, at Marquette University in Milwaukee Wisconsin and despite the fact that he is a Packer fan and I cheer for Da Bears, we have been happily married for 27 years. We have 4 children: CJ who lives in Okinawa, Japan, Braden who is completing his final year at St Olaf college, Sam, a junior at St Croix High School and Taite, an 8th grader at St Croix Middle School. They have kept me busy as a Croixalier mom, a band mom, soccer mom, football mom, wrestling mom and gymnastics mom! In addition to our human kids, we have five backyard hens who keep us supplied with fresh eggs, a great big drooly St Bernard named Buttercup and we just added a new puppy to the family.



Family photo: The Bamboo Forest in Kyoto Japan.

My career has been extremely rewarding. I am a physical therapist for Allina Health, specializing in geriatrics and homecare. I love being able to work with my patients within their own homes and help them to return to community mobility. In my spare time, I enjoy gardening, traveling and photography. With the encouragement from my family, I have just recently started sharing my photography at a few

small craft and art fairs. Below are a few photos from my collection. Canoes - Camp Croix, where we volunteered as camp counselors for many years and bike taken in Grand Caymans.

If you have yet to meet me or my family, please feel free to introduce yourself! You can usually find us at the Saturday evening or Sunday morning service in Eagan!



Find more of Christine's photos: Lifeunscripted.smugmug.com

SCHOOL NEWS



Kindergarten is 'snow' much fun!

Sam - I like to play in the snow. It is fun to read. Devotions teach us about God.

Nick - I like to make snow angels. Centers are fun.

Lily - The Children's play at St. Croix was fun. Reading is fun.

Callum - Field trips are awesome. I learn with my 5 senses. David and Goliath is my favorite bible lesson.

Evan - Journaling is good. We like to play in the gym. Jesus is the best!

Lucas - I love snow! Centers are my favorite.

Saniyah - I like centers. In Kindergarten, we made candycanes. I like to hear bible lessons.

Jocelyn - I like it when we write the room. I like to play with balls in the gym.



Kindergarten learns about bones in the body - pretty cute skeletons



4th Grade Self-Portraits

Can you guess who is who?



THINGS TO DO

Martin Luther Exhibit

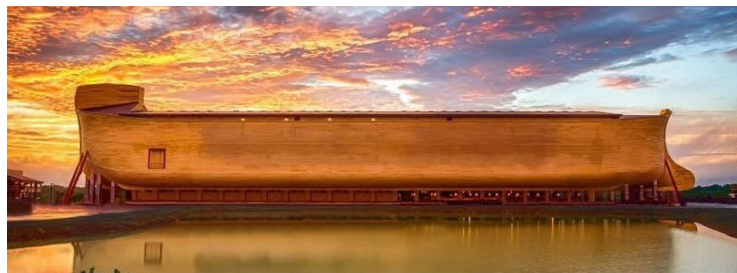


Five hundred years ago one man took a stand that changed the world. The story of Martin Luther and the Reformation brought to life through artworks and archaeological finds. Traveling outside Germany for the first time ever, this extraordinary exhibit can be viewed at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

Reserve your tickets today at:
artmia.org or 612.870.300

Hurry exhibit last day is JANUARY 15, 2017

Summer “Ark Encounter” Tour Invitation



Have you heard about the newly constructed, Biblically proportionate Ark in Northern Kentucky? Join the MLC Alumni Association sponsored group tour that will visit the Ark as well as the nearby Creation Museum and other scenic and historical sites in the Bluegrass State of Kentucky. Travel is via deluxe motor coach from New Ulm, MN (June 16-25) with additional parking/pickup points in Mankato, Rochester, Onalaska, Madison, and Waukesha. You can also begin and end in Milwaukee/Oak Creek, WI (June 17-24) for a discounted price. One bus is already full and the 2nd is filling fast.

For more information or to register:

<http://mlcalumni.wixsite.com/tours>

or contact Steve Balza at 507-217-1731

A New Year – New Opportunities – *Stewardship Thought*

Each new day brings promise of a new start. For many, the start of a new week is the time to begin that diet, get serious about exercising, or forego TV viewing. For a vast majority, though, there's something especially motivating and invigorating about seeing the JANUARY calendar on the wall. This is the year we'll accomplish great things.

God doesn't necessarily call us to do great things, however. He asks that we be trustworthy in small things (Luke 16:10-11). To that end He gives us gifts to use to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out to the lost.

Some of us have many gifts. People like Michelangelo – painter, sculptor, and poet – and Thomas Jefferson – architect, statesman, and scientific farmer – come to mind.

God, the Giver of gifts, knows that the number of gifts each of us has varies. Jesus told the Parable of the Talents pointing up this fact and teaching us that success lies in using what we've been given, not in having the greatest amount.

Our gifts also differ in degree. There are many sculptors but few, if any, compare to Michelangelo. Yet their art can bring satisfaction and inspiration to others. You may not be able to sing opera, but you can sing God's praises. You may not be a great orator, but you can witness to the love and grace of God in Christ. You may not be a mechanic, but you can provide transportation for someone needing to get to an appointment or to church.

That's why God gives us gifts and abilities – that we may be equipped to serve others. The start of a new year offers us an opportune time to assess those gifts and see how we can use them for God's glory and the good of His people. The motivation to do this comes from the same One who gave the gifts! Just as He was motivated by love for us to give us, not just our gifts, but His greatest gift, His Son, so we are motivated by love for Him to serve those He calls us to serve.

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

REPORTS

TREASURER – Fiscal Year 7/16 to 6/17

Questions to Perry Abel: treasurer@colwsp.org

November ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$620,752 in total income with expected budget income to be \$931,537 (**\$310,784 below budget**). Clear the Path matching funds budgeted is **-\$215,875** lower than budget income. Envelope Offerings are **-\$91,967** less than budgeted. We hope to balance both by the end of the year. Expenses (FYTD) were \$730,859 (**FYTD of a negative \$195,813**). We owe \$30,000 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions as of 11-31-16 totaled \$620,941 paid to reduce loan balance down to \$784,960. All bills are paid to date.

MARRIAGE – Daniel Loomis and Alyse Coates 12/17/16 with Pastor Kom.

DEATH – Geraldine Grasz died on 12/26/16, memorial service will be in January.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sunday, January 1, 2017

New Year's Day
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am No-Education Hour-WSP
10:00 am Worship WSP
10:15 am No-Education Hour-EGN

Monday, January 2, 2017

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

7:00 pm Evangelism
7:00 pm Technology Team

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

School Resumes
6:30 pm NO-Bible Class EGN
NO-Confirmation Class-EGN
8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, January 5, 2017

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

Friday, January 6, 2017

5:30 pm Away Game @ Salem, Greenfield

Saturday, January 7, 2017

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 8, 2017

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, January 9, 2017

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

Tuesday, January 10, 2017

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Education Properties
Handbell rehearsal
7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, January 12, 2017

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

Friday, January 13, 2017

3:30 pm Pioneers Winter Camp
8:00 am Matins & Muffins and Panera
5:30 pm Home Game vs. Pilgrim

Saturday, January 14, 2017

9:00 am Charger Classic Tournament
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 15, 2017

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
6:30 pm Pioneers Swim & Gym

Monday, January 16, 2017

Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 17, 2017

7:00 pm Council-WSP

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, January 19, 2017

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneers Meeting
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, January 20, 2017

Spelling Bee
5:30 pm Home Game vs. Bloomington

Saturday, January 21, 2017

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 22, 2017

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, January 23, 2017

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

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Pre-K - Kind. Round Up
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class-EGN

Thursday, January 26, 2017

NO BUS SERVICE
2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneer (boy) Leaders' Meet

Friday, January 27, 2017

NO BUS SERVICE
Spelling Bee
5:30 pm Home Game vs. King of Grace

Saturday, January 28, 2017

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

Sunday, January 29, 2017

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 Pioneers Ice Fishing

Monday, January 30, 2017

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Miles Graves | 5 Maliah Williams | 16 Emily Davids | 23 Jamey Engstrom |
| Cian Pearson | 7 John Johnson | 17 Vanessa Belmares | Scott Pottorff |
| Nathaniel Pearson | Marlys Kohnke | Jamie Berg | 24 Scott Mulinix |
| Nicholas Pearson | Pamala Otterstatter | Aaron Hippe | 25 Glen Friesse |
| 2 Dale Herold | 8 Matthew Lorenz | Isabelle Kapanke | 26 Nora Schletty |
| Quinn Hood | 10 Paul Monson | Trinity Lorenz | 27 Abigail Kruse |
| 3 Jacob Bejblik | Dave Swanson | 18 Serenity Belmares | Mindy Simonette |
| Hailey Jensen | 11 Kay Beebe | Carrie Kruse | 29 Scott Portz |
| 4 Charles Wiplinger | 12 Dakota Hulse | 19 Peter Boehlke | 30 Adam Brigham |
| 5 Beverly Abel | 13 Timothy Moe | Rae Fredrich | Isaiah Duff |
| Bethany Brigham | 14 Stephanie Lewis | Ryan Hulse | Kevin Kowitz |
| Charlotte Kock | Arthur Schroeder | Joseph Werz | 31 Jan Mullins |
| Skyla Ohm | 15 Dakota Krosting | Bonnie Kurth | |
| Robert Schmidt | Angela Mulinix | Abigail Petermann | |

YOUTH REACH OUT TO COMMUNITY – *Members in Motion*

Crown of Life Teens take the opportunity to volunteer at a neighborhood food shelf on their day off from school.

Mr. Fenske took five teens to Neighbors Inc. in early December to increase community outreach opportunities in Crown of Life's youth program. In three hours the kids sorted, dated and shelved an overwhelming amount of donations that came in during the November food drive.

Not knowing what they were getting into they were pleasantly surprised and all said that it was fun and they would do it again. It's always fun to volunteer with friends!

Thank you for your outstanding work! Can't wait to see what you do next.



JUST FOR FUN

WORD SEARCH

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

RESOLUTION
FUTURE
COMMUNITY
NEW YEAR
VOLUNTEER
MARTIN LUTHER
REFORMATION
NOAHS ARK
KENTUCKY
OPPORTUNITIES
PHOTOGRAPH

TALENTS
GARDENING
SNOW
PASTOR
CHALLENGE
CAMPING
ICE FISHING
FAITH
FRIENDS
GRACE
LOVE

WORD SCRAMBLE

DSNLEIGD

NAURJAY

WOSPARSR

ANSWERS TO DECEMBER PUZZLE:

QUTOEFALL – My grace is sufficient for you for my power is made perfect in weakness.

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