

Mark Your Calendar

1/3

SCHOOL RESUMES

1/4

Pioneer Meeting

1/14

Pioneer Swim and Gym Night

1/15

Martin Luther King Day NO SCHOOL

1/18

Pioneer Meeting

1/19

Spelling BEE (Grades 6, 7, 8)

1/20

Pioneer Pine Car Workshop

1/23

OPENHOUSE 6:30 pm PRE K & KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP

1/26

Spelling BEE (Grades 3, 4, 5)

1/28

Pioneer Ice Fishing

To a Healthy and Grateful New Year!

BY PASTOR EMILE BURGESS

"Gratitude is good for you," I heard someone say recently. And they supported the statement by medical research! According to this research, "grateful" people sleep better, live longer, and live happier, among other benefits. But how does one become more grateful? And how do we help others, such as our children, to be more grateful? Even though Christmas Day is passed, it's not too late look back a few days and grow in gratitude for the gifts we all exchanged. So here's three practical ways to do just that. When you (or your kids) receive a gift:

- 1. Recognize the simple fact of who gave the gift.
- 2. Recognize it <u>cost</u> the person something to give it (time, money, effort, etc.)
- 3. Recognize how it is valuable for your/their life.

#1 – Recognize the simple fact of who gave the gift

The first one may seem too obvious to mention. Or is it? Isn't there a certain gratification in thinking about the giver of a certain gift when you use it? We are blessed to have a lot of hand-me-downs from friends and family for our girls. I love seeing an outfit or a toy and being reminded of the person that gave it and the spirit in which they gave it. I know we're not the only ones who try to remember to "tag" the giver when the gift appears in a Facebook post.

My brother does something interesting on Christmas day to help his kids appreciate the person who gave them each gift. You might think it a bit

extreme, but his family stretches the gift-opening over the course of the whole day! After (or during) each gift opening, they call or video-chat with the person who gave it. Sometimes it works well when the kids get to play with each toy a little before the giver is reached. Then they can tell the person what they think is so great about it (#3 above)! This all-day gift unwrapping also teaches them delayed gratification.

#2 - Recognize it cost the person something to give it. The other two suggestions for fostering gratitude are fairly self-evident. Appreciation grows the more we know others have invested. That they were willing to invest in a gift for us serves to show us that they care about us! Knowing others care about us is a forgotten but valuable commodity at times.

#3 - Recognize how it is valuable for your/their life. Appreciation also grows the greater use we see for the gift in our lives. After all, no one wants to give a gift that won't be used! And everyone loves to hear, "this will come is so handy," and "I'm going to get so much use out of this!" These three simple reinforcements help us (and our kids) appreciate others and the gifts they give us.

Do the same three also apply to our gratitude toward God?

#1: God is the giver of all good things. He is the God who always has our best interest at heart. When we remember this, doesn't it combat potential unhappiness? When we consider just how much good he gives all the time, is this not also an antidote to discontentment.

#2: Every gift from God is a gift of grace; it is undeserved. God smiles on us and showers us with goodness only for the sake of Jesus Christ his Son. This is most true when it comes to the gift of salvation. That gift cost God the Father dearly. "He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all..." (Romans 8). It cost God the Son everything, "...who did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing..." (Philippians 2). It cost us nothing, except our sin and shame. How can our hearts not be warmed at the thought of the great cost to God for our salvation!

#3: The value of salvation is obvious—eternal life with our loving God forever. But actually, its value far surpasses heaven alone. Think of the hope, joy, peace and contentment we have in this life because we already possess heaven! Heaven is not the only gift from God. This life is his gift to us too. Such gratitude we owe our gracious God!

One of the practical tips I heard along for fostering gratitude was the good old fashioned thank-you note. Among other things, it helps us to consider and articulate those three points above. The thank-you. Isn't that really LIFE for the Christian? Our lives are our thank-you letter to God for all his good gifts.

And grace upon grace, we will be all the healthier, physically and spiritually, for it. God bless your New Year. And may your gratitude be a blessing to God and others.

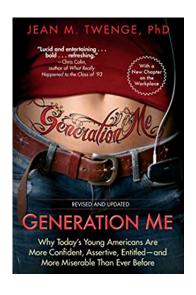
"Generation Me"

BY DR. JEAN TWENGE | KNOWLEDGE

Let's face it, there are vast differences from one generation to another. However, there is possibly no greater difference from the Baby Boomers and GenX'ers and the Millennials. The Millennials, those born from approximately 1980-2000 are casting off all the old traditional ways of their parents and forging ahead in radically non-conformists ways. In Generation Me, Dr. Jean Twenge explains why today's generation is more confident, assertive, entitled and...more miserable than ever before. Dr. Twenge uses data from 11 million respondents to provide some excellent insight into what it is that makes Millennials tick.

This well-researched, and well-written work is 300 plus pages of fascinating data and insight, but at the same time, Dr. Twenge uses great stories, illustrations, and humor to keep the reader's attention.





BIBLE STUDIES

Starting January 10

The Facets of Forgiveness

God describes his forgiveness in more ways than you can imagine. Join us at Eagan for a 5 week series on the many ways God describes how he has forgiven us for every one of our sins.

Wednesdays | 6:30 pm | EAGAN



January 7

New Year's Resolution

Should a Christian make New Year's resolutions? What possible dangers might there be in doing so? How would I do it right? And how do I make them stick? Come and start the year off right!

Sunday | 9:15 am WSP, 10:15 am EAGAN



January 14-28

Through the New Testament in a Year

This three-week study will serve as a companion to our 2018 Bible Reading Plan. Each Sunday we'll review the chapters we read the prior week, highlighting certain events and verses and hearing from participants what new insights or questions struck them while they read.

Sunday | 9:15 am WSP, 10:15 am EAGAN

REPORTS

Welcome New Members



Ron & Julie Lemke, children Austin & Taylor

We recently moved from White Bear Lake to Inver-Grove Heights. Ron works as a dispatcher for FedEx and Julie works for Delta Airlines. Taylor (junior) and Austin (freshman) are both at St. Croix and love the shorter commute to school. We love to travel and try to work that in between the busy sports seasons and summer jobs!

TREASURER - Fiscal Year 7/17 to 6/18 November ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$655,285 in total income with expected budget income to be \$624,951 which was \$30,333 above budget. (\$21,000 of this amount are special donations for the Pre-K playground.) November (FYTD) Envelope Offerings were \$7,255 more than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$662,221 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$12,302. We owe \$40,000 to our special funds account and current available balance is \$9,692.

BAPTISIMS

- Nolan Peltier (son) of Benjamin and Natalie Rahn on November 11 with Pastor Pudlo
- Ryan Andrew (son) & Gracelyn Marie (daughter) of Brad and Katie Szczerbiak on November 29 with Pastor Pudlo

DEATHS

- Janice Will died on 11/24/17, funeral at WSP campus with Pastor Kom on 12/2/17
- John Schaefer died on 12/26/17, funeral at Kandt & Tetrick Funeral Home on 1/3/18

Blessing Bags for Christmas – Members in Motion



As I sit down to write this article the temperature gauge on the outdoor thermometer reads -2 degrees Fahrenheit. I'm grateful to be warm and inside on a bitter cold day like this. Knowing just how blessed I am to have a warm

office, a warm home, and a car that warmly and comfortably gets me from one warm place to another makes my heart go out to those who don't have any of those warm blessings. My heart goes out to those who are on street corners with signs, all their worldly possessions in a garbage bag or backpack, begging for just a little something to help them in their poverty.

The hearts of the members of the Kelm family go out to those people as well. That's why this Christmas season they took time out of their busy schedules to make a difference. They put together "blessing bags" for those in need. Blessing bags are one gallon freezer bags filled with items a homeless person might really need. They often contain things such as granola bars and other snacks,

toothpaste and brushes, socks, and all kinds of other items. Jessica writes, "The boys got the idea after they put them (blessing bags) together at Camp Criox this past summer. After our boys attended Camp Croix for the first time this summer, they thought this would be something fun to add to the things we already do as a family. Then

they were talking to their aunt about it and she mentioned their cousins did them as well and they decided how many more people could be blessed if they work together. So the charity 'Cousins on a Mission' was created."

'Cousins on a Mission' was able to assemble and give out 32 Blessing Bags.

Jessica goes on to explain how the process works, "This year they decided to forgo exchanging Christmas gifts with each other and instead adopt two Senior Citizens for Christmas. They shopped together for the items they asked for on their list and delivered them in early December. They said it was one of the best things they have done and can't wait to do that again next year, with the hopes of adopting more senior citizens. Some of them (blessing bags) will be delivered to Regions Hospital for any of the homeless that come in to be treated, they will be available for anyone who wants a few to keep in their cars and we are hoping to partner with a few other businesses to pass them out in large quantities at local shelter as well in the coming months."

The Kelms have high aspirations for their plans to continue doing this in the future. "We would love to hear from anyone who would like to donate items to our mission or would be willing to talk with anyone who would like to start their own about how easy it was to get started."

SCHC L NE



Preschool & Kindergarten Experiences



Christ' birth

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R eading books

ncredible Bible lessons

S now White and the 7 Fairy Godmothers

elling the Christmas message to others

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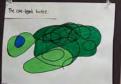






8th Line Art

































January 23, 2018 - 6:30 pm

PreK Playground Update

We are almost there! \$25,122.19 raised and \$1,877.81 to reach \$27,000!

7th Grade Stands Out

The 7th grade class collected 455 lbs. of food during their food drive this Christmas!! What a great way to bless our community!

THINGS TO DO

Pioneer Family Swim Night



Join the Viking District Pioneers for an evening of FUN! The pool, wading pool, and water slides will be available exclusively for the Pioneers. The gym is also available for basketball and volleyball, and there is a walking/running track, too. Congregation families are invited. Cost is subsidized by Pioneers, so your cost is \$5.00/child, \$5.00/adult. Contact church office for more information.

Shoreview Community Center January 14, 2018 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

God's Abundance - Stewardship Thought

First Corinthians 15 has been called the Resurrection chapter of the Bible. It rings with the promises of God concerning our victory through Christ over death and our eternal life in Heaven with Him. It ends with command to stand firm in the Lord and to use our mortal lives in His service. "Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58). This is our stewardship response to God Who has given us all we are and have.

We have before us a whole new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to His kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the year 2006!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave His only Son Who declared to us, "I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Through Him and because of the abundance of His love for us, we "are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9). While He is slow to anger, the Lord is "abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion" (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of His creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on His people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read,

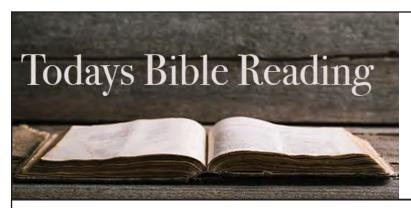
We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others,

let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

God has equipped and enabled us with His abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach His Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift. Ask God to show you where He wants to use you. Go to your pastor, elder, and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for His service.

Source: 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship (vol. 1 & 2) by Ronald J. Chewning, Stewardship Advisors



Want to read the New Testament this year? Here's your plan to do it and we're making it easy - we're emailing the daily reading with the E-Spirit Devotion and a few helpful hints to understand the chapter better. There's even a button so you can have the chapter read to you!

If we have your email, you're signed up. If we don't, sign up here: tinyurl.com/CoLEmails

JANUARY CALENDAR

Monday, January 1, 2018 New Year's Day

NO-Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service Evangelism 7:00 pm

Technology Team

Wednesday, January 3, 2018

School Resumes

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, January 4, 2018

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

Friday, January 5, 2018

5:30 pm Basketball Away Game @

Bloomington

Saturday, January 6, 2018

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 7, 2018

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 8, 2018

3:15 pm Lego Club 6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Worship Committee 7:30 pm

Tuesday, January 9, 2018

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Education

Properties

Handbell rehearsal 7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

Bible Class EGN 6:30 pm

Thursday, January 11, 2018

Southview Sr. Living Service 2:30 pm

7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Friday, January 12, 2018

8:00 am Matins & Muffins / Panera Basketball Away Game @ 5:30 pm

King of Grace

Saturday, January 13, 2018

9:00 am Charger Classic Tournament

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 14, 2018

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

6:30 pm Pioneers Swim & Gym Night

Monday, January 15, 2018

ML King Day - NO SCHOOL 6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 16, 2018

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

Council-EGN 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Southview Sr. Living Service Basketball Away Game @ 4:00 pm

King of Kings (Girls B Only)

6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

Friday, January 19, 2018

9:00 am Spelling Bee Gr. 6-8 Basketball Home Game vs. 5:30 pm

Good Shepherd

Saturday, January 20, 2018 9:00 am Pioneers Pine Car Workshop

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 21, 2018

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, January 22, 2018

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Youth & Adult Education 7:00 pm

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm PreK/Kind. RoundUp &

Registration

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, January 25, 2018

NO BUS SERVICE

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Friday, January 26, 2018

NO BUS SERVICE

9:00 am Spelling Bee Gr. 3-5

4:30 pm Basketball Home Game vs.

Belle Plaine

Saturday, January 27, 2018

B Team League Tournament 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, January 28, 2018

B Team League 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 Pioneers Ice Fishing

Monday, January 29, 2018

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, January 30, 2018

10:00 am The Commons on

Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, January 31, 2018

5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Miles Graves Cian Pearson Nathaniel Pearson Nicholas Pearson Dale Herold
- Quinn Hood Jacob Bejblik Hailey Jensen
- Charles Wiplinger Beverly Abel
 - Bethany Brigham Jordan Johnson Charlotte Kock Skyla Ohm

- Maliah Williams
- John Johnson Marlys Kohnke
- Pamala Otterstatter Matthew Lorenz 10 Paul Monson
- Dave Swanson Kay Beebe
- Heidi Voigt Nicholas Berg
- 13 Ivy Lawrence Timothy Moe
- 14 Stephanie Lewis Arthur Schroeder

- 15 Dakota Krosting Angela Mulinix
- 16 Emily Davids 17 Vanessa Belmares Jamie Berg

Isabelle Kapanke

- Trinity Lorenz 18 Serenity Belmares
- Carrie Kruse 19 Peter Boehlke Joseph Werz
- 21 Bonnie Kurth Abigail Petermann
- 22 Nora Vitzthum-Brigham

- 23 Jamey Engstrom Scott Pottorff
- Scott Mulinix
- 25 Glen Friese Nora Schletty
- Abigail Kruse Mindy Simonette
- Scott Portz
- 30 Adam Brigham Isaiah Duff Kevin Kowitz
- Jan Mullins Vincent Rahn

JUST FOR FUN

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1-4-1-4-1
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Please direct ideas, questions or comments about this issue to ZacharyPudlo@crownoflifemn.org

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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