



the word

May 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

5/3
Piano Recitals
5/4
Pioneer Meeting
5/5
LifeLine Screening
5/6
Adopt-A-Highway
5/11
Band Concert
5/12
Grandparents' Day
5/18
Senior Spring Tea Luncheon
Pioneer Meeting
5/19
Pioneer Camp Out
5/21
Mr. Herbison Retirement Luncheon
5/24
8th Grade Graduation
5/25
PTN Field Day
Pioneer Grave Decorating - Riverview
5/26
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
5/28
Pioneer Grave Decorating - Elmhurst
5/29
MEMORIAL DAY

New Beginnings

BY PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO

There is something deeply satisfying about a story or a movie ending in a happy way. Most people enjoy the protagonist of a story riding joyfully off into the sunset with no problems on the horizon. We love that picture. And yet, interestingly many movies don't receive awards for telling stories with joyful endings. It wasn't until he directed *Schindler's List* that Steven Spielberg finally received his first Oscar award. That movie has a far from happy ending as many holocaust victims line up to pay honor to the late Oskar Schindler. Many of the movies receiving the best picture award these days are much more raw and real and far from happy.

This illustrates an interesting dichotomy. We human beings would love things to be happy, but the reality is that they aren't always that way. J.R.R. Tolkien had an interesting take on this.

[T]he joy of the happy ending ... is not essentially "escapist" nor "fugitive." ... It does not deny the existence of dyscatastrophe, of sorrow and failure: the possibility of these is necessary to the joy of deliverance [eucatastrophe]; it denies (in the face of much evidence, if you will) universal final defeat, and in so far is evangelium, giving a fleeting glimpse of Joy, Joy beyond the walls of the world, poignant as grief.... When the sudden "turn" comes we get a piercing glimpse of joy, and heart's desire, that for a moment passes outside the frame, rends indeed the very web of story, and lets a gleam come through.

Tolkien is saying that deep in our hearts there is some shadow or glimpse of ultimate joy...a joy set there by the Creator. He goes on to point out that while the world is full of sorrow, danger and tragedy, there is underneath all of that pain a hope that we will end up eventually escaping it.

continued

In Mark 16:1 it says, “When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.” For the women going to Jesus’ tomb early Sunday morning, the Sabbath wasn’t just over, their hope was over. Jesus, they thought, would be the one to lead them away from this world full of sorrow, danger, and tragedy. But he was dead, in a tomb, not even properly buried...or so they thought.

This wasn’t a sad ending. It was a happy one. Though it seemed like it, the death of Jesus wasn’t where Jesus’ work ended, and it’s not where our joy ended. N.T. Wright put it this way in his book *The Day the Revolution Began*,

“As Jesus’ followers looked back on that day in the light of what happened soon afterward, they came up with the shocking, scandalous, nonsensical claim that his death had launched a revolution. That something had happened that afternoon that had changed the world. That by six o’clock on that dark Friday evening, the world was a different place.”

From the moment of the very first sin, and even before that, God had a plan in place that the world wouldn’t end in sadness. The women walking to Jesus’ tomb didn’t comprehend what God really had in store.

As another school year comes to an end there are a lot of people who are going to be moving on. Moving on to a new grade, new school, a new job. We may be sad as we look back at the good memories of what has already taken place. We may look forward apprehensive about what is to come. But the resurrection of Jesus gives us comfort in either case. No, it’s not a comfort that we will have only once we die and go to heaven. It’s a comfort we have now.

How? Well, the story should have ended with you and I up on the cross, nails in our hands and feet, mocked for everyone to see, and eventually buried in a tomb we couldn’t even call our own. But that’s not how it ended up. Instead the Son of God in our place. His substitution reminds us that God does take pain, and sadness, sorrow, danger, and evil very seriously. So seriously that it cost the life of the Son of God to deal with it completely. Nothing short of the death of the Son of God could solve that problem. But again, even that’s not where it ended. The happy ending of Jesus’ resurrection is so great it even drowns the sorrow of the cross.

Pain and loss are things that come with endings...the end of an era at school, the termination of a job, the loss of a loved one. But Jesus’ death and resurrection remind us that those things aren’t the end. Because of his death and resurrection we are reminded of a new beginning. Jesus is the cosmic solution to all our pain and suffering. When you are facing a particular reality of pain in your life, look to the even deeper reality of the new beginning Jesus has ALREADY given you. Only with her hope fixed on the reality of a baby child near on the horizon can a mother make it through the pains of childbirth. And only with our sure hope fixed on the reality of a new and living joy in heaven can we endure pains of this world.

With every movie that has an ending that gives you tears of joy, remember what Paul says in Romans 8:18 “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Let every happy story line remind you of the unimaginable joy ready to be revealed for you when your ultimate new beginning takes place in Heaven.

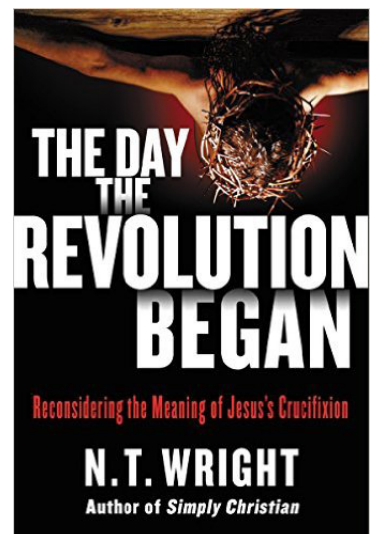
BOOK REVIEW

“The Day the Revolution Began”

BY N.T. WRIGHT | DOCTRINE | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Scholar N.T. Wright put a lot of time and Biblical research into this book. His primary thesis is that when Jesus died on the cross, he not only paid for our sins, but he also freed us to be who we were created to be. He emphasizes the vocation of being children of God as part of the work Jesus accomplished on the cross.

A scholarly piece of work, *The Day the Revolution Began* encourages the reader to see that at the cross Jesus made us new creatures and has given us the opportunity to be what God intended us to be. While it’s an intellectually compelling read, I would caution the reader to not let the emphasis on the teaching of the new vocation created for us take away from the fact that Jesus did accomplish the forgiveness of sins.



Real Heroics

April 28, 2017 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



A Culture Obsessed with Heroes

“Without selflessness there can be no heroism.” When I heard that phrase I couldn’t help but start thinking about heroism. I’m not the only one. We see heroes all over the place in our world. Some of the highest grossing movies over the past several years have been the Marvel movies. Walk down the children’s toys aisle in your local store and the number of toys revolving around those characters will shock you. Our culture is obsessed with heroes. Why is that?

Examining Heroism

On its surface, heroism seems very appealing to us. We love people standing up for their moral convictions even in the face of great oppression. But a deeper look at heroism leads to some puzzling findings.

Heroism demands selflessness. In every story, movie or book about heroes the main character is willing to sacrifice his or her own desires for the greater good. It’s the ultimate act of selflessness to see the hero lay down their life for the sake of the people. Fighting for the greater good the hero will do whatever it takes to win the moral battle against the forces of evil. Without the hero’s sacrifice there would be no heroism. Heroism demands sacrifice.

And while so many people in our culture are obsessed with the idea of heroism, it seems almost duplicitous for our culture. Personal sacrifice is not a part of our culture. Our culture is obsessed about the individual. See my notes about the Age of Enlightenment’s effect on our culture’s obsession with the individual in this post (Previous post on “Why Lives Matter”). Our culture is obsessed with individual rights. It glorifies the individual. Heroism is about an individual giving up his or her rights for the greater good of the many. Those two ideologies are completely contradictory and yet our culture is obsessed with them both! Is there any explanation for this schizophrenic culture we live in?

A Cosmic Need

One of the characteristics about heroes that we love is their unwavering

BLOG CONTINUED... <http://church.crownoflifemn.org/pastors-blog/>

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/16 - 6/17
March ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,596,460 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,594,722 which was \$1,737 above budget. Envelope Offerings are -\$81,025 less than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,664,145 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$47,869. All bills are paid to date. We paid back \$30,000 this month and owe \$30,000 to our special funds account. Special Funds Account available balance is \$59,000
Clear the Path matching funds which we budgeted for is \$46,530 above budget income. Total Clear the Path contributions as of 3-31-2017 totaled \$1,012,906 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance down to \$374,226.

DEATH – Vera Knuth died 4/19/17

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

May 6

Adopt-A-Highway

May 12

Grandparents Day

May 25

Field Day
Riverview Grave Decorating

May 28

Elmhurst Grave Decorating

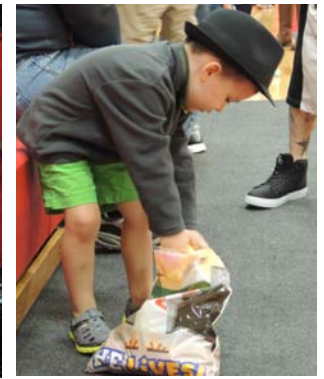
Call the office if you would like to participate!



Another Eggsalant Easter!

Eagan's hunt had a beautiful day and a good crowd.
Hunters were a little light due to weather at WSP
but a good time was had by all.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!



From Dreams to Deeds - Stewardship Thought

Excellent ideas can come to people as they sit, think, and dream — what kind of house to buy or build, what kind of car, where to go for vacation, what improvements to make on our house, how to improve their church — but these are idle daydreams unless they are acted upon. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Good thoughts are no better than good dreams, unless they be executed."

We need to think, to meditate, to plan, to learn, to listen in order to raise our sights and deeds above the routines of daily living. Often when we stop long enough to reflect, we realize much that we have insisted on or pursued has been our own selfish desires or will.

However, when our goal is for the good of others, great and wonderful things occur. The book of James encourages action: "Do not merely listen to the Word...Do what it says" (James 1:22). Jesus, too, spoke often of doing the will of God: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21).

Jesus performed many deeds of love as He went about doing good, healing, and teaching. What is more, He fulfilled the Father's will by offering Himself on the cross for the salvation of all.

May we continue to model our lives after Jesus who not only spoke the words of life but did the works of life.

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Why does there need to be a balance between dreaming and planning and doing?
2. Read Luke 14:28-33. How important is thinking and planning before you take action?
3. How effective is your church in its planning and in its doing?

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we thank You for living the perfect obedient life and for the example that it has provided for us. Help us to be doers as well as dreamers and planners. May all that we do be done for Your glory. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

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

“Return to Grace”

★★★★★ | DOCUMENTARY

Attendees were excited to learn more about Martin Luther, the man who sparked the Lutheran Reformation 500 years ago with the nailing of the 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church.



Crown of Life’s viewing of *Return to Grace* last Wednesday was so well attended that we needed two theaters to hold us all!

Did you find yourself humming along to ‘A Mighty Fortress’?

Viewing this documentary in an actual movie theatre was a wonderful way to learn about Luther’s Life and impact on the Christian Church. This film was very well done with its authenticity checked by Lutheran scholars who were on set daily, vetting each line spoken by Luther. The narrator, Hugh Bonneville (from *Downton Abby*) once studied to become a Protestant minister. In case you were wondering, it was filmed in various castles, churches and monasteries in eastern Europe.

“I grew up in a WELS church and attended our schools. You think you know all about Luther, but the film taught me historical things I never knew.”



Thank You to
Dan and Lori Oberstadt
for their tremendous
efforts in bringing
Return to Grace
to Crown of Life!



Change! 7th Grade Adapts

That one word might describe our year so far. That change started when we moved from the north hallway to “the big kids” south hallway with the 8th graders. We’ve changed our class as we added three new students this year (all girls). And change continued with our religion classes. The ChristLight format this year is topical and learning how we respond to God’s love in practical ways in our lives. Catechism with Pastor Pudlo is also new and different. He even assigns Youtube videos as homework. Our science this year is about the changes in life that God gives to his creation. And we get to look at the changes in human society through our social studies class as we tracked societies from ancient times through the medieval period. Math is different, and more challenging, as we got Mr. Plath as our teacher. Language arts is definitely changed with a new teacher, Ms VanCalster, and a different, varied literature. We did get to keep Mrs. Danner for music and art. We will continue to look forward to change as we move into 8th grade and high school. Through all of this, our God will be the rock upon which we always depend for stability and guidance.



The Original Class



Art Abounds

Top: Kindergarten learns about oceans – sea creature painting

Middle: 4th Grade Origami Crosses

Bottom: 5th Grade Bible Lesson...check out those soldiers!





BUILD ON THE ROCK

JUNE 13-15, 2017
Kindergarten – 6th Grade
 Tuesday & Wednesday 9 am – 3 pm
 Thursday 9 am – 1 pm

REGISTER: church.crownoflifemn.org

MAY CALENDAR

Monday, May 1

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

Tuesday, May 2

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Evangelism
 7:00 pm Technology Team

Wednesday, May 3

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

Thursday, May 4

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

Friday, May 5

Lifeline Screening-EGN
NO BUS SERVICE
 8:20 am Matins
 4:00 pm Track Meet

Saturday, May 6

9:00 am Adopt A Highway - EGN
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 7

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, May 8

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

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 11

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

Friday, May 12

Grandparents' Day
 11:30 am Early Dismissal

Saturday, May 13

11:00 am Bowling Meet
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 14

Praise Service
Mother's Day
 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, May 15

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, May 16

6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
 7:00 pm Council-WSP

Wednesday, May 17

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, May 18

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 4:00 pm Track Meet
 6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting
 7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, May 19

3:30 pm Pioneers Camp Out

Saturday, May 20

10:00 am Pioneers North Star District
 K-4 Day Camp
 5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 21

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
 12:30 pm Bowling League Tournament

Monday, May 22

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

Tuesday, May 23

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN

Wednesday, May 24

2:30 pm Kindergarten Graduation
 6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
 6:30 pm 8th Grade Graduation

Thursday, May 25

12:00 pm PTN Field Day
 2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
 3:30 pm Pioneers Grave Decorating
 4:00 pm Track Meet

Friday, May 26

Last Day of School
 8:20 am Matins
 11:30 am Early Dismissal

Saturday, May 27

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, May 28

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
 1:00 pm Pioneers Grave Decorating

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day
 6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, May 30

Teacher Inservice
 7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Wednesday, May 31

Teacher Inservice
 6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

MAY BIRTHDAYS

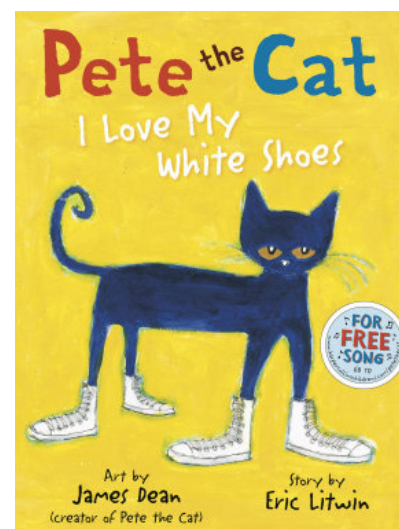
- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 Michelle Povolny
Zach Rich | 8 Jennifer Enger
Suzanne Menth
Jon Wolfrath | 19 Timothy Berg
Stephanie Hansen
Dennis Novotny | 24 Erin Hulse
Emily Petermann |
| 2 Brooklyn Hart
Kathleen Krueger
Douglas Langfield
Connor Mielke | 9 Allison Kom
Hezekiah Solseth | 20 Robert Berg
Maria Caauwe
Rick Capocasa
Jocelyn Kock | 25 Robbie Bluhm
Aden Fischbach
Mary Innes |
| 3 Michael Paul
Dennis Schmeckpeper | 10 Karla Monn
Ashley VanCalster | 21 Avis Lorenz
Lu Ann Olen
Tyler Tourville | 26 Jerry Geror Jr
Amber Johnson |
| 4 Angela Hauck
Ayla Johnson
Logan Kneisl | 11 Ernest Fogle
Todd Fox
Karen Haehnel
Jonathan Leach | 22 Jessica Biggar
Katie Lasovich
Claire Shaw | 27 Rebecca Lucas
Shirley Owens
Rich Schindeldecker
Sarah Steber |
| 5 Briana Kneisl
Thaddeus Lemmer
Jordon Schletty
Donald Unruh | 12 Harold Hunter
Kylee Paul | 23 Karley Lanigan
Abbey Ludden
Benjamin Voigt
Johanna Williams | 28 Alisha Johnson
Marc Patton |
| 6 Isabel Burt
Jeff Mullins
Ryan Mullins
Miriam Patton | 13 Lucas Munoz
Bruce Sachs
Hannah Wright | 24 Hunter Burt
Randy Enger
Ryan Herbison
Nathan Kruse | 29 Nicole Hippe
Irving Langfield
Brittany Oberstadt |
| 7 April Coates
Rebecca Haehnel
Lucy Kuehl | 14 Cora Jo Evenson
15 Derek Haehnel
John A. Schmahl
George Tako | 30 Jacob Haehnel | 31 Pastor Mark Kom
Kyle Monjeau
Kyle Swiderski
Gina Taack
Debra Werz |
| | 16 Carole Stier
18 Marlin Sachs | | |

"Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes"

BY ERIC LITWIN, ILLUSTRATOR: JAMES DEAN | CHILDREN'S SERIES | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Remembering the best books from your own childhood, like *The little Engine that Could*, *Horton Hears a Who!*, *Charlotte's Web*, often means recalling the emotional message or moral of a story. A relatively new childhood classic, the colorful and zany *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes*, imparts a message of optimism in the face of problems in life. Should we get upset when the unexpected happens? "Goodness, No!" says the book. Go along, singing your song. Learning about a sense of scale in the perception and response of problems is part of the cheeky moral: No matter what you step in – it's all good.

This is communicated in God's Word time and time again. No matter what we "step in" through our own mistakes and stupidity or because of difficult times designed to bog us down, as a beloved child of God we can say "It's all good". God loves us now and for eternity. It is that message that can give us the strength to not just move on through each chapter of our lives, but to live with contentment.



JUST FOR FUN

WORD SCRAMBLE

SEESIGN

HEMWATT

USEDON

VISITCLUE

NAILED

HLAMCIA

USITT

IJEERHAM

LASTAGAIN

HAZEPHINA

ASHEEPSIN

ONMARS

THRU

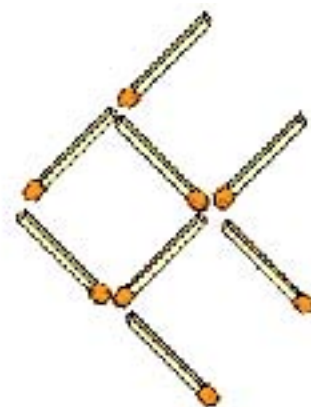
HOBALDA

ASAHII

HEMPLION

MATCHSTICK PUZZLE

Move just 3 matches so that the fish swims the other direction.



ANSWERS TO APRIL RIDDLES:

- 1 The day before yesterday I was 25 and the next year I will be 28. This is true only one day in a year. **What day is my birthday?**
He was born on Dec. 31 and spoke about it on Jan 1
- 2 Brothers and sisters I have none but this man's father is my father's son. **Who is the man?** The man is my son.

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



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Eagan Campus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122