

September 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

9/1
NO SCHOOL

9/4
LABOR DAY
NO SCHOOL

9/10
Every Member Weekend

9/14
Pioneer Meeting

9/15
Matins and Muffins

9/16
Dig It Volleyball Tournament

Blood Drive - Eagan

9/24
Volleyball Tournament

9/28
Pioneer Meeting

9/29-10/1
Pioneer Camp Out

Locked Up – Together

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

I attended a wedding party/reception recently. My family loved it and had a great time. Part of what made it so entertaining (aside from seeing and visiting with so many friends and meeting great people) was that there was a Master of Ceremonies leading the entertainment for the afternoon. He was fantastic! He played games with the bride and groom and even engaged members of the audience to do silly things to keep everyone entertained and amused.

One of the games was called “the human table.” The happy couple chose some guests to participate by initially sitting on chairs in a circle. The MC then had these folks “lock up” their arms and lean on each other, while removing chairs one by one by one. It was really something to see “the human table” all locked up, arm in arm, leaning on each other as the only means of support to keep them all in position where their chairs used to be. They got a big round of applause in the end.

Did you ever think about our congregation that way? In a sense, that little game at the reception is a picture of what we do for each other in our church. We get “locked up” together by a common confession of faith so that we walk together, “arm in arm,” for the truth of God’s Word. And we lean on each other to help us get through the tough times and celebrate with one another as the blessings come, too. God put it this way in the book of Hebrews, *and let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing. But let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the day approaching.* (Hebrews 10:25)

continued

In just a few weeks we will be having our “Every Member Weekend.” (September 9-11) It’s our congregation’s way of celebrating the importance of coming to worship in God’s house with our fellow believers. It’s our way of recommitting ourselves to studying God’s Word together in a formal bible study with our Pastors and sending our kids to do the same in Sunday School and the teen classes. In other words, we know how important it is to be “locked up” together in the Word and the blessings that follow.

If it helps, here are four powerful reasons (for when people ask you why you insist on going to church so regularly....) why we attend church so much and why it can even change your life....

1. **God said so!** That’s an easy reason, right? God said in Hebrews 10:25 that we shouldn’t give up meeting together. Church is a place where we get to hear about how we are all sinful, and it’s where we can all hear again and again just how much Jesus loves us, died for us, forgives us and guides us. He loves us all the same!
2. **Worshipping Jesus together is powerful stuff!** Jesus said that where two or three are gathered together in his name – there he is with them! He doesn’t just live in us through faith...he’s also in the

midst of us when we gather together for worship! That’s awesome stuff!

3. **We need a Christian community.** We long for “community” and a chance to connect with others. It is such a blessing to have a sense of “belonging.” God gives us that gift in gathering together for worship and study time. It fills that need to be a part of the life of other people and encourage them and make a difference in someone’s life. Worship and fellowship at church fills that need.
4. **We often grow more together than alone.** Church is our “safe place.” We can share our struggles with relationships, mental and physical illness, seemingly confusing teachings of Scripture, and a whole lot more, knowing that we are in a community that loves, cares and accepts us. We are among friends here who will help us to grow by encouraging us from God’s Word and praying with us and for us as we go along. And of course, we can do the same for them. It’s really a wonderful, beautiful thing!

Let’s face it. Being “locked up” together by faith, leaning on each other through the strength that God gives us, is a pretty marvelous blessing. So let’s celebrate Every Member Weekend on September 9-11 for the blessing that it is – the blessing of each other, from God himself!

A Partner Ministry

In January of 2017 a non-denominational church approached Crown of Life about using our Eagan facilities for their worship. Before that could take place, the pastors decided it would be important that this church shared our beliefs. So for the next 5 months, Pastor Joshua Baion, the pastor of this church, met with Pastor Pudlo 1-2 times/week in order to work towards a unity of beliefs. I could share with you the numerous lengthy discussions that were held, but to be concise, the meetings went very well. At the end of the 5 months, Pastor Baion willingly and happily signed a copy of the WELS 20 page statement of belief, *This We Believe*. In doing so, Pastor Baion indicated that he and his church are in agreement with everything the WELS teaches.

At our annual Summer voters meeting the Crown of Life Church council brought a recommendation to start a conditional partnership with Community Deliverance Church. The agreement consisted of allowing Community Deliverance Church to worship at our Eagan facility on Sunday afternoons. The voting body agreed to the terms on the condition that Pastor Baion and Pastor Pudlo continue to meet on a regular basis to continue exploring the possibility of a fellowship becoming firmly established. Look for more on this in next month’s newsletter.



Pastor Joshua Baion with family

The View From Nowhere

August 26, 2017 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



If you are an active member of a Christian community you have probably heard many stories about different people's conversion stories. The stories are often uplifting and memorable not only for the converted individual, but also for fellow Christians. Interestingly, for every conversion story there is probably just as many deconversion stories. I ran across one such story the other day which really stuck with me. A woman who grew up Christian began to face some difficult questions regarding why she was a Christian. These questions led her down a path of research and a quest for truth. What follows is her conclusion after going down a twisted and winding path of disinformation in a quest for truth:

So pretty quickly I decided that my best course of action from that point on was to stick with science. It's not perfect but more than anything else out there it seeks out evidence and makes that its highest goal. No wishing, no hoping, no faith, no manipulation, no using people's feelings to convince them of anything. No ancient books, no loyalty to ancient wisdom if it doesn't hold up, no praying, no ceremonies ... nothing is sacred ... except truth.

Exclusive Rationality

This woman makes a pretty bold claim, doesn't she? She is claiming that science has the sole possession of what is true. She goes on in other posts to claim that she is an Atheist and that there is no God. When one makes the claim that there is no god, or that there is a God, they are basing their claim on one of two things. They are claiming that 1) they have a view from outside of all reality and can see all things including whether or not there is a God, or 2) their claim is based on faith and not on proof. There really aren't any other options. When one makes that bold of a claim they are making a claim of either knowing ultimate reality or simply having a faith.

But there's a problem with this woman's conclusion. Tim Keller says it well in Making Sense of God, "Behind many of these (deconversion)

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

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/17 - 6/18
July ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$96,475 in total income with expected budget income to be \$135,920 which was \$39,445 below budget. Expenses (FYTD) were \$129,169 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$32,694. July Envelope Offerings were -\$6,829 less than budgeted.

We owe \$40,000 to our special funds account. Special Funds Account available balance is \$7,500.

DEATH – Bob Schmidt died on 8/14/17, funeral with Pastor Kom.

BAPTISM – Jaxon Dana Footh son of Benjamin and Alison Footh on August 6 with Pastor Kom.

MARRIAGES

Jessica Rupprecht and Coltan Ellis on 8/5/17.

Diana Marzinske & Andrew Carter 8/12/17 with Pastor Kom.

Danielle Marzinske & Carl Wold on 8/12/17 with Pastor Kom.

NEW MEMBER

Elizabeth Fuller

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday October 28

Trunk or Treat

PIONEERS

Call the office if you would like to participate!

Cultivating Seeds - *Members in Motion*

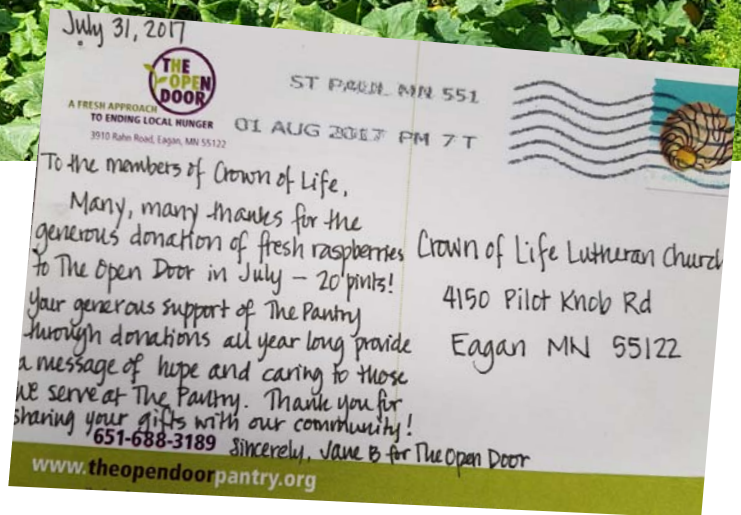


If you've ever been to the Eagan campus on a Sunday morning, chances are good you've seen Darrell and Liz Isebrand. They have been staples at Crown of Life for the past 4 years, and for 30 plus years at Beautiful Savior before the merger. Darrell has always been one who is good about introducing himself and making guests feel welcome. But what you see on Sunday morning only scratches the surface of the work of this "farmer at heart".

Darrell describes himself this way, "Gardening has been a part of our family's history for over 40 years as I was raised on a farm in Iowa in the 50's & 60's." That gardening is still a huge part of his life. Darrell and Liz's backyard is pretty much entirely garden. "Our garden is about 50' x 70' with a large variety of veggies and fruits."

Every year Darrell spends countless hours cultivating this massive garden. Why? It's a passion. "Gardening for me is a good form of exercise. It brings me back to the basics of planting seeds and taking care of the new plants. Each seed or plant is like a little miracle." The produce also gets put to good use. Darrell says, "A good amount of the garden produce is given to the food shelf in Crown of Life's name. Of course, family, friends and neighbors also get to enjoy the blessings of the garden." Darrell has made a name for himself at *The Open Door*, a food shelf dedicated to offering healthy food options to those in need. Several times/year *The Open Door* sends a thank you card to the members of Crown of Life for the donations of fresh produce.

While this is a passion of Darrell's, it is only part of the reason why he gardens. Darrell goes on, "There are numerous examples in the Bible using seeds and plants



as a comparison to believers and unbelievers. Ultimately God grows the plants. I just take care of them. Gardening is a lot of work but is very rewarding and the quality of the food is great." It's this reminder that leads Darrell to also spend time not just in the garden in his back yard, but also in the garden of Eagan (pun intended). There are plenty of souls in Eagan who need care and the water of God's word. That's why Darrell also makes regular visits to people who have recently moved into the Eagan area. He visits them after Crown of Life sends them a welcoming postcard in order to welcome them to the area and encourage them to check out Crown of Life if they haven't found a church home yet.

At his core, Darrell is a gardener. But the garden in his backyard only scratches the surface of the kind of gardening he does.

If you have any interest in making visits to people who have recently moved in to Eagan or West St. Paul in order to welcome them to the area and encourage them to check out Crown of Life, contact Pastor Pudlo. We're always looking for more ways to reach our community.

PreK Gets a Playground

Have you ever sat on a bench near a playground and heard the sounds of young children playing on that playground? They chase each other, they climb on everything, and hopefully, not too often, they fall down. But the thing that resonates most is the sound of giggles and joy. We want to hear that same sound on our new PreK playground.

The PreK playground is specially designed for smaller children with size appropriate play equipment and will be used for the preschool students only.

Ground has been broken and grading is done, but to finish the task we will need to raise \$27,000 so that our young students can climb and play in a safe, enclosed area. After the first \$10,000 is raised, we will be able to install playground equipment. The remaining \$17,000 will be used to purchase soft, interlocking rubber mats that cover the ground surface to protect and cushion falls.

Let's set an aggressive goal to get this project done by October 31st!! (Before it snows.) We need 675 rubber mats to finish this project. Breaking it down, that's only \$40/mat! Why not sponsor a mat for \$40... or maybe 10 mats for \$400.00? Let's see how long it takes for us to get to the magic number of 675 and hear the giggles and laughter coming from our PreK students.



SPONSOR A MAT

If you would like to Sponsor A Mat please make your contribution check to Crown of Life School with a notation in the Memo line PREK Playground Mat... THANK YOU for your generous gift!

Christian Giving - *Stewardship Thought*

Christian giving comes more from the heart than it does from the pocketbook. Through faith, we understand that God is the source of all good things. "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it" (Psalm 24:1). He has blessed us with our physical lives and life forever with Him. Through our giving, we express. "Thank You, thank you, dear God." Our faithful giving honors and worships the Lord.

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

“The Ark Encounter and the Creation Museum”

★★★★★ | SUMMER ROAD TRIP

Do you remember reading about The Ark Encounter in the Things To Do section of The Word? Well if you didn't act on it, maybe the Yoders Summer Road Trip will spark your interest for next summers adventure.

Genesis 6 describes the specifications God gave Noah to build the ark. Travel to northern Kentucky and see it come to life! Our family (including grandparents) did just that on a road trip this summer. An easy day and half on the road brought us to northern Kentucky where we spent a half day touring the Ark. Situated on a picturesque hill, the Ark measures 510 feet long, 85 feet wide and 51 feet high. The skies

were threatening rain the day we toured the Ark and we were grateful to enter the structure as the rains began. Talk about living part of the experience! Once inside, we toured all 3 stories of exhibits, viewing what life may have been like

for Noah, his family, and the animals aboard the Ark. Between the exhibits of how animals may have been cared for, how they could have all fit, and how oil, food and water for all on board could have been stored, are vignettes contrasting the differences between the flood and creation and man's scientific explanations of Earth's marvels. And of course, explanations of how dinosaurs could have fit on the Ark and how scientific dating techniques are flawed.

We traveled 40 miles the next day to the Creation Museum. This museum offers over 140 exhibits on Biblical history, with topics covering the Garden of Eden, Noah's Ark, the Tower of Babel, and of course dinosaurs. We also toured the beautiful botanical gardens and visited the petting zoo. An unexpected highlight of the day was the Stargazers Planetarium. We watched two different movies addressing the possibility of alien life and how what we see in the night sky confirms God's Word in the Bible. It was an extra charge for these movies, but we all agreed it was well worth it!

Touring both museums provided us with great topics for discussions. It's refreshing to visit attractions that focus so much on creation and God's Word. We would highly recommend both of these sites and would be happy to provide more details.



Door of the Ark

Sr. Luncheon Thursday, September 28th, Crown of Life – West St. Paul

Seniors, please join us beginning at 11 AM. We will be following the journey of one of God's beautiful creations... the butterfly! Invite your friends (it's free of charge) and enjoy some time of fun and fellowship!

SAVE THE NEW DATE....TRUNK OR TREAT - SAT, OCTOBER 28

decorate, dress up, hand out candy - donate candy, pumpkins, snacks



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Friday, September 1

NO SCHOOL

Saturday, September 2

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 3

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 New Member Class-WSP

Monday, September 4

Labor Day - NO SCHOOL

6:30 pm NO-Worship WSP

Tuesday, September 5

10:00 am The Commons on Marice

Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Evangelism

Technology Team

Wednesday, September 6

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, September 7

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, September 9

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 10

Every Member Sunday

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 New Member Class-WSP

Monday, September 11

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, September 12

10:00 am The Commons on Marice

Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Education

Properties

7:15 pm Handbell rehearsal

Stewardship

Wednesday, September 13

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

6:30 pm Confirmation Class EGN

Thursday, September 14

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Friday, September 15

8:00 am Matins & Muffins / Panera

Saturday, September 16

8:00 am Dig-It Volleyball Tournament

9:00 am Blood Drive-EGN

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 17

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 New Member Class-WSP

Monday, September 18

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 am The Commons on Marice

Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, September 20

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

6:30 pm Confirmation Class EGN

Thursday, September 21

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, September 23

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 24

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

12:00 pm Volleyball Tournament

3:00 pm New Member Class-WSP

Monday, September 25

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, September 26

10:00 am The Commons on Marice

Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Wednesday, September 27

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Confirmation Class EGN

Thursday, September 28

11:00 am Senior Luncheon

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting

Friday, September 29

3:30 pm Pioneers Fall Camp

Saturday, September 30

Pioneers Fall Camp

5:00 pm Worship EGN

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jacque Bejblik	8	Hertha Gryc	13	Sophia Moe	19	Kory Ludden	26	Victoria Hansen
	Christina Belfield		Kieran Hunter		J'anna Prince		Alexis Vandenbosch		Rebecca Ludden
	Kristine Friese		Robert Lucio	14	Shelly Farley	20	Xavier Conzet	27	Sandra Boehlke
	Irene Haugen		Jermaine Prince		Donald Paschke		Wendy Ellwein		Becky Huebner
	Brett Koker	9	Margaret Bougie	15	Mason Kelm		Samuel Fischer		Daniel Swiderski
	Nellie Larson		Rachel Cline		Chenwei Pan		Kim Peterson	28	Katy George
2	Carol Jean Lorenz		Devon Hart	16	Ryan Bejblik	21	Ana Hauck		Grant Peterson
3	Betty Frederick		Levi Johnson		Cassin Farley		Saniyah Steber	29	Laura Grossmann
	Thomas Marrier		Noah Little	16	Kyle Monn	22	Penny Mielke		Haley Lasovich
4	Julie Capocasa		Kirsten Munoz		Abigail Orton		Ava Ohm		Alyse Loomis
5	Andrea Coyne		Kara Sylvester		William Stettner	23	Ethan Koeppen		Elizabeth Rich
6	Kyle Boyer	10	Colleen Myhre		Janice Will	24	Asher Hussong		Kaylyn Simonette
	Debra Myhre		Diane Schneeberger	17	Tim Grunwald	24	Lori Kowitz	30	Breanna Dennis
	Chloe Rall	11	Thomas Boehlke		Payton Monn		Savon Lopez		Thomas Pavak
	Colton Rall		Thomas Goette		Linda Wiplinger		Curtis Montgomery		Kathryn Sievert
7	Rachel Lucas		Vanessa Olson	18	Rosemary Holen		Scott Olson		Jon Stensland
	Tia Wieden		Matthias Sandman		Linda Lucio	25	Kendall Hanson		
8	Sophia Grunwald	13	Jamie Hussong		Jessica Lynn Quast		Thomas Lucas		

SEPTEMBER 9-11

Every Member WEEKEND

What do the seven deadly sins and Gilligan's Island have in common?

Lust – Gluttony – Greed – Sloth – Wrath – Envy – Pride

Find out at Every Member Sunday – September 10th – Let's set a record for member attendance!

JUST FOR FUN

QUOTEFALLS

W	E	L	W	H	D	E	F	F	L	T	H	N	F	U	A	
U	R	O	O	N	O	I	A	E	A	I	A	E	E		I	
C	I	T	L		G	U	V	T	H	I	F	H	D		L	
B	N															

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

ANSWERS TO AUGUST QUOTEFALL:

So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do do it all for the glory of God.

Have you noticed that Pastor Pudlo quotes books **A LOT!**

Ever wonder what's on his book list?

- Jesus Amon Secular Gods: Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale
- Rethinking Sustainability: Alan Pue
- 360 Degree Leader: John Maxwell
- Outflow: Steve Sjogren and Dave Ping
- Wired for Ministry: John Jewell
- The True Jesus: David Limbaugh
- Why Jesus?: Ravi Zacharias
- Winnie the Pooh

Actually, added the last one... thought he needed some variety!

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