



COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

YOUR WORK MATTERS

FINDING PURPOSE IN THE WORKPLACE

the word

October 2016 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

10/2

Annual Voters Meeting

10/12

Senior Luncheon

10/13

Pioneer Meeting

10/16

Pioneer Archery Course

10/20-21

NO SCHOOL

10/27

Pioneer Meeting

10/28

S'More Fun – EGN

10/31

Trunk or Treat – WSP

Why Work?

by Zachary Pudlo

"It is the working man who is the happy man.

It is the idle man who is the miserable man." - Benjamin Franklin

Remember the 40 hour week? Whatever happened to that? "I worked a 60 hour week," has almost become the boast of this generation. Why is that? How did we get to this point in history when the amount of work we put in is equal to our self esteem? Work, like many other things, can become a personal spiritual crisis in our lives. Let's consider a short history of the cultural views of work.

The Cultures of Work

There is a famous Babylonian account of how the world was created. Marduk, one of the Babylonian gods, created the world after he split open the body of another god. When the other gods had seen the enormous creation they told Marduk that he created too much. "There's too much creation to take care of. There's too much work to do to preserve it all." This was their argument. And so Marduk responded, "Let me put blood together, and make bones too. Let me set up primeval man: Man shall be his name. Let me create a primeval man. The work of the gods shall be imposed (on him), and so they shall be at rest." In this Eastern account of creation, work is seen as a horrible imposition of labor. Work is an evil.

What about Western accounts of creation? In Greek Mythology, Zeus gives Pandora, the first woman, a jar. He told her to not open the box...but she did. And what came out? Death, disease, all kinds of horror including...work! Even in Western mythology, work was evil.

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ASK THE PASTOR

How do you console a friend who has had a unexpected family loss?

Whenever someone has gone through a major loss it is important to recognize that they are experiencing

some deep personal emotions. And because emotions are so high, it makes sharing comforting words such a difficult thing to do. If emotions are at such a high level, when someone asks, "Why would God do this to me?" they are not looking for a rational explanation concerning the theological reasons God allows suffering to happen. More than anything, they simply want the pain to go away. Unfortunately, we can't take the pain of the loss away. Here's a couple practical things we can do. 1) We can

be there for them. Years ago, a college student's father passed away. That student said, "When I lost my father, all I wanted was someone to be there for me when I fell asleep." We can do that. We can be there to put our arms around our friends and comfort them. 2) When they are ready to hear it, we can be prepared to remind them that God still loves us. We can point them to the cross where God not only answers all our questions, but reminds us of his love. Very briefly, two things can happen when people suffer. One is they can think, "I'm being punished." But the cross says, "No. Jesus took your punishment." The second question comes up, "Well, maybe God doesn't care." But the cross says "God does care. He's lost a child out of his love for you."

Living for Jesus – Stewardship Thought

Martin Luther said, "If someone would knock on my heart and ask, 'Who lives here?' I would say, 'Martin Luther once lived here, but he has moved out and Jesus has moved in.'" Martin Luther lived for Jesus. In Galatians 2:20 the apostle Paul wrote that he, too, lived for Jesus. *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God."*

Who or what do you live for? If we live for ourselves and the things of the world, we will focus our attention and energy on amassing more and more things. It is easy for money and possessions to become overly important because our society tells us that more is better and that happiness and success can only be achieved by having the newest and best things. To find happiness and success, we work long and hard.

King Solomon, who was wealthy and wise, tried almost everything and found no satisfaction with things of the world. In Ecclesiastes, he tells us that he tried wine and women; he built houses, gardens, and parks; he bought slaves, herds and flocks, and amassed silver and gold. *"I denied myself nothing my eyes desired; I refused*

my heart no pleasure . . . Yet when I surveyed all that my hands had done and what I had toiled to achieve, everything was meaningless, a chasing after the wind; nothing was gained under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). Regarding money, Solomon wrote, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless" (vs. 5:10).

In closing the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon wrote, *"Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment . . ."* (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). The only thing that finally gave Solomon's life purpose was living for God. Likewise, we as Christians understand that Jesus is the only person who can give us lasting peace, comfort, and security. He alone meets our needs. Jesus' tremendous sacrifice showed us His love for us and His love compels us to love Him and live for Him. Filled with Jesus' presence in our lives, we are empowered to overcome the pull of the world.

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



S'MORE FUN

October 28 – 5 pm – COL Eagan
Campfire, movie, hotdogs, and of course S'Mores

Movie - The Jungle Book (2016) PG Rating

Alternate - The Jungle Book (1967) G Rating

Foldup chairs are provided. Little ones, bring a pillow or blanket to get comfortable on the floor.

The Final Year

Elementary school years are different than any other educational time in a student's life. Many students have been at COL for 9 or 10 years (high school and college combined are not as long). In the elementary years, students thoughts, habits and memories are shaped for the future. How many of us can recall our elementary teachers and friendships we made?

Let's see what our 8th grade class has to say about their final year.

What are you looking forward to as an 8th grader?

- Preparing for high school
- Graduation
- Confirmation
- Festival of Nations
- Basketball season and the tournaments
- Another great year with my friends

What has changed most in your years at COL?

- Teachers and technology
- Memories have gotten better and better each year
- My friendships have grown over the years
- More things done online
- Smartboards and technology

What makes COL special to you?

- Learning about God
- Fun with Christian friends
- Getting to know so many people, young and old
- God's Word every day
- It was a smooth transition coming in as an upper grade student

If you were giving a tour of our school, what would you say to a family that wanted to send their child to COL?

- I would talk to them about the transition and how nice all of the kids are
- I would tell them that COL is a safe, tight knit school with great Christian values
- COL is a warm, welcoming school with fun, friendly people
- We all share one thing in common...Jesus!
- We all have the same goal... Heaven!



As you can see from the responses and the pictures, these 8th graders have grown up not only physically and socially, they have grown in the most important way... SPIRITUALLY!!

off and running

SCIENCE - testing flexibility of small structures
an intro to building earthquake resistant structures

FALL SPORTS are off to a great start with
Volleyball winning their first games.



What about the Christian account? God works. He creates the universe, then he creates the “crown of his creation”, not a “primeval man”. And after he created a paradise in the Garden of Eden he gave mankind a simple task. “The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.” (Genesis 2:15) In Genesis 1-2 not only do we see the Creator God working, but we also see him giving work to his creation. But notice where it is this work is to take place. It's in the Garden of Eden. Even in paradise work takes place. The Bible is radical in its view of work. It isn't evil, it's a blessing.

The Christian and Work

The culture in which we now live doesn't necessarily view work entirely as an evil. One of the best

representatives of how we view work in America is seen in a quote by famous actor, Kevin Hart. “Everybody wants to be famous, but nobody wants to do the work. I live by that. You grind hard so you can play hard. At the end of the day, you put all the work in, and eventually it'll pay off. It could be in a year, it could be in 30 years. Eventually, your hard work will pay off.” What's Kevin Hart's motivation for working? Fame. He puts in deposits of hard work so that later in life he can take out deposits of fame and praise. Even in our current culture, work is not a blessing in and of itself. It's a tool...a means by which we can serve ourselves. It's a job we absolutely must do in order to make a prosperous life for ourselves.

That's why Rocky Balboa worked so hard. He said, “It really don't matter if I lose this fight. It really don't matter if this guy opens my head. 'Cause all I wanna do is go

Members in Motion – *Sharing Faith in the St Croix High School Dorms*

St. Croix Lutheran is unique to most schools in that a fourth of their enrollment (about 100 students) are international students and come from all corners of the world. St. Croix has a new dorm to accommodate housing for all these kids and those that come from the United States. Crown of Life members Chris Maki and Bev Abel are two of six dorm supervisors. Chris's experience comes from years of teaching and coaching while Bev's comes from years of parenting.

Chris Maki began his teaching ministry at St. Andrew's Lutheran School in St. Paul Park where he taught almost every grade and learned about the challenges and rewards of teaching in a Lutheran school. After several years, Chris started coaching soccer at St. Croix and was offered a position to teach geometry and be a dorm supervisor. Along with this position came new challenges and rewards, especially as he shares God's Word with students from all over the world.

Both Perry and Bev graduated from St. Croix Lutheran, as well as their children, so the St. Croix ministry is very close to their hearts. After retiring from Travelers, Bev joined the dorm supervising staff in 2015 as the girl's supervisor. She enjoyed being a mom so much, she thought she could take on a dorm full of teenagers. Perry, although not a

dorm supervisor, enjoys engaging with the students and can often be found at their games, concerts or photographing events. He continues to work in real estate and volunteer at Crown of Life.

Living in the dorms can be quite an experience for the students. They come from different cultures, eat different foods, they have to make new friends, and are an ocean away from family. However, no matter where they come from, they are still teenagers. Now, imagine having to supervise these teens.



the distance. Nobody's ever gone the distance with Creed, and if I can go that distance... I'm gonna know for the first time in my life, that I weren't just another bum from the neighborhood." Why did Rocky work so hard? To give his life meaning. But what would have happened if Rocky didn't go the distance? What would have happened if Kevin Hart didn't make as an A-list celebrity? Their life would have no meaning. What meaning would life have if Marduk was the creator? What meaning would life have if Pandora's Box was a real thing? Work would be an evil. What would happen if we are all accidents...the product of millions of years of evolution? Life and work would have no value or meaning.

Genesis 1:27, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and

female he created them." A loving God created us in his own image. After he was done, he looked and basically said, "It is finished." And then he rested. Centuries later, God's son cried out from the cross, "It is finished." And then we rested! God worked so hard to credit us with his perfect life and take away our sins so that we could rest. We no longer need to work so that our life has meaning and purpose. We no longer have to work so hard to win approval.

Because we have God's approval we work. Work is not about your meaning and existence. Instead, work is about God. Whatever your job is, it's a way to take care of the Universe God created. It's about caring for the people God made as the crown of his creation. Rest in the eternal rest God has given you. ■

What makes the dorms successful is there are 6 adults to care for them, discipline, help with homework, bandage their injuries, encourage them, distribute their mail, go to their games, make sure they go to bed on time, and make sure their needs are met. Most supervisors teach which means they have to find time in their day to prepare for the classes, as well. This is called dedication.

What is also unique is St. Croix Middle School has International students who are housed in the dorm. This year there are 7 International and 1 American middle school students living in the dorm. Chris and Bev share in the responsibility of overseeing the Middle Schoolers, or affectionately called "Middles".

To help create a family atmosphere, on Wednesday nights Bev cooks and serves a sitdown, homemade meal in her apartment. This is a time where the dorm "Middles", Chris, Bev and Perry sit down and have a family style meal, talk about the kids' days, and what's going on in their lives. Most Wednesdays, a special guest or two are invited. This has helped the kids with their conversational English, given them a sense of family away from their own, and strengthen the relationships between the kids and the supervisors.

Chris and Bev are very blessed to live and work in an environment where they get to share God's Word. Continue to pray that the Lord bless their work of sharing the gospel with these students.

What is God's plan for you?



Educating the total student
- spiritually, intellectually, and physically -
in a caring, Christian family community.

Find out more about your Christian high school.



OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, November 3, 8:30-10:30a.m.

Sunday, November 6, 2:00-4:30p.m.

Tuition assistance and scholarships available.

1200 Oakdale Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118
(651) 455-1521 • StCroixLutheran.org

REPORTS

TREASURER – Fiscal Year July 2016 to June 2017

August ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$230,205 in total income with expected budget income to be \$356,709 (\$126,503 below budget). Clear the Path matching funds (budgeted) is the main reason for lower than budget income. We hope to balance that by the end of the year. Expenses (FYTD) \$292,518 which gave us a FYTD *negative* \$62,312. We owe \$0 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions (8-31-16) totaled \$607,086 were paid directly to reduce the loan balance to \$810,678. All bills are paid to date. Direct questions to PerryAbel at treasurer@colwsp.org.

DEATHS

Bernice Murray died 9/7/16, funeral with Pastor Kom 9/12/16.

Lenore Wagenknecht died 9/15/16, funeral with Pastor Kom 9/20/16.

Don Langfield died 9/16/16, Christian burial 9/19/16 by Pastor Kom at Riverview Cemetery.

BAPTISMS

Mackenzie Elizabeth Letendre daughter of Jeremy and Amanda Letendre 8/28/16 with Pastor Kom.

Leo Jon Haehnel son of Derek and Holly Haehnel 9/11/16 with Pastor Kom.

Mase Lowell and Cade Richard Matkin sons of Nicholas and Kerri Matkin 9/18/16 with Pastor Pudlo.

Sofia Ann-Marie Grunwald daughter of Tim and Nikki Grunwald 9/25/16 with Pastor Kom.

MARRIAGE

Marriage of Mark Kruse and Carrie VandenBosch 8/2/16 with Pastor Kom.

Welcome New Members!

Richard & Brook Burt with Isabel and Hunter

– Our family has resided in the St Paul area for the past 4 years. We grew up in the Midwest and enjoy growing in our faith, traveling as a family and watching our children in extracurricular activities.



Ryan & Katlyn Bolte – Attended Bethany Lutheran College, married in July 2015, and are expecting 1st first baby in February. Ryan coaches soccer at Bethany, and Katelyn is earning her masters in Counseling Psychology at The University of St. Thomas.



Dustin & Katie Sievert with Will (10 months), Elijah (3), Evan (5) and Micah (7) – Moved to MN from Appleton, WI where Dustin was a pastor. He now is a teacher at St. Croix Lutheran and the children attend Crown of Life.

503 pounds/dollars donated



Thanks to all who helped at the Inver Grove Heights Parade! Crown of Life was able to pass out over 1000 invites to our church, school, and Fall Trunk or Treat event. May God bless all those invites with a fruitful return!

TRUNK OR TREAT



October 31

5-7pm



Dress up, hand out candy, put up posters or man the hotdog stand. This is a fun event for all ages and families. There is something for everyone and **we need your help!**

DONATE/SIGN UP go to: church.crownoflifemn.org/volunteer

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Saturday, October 1

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, October 2

Pioneer Sunday

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan
10:30 am Worship WSP
7:00 pm Annual Voters Mtg-WSP

Monday, October 3

NO BUS SERVICE

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

Tuesday, October 4

4:00 pm Soccer Playoff - Semifinals
4:15 pm Volleyball HOME Game vs. King of Grace
7:00 pm Evangelism
7:00 pm Technology Team

Wednesday, October 5

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

Thursday, October 6

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneer (boy) Leaders'

Friday, October 7

8:20 am Matins
10:00 am Good Samaritan
4:00 pm League Volleyball Tournament (A Team)
7:00 pm Soccer Championship

Saturday, October 8

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, October 9

Praise Service

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan
10:30 am Worship WSP
Pre-K - 1 sings WSP

Monday, October 10

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

Tuesday, October 11

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

Wednesday, October 12

11:00 am Seniors Luncheon
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
6:30 pm Public School Confirmation

Thursday, October 13

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Pioneers Regular Meeting
7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Friday, October 14

8:00 am Matins & Muffins and Panera

Saturday, October 15

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, October 16

8:00 am Worship WSP
Choristers sing WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan
10:30 am Worship WSP
1:00 pm Pioneers - Archery Course
3:00 pm Pioneers - Archery Course

Monday, October 17

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 pm Council

Wednesday, October 19

11:30 am Early Dismissal
1:00 pm Cross Country Meet
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
6:30 pm Public School Confirmation

Thursday, October 20

NO SCHOOL - Teachers' Conference
2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery Meeting

Friday, October 21

NO SCHOOL - Teachers' Conference

Saturday, October 22

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, October 23

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, October 24

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

Tuesday, October 25

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 26

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
6:30 pm Public School Confirmation

Thursday, October 27

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

Friday, October 28

8:20 am Matins
5:00 pm S'more Fun - EGN

Saturday, October 29

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, October 30

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, October 31

Halloween

5:00 pm Trunk or Treat-WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1 Roger I. Becker
Zachary Haehnel
Becky Karnitz
Lorraine Langfield
Marissa Lucio | 6 Dennis Duff
Ashley Schumacher | 13 Hazel Danner
Christine Pasch
Rosanne Steber | 25 Cody Hood
Joann Loewen |
| 2 Eve Haehnel
Elizabeth Stedillie | 7 Steven Bartsch
Jennifer Seidl | 14 Perry Abel | 26 Adam Fischbach
Marjorie Uecker |
| 3 Caleb Leach
Evan Ludden
Eunice Neubauer
Kathleen Oberg
Isaiah Otterstatter | 8 Sarah Lucas
Cathy Olson
Mary Wacker | 15 Stephanie Steber | 27 Mark Smith |
| 4 David Dittman
Jonah Koeppen
Samuel Koeppen
Michael Yoder | 9 Conner Koker
Trenton Krueger
Gabrielle Stensland | 17 Ezekiel Hammick
Daniel Plath
Andrew Quast | 28 Voni Boyer
Dashawn Dennis
Isaiah Kruse
Donald Langfield
Scott Redner |
| 5 Karyn Sachs | 10 Carmen Arnoldy
Benjamin Footh
Jason Rupprecht | 18 David Schletty | 29 Michaela Allen
Amelie Farley
Elizabeth Oldfield
Emily Pottorff |
| | 11 Steve Lange
Justin Ohm | 19 Abby Gaedtke
Brady Schindeldecker
Jennifer Thul | 30 Courtney Engstrom
Urdeen Quam |
| | 12 Abby Belfield | 21 Samuel Sylvester | |
| | 13 Lucas Boehm | 22 Leo Kuehl
Johnathon Schultz | |
| | | 23 Geraldine Grasz | |
| | | 24 Jessica Kelm | |

Boys Camp Out at Carver Park Reserve

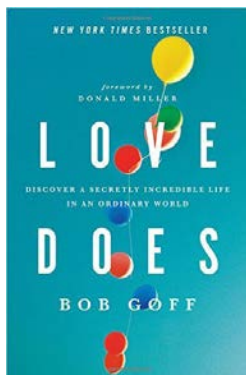
The Boy Pioneers spent a warm, dry weekend camping together in September. Friday the boys set up their tents before supper. Saturday, they participated in hands-on learning with fire building, tying knots, compass, and awareness of nature. In addition to that, they prepared meals cooked over the fire, followed by clean-up. Even with all that activity, they found time to play games and explore. Family members joined us for the Saturday evening meal (prepared by the boys) and a short worship service led by Pastor Kom. Sunday came quickly with everyone pitching in to break camp, pack up and head back to Crown of Life. The boys are very appreciative of the leaders and parents who camped with them, providing support and assistance with all the activities."



BOOK REVIEW

Love Does

Reviewed by
Zachary Pudlo



Bob Goff is a seriously good story teller. Bob has done some things in his life that most of us wouldn't even remotely consider. In *Love Does*, Bob recounts many of the fascinating stories and ridiculous things he has done in his life. At the end of each story he sums up what he learned from that experience and ties in back to God's love for us. *Love Does* is a reminder that love is not just an emotion or a feeling, but part of the will and results in action. While being relatively weak in the theological department, and sometimes off-base, *Love Does* still is entertaining and a good reminder to put our love into action. A quick and easy read, I would certainly recommend this New York Times Bestseller.

Christmas Worship Schedule

A recent study showed that only about 18% of Americans attend church on a weekly basis. Interestingly, that number jumps to about 37% at Christmas! Do a google search on Christmas service church guests and you will find countless articles about the increase of attendance and how to turn those guests into regular attendees. Most articles will stress making the guests feel welcome and comfortable, having time to greet and mingle with them, and, finally, making a relevant message for those guests. As it is our mission to "make disciples of all nations" we want to do just that...turn guests into regular attendees, share the gospel in a relevant way with them.

For that reason Crown of Life has a new worship schedule this year for Christmas. The Children's Christmas service will be held on Sunday, December 18th at the West St. Paul campus. Pre-K through 8th grade will lead the service at the 8 AM service and grades 1-8 will lead the 10:30 AM service. On Christmas Eve there will be two candlelight services. 7:00 PM at Eagan and 8:00 PM at West St. Paul. This new schedule is an attempt to give guests more options to have a welcoming worship service opportunities and, God-willing, turn them into regular attendees.

Just For Fun – Check out Trunk or Treat... Sure to be Spooktacular!



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