

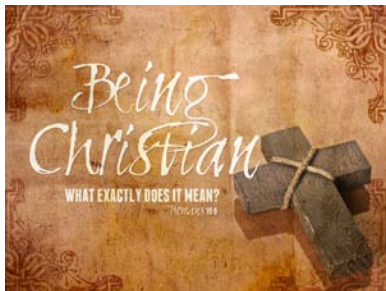


# the word

July 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

## Coming Soon

July 15-August 26



*What does it mean  
to be a Christian?*

*What makes a Christian different  
from any other religious person?*

*What motivates and  
drives a Christian?*

*We will consider these and  
many more questions about the  
Christian lifestyle in our next  
worship series "Being Christian"*

## Made for Freedom

BY PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO

### Idols of Our Hearts

John Calvin once wrote, "The heart is an idol factory." When you and I think of idols we often think of statues created by human hands that people set up in prominent positions in homes or temples. But the Bible describes idol worship in a little different way. In Ezekiel 14:3 God says, "...these men have set up idols in their hearts." God says that idols are more than just physical objects made for worship. They are creations manufactured in our own hearts. They are objects of our desire.

### Identifying the Idols

These idols can be anything, but most theologians agree that in America the big three are money, sex, and power. In and of themselves, these are all blessings from the Lord. However, each one of these things can become an idol we worship in our lives. How do we know if we have an idol in our lives? Money, sex, and power become idols when they become so essential and important in our lives that, if you were to lose it, your life would lose all meaning, hope, and purpose.

Let's take a closer look at these three common idols. We work so hard at our jobs to get a paycheck because we think that with money comes freedom. More money means more opportunities...opportunities for getting the car and homes you want, opportunities for providing a better life for your children than you had, opportunities for travel and luxury. And with that in mind, we think money is all we need for happiness.

*continued*

The same is true of sex and romantic love. People are exposed, at a very young age, to the notion that you need romantic love in order to have value and meaning in life. How many romantic movies and stories can you think of that end right after a romantic relationship begins with man and woman? It's as if the writers of the movies and books want the readers/viewers to think that if you find love, then you will find your happy ever after. And so many people spend their whole lives trying so hard to find that happy ever after kind of love.

And finally, power is very similar as well. Why did World War 1 and 2 begin? It was a quest for power. Why is there still so much political strife in America and around the world? Quests for power. Why do workplaces have cutthroat attitudes, with workers stabbing each other in the back if necessary? Quests for power. We labor and strive for power because we think that if we have it, then we will be happy.

When you understand idols in this way, it seems evident that idols don't give us freedom, they take it away. We think that if we have money, and romance, and power, then we have all the deepest desires of our hearts. But in the end, we really end up being enslaved to the things we want the most. We work our whole lives trying to find happiness in these areas. We work so hard at it that we become enslaved to the idols our hearts have created.

## Our Hearts Deepest Desire

We seek money, romance, and power because in our hearts is a deep longing for what these things try to offer us...lasting security, romance and power. But only Jesus can offer that to us. Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes

that a man works his whole life only to pass his wealth on to someone else. Money doesn't last. Someone, somewhere has to have the greatest marriage ever... right? But even that marriage isn't a perfect relationship that will last forever. Spouses die. Romance doesn't last. Hitler was taken down. Politicians retire. CEO's move on. Power doesn't last.

While those objects of our desire don't last, what Jesus gives us does last. The Son of God lived and labored while on earth in order to give us an inheritance that will never perish spoil or fade in heaven (1 Peter). He died in order to make the Church his bride in a marriage that will never end. He rose in order to make us kings and queens in his kingdom.

The best part about those blessings Jesus won for us is that we don't have to work and labor in order to receive them. They are already ours. We have been set free from serving the temporary idols of our hearts because we have been given something even better....truly satisfying eternal gifts from our gracious Lord that not even death can take away from us.

## Conclusion

We must be shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves as we try to identify the idols of our hearts. Do you know what hidden idols are in the attics of your hearts? Is it your family...your job...your money? May those gifts from the ultimate Giver of all good things never become more important than the Giver himself. But fix your heart on the Giver. As Jesus himself says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6:33)



## explore the real evidence for Christ's resurrection

The most controversial person in history. Nearly 20 centuries have come and gone since Jesus walked the earth and that's what he remains. Join Crown of Life for a 6 week multimedia course investigating the evidence that points to Jesus being much more than an ordinary man. Based on *The Case for Christ*, a book written by former atheist, Lee Strobel.

When	Begins July 26th
Time	6:30-7:30
Where	COL - 4150 Pilot Knob Rd. Eagan, MN
Cost	Free
Leader	Pastor Zachary Pudlo

If interested contact Pastor Pudlo: 651-485-0190 or [zachary.pudlo@colwsp.org](mailto:zachary.pudlo@colwsp.org) so supplies can be ordered.

# ASK THE PASTOR

**When Jesus died for all sins did he pay for those who had already died? — those in hell?**

**If he did, was hell empty after his death?**

Romans 3:25 does a good job of answering these questions. “God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished...”

The only way to heaven is through faith in Jesus payment for your sins. So what happened to those who died before Jesus came? God says through Paul that he left believer's sins unpunished until Jesus came and paid for them. The idea of forbearance is a banking term. The repayment of a loan is put off until later. The same is true of our debt of sin to God. Concerning those who died before Jesus came...those who were unbelievers went to hell, but those who were believers were given the blessing of having their debt of sin put into forbearance. God pushed the repayment down the line until Jesus

came. Yes, Jesus paid for the sins of those who already died and those in hell. But the blessing of the forgiveness is only received through faith.

**If Jesus paid for ALL who have sinned, why didn't he pay for the devils sins?**

The devil and his demons were given their chance. They chose to disobey. Their time for repentance and forgiveness is up unlike human beings, who have their entire life as a time of grace when they can turn to the Lord in repentance and faith.

**If you had to lead a perfect life to enter heaven, and the only one to do that was Jesus, was there anyone in heaven before Jesus died?**

Yes. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. When a person dies, their body and soul separate. While the body returns to dust, the Bible tells us that the soul goes to one of two places...heaven or hell. That's been true of every human being since Adam and Eve except...

## PASTOR CHALLENGE



...which two people in the Bible didn't have their bodies return to dust, but both body and soul entered into heaven?

Answer directly or email answers to: [zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org](mailto:zacharypudlo@crownoflifemn.org)

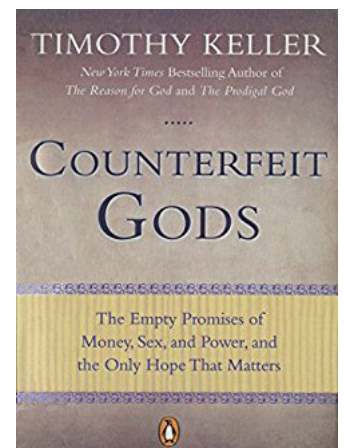
## BOOK REVIEW

### “Counterfeit Gods”

RELIGIOUS | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Idols are anything we worship, and we have lots of them. In *Counterfeit Gods* Tim Keller makes the compelling case that our culture makes gods out of many things, but none of them give us satisfying fulfillment. Every idol is manmade. Every idol is temporary. Every idol separates us from God.

Tim Keller writes in an extremely thoughtful, yet simple style. I would recommend this book not only for adults, but teenagers as well. It gives excellent spiritual food for thought when it comes to our priorities and how to keep the one true God as the top priority.





## STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

# Faithful in all Things

Jesus said, *"Whoever can be trusted with very little can be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much"* (Luke 16:10). Jesus is saying that a faithful person will handle God's gifts faithfully regardless of whether they have few or many gifts entrusted to them. Faithfulness is not determined by the amount entrusted but by the character of the person who uses it.

A faithful person will do the small things well. One day a young man went to a bank to apply for a job. After his interview, he was leaving the bank and happened to notice some small trash on the floor. He picked it up and put it in the waste paper basket. Seconds later, he helped an elderly lady with the door. Unknown to the young man, the man who had interviewed him for the job was observing him. The young man was promptly summoned back and given the job. The employer's comment: "Anyone who pays attention to the small things as you just did needs to work here."

Unfortunately, we Christians may incorrectly think that small things aren't important to God. We may have the attitude that God won't be concerned with the small amount of money or other gifts that we have been given. In the Bible, God spoke mightily through the little that people had. God used the widow and her two mites to teach us a lesson about sacrificial giving. He used the small amount of flour and oil that the Widow of Zarephath had to demonstrate obedience. Jesus used the loaves and fish of a young boy to reveal how God can magnify a small gift. God commended their faith with small things, and He didn't overlook what faithful people did with small things.

Through God's Word, we understand that small things do count. Because we understand our need to be faithful with all things, we should ask ourselves how we are handling the seemingly small things in our lives. Are we handling small things well in our homes, jobs, and churches? Can non-Christians see a difference in us? With God's help, we can be faithful with ALL that we've been given. Through our faithfulness, God will be glorified.

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



...and we all come together for some PICNIC FUN !!



# Getting to Know You: Pastor Emile Burgess

I was born and raised in Sacramento, California, baptized and raised Roman Catholic. Even though I was exposed to God's Word growing up in the Catholic Church, the real heart of the gospel didn't sink in until it was shared with me in a very explicit manner in college.

Eventually I ended up visiting St. Mark's Lutheran in Citrus Heights (WELS). I was very impressed by the knowledge and care of the ministers. I appreciated how everything they taught was straight from the Bible. Several years after joining the WELS, I decided to study for the public ministry at Martin Luther College and later Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. I graduated from the Seminary in 2007 and the Lord saw fit to call me to Trinity Lutheran Church in Caledonia, Wisconsin, where I served for the last ten years.

It still amazes me every day that the Lord called *me* to be a pastor. But pastoral ministry is not really about me. It's the Lord who qualifies, he who equips, he who makes the seeds grow that we merely plant and water. As much as I am a jar-of-clay, the Lord has Called me reach into his storehouses to share his treasures with you. And how I treasure his treasures! As cognizant as I am of my own weaknesses, I know it is the Lord's truths that are strong—his gospel that has the power to change hearts and grow hearts. As a Christian and as a pastor, I love all of God's truths and strive to proclaim and protect them. One of my favorite passages that captures this thought is Colossians 1:28-29, *"We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me."*

Because I'm passionate about proclaiming and protecting God's truth, Christian discipleship/spiritual

growth is a passion and priority for me in shepherding God's people. My prayer is that we can learn and grow together in faith, knowledge, and grace in the coming years.

It was at Martin Luther College where I met my bride, a proud Texan named Rachel Perry. We married in December 2004 while I was at the Seminary. Half a year later we lived in Inver Grove Heights, just a couple miles from the house now own!

That year I served St. John's, Hastings as a Vicar and Rachel taught preschool for Shepherd of the Hills. Rachel has had a number of Divine Calls in the Early Childhood field. She currently teaches as an adjunct professor for Martin Luther College and serves in various roles for the Synod's Early Childhood Ministries.

The Lord has blessed us with two daughters, further outnumbering the sole male in the family. They are Lydia (3) and Vivian (1) whom we most often call by her middle name, Suki.



So, what does the Burgess family for fun? We're into exercise of all sorts: running, biking, swimming. I like all sports, but especially those involving racquets or paddles. I also dabble with a few musical instruments for fun. (And now that we own a bit of a fixer-upper, I'll be learning lots about how to fix 'er up!) Our family enjoys tent camping and travel, though *getting* to the destinations is more challenging these days with the girls. Our girls love books, crafts, music and animals, so the zoo and library are favorite places for us to frequent. And yes, we already have our Minnesota Zoo Pass!

That's a little about us. We're looking forward to getting to know you more and acclimating to the Crown of Life family!

Pastor Emile Burgess



# REPORTS

## **TREASURER** Fiscal Year 7/16 - 6/17

Our fiscal year runs from July 2016 to June 2017. May ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,868,406 in total income with expected budget income to be \$2,001,076 which was \$132,670 below budget. Envelope Offerings are -\$103,101 less than budgeted. Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,920,657 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$52,250. All bills are paid to date. We paid back \$10,000 this month and owe \$0 to our special funds account. Special Funds Account available balance is \$89,000. Clear the Path matching funds which we budgeted for is -\$23,033 below budget income. Total Clear the Path contributions as of 5-31-2017 totaled \$1,026,669 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance down to \$338,962.

## **BAPTISM**

Kathryn Ann Waldhauser daughter of Adam and Jodessa Waldhauser on June 4 with Pastor Kom.

## **MARRIAGE**

Jordan Myhre and Kayla Maher 5/20/17 with Pastor Pudlo.

Mathew Boehlke and Katherine Wahl 6/4/17 with Pastor Kom.

Kirsten Kowitz and Casey George on 6/17 in St. Lucia.

**DEATH** – Jack Oldfield died 6/6/17, funeral with Pastor Kom on 6/11/17.

## Welcome New Members!



**Jordan and Alyssa Johnson**



**Jude Rich**



**Brad and Katie Szczerbiak with children  
Ryan and Gracelyn**



**Trang Phan**

## Welcome Pastor Burgess!!

Sunday, June 18, 2017 at 4:00 pm Pastor Emile Burgess was installed at Crown of Life, joining Pastor Mark Kom and Pastor Zachary Pudlo





Working together to keep Crown of Life's Riverview Cemetery in tip top shape. Led by Orlin Myrlie and Tim Burdorf, this crew can be found watering, cutting, trimming, and raising stones.

## JULY CALENDAR

### Saturday, July 1

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 2

8:00 am Worship WSP  
9:00 am Worship EGN  
10:30 am Worship WSP

### Monday, July 3

6:30 pm Worship WSP

### Tuesday, July 4

*Independence Day*

7:00 pm Technology Team

### Wednesday, July 5

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

### Thursday, July 6

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

### Saturday, July 8

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 9

*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, July 10

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

### Tuesday, July 11

6:30 pm Properties  
Handbell rehearsal  
7:15 pm Stewardship

### Wednesday, July 12

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 13

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

### Saturday, July 15

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 16

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  
11:45 am New Member  
Orientation-WSP

### Monday, July 17

6:30 pm Worship WSP

### Tuesday, July 18

7:00 pm Council-WSP

### Wednesday, July 19

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 20

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

### Saturday, July 22

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 23

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, July 24

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

### Tuesday, July 25

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

### Wednesday, July 26

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

### Thursday, July 27

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

### Saturday, July 29

5:00 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, July 30

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, July 31

6:30 pm Worship WSP

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 Zachary Hauck  
Benjamin Koeppen  
Natalasha Miller  
Robert Uecker  
2 Cade Matkin  
3 Carol Fetzer  
Ronald Will  
4 LaDene Boody  
Janet Garcia  
Nicole Sherrard  
Nathan Wolfrath  
5 Suzanne Danner  
6 Julene Hartfiel  
Jo Anne Sylvester  
7 Clair Iburg  
Derek Lasovich  
Lynne Wieden  
8 Daniel Boehlke  
Sam Danner  
Jamie Thul  
Jenavieve Vandebosch  
Peter Wright  
9 Simon Evans

9 Elizabeth Leach  
Elroy Rechtzigel  
Cheza Sylvester  
10 Lorna Kapanke  
Leah Moe  
Charlene Schnobrich  
Rachel Tourville  
11 Mary Hansen  
Hadley Johnson  
12 Nathanael Leach  
Amy Pasbrig  
Sharon Sachwitz  
13 Luke Klocow  
14 Connor Hunter  
Austin Thul  
Jim Wakefield Sr.  
15 Sarah Goette  
Ilah Little  
Mia Rubio  
Nick Sachs  
16 Noah Bluhm  
Dustin Mullins  
Jillian Patton

16 Troy Rich  
17 Brenden Steber  
Abigail Stensland  
18 Paul Oberg  
Jessica Staples  
20 Savanna Moe  
Daniel Petermann  
Renee Wright  
21 Ric Gibson  
Mackenzie Letendre  
Felix Mulinix  
Madison Staples  
Aleya Vandebosch  
22 Adeline Swanson  
23 Rodney Heitman  
Will Kapanke  
Beverly Kraupa  
Susan Swanson  
24 Emma Davis  
Lois Gydesen  
Leo Haehnel  
Gabriel Rowe  
25 Arie Hussong

25 David Mommsen  
Sophia Schaller  
Dior Wallace  
26 Ian Boehm  
Dorothy Haberkorn  
Brent Kelm  
Cheryl Stettner  
27 Jordan Goette  
Jamison Ohm  
28 Seon Dittman  
Donald Krosting  
Carla Smith  
29 Kaci Lasovich  
Erik Ludden  
Naomi Marzinske  
30 Becky Kruse  
Sharon Lapointe  
Jontae Watson  
31 Anibell Allen  
Christine Fischer  
Russ Rider



## Summer Food Drive

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. Psalm 145:15

Thousands of students lose access to free or reduced cost meals during the summer months while school is not in session. In our community, 45-67 percent of students receive free or reduced lunch during the school year. The Food Shelf at Neighbor's Inc. sees increased use in the summer when children are not getting fed in school. To help these families in need, we will be collecting both food and cash contributions throughout the months of July and August for Neighbor's Inc. at both Crown of Life campuses.

Items needed: pancake mix, syrup, jelly, juice, applesauce, canned meat, beef stew, soup, chili, rice, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, laundry soap, cereal, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, and ketchup.

## VBS a Big Success!

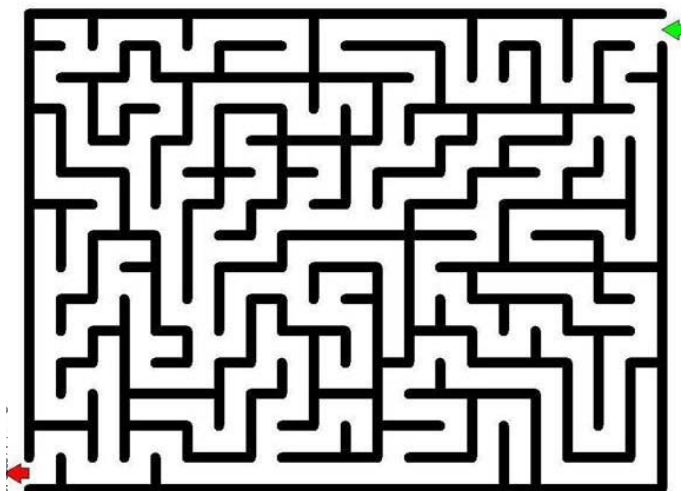
Lots of great helpers again this year for a whopping 71 attendees (Kindergarten through 6th grade). Teachers ran the show with this year's theme of Build on the Rock. Thank you to ALL who contributed to this great outreach opportunity.



## JUST FOR FUN

### BRAIN TEASERS

How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn't bounce off anything? There is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it back to you.



### ANSWERS TO JUNE PUZZLES BRAIN TEASERS:

- 1 What can travel around the world while staying in a corner? *A stamp*
- 2 What has a head and a tail, but no body? *A coin*
- 3 Paul's height is six feet, he's an assistant at a butcher's shop, and wears size 9 shoes. What does he weigh? *Meat*
- 4 Write the numbers from 1 to 8 into the squares, so that the squares with consecutive numbers do not touch (neither edges nor corners).

	5	3	
2	8	1	7
	6	4	



**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