



December 2017 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

12/6

Grades 3 - 4 Sing 4pm

12/12

Band Concert @ SCL 6:30 pm

12/14

Pioneer Meeting 6:30 pm

12/17

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE

8 and 10:30 am WSP

12/21 – 1/2/18

Christmas Break

12/24

Sunday ADVENT Worship

8 & 10:30 am WSP

9 am Eagan

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

7 pm - Candlelight WSP

8 pm – Candlelight EAGAN

12/25

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

9 am - WSP

12/31

Sunday Worship

8 & 10:30 am WSP

9 am Eagan

NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP

6:30 pm - WSP

My Christmas Wish List

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

The year was 1975. Little Mark Kom was only 5 years old. Little Mark probably couldn't even write his own name very well, much less a full and complete list of things he wanted for Christmas – but that didn't mean that he didn't have a whole bundle of things floating through his little brain he wanted to see under that Christmas tree when it was finally time to open presents. Let's see.....now what items were on that list way back then.....

When I was a Boy

Christmas wish list for 1975: new bicycle, baseball glove, big Tonka truck as seen on our cool black and white TV, football helmet, 64 count box of crayons ("that big box full of crayons"), Superman pajamas and a big banana split with extra chocolate.

When I was a Bigger Boy

Christmas wish list for 2004: new car, new deck for house, big screen TV, free baby sitters for life (grandparents live too far away....), satellite TV, big family vacation to Disney World, my team winning the Super Bowl.

The Current Boy

Christmas list for 2017: an even bigger screen (80 inches will do), no tuition payments, new deck for house that still hasn't materialized, vehicles with no issues, a free gym membership, and a big banana split with extra chocolate. (some things never change no matter how old you are...)

continued

My Christmas Wish List... continued

If you really examine my lists through the years there really isn't that big of a difference between me as a five year old, thirty four year old or now as a forty seven year old, right? The cost of the items may vary but what it really boils down to is toys. I like toys – high tech ones, low tech ones, vacation type ones, toys on four wheels, toys, toys, toys.

What's on your Wish List this year?

Do you have your Christmas list itemized and prioritized? Is your new "maintenance free" house right at the top? Are you hoping big things come in small packages underneath your tree – the kind that sparkle when you put it around your neck or that it practically glows as you slide it on your finger? Does your list include something that barks and shows loyalty or purrs on your lap and keeps you company? It still comes down to toys, though, right? Yours may bark and purr and sparkle while mine may blink and hum and cheer, but it still boils down to this: we like our toys.

Or perhaps you would take issue with that. Perhaps your wish list for Christmas has nothing to do with "stuff." Perhaps you have a more noble list, something that isn't so shallow as a hunk of metal that gets good gas mileage. Maybe what you really want is some peace and harmony within the family. You just want people to get along. Otherwise, Christmas might once again be a disaster and your celebration ruined.

Bowled Over by a Baby

I suppose I have a confession to make. While it's true that it seems that I come up with my own Christmas wish list every year, it's also true that there is one thing that always stops me dead in my tracks and makes me rethink everything I have been wishing about for Christmas. It happens every year. What happens is that I get bowled over by a baby – the baby Jesus.

Every year God takes me back to a manger in a hick town called Bethlehem for a stern reminder of what Christmas is really about. Each year there is a heavenly host of angels singing in the night sky that has to set me straight about the real "reason for the season." There are wise men who teach me about getting the most out of my Christmas worship because I am reminded why I come to worship and why I give Him my gifts. Each year Mary

reminds me to treasure up all these first Christmas events so nobody (but nobody) can rob me of my Christmas cheer and the true joy that is really mine. On an annual basis some lowly, smelly, humble shepherds come in from the fields to get through my materialistic skin that the message of Christmas is not "shop smart" and drop not-so-subtle hints to your family and friends, but "today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord" and "peace on earth, good will toward men." Each year the Lord leads me back to the greatest story ever told, found in His Word, to remind me of one thing: Christmas is not about me – it's about a baby.

Some 2000 years ago a little baby named Jesus was born in the most humble of surroundings and the most humble of circumstances. Yet this little baby with such little fingers and toes was both God and man at the same time. That little baby was God himself who was to take away the sins of the whole world. That little boy would be the one who was solely responsible for me being in heaven for all eternity. Nobody can rob me of my Christmas joy because the Christ child brought me peace in my life and in my heart and he secured a wonderful relationship between God and me – forever.



My Revised Christmas Wish List

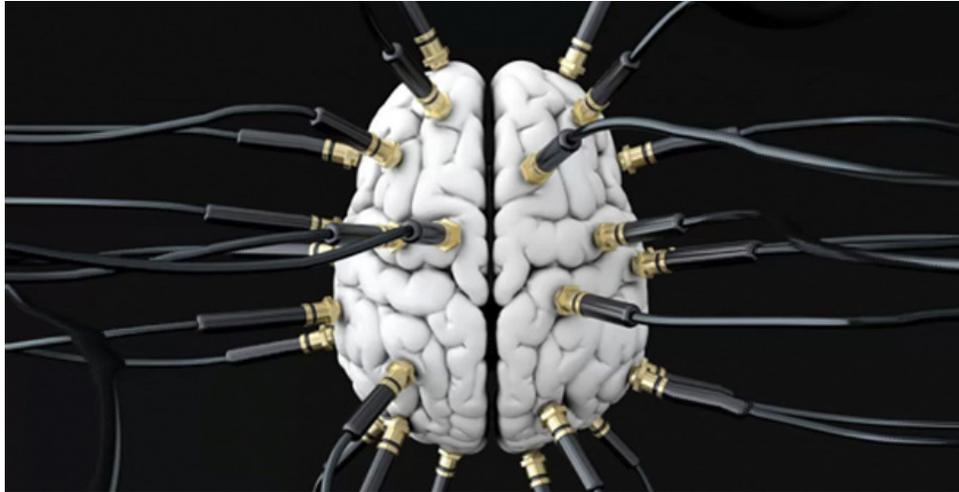
So now my wish list has changed – as it does every year when I consider what Christmas is really about. For as far back as I can remember (and that includes that Christmas back in 1975...) the Christ child has drastically changed my focus and my priorities around the holidays. So here it goes once again....my revised Christmas wish list...

Christmas Wish List for 2017: Everyone hears the real Christmas story and takes it to heart; God's church would be filled with those worshipping the Christ Child; we would all follow the example of the shepherds and spread the Word concerning this Child and what He did for us; everyone treasures up these things in our hearts so that nobody (but nobody) will ever rob us of our true Christmas joy – no matter where we go or who we see.

Have you made your Christmas wish list yet? Better hurry! Christmas is right around the corner. I pray your list gets revised more and more as our Lord leads you back to Bethlehem with a joyful reminder never to be forgotten: Christmas is all about a baby. He is our Savior. He is Christ the Lord!

Plugging into the Machine

December 3, 2017 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



The Experience Machine

In his 1974 book, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Robert Nozick put forward an interesting thought experiment. Imagine there were a machine you could plug into and it would give you any experience you wanted. You could choose to experience winning an NFL championship, space travel, falling in love, or any other item that may be on your “bucket list”. The machine would stimulate the neurons in your brain so you would feel exactly what it would be like to do any of those things. In reality, you wouldn’t be doing any of those things. You would be unconsciously attached to a machine with wires attached to your brain. Would you do

it? Would you plug into the machine? If all that mattered were pleasure, then we all should plug into this machine and encourage everyone else to do so as well.

In this thought experiment, Robert Nozick “suggests that we shouldn’t plug into this “experience machine”. Why not? Because deep down we want more than just to FEEL, we want reality. And if this is true, that means hedonism doesn’t really work. Feeling pleasure and

happiness are good things. They are created by God, after all. But they aren’t the only thing. Deep down we want and need MORE.

The Failure of Experience

We search for “MORE” in so many different places. One of the classic examples of this is King Solomon. In the book of Ecclesiastes he explains how he pursued everything under the sun.

4 I undertook great projects: I built houses for myself and planted vineyards. 5 I made gardens and parks and planted all kinds of fruit trees in them...8 I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired male and female singers, and a harem as well

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

REPORTS

TREASURER Fiscal Year 7/17 - 6/18
October ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$539,876 in total income with expected budget income to be \$543,680 which was \$3,803 below budget. Expenses (FYTD) were \$544,474 which gave us a FYTD of a negative -\$4,597. Oct (FYTD) Envelope Offerings were -\$37,725 less than budgeted.

We owe \$40,000 to our special funds account. Special Funds Account available balance is \$9,042.

Welcome New Members

Erika Scharenbroch
Scott & Marta Haynes

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



NIGHT TO SHINE

St. Croix Lutheran Academy
February 9, 2018
6:00 - 9:00 pm

Are you interested in helping with Night to Shine this year or know someone who would like to be a guest?

For More Information:

www.StCroixNighttoShine.org
or contact
LKapanke@StCroixLutheran.org

Getting to Know You – Scott and Marta Haynes

Scott grew up in Park Rapids MN and joined the Navy following high school. He was stationed in San Diego, CA aboard a destroyer for 5 years. Scott deployed 3 times in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and participated in Anti-Piracy Operations off the Horn of Africa. After active duty, Scott moved to the Twin Cities to be closer to family, and joined the Air Force Reserve. While in the reserves, Scott retrained into Cyber Systems Operations, and deployed two more times in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Scott currently works as an Information Security Engineer for Fairview Health Services, and is pursuing his Bachelor's Degree at Metropolitan State University.



Studies (Saint Olaf College), a Master's Certificate in Holistic Health Studies (Saint Catherine University), and an International Master of Business Administration (University of San Diego). Marta has worked as a bond trader in the financial services industry, owned her own yoga and holistic health business, and currently works in technology sales for IBM. In addition to living in Minnesota, Marta has also lived in San Diego for 2 years, and has traveled extensively for work, post-secondary education, and adventure.

Scott and Marta met in April of 2013, and married 9 months later in January of 2014. They currently live in Lilydale and enjoy traveling, running (Marta has completed 3 Marathons, and Scott has completed 1), biking, cross country skiing, hiking/backpacking, and great food. New members to Crown of Life,

Marta grew up in Mendota Heights, MN and attended Emanuel Lutheran Elementary and Henry Sibley High School. Marta's post-secondary education includes a B.A. in Economics and Women's

they are excited to be part of the Crown of Life family, and look forward to getting involved in church programs and activities.

TRUNK OR TREAT 2017



4th Graders LOVE to Read!

This year's 4th grade students have a serious love for books. Weekly library time is greatly anticipated, the Book Fair brought much excitement, and any free class time is spent with noses in a favorite book.

Some like the magic of the *Harry Potter* collection while others are hooked on the true accounts written in the *I Survived* series. Many think the humor in the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series is the best. Great authors like Beverly Cleary and Judy Blume have them giggling at super silly characters. In the words of Dr. Seuss "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go!" These kids are going places with their love of reading!



Scholastic Book Fair 2017 Results Total Fair Sales: \$3,923.55

We were able to take 55% of sales and turn that into Scholastic Dollars! Total Scholastic Dollars Reward Earned: \$2,157.96 This money is used by COL faculty to replenish classroom and school libraries.

Library time is a cherished activity for many grades, but particularly for these preschoolers. Thank you everyone for all the new library books and making our Book Fair a HUGE SUCCESS!

PreK Playground Update

We are almost there! \$22,037.19 raised and \$4,962.81 to reach our goal of \$27,000! The playground equipment was delivered and will be installed in the spring. If you are interested in sponsoring a mat (or several mats), please make your contribution check to Crown of Life School with a notation in the memo line "PreK Playground Mat".

PLAYGROUND MATCHING GIFT!! - All PreK mat donations given from Thanksgiving through Christmas will be matched by a generous donor!



Many Ways To Serve - *Members in Motion*

Maybe you've seen Sylvia Witz around in the past, but if you're relatively new to Crown of Life, you probably haven't seen too much of her lately. Last year Sylvia moved out of her long time home in Eagan and moved into *The Commons on Marice*, a Community of Senior Living. She says, "this was something that was one of the better decisions I have ever made in my life." Chet Witz, her husband, passed away in 2015. Moving to *The Commons* has opened Sylvia's eyes to different ways she can serve the Lord and make an impact in people's lives. That's something she has been doing for many years.

Sylvia graduated with a B.A. in Elementary Education with a minor in music from California State University in Northridge. She was a TWA Air Hostess and a NWA Flight Attendant for many years, but remained involved in education as a substitute teacher. In 1973 she founded *Tiny Tots and Little Tykes Pre-School and Child Care Center* in her home. It was later housed in area churches, and for 21 years it was housed at St. Croix Lutheran in West St. Paul. Two years ago, the program was able to buy their own building across from Lowes in West St. Paul. For many years she poured her heart and soul into the children and families that came through *Tiny Tots*. In 2017 she officially retired from the Presidency of the *Tiny Tots* Board of Directors and now is an Honorary Lifetime Member of that board. Her many years of service there remain in her heart. Concerning those years she says, "Two of the greatest joys are seeing the former students return with their children to enroll in the program and also to see some of the children grow up and go to college and come back to teach at *Tiny Tots*. That just melts my heart and fills it with absolute joy. It makes it all worthwhile. Never would I have dreamt."



Even though she has moved into *The Commons* and is retired, Sylvia's heart for the Lord hasn't slowed down. A year after she moved into *The Commons*, she heard they needed a local church to lead a Worship Service. Sylvia knew her pastors would be up for the task, but one hurdle remained...Who would play music for the weekly services? Sylvia thought to herself, "I have had more time to practice the piano since I moved here." So... that's exactly what

she did. In her own words, "I practiced my little fingers off!" Now she plays piano for the weekly Tuesday service at *The Commons* and our three pastors from Crown of Life rotate leading the services. But that's not all she does. She also

volunteers and leads a Sunday afternoon Hymn Sing and Bible Story up on 4th floor in Memory Care at *The Commons*. "It's probably the happiest hour of my week! I absolutely love these folks! In addition, I am currently playing piano and leading a 6 week Christmas Carol Sing-along on Thursday afternoons for *The Commons* residents. The group is really growing each week."

Sylvia is a great example of someone who has had many changes take place in the past several years, and yet has found different ways to serve the Lord. She never would have guessed the Lord had such

amazing plans for her as she moved into *The Commons* last year. "I began praying each night, right away after I moved in, before I fell asleep...Dear Lord, Thank you for letting me live here. Make me a blessing each day to people's lives here and help me try to stay well, myself! I just didn't know what God had in store for me. I've learned in my old age, to trust in God's plan and to have faith for what He wants us to do. I think, for me, the biggest lesson I have learned is that He has a plan for your time and your talents...even when you're hardly aware of it yourself! I love Proverbs 16:9, 'In His heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.'"

Southview Senior Living

1984 Oakdale Ave
West St. Paul, MN 55118
2:30 pm Thursdays

The Commons on Marice

1380 Marice Dr
Eagan, MN 55121
10:00 am Tuesdays

Lilydale Senior Living

949 Sibley Memorial Hwy
Lilydale, MN 55118
2:30 pm 4th Monday of month

UPDATE: Mission in Mahahual

The Video is FINISHED! Please help us tell this missions story by SHARING the video on FACEBOOK. To view video go to crownoflifemn.org



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Friday, December 1

Crusader for a Day - 8th Grade
8:00 am Matins
5:30 pm Basketball Home Game vs. Berea

Saturday, December 2

9:00 am Girls B Team Tournament
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 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
11:30 am Pioneers - Games w/Elderly

Monday, December 4

3:15 pm Lego Club
6:30 pm NO-Worship WSP
7:00 pm Mary/Martha - EGN

Tuesday, December 5

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Evangelism Technology Team

Wednesday, December 6

4:00 pm Worship WSP
5:00 pm Christmas Recitals Confirmation Class WSP
5:15 pm Light Supper WSP
6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Senior Choir practice
8:00 pm Praise Band rehearsal

Thursday, December 7

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Friday, December 8

8:00 am Matins / Panera
6:30 pm Basketball Away Game @ Salem, Stillwater

Saturday, December 9

9:00 am Basketball Home Game vs. Salem, Greenfield
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 10

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, December 11

6:30 pm NO-Worship WSP
7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, December 12

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Education Properties Handbell rehearsal
7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, December 13

4:00 pm Worship WSP
5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP
5:15 pm Light Supper WSP
6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN
Worship WSP
7:30 pm Senior Choir practice WSP

Thursday, December 14

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

Friday, December 15

8:00 am Matins
5:30 pm Basketball Away Game @ Pilgrim
6:00 pm Girls A Team Home Basketball Game vs. Good Shepherd

Saturday, December 16

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 17

8:00 am Children's Christmas Service
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Children's Christmas Service

Monday, December 18

6:30 pm NO-Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 19

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service
7:00 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, December 20

Full Day of School
4:00 pm Worship WSP
5:00 pm Confirmation Class WSP
5:15 pm 5:15 Light Supper WSP
6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN
Worship WSP

Thursday, December 21

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

Saturday, December 23

5:00 pm NO-Worship EGN

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am NO Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am NO Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
7:00 pm Worship WSP - Candlelight
8:00 pm Worship EGN - Candlelight

Monday, December 25

9:00 am Christmas Day Worship WSP
6:30 pm NO-Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 26

10:00 am The Commons on Marice-Sr. Living Service

Wednesday, December 27

6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN

Thursday, December 28

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, December 30

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve
8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am NO Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am NO Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Berg Steven	10 Petermann Charlyn	17 Burkhart Nicholas	25 Otterstatter Chad
Doyle Laurie	11 Mielke Madylin	Winecke Donna	26 Myhre Joseph
Kapanke Madalyn	Steffen Maren	18 Steber Isaiah	Schultz Deb
Steber Lila	12 Aumann Connor	19 Leach Isaac	Tess David
Stein Rebekah	Peterson Steve	Lorenz Amanda	27 Dennis Makayla
3 Szczerbiak Ryan	Steber Philip	Marzinske Diana	Lemke Carol
Warnke Venita	Swiderski Robyn	20 Franz Joyce	Seganek Sydney
4 Matkin Mase	13 Cannon Harry	Rubio Sophia	Taack Dave
Olson Dominick	Osland Landon	21 Kneisl Christian	28 Allen Ashley
Rider Erika	14 Dietrich Melissa	22 Evans Isabella	29 Danner Lyle
Schaffer Bernice	Gydesen Annie	Oberstadt Daniel	Keppers Sara
5 Allen Shane	Rowe Mason	Spott Michael	Schultz Zachariah
6 Smith Jonathan	15 Kelm Lauren	23 Lemmer Sean	30 Doyle David
7 Cadwallader Kane	McCall Briston	Pottorff Sheila	Rall Kirk
Gurgel Katya	McCall Cadence	24 Lorenz Allen	Swanson Kristopher
Kirchhamer Tyler	16 Burgess Rachel	Paul Mya	31 Boehm Micah
9 Patton Annalise	Johnson Grant	Thompson Carol	Koeppen Micah
Pieper Cynthia	Kreitz Merry	25 Cenicerros Sara	Lange Aurora
10 Gurgel Brett	Oberstadt Lori	Haberkorn James	Paul Renee
Marzinske Jacob	Waldhauser Sarah	Ohmann Charlene	

Ask the Pastor – 5th Grade Puts Pastor Burgess to the Test

When Jesus was crucified, did the nails go through his hands or wrists?

[I was sure glad I had looked into this myself a few years back!] I'll answer the question, from three angles: the Anatomical Argument, the Historical/Archaeological Argument, and the Biblical-Historical Argument.

The Anatomical Argument

Some have argued that the wrist would hold the weight better than the hand, that the flesh of the hand would even tear from the weight of the body hanging on it. Others have argued that a nail through the wrists would break wrist bones. (And prophecy forbade that any bones of the Messiah be broken, John 19:36.) It seems the latest consensus on the anatomical argument is that, actually, the conjunctive tissue in either the hand or the wrist would be strong enough to hold the weight. At least, anatomically, it seems either is possible.

The Historical/Archaeological Argument

Many ancient sources in history have attested to the Romans practice of nailing the wrists to the crossbar during crucifixion. This may not have been the case every time. In fact, the method of crucifixion seems to have varied in different parts of the Roman empire. In 1968, archaeologists discovered the tomb of four crucified men. The body that was best preserved showed that the man's arms, not hands, were nailed to the crossbar. This certainly keeps the possibility open that Jesus was crucified by his wrists.

The Biblical-Historical Argument

When the Bible talks about Jesus' crucifixion or nail marks, the word for *hand* it uses is *cheir* (χείρ) in Greek (e.g. Luke 24:39) and *yod* (יָד) in Hebrew (e.g. Psalm 22:16). Both of these words can refer to any part of the arm from the fingertips to the elbow. For example, Acts 12:17 says, "and the chains fell off Peter's wrists." The word translated "wrists" here is *cheir*. The chains were not affixed to Peter's hands, but his wrists. Even our English word *handcuffs* uses the word *hand*, but the restraints are only effective if fastened to the wrists. Etymologically (study of words) – biblically, the possibility remains open that the nails were driven through either Jesus' hands or wrists.

With all these arguments taken into account, as you can see, the question remains an "open question." We don't know for sure which was the case for Jesus. When pressed by a 5th grader as to which I personally thought it was, I lean toward wrists. The historical/archeological argument tips the scales a bit for me.

Questions like these are great to ask. Inquisitiveness – a classic 5th grade virtue – is great to have! But ultimately, it doesn't matter which translation of *cheir* and *yod* is most accurate. The point of it all is that Jesus suffered greatly, and his suffering accomplished our redemption. His piercing fulfilled prophecy (Psalm 22:16) and vicariously atoned for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2). And "by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24). Whether hands or wrists, find great comfort in the suffering and wounds of Jesus, that is was all for you!

Stewardship Thought

Unlike the Rich Ruler who was unable to part with his wealth in order to give himself completely to Jesus (Luke 18:18-25), Christ gave up all the glories of Heaven so that He could give Himself completely to us. Unlike the Rich Fool who hoarded his wealth, building bigger barns to store it all (Luke 12:13-21), Jesus emptied Himself and gave up everything for

those He came to save. "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for [our] sakes He became poor, so that [we] through His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Let us thank God for the gift of His Son and seek His grace to give as He gave.

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

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