



the word

June 2016 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

6/5

Fairwell to Mr. Evans
and Mrs. Krueger

6/16-18

Christian Life Ministries
Yard Sale

6/21-23

Vacation Bible School

6/23-26

Lutheran Women's Missionary
Society National Convention

6/26

Annual Picnic - WSP
Voter's Meeting following picnic

Dear Graduate...

Dear Graduate, Pastor Kom was really busy this month so he asked me to write you a letter in place of his newsletter article. He suggested that I give you some advice for the future as you are now graduating. I couldn't turn Pastor Kom down (we're pretty close), so here we go....

I suppose you might wonder why he would ask me to write you a letter in the first place, right? It's because I wrote Psalm 119 in the bible. There's so much in there to provide solid, godly advice for your future now that you have "walked across the stage." For today, though, I just wanted to focus you on three verses.

Graduation really begins with a question – a question that you must ask yourself every day for the rest of your life. It doesn't matter if you're graduating and looking for a job or if you're graduating and moving on to high school. As a child of God, you must always ask the question that I phrased in v.9 of my psalm: *how can a young man keep his way pure?* It applies to all of us, doesn't it? Men, women, girls and boys – the constant struggle is to keep our way pure, to stay faithful to the Lord regardless of what may come.

That may sound rather obvious, right? But just think of what you're up against! High School brings its own set of temptations and challenges. You are entering a world where trying new things and "expanding your horizons" is the rule, not the exception. Trying new things can be quite a blessing, but trying sinful new things because everybody else is doing it can destroy your faith. There are countless young people who slide away from the Lord in four short years because they couldn't handle the temptations and the "new" things that their friends were doing.

continued



Nathaniel Jeffrey Burkhart
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Dakota Technical College – Electrician's program.



Elizabeth Dohrn
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend Drake University next fall.



Isaiah Duff
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will pursue Pastoral Studies at Martin Luther College.



Garrett Kapanke
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend University of Minnesota - Duluth in the fall.



Trenton Krueger
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend the University Minnesota - Duluth on a Basketball Scholarship. Plans to study Business.



Jason Rupprecht
St. Croix Lutheran graduate and will attend the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Dear Graduate... continued

Of course, it's just as challenging if you are entering college or the work force. There is a "freedom" to be enjoyed now that you are on your own. Making decisions without mom and dad looking over your shoulder, doing things the way you'd like to do them is an exciting proposition. But Satan often uses that against you. Mom and dad always made you go to church. Now you're on your own. If you want to stay out late and have a party with your friends or coworkers – no problem. You're the boss of you. Your worship life easily begins to slide and fade. "Independent" you creates new habits and different priorities. Satan's trap worked.

Do you begin to see why I raised the all-important question? It's a constant struggle to keep yourself on the right path, bound for heaven when all of those other distractions and temptations attack you nearly every day.

Thankfully, graduate, I provided the solution to all of this in those few verses of my Psalm. I said, by living according to your word. *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

Advise on How to Remain Close to the Lord

Pray Often

My psalm says to seek the Lord with all your heart. So seek him in prayer! Set up a regular schedule for when you want to have that heart to heart talk with our one, true God. He stands ready to help you. Jesus was tempted, too! He will help provide the strength that you need to withstand those temptations that will surely come your way.

Seek the help of other Christians

The heart of a child of God never wants to stray from the Lord. That's what our "new self" always desires. So find ways to "keep yourself in check" and to also have some accountability in your life so that someone is asking questions if you begin to stray. In the past your parents always fulfilled that role. But now, graduate, it's time to step up and take some initiative in that area for yourself! Be a "regular" at a bible study where other Christians will get to know you to support you and encourage you

in your walk with the Lord, but also to call you back when you're missed from their fellowship! You can even provide the same Christian service to them. Help each other along the way to heaven.

Have Personal Devotions Regularly

The Psalm said that I hid the Word of God in my heart so that I wouldn't sin. Do you know how that Word gets planted in someone's heart? You have to have contact with that Word. You need to study it and think about it!

That's why it's so important to read and study the bible on your own. If you don't know where to start, ask your Pastors for some help and guidance. There's even a daily bible reading schedule they could provide for you so that you wouldn't even have to stress over where to begin and what to read – and you'd cover the whole bible in a reasonable amount of time!

As you study the Word, the Holy Spirit will fill you up with a stronger faith and you will be more inclined to withstand temptations when they come. God's Word planted in you will be a powerful tool to draw on when temptations come!

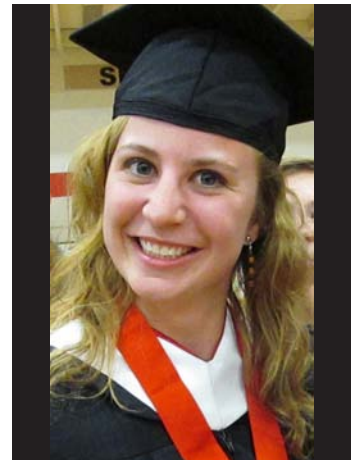
Congratulations again, Graduate. I'm glad that you are now moving on to the next adventure of your life. Just remember to take the Lord with you and follow that advice that I laid out for you in Psalm 119.

God's richest blessings to you!



Aubrea Bluhm

University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Food Science. She will be training as a supervisor in quality assurance for Suputo Cheese USA.



Danielle Marzinske

Bethany Lutheran College graduate with a degree in Psychology, minor in Biology. Plans on working and staying at home this coming school year. Potentially pursuing an advanced degree next year.



Tyler D. Swiderski

Martin Luther College graduate with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Attending Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in the fall.



Jonathan Wolfrath

Bethany Lutheran College graduate with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He will be working as an English TA in China.

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS)

"LWMS is women dedicated to serving Jesus by increasing awareness of, interest in, and support of the mission outreach of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)."

The LWMS has existed for 53 years. Its chief purpose is the support of the Synod's missions around the world. This is accomplished through ceaseless prayer, mission offerings that support projects not funded by the Synod, and support of the missionaries and their families, with personal encouragement and prayers.

Crown of Life has renewed its membership in this organization. The renewal fee supports the work of the Central Office, ensuring that 100% of mission offerings support missions. Every woman in the congregation now has the opportunity to participate in the Lord's work through LWMS. We are excited to be planning a mission awareness Sunday for early November.

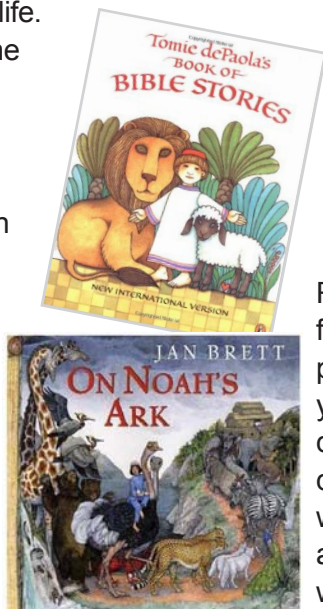
If you have any questions, contact Sheila Pottorff, LWMS Reporter, at pottorff@q.com or 651-457-4406.

Your Summer Diet of God's Word

by Lucas Boehm

With summer nearly upon us, I'd like to highlight two resources that may help you and/or your family maintain a regular diet of God's word in your daily life. This is not always easy, especially with the irregular schedule now that school is out and the potential for travel.

If you have young children, or even if you enjoy looking at illustrated books as much as I do, you might find an illustrated bible to be nice for a change of pace. There are many of these simplified bibles available and it can be fun to see which bible stories are included and how the characters and events are depicted. Comparing the text with your regular bible's translation can be interesting to see how the message is communicated in similar yet different ways. Well known illustrators like Tomie de Paola and Jan Brett have beautifully illustrated bible stories and books and Zondervan Publishing House has produced a very nice Bible for children via their



publishing arm Zonderkidz. There are several comic book styled illustrated bibles as well and these tap into the interests and imaginations of older children and adults as well.

The second suggestion involves the use of Luther's Catechism. If you have one from your own confirmation or if you have a child who has taken confirmation classes, make use of this book as a reference tool and study guide it was meant to be. Review important fundamental truths of the Christian faith and where they are found in scripture. This process not only reinforces your own faith but prepares you to share what you believe with others who have questions. How would you answer the following questions and can you support your answer from what God says in his word? How do we know there is a God? (p. 26) What is marriage according to God's word? (p. 93) Why do we baptize little children? (p. 234) I pray that through your efforts God grant you new wisdom, insight and understanding into his word where he reveals who he is and the great things he has done for you and for all people.

New Worship Coordinator

by Lori Kowitz

Jill Kock joins the ministry at Crown of Life as our worship coordinator. Jill will be involved in the weekly planning of services and music for all worship. In addition to scheduling musicians and song leaders, she will work with the pastors and office staff to implement the planned services.

Jill (nee Huebner) grew up as a member at Emanuel WSP from kindergarten through grad school and was married at Crown of Life. She married Drew Kock at Crown of Life and they moved to New London WI, where Drew taught at a Lutheran grade school for 7 years. Drew is now teaching at St Croix Lutheran Middle School. Jill and Drew have been blessed with three beautiful daughters, Jocelyn, Brita and Charlotte.

In her new position, Jill is excited to find great new music and arrangements to continually improve and enhance our worship services. In addition, she will be looking for

church members who are blessed with musical talents and a desire to be involved in worship opportunities. Longer range plans include getting all members eager to come and participate in worship and create quality worship that encourages visitors to return for worship again and eventually join our church family.



Quick things to share about Jill...

- Her 2nd grade teacher was Ms. Sue Klessig
- Jill loves soccer and coaches the girls' team at St Croix.
- She loves real camping (in a tent).

The coordination of five weekly services, mid-week advent and lenten services, and other special worship services is no small task. As Jill reaches out to you, please

prayerfully consider how you may serve our Lord and impact worship with the talents the Lord has blessed you with.

SCHOOL NEWS

Learning on the Road

The month of May brings a lot of excitement in the fifth grade classroom. Besides being the last month of school, May is also jam-packed with activities such as Grandparents Day, a 2-Liter pop bottle rocket launch and lots of field trips!

Even though the weather delayed the launch by a week, the students still had fun designing and eventually launching their own bottle rockets. Two students even got theirs to land on top of the school! From high on top of the Foshay Tower in downtown Minneapolis to the underground caves of St. Paul; the students got a chance to experience MN History outside of the classroom by taking several educational field trips to places such as: St. Anthony Falls, Mill City Museum, Foshay Tower, Fort Snelling, Sibley House, Ramsey House, James J. Hill House, St. Paul Cathedral, Landmark Center and the Wabasha Street Caves. They'll certainly need the summer break in order to recover from all the excitement and activities they were a part of this month.



Busy, Busy, Busy!

If you blinked, you might have missed one of the bigger events that flew through our school in May. Grandparents Day with a record number attending (150), Bowling and Track meets, Baseball games, Joint Band Concerts with St. Croix Middle School, 8th Grade graduation, Miss Klessig's 40 year celebration, and of course the end of the year family groups celebration!

Farewell

Mr. Evans and
Mrs. Krueger
Thank you for your
service to COL!



What, a 14
legged race?



ASK THE PASTOR

In Acts 1:1 it begins, "In my former book, Theophilus..." What book is he referring to? Why is this not in the Bible? Have you read it?

Luke is the author of the book of Acts. It seems like he wrote Acts as an addendum to his first book, *Luke*. There isn't a book called *Theophilus*. Luke is actually writing to a man named Theophilus. Here are some interesting notes about this Luke's books: 1) Luke wasn't one of the original 12 Apostles. He was a doctor and a traveling companion with Paul. So how did he write all about Jesus if he wasn't there? Luke tells us just how in the beginning of his first book. **"I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught."** Luke was not just a doctor, he was an investigator. He tracked down eyewitnesses of Jesus to describe for us the details of Jesus life. This isn't a myth. This is recorded history! 2) Just as *Luke* was written to tell about the life of Jesus, Luke also gives us the theme of Acts in Acts 1:8 **"But you will receive power**

when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The theme is the spread of the God's word to the ends of the earth through the power of the Holy Spirit in the disciples of Jesus. You have the Holy Spirit living in you through faith. You too share God's word. You too are written into the theme of this book!

Bach composed hundreds of musical pieces specifically for Lutheran Church services. Why do we no longer use them?

Bach, a Lutheran, did create a ridiculous number of musical pieces for worship. We still use a handful of them in our red hymnal. However, worship 300 years ago is slightly different than worship today. It might be difficult to use some of his pieces simply because of their length. Sometimes our choir will use partial arrangements of his cantatas. There are number of other factors that go into the reason for not using more of Bach's music, but the simplest answer is probably that not many of his pieces would fit well into one of our worship services. I will do some more digging into finding more arrangements that we can use in our worship services.

REPORTS

Welcome New Members!



Stephanie Lewis – Transfer from Faith Lutheran in Anchorage, Alaska. Stephanie works for Midwest Asphalt in Lakeville.



Lynne Wieden – Trent (19) is a sophomore at Winona State University. Tia (15) will be a sophomore at Eagan high school this fall. Lynne works at Accent Travel in Bloomington.

New members not pictured

- Nathan and David Kell
- Patrick and Kristin Dado, Myah and Colton

TREASURER – Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/16

April ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$1,310,363 in total income with expected budget income to be \$1,316,633 (\$6,270 below budget). Expenses (FYTD) were \$1,284,926 which gave us a FYTD of a positive \$31,707. We paid back \$35,000 so owe \$16,621 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions as of 4-30-16 totaled \$548,809 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance to \$891,765. All bills are paid to date. Direct questions to PerryAbel@gmail.com.

BAPTISMS

- Maxwell Jeffrey Hauck son of Jeffrey and Angela Hauck on April 17 with Pastor Kom
- Vincent Jordan Rahn son of Benjamin and Natalie Rahn on April 23 with Pastor Pudlo

Senior Luncheon

In May, Crown of Life hosted a free luncheon for seniors in our community while a guest speaker from the West St. Paul police department gave a presentation on identity theft. Thank you to the 7th and 8th grade students and volunteers for putting on this event.



JUNE 2016

Wednesday, June 1

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 2

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, June 4

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 5

8:00 am Worship WSP

9:00 am Farewell to Matthew Evans & Kathy Krueger-WSP

9:00 am Worship EGN

9:15 am Education Hour-WSP

10:15 am Education Hour-Eagan

10:30 am Worship WSP

11:45 am Voters Meeting
New Member Orientation

3:00 pm Faith Builders Class

Monday, June 6

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, June 7

7:00 pm Evangelism
Technology Team

Wednesday, June 8

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 9

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Elders-WSP

Saturday, June 11

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 12

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

Monday, June 13

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, June 14

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN

6:30 pm Education

Properties
Handbell rehearsal

7:00 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, June 15

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 16

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery - WSP

Saturday, June 18

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 19

Father's Day

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, June 20

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, June 21

VBS

7:00 pm Council

Wednesday, June 22

VBS

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 23

VBS

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, June 25

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, June 26

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, June 27

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service

6:30 pm Worship WSP

7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, June 28

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN

Wednesday, June 29

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN

Thursday, June 30

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Pete Chan
Jordan Nied
June Portz
- 2 Raymond Buchholz
Alexander "Alec" Cline
Brandon Dennis
Nickolas Footh
Estella Lorenz
- 3 Garrett Kapanke
Stephanie Schindeldecker
- 4 Lois Bush
Stacy Holmes
Irma Krech
Ivy Pottorff
- 5 Nathan Monson
Kendra Solseth Williams
- 6 Doug Gaedtker
Rachael Rowe
Marlene Schindeldecker

- 7 Nancy Goette
Nathan Haehnel
Joshua Leach
Nancy Monson
Charles Schultz
Rebecca Shaw
Jalen Solseth
- 8 Andrew "Andy" Aumann
- 9 Thomas Hansen
Daniel Pietsch
Florence Polzin
Kate Wahl
Christine Wolfrath
- 10 Nadia Garcia
Fred Owens
Jacqueline "Jackie" Stokke
- 11 Rick Frederick
Eric Gydesen

- 12 Lucas Gaedtker
Kelsey Kowitz
- 13 David Schindeldecker
Graydon Smith
- 14 Zak Coates
James Fox
Jean L. Olson
- 15 Owen Kelm
- 16 Rick Berthiaume
Ronald J. Lemmer
Clinton Swartz
- 17 Richard Constable
Thomas Werz
- 18 Julio Ceniceros
Yvonne Schumacher
Andrea Tabor
Shelley Unruh
- 19 Abigail Spott

- 20 Jonah Dennis
Nevaeh Yzaguirre
- 21 Florence Espy
Ruth Petermann
Jenna Wakefield
- 23 Ruth Gerke
Nehemiah Hammick
Zachary Mielke
Emily Schaller
Adam Waldhauser
- 24 Jacob Chan
Mai-Anh Kapanke
Sarah Spott
- 25 Alfred Gerke
Kelly Jean Olson
- 27 Tammy Sheldon
Adam Steber
Leslee Yoder
- 30 Kathleen McCall



Terrific Time with TRASH

On Saturday, May 7th, 15+ Crown of Life volunteers spent the morning caring for God's creation by cleaning up a stretch of road in Eagan. All finished with a record time of 1 hour! Pastor Kom's grilling skills were put to the test with these hungry, hungry helpers. Thanks to all who helped with the Adopt-A-Highway efforts!

Do you have household items you want to get rid of?

Option #1 – Support Our 5th Grade Teacher

Ashley Van Calster is looking for: Vacuum, Table/ Chairs, Queen bed frame, couch/recliner, TV stand, End tables, Lamps, clock(s), Dresser(s)/ Nightstand, Wooden Desk, 2 or 4 drawer file cabinet. Refer questions or donations to Dan Plath 612-239-8447.

Option #2 – COL Yard Sale June 16-18

Drop your items off at Crown of Life West St. Paul and pick up your donation slip.

Drop off Times: June 4 & 11 from 10 am – 2 pm

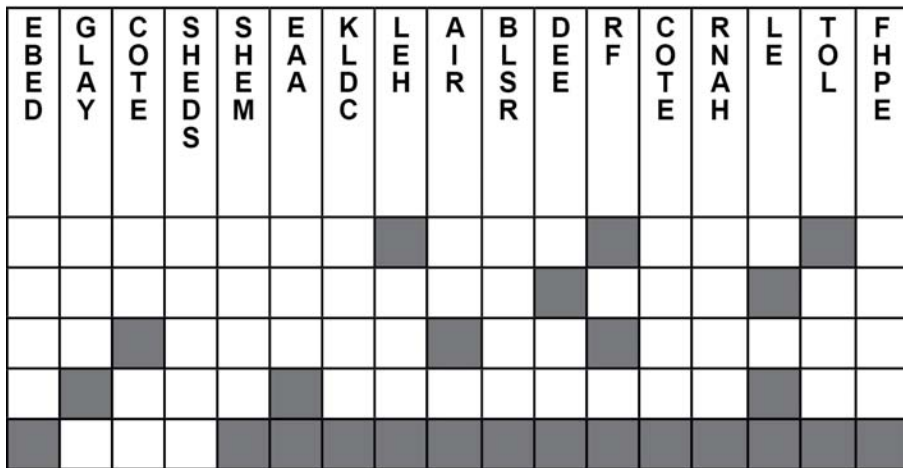
June 5 & 12 from 11:30 am – 4 pm

All proceeds go to Christian Life Ministries.

Refer questions to Nicki Grundwald 614-448-8956.

JUST FOR FUN

QUOTE FALL



JOKE OF THE MONTH

A pastor and a taxi driver both died and went to heaven. St. Peter was at the Pearly gates waiting for them.

'Come with me', said St. Peter to the taxi driver.

The taxi driver did as he was told and followed St. Peter to a mansion. It had anything you could imagine from a bowling alley to an olympic size pool.

'Wow, thank you', said the taxi driver.

Next, St. Peter led the pastor to a rugged old shack with a bunk bed and a little old television set.

'Wait, I think you are a little mixed up', said the pastor. 'Shouldn't I be the one who gets the mansion? After all I was a pastor, went to church every day, and preached God's word.'

'Yes, that's true. But during your sermons people slept. When the taxi driver drove, everyone prayed.'



ANSWERS TO May PUZZLES: QUTOEFALL – For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them. **WORD SCRAMBLE** – Encounter, Video



CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

West St. Paul Campus – 115 Crusader Ave W, West St. Paul MN 55118

Eagan Camus – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55122