

BUILDING GOD'S COMMUNITY

MATTHEW 26:35-37

the word

Mark Your Calendar

8/29

1st DAY OF SCHOOL

9/1

Pioneer Meeting

9/10

Inver Grove Heights Parade

9/10-12

Every Member to Church

9/15

Pioneer Meeting

9/16-18

Pioneer Fall Campout

9/17

Blood Drive - Eagan

9/29

Pioneer Meeting

The “Gold Standard” of Christian Communities

by Mark Kom

This month we are highlighting our sense of “community” at Crown of Life with our “Every Member Weekend” worship event. Having a sense of community is very important in the life of a church. People want a place to “belong” and rally around a cause together and build relationships and a host of other things that are, oftentimes, impossible to do on your own.

So it is worth asking the question, then....are we doing the best that we can in being a Christian community here? Is there a playbook to follow?

Actually, there is.

Perhaps the best Christian community the church has seen is found on the pages of our bibles in Acts 2:44-47. Those early Christians were on fire for the Lord and congregational life was vibrant and active. Let's take a look at what the “Gold Standard” of Christian communities was doing – and then make sure that we are doing the same!

Community...in Worship

“They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching.” That reminds us of the inner excitement and dedication of those first Christian converts. They steadfastly turned to God’s Word (Apostles’ teaching) for instruction about their Savior. Jesus appointed his chosen disciples to teach others about what their Savior had done for the world.

continued

EVERY MEMBER WEEKEND!!!! – September 10-12

Clear your calendars, join us in worship, invite people you haven't seen in church for a while. Together let's fill the house of God and raise our voices to Him!

The "Gold Standard" continued

They were a fellowshiping church, too. There was an enthusiasm that the believers demonstrated in a common bond at worship, meals and even in sharing their "stuff," their material things. They would visibly show their unity in Christ in worship, where they would call each other brothers and sisters.

Luke also says that they were devoted to "breaking bread." It was probably a reference to the celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship. They regularly celebrated the Lord's Supper "often" as Jesus had commanded. It was important for their faith.

And they were a praying church. Literally Luke said, "the prayers." Perhaps there were set prayers from worship that members prayed in addition to their own personal requests and intercessions for others. In any case, this Christian community was known for praying!

Community...in the Community

After Pentecost, the converts to the Christian faith shared generously with each other. They sold possessions and gave to people as there was a need. It wasn't a case where people were made to give up their wealth, but rather a willingness on the part of owners to place their possessions at the disposal of those believers who were really in need. The aim was to make

sure that everyone's needs were met. It would appear that there was a "general fund" that believers could contribute toward (on a voluntary basis) and it was this fund that they used to support the poor and needy.

Every day they met in the temple courts. Apparently that was a popular gathering place for the believers to share in the joy of sins being forgiven and heaven being their home. And their witness through words and actions made people curious to hear the Word of God, too. In fact, God blessed their efforts so much that the Holy Spirit brought more and more people to faith and into the church on a daily basis. Wow!

It's not surprising that the believers would share meals in each other's homes. People do that all the time. But it's interesting that Luke makes the connection of the joy and harmony of the community in the temple courts with that same joy and harmony in people's homes as they ate together. It was all a sense of Christian community.

This is an exciting month at Crown of Life. We are celebrating and promoting our sense of community as brothers and sisters in Christ. May those same things that were found in that first Christian congregation be found here among us. May God help us to be a strong, thriving community in Christ.

BOOK REVIEW

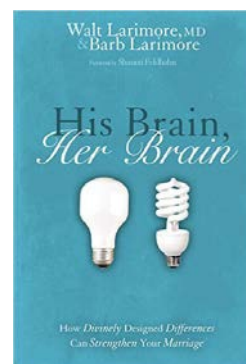
"His Brain, Her Brain"

by Walt & Barb Larimore

Reviewed by Zachary Pudlo

In a world where we are constantly being told there really is no difference between men and women, *His Brain, Her Brain* takes a scientific approach to show the divinely designed differences between men and women. Written by husband and wife, Walt and Barb Larimore, their approach is not only informative but also humorous. As an MD, Walt gives plenty of scientific evidence for the differences between men and women even before birth.

Both Walt and Barb offer the unique perspectives from the male and female points of view. The purpose of this book is to give husbands and wives some tools for improving the communication within their marriages by understanding their unique differences designed by God.



Connections: to Christ, to Christians, to the World

by Lucas Boehm

What are your needs? Do they align with Maslov's Hierarchy of Needs? Maybe you'd add Netflix, Fantasy Football or Facebook to the list of essentials? The importance of Social Needs may be reflected in the propensity for people to spend time plugging into media rather than actual, face-to-face human interaction. Globally, the average time spent on social media is 3.5 hours PER DAY¹ with Americans typically checking their social media 17 times per day². Why is this? Individuals crave connections and social media is an easy way to do it. Perhaps another reason for such an expenditure of time and effort is that social media allows for the creation of a different, virtual, ideal life, and escape from a disappointing and unfulfilling reality. But media alone — social, interactive, or otherwise — is a shallow substitute for fulfilling one's social need for personal connections.

It shouldn't surprise anyone that God, who is three in one, created the first humans with "social needs", a need for companionship. In Genesis 3:18 God stated "It is not good for the man to be alone." Since then, God continues to make each and every person an amazing individual uniquely gifted yet dependent upon others. Unfortunately, for every person who's ever lived since Adam and Eve, the perfect connection with God has been lost. That same fallen, sinful state which brought separation from God also divides all human connections and relationships and now, "social needs" - which are good and vital to healthy living - are abused or neglected. Thank God for Jesus, who has bridged the divide between God and us and renewed our relationship to our Creator, our heavenly Father. Now we work to maintain and strengthen our relationships with one another. And this isn't easy!

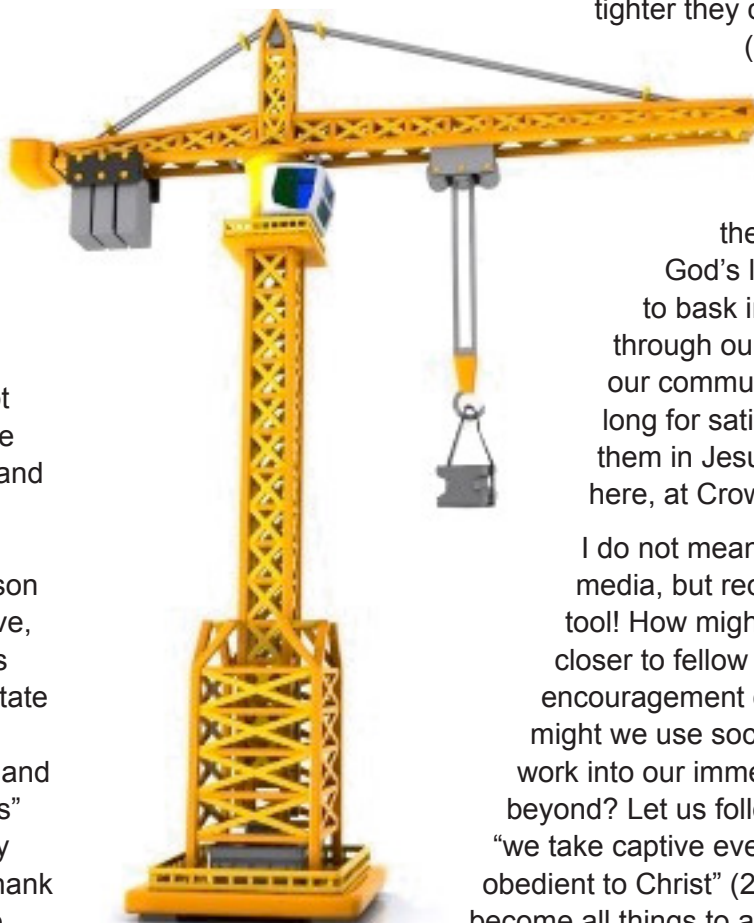
Be encouraged by Jesus' words recorded in John 16 - a reminder of the importance of the connections

formed within the Christian community: "My prayer is not for them [the disciples] alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message" (He's talking about you and me!)... "May they be brought to complete UNITY TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT YOU SENT ME AND HAVE LOVED THEM." Here is one very important reason why we strive to keep connected to one another. The more we are in the Word, the closer we will grow to God and to one another. The more we are in the Word, the more we will understand His love for us and the urgency to share His unconditional love with others who so desperately need it. I picture a crane: the more of God's people who gather together and the tighter they come together

(like the weights stacked on the back of a crane) then the more they can lift and the farther they can reach! May

God's love, and the desire to bask in it together, spill out through our words and actions into our communities. May those who long for satisfying connections find them in Jesus through their friends here, at Crown of Life.

I do not mean to bad-mouth social media, but recognize it is a powerful tool! How might it be used to bring us closer to fellow believers in support and encouragement of one another? How might we use social media to do effective work into our immediate community and beyond? Let us follow Paul's example, "we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5) "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some." (1 Corinthians 9:22). There are many effective efforts being made to do just this sort of thing. Pray that such work continue to be effective and consider how you might play a part in supporting it.



¹ Social Networking Eats Up 3+ Hours Per Day for the Average American User. (January 9, 2013). Retrieved from <http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/apa/website>

² Chang, Lulu (2015, June 15) Americans Spend an Alarming Amount of Time Checking Social Media on their Phones. Retrieved from <http://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/informate-report-social-media-smartphone-use/>

SCHOOL NEWS

New School Year, Updates and Changes!

With the new school year getting underway this week there are some exciting new features you should be aware of.

New Security System - The students, teachers and staff are well taken care of with a new security system in place. Cameras have also been installed and record any movement within the building. *Here's what you need to know.* If anyone arrives after 8:15 am they will have to



use an intercom and doorbell to enter the building at the school entrance on the East side of the building. Just look at the intercom and press the red button (doorbell). Someone from the office will see your image and talk to you through the intercome, then buzz you in. Be sure to stop in the office to check in.

Technology update - New computers and more chromebooks have been ordered and will be implemented in order to keep your children up to speed on our ever changing technological world!

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31, 2016
5-7pm

A great opportunity to meet the community. 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!**

Would rather donate item? Here's what we need: hay bales, corn stalks, pumpkins, refreshments, candy, etc.

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

Senior Luncheon

Thursday October 13
11:00 am



On 31 October 1517, Luther wrote to his bishop, Albert of Mainz, protesting the sale of indulgences. He enclosed in his letter a copy of his "Disputation of Martin Luther on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences", which came to be known as the Ninety-five Theses.

Kronprinz (Crown Prince) Ludwig, later King Ludwig I married Princess Therese of Saxe-Hildburghausen on October 12, 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held on the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the royal event.

What do these events have in common? We are combining them into the theme of the Seniors' luncheon in October. Many Lutherans, including the WELS, will be kicking off the celebration of 500 years since the Reformation. And who wouldn't enjoy celebrating Oktoberfest with German food and music? Plan to join us at 11 am on **Thursday, October 13th.**

Don't miss this special event.

"We have this HOPE as an ANCHOR for the soul,
FIRM and SECURE." – Hebrews 6:19

2016-17 THEME



New Teacher - Ashley VanCalster has been installed as our new 6th Grade homeroom instructor. She is getting all settled in and is excited for the year to begin!

New administrative software - PraxiSchool is a new software being implemented this year to allow parents easy access to all the information they will need, including: lunch orders and accounts, after school accounts, grades, communication with teachers, medical records, etc... All of this will be contained in one simple program for your benefit!

Children's Christmas

Service Date has been MOVED!! – Instead of being on Christmas Eve it will now take place on the Sunday before Christmas. This year it falls on **December 18th**.

Here's what you need to know: Pre-K through 8th grade will lead us in worship at the 8:00 AM service at West St. Paul and just grades 1 through 8 will lead us in worship at the 10:30 service. That means that grades 1-8 will be leading us twice that morning.

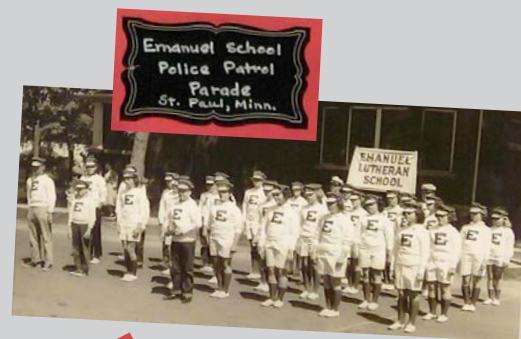
Class of 1962 Reunite

August 13, 2016 – Crown of Life

Sparked by interest in researching Emanuel history on the Archives committee, Cindy Pieper decided to try to locate her former 1961/1962 classmates from Emanuel Lutheran School. Linda Pogalz was instrumental in finding many addresses, and invitations were sent out. Some people sent their regrets but included recent pictures of themselves and memories of their elementary years at Emanuel. Those who were able to come had a great time recalling the past as well as catching up on what others had been doing since their years at Emanuel. The former classmates were also interested in how Emanuel had merged with Trinity Lutheran and took booklets about the merger home with them. It was such a wonderful reunion. They will get together again next year and post the date earlier to allow those who live out of state (or out of the country in one case) to have more time to plan to travel.



Front row: Carol Raddatz Fiedler, Jacqueline Hall Bauer, Linda Reider Wiplinger, Cindy Stoerzinger Pieper, Richard Holen. Back row: Paul Endresen, Linda Hoeft Pogalz, Joyce Pitcher Bonner, Steve Augst





ASK THE PASTOR

Can God change his mind? When has He changed his mind?

This is a great question, because it seems like there are times where God does change his mind. In

Malachi 3:6 God says, "I the LORD do not change." And yet if you read through the book of Exodus you will see a moment where God says he is going to destroy the Israelites for their sinfulness, and build up a nation purely from the line of Moses. But after Moses talks to him, God decides to not destroy them. What happened? Did God change his mind? Well, It helps to remember what God's initial promise was. God initially promised Abraham that He would establish a great nation of his descendants.

Moses was a descendant of Abraham. And so if God did follow through with his plan to destroy all the Israelites but Moses, He would have still been faithful to His original promise. When Moses convinced Him to not destroy the Israelites, He was still being faithful to His original promise to raise up a great nation from Abraham's lineage.

So...can God change his mind? Yes and no. God is always faithful to His promises. However, He can change the way He carries out his promises. This is a great comfort to you and me. God has promised that all our sins are forgiven. Period. Can He change His mind about that? Absolutely not. He is faithful to His promises. The forgiveness of our sins is something that can never change.

REPORTS

TREASURER – Fiscal Year July 2016 to June 2017

July ended the fiscal year to date (FYTD) with \$99,595 in total income with expected budget income to be \$178,652 (\$79,057 below budget). Lower Summer contributions and school tuition begins in September are the main reasons for lower than budget income. Expenses (FYTD) were \$156,238 which gave us a FYTD of a negative \$56,643. We owe \$0 to our special funds account. Clear the Path contributions as of 7-31-2016 totaled \$601,383 which were paid directly to reduce our loan balance down to \$821,927. All bills are paid to date. Direct questions to PerryAbel at treasurer@colwsp.org.

CARE COMMITTEE

It has been a busy summer! We provided 17 meals to 5 families over a period of 5 weeks. For those who may not know about the Care Committee, we are a group of 20 individuals who provide meals to Crown of Life members who are experiencing a significant life event, such as the birth of a child, a death in the family, a serious illness or major surgery. We encourage members to request meals when needed, either through one of the pastors, the church office, or contacting Liz Oldfield at 651-455-4483 or joldfield@usfamily.net.

Welcome New Members!



Ryan, Heather & Arthur Schroeder – Ryan, originally from Wisconsin, works for Ameriprise Financial. Heather, South Saint Paul native, works for US Bank. They enjoy spending time with their son Arthur and their dog; Ren.



Ashley Van Calster – 2016 Graduate of Martin Luther College. Will be teaching English, Spanish and Choristers at Crown of Life. Wisconsin native and Packer Fan!

The Care Committee always needs and welcomes new providers! Anyone can be a meal provider. You don't need to be a gourmet chef! Meals can be home made or picked up at the deli in the supermarket or purchased at a restaurant. Regardless of the source, recipients are always very grateful for the meals that have been provided. For the providers it proves to be a heartwarming way to serve the Lord and our fellow members.

Campfire, movie, hotdogs, and of course **S'Mores**

Join us for this fun, free, family event.

S'MORE Fun

October 28, 2016 – 5 pm

Crown of Life Church – 4150 Pilot Knob Rd, Eagan MN 55112



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Thursday, September 1

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

Saturday, September 3

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 4

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, September 5

Labor Day
6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

Tuesday, September 6

7:00 pm Evangelism
Technology Team

Wednesday, September 7

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 8

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

Saturday, September 10

11:00 am IGH Parade
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 11

Every Member Weekend-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, September 12

6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP
7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, September 13

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
4:00 pm HOME Game
vs. Salem, Stillwater
6:30 pm Education
6:30 pm Properties
6:30 pm Handbell rehearsal
7:00 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, September 14

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 15

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
4:00 pm AWAY Game
@ Christ Lutheran, NSP
6:30 pm Pioneers
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery - WSP

Friday, September 16

3:30 pm *Pioneer Fall Camp Out*

Saturday, September 17

Pioneer Fall Camp Out
9:00 am Blood Drive - Eagan
5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 18

Pioneer Fall Camp Out
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, September 19

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, September 20

4:00 pm AWAY Game @ Good
Shepherd, Burnsville
7:00 pm Council

Wednesday, September 21

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 22

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, September 24

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, September 25

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, September 26

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:00 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, September 27

9:00 am Mom's Time-EGN
4:00 pm HOME BB Game vs. Berea
6:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal

Wednesday, September 28

6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
Confirmation Class

Thursday, September 29

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jacque Lea Bejblik Christina Belfield Kristine Friese Irene Haugen Brett Koker	9	Devon Hart Kirsten Munoz Kara Sylvester	16	William Stettner Janice Will	24	Curtis Montgomery Scott Olson
2	Carol Jean Lorenz	10	Colleen Myhre Diane Schneeberger	17	Timothy Grunwald Payton Monn Linda D. Wiplinger	25	Thomas Lucas
3	Betty Frederick Thomas Marrier	11	Thomas Boehlke Thomas Goette Vanessa Olson	18	Rosemary Holen Linda Lucio Jessica Lynn Quast	26	Victoria Hansen Rebecca Ludden
4	Julie Capocasa	12	Betty Danner	19	Kory Ludden Alexis Vandenbosch	27	Sandra Boehlke Becky Huebner Daniel Swiderski
6	Kyle Boyer Debra Myhre Chloe Rall Colton Rall	13	Jamie Hussong Sophia Moe J'anna Prince	20	Xavier Conzet Wendy Ellwein Samuel Fischer	28	Katy George
7	Rachel Lucas Tia Wieden	14	Shellyann Allen Donald Paschke	21	Ana Hauck Saniyah Steber	29	Alyse Coates Laura Grossmann Haley Lasovich Elizabeth Rich Kaylyn Simonette
8	Hertha Gryc Kieran Hunter Robert Lucio Jermaine Prince, Jr.	15	Mason Kelm Chenwei (Alan) Pan	22	Penny Mielke Ava Ohm	30	Breanna Dennis Thomas Pavek Kathryn Sievert Jon Stensland
9	Margaret Bougie Rachel Cline	16	Ryan Bejblik Cassin Farley Abby Herold Kyle Monn	23	Ethan Koeppen		
				24	Asher Hussong Lori Kowitz Savon Lopez		



Pioneers

What will you get when you participate in the Lutheran Pioneer Program? Fun, friends, learning and taking part in all kinds of new things. Check us out. We meet at the WSP Campus from 6:30-7:45 pm every other Thursday (see *calendar for dates*). Open to all boys and girls (Kindergarten through 8th grade). We would love to have you join us! For more information contact Dan Oberstadt at dloberstadt@gmail.com

Learn about

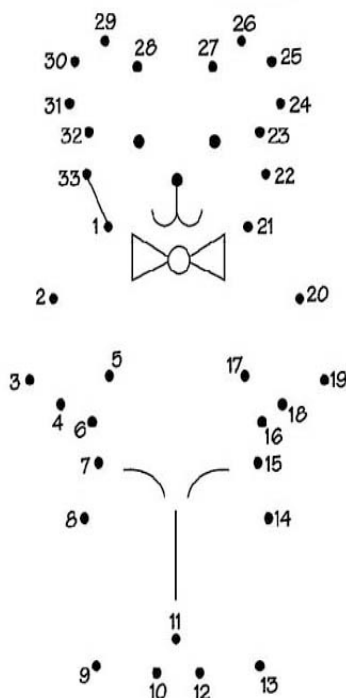
- leadership & service
- nature & weather
- safety (water/fire/bike)
- photography, sewing
- fire building
- outdoor survival skills
- tying knots
- patriotism
- how to read a map
- arts and crafts
- cooking (indoor/outdoor)
- etiquette, grooming, manners
- first aid and safety (water/fire/bike)

Activities

- game day with the elderly members
- Christmas caroling
- pine car craft/derbies
- orienteering (find flags off-trail using a map and compass)
- visiting shut-ins
- veteran grave decorating
- serving Easter breakfast
- winter swim & gym night
- archery course
- ice fishing
- campouts (fall/spring/ maybe even winter)

JUST FOR FUN

DOT-TO-DOT



JOKE OF THE MONTH

An elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 25 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box.

The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 25 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for.

She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbors for \$1."

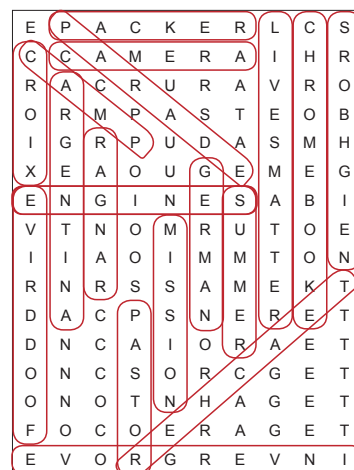
WORD SCRAMBLE

HSOOC L

MMEEBR

AUGUST ANSWERS - SCRAMBLE
Achieve, Possible, Fooddrive

WORD SEARCH



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