



November 2018 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Mark Your Calendar

11/3

Adopt-A-Highway

11/4

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

11/7 -11/8-11/11

Book Fair

11/8

Early Dismissal 11:30 am
Parent/Teacher Conferences

11/9

NO SCHOOL

11/13

Culver's Night

11/21

Early Dismissal 11:30 am

11/22

Thanksgiving Day - NO SCHOOL

11/23

Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

11/27

Blood Drive - WSP



Taking Our Neighbor's Vote in the Kindest Possible Way

BY PASTOR EMILE BURGESS

"It was wrong for you to vote for _____! I can't believe you support _____!"

Mid-term elections are coming up and once again the tension is in the air and on the airwaves and all over front lawns. After the last presidential election, there was a lot of moral finger-wagging and blaming and shaming. There were a lot of opinions out there about how Christians should vote and how voting for certain candidates was "wrong" and, perhaps some even said, "sinful."

So what makes something "wrong" or "sinful"? And does a vote for someone mean you "support" him or her?

As Christians, we take God at his Word when he calls something wrong or sinful. Very simply put, something is wrong or sinful if it is *unloving toward God or my fellow man*. "Love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10b). (That's why we sometimes call it the law of love.)

"Love God and love my neighbor" covers all of the will of God for our lives. And that applies to the choices we make in the voting booth too. God does not tell us anywhere in the Bible whom to vote for. He only teaches us to use our God-given sanctified reason (guided by his definition and descriptions of love, such as Romans 5:8 and 1 Corinthians 13) to decide what the most loving thing is toward Him and our fellow man.

continued

It's as simple as that. Simple. But NOT easy.

Many Christians wrestled mightily what choices to make at the polls in the last election. What they wrestled with is a PRINCIPLE and the APPLICATION of that principle.

The *principle* is love—love for God and fellow man. Our privilege to vote is (or at least should be) an application of that principle. In other words, “What is the most loving vote I can make—the most loving intention toward God and my neighbor?”

The application of this “principle of love” will look different in different people's lives and in different situations. The principle does not change. The application, however, does.

For example, the most loving way to parent your “strong-willed child” may be very different from the most loving way to parent your “compliant child.” You strive to do the most loving thing for each. It just happens to be different.

So what's the answer? What's the most loving way to vote?

The Lord graciously says, “The choice is yours. Use your God-given sanctified reason (guided by what I've taught you is real love) and decide what you think is the most loving thing for Me and your neighbor. And, by the way, whatever you choose, whatever the result, I'll make the most out of it for you and my Kingdom.”

God loves it when we wrestle with *applying* his *principle* of love. He grows and strengthens us through the process. And blesses us whatever the product. Even if others applied the same principle of love differently! Even if we think we might do something different were we in a similar situation again!

To most, there were no good choices at the last election. They felt awkward, scared, perhaps some even a little ashamed to cast the votes they did. But remember, “the only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love” (Galatians 5:6b).

Was your vote at that time “wrong” or personally sinful? If you cast yours in the interest of acting “most loving” toward God and neighbor, then have a clear conscience and let God sort out the results. And continue to talk to others about why they perhaps saw the most loving vote to be something different.

If we saw everyone's voting choice in this light, would it change the dialogue between those who disagree for the better? Wouldn't we all hope so! This is what it means to “take our neighbor's words and actions in the kindest possible way.” And whenever you go to the polls, remember that that your vote can be your faith expressing itself through love toward God and neighbor.

For more reading on the Christian and voting see the pastor's blog on it at: <http://church.crownoflifemn.org/in-god-we-trust/>

¹ “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

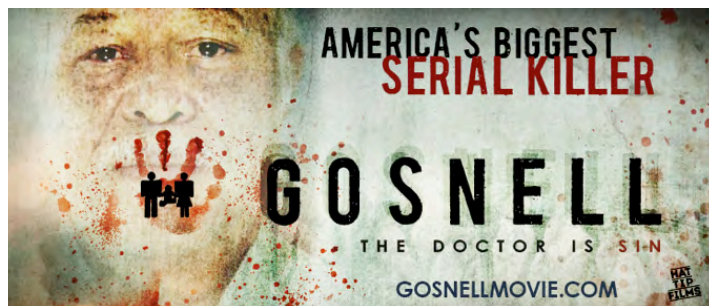
² “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:1-7).

REVIEW BY KASSANDRA FRIES

Gosnell: The Trial of America's Biggest Serial Killer takes place from 2008-2013, detailing the true story of how a prescription drug trafficking case investigation leads to the discovery of a Philadelphia abortion clinic operating like a house of horrors. It covers the murder trial of the clinic's only doctor, Kermit Gosnell, and the disturbing routine practices and particular events that took place at his clinic.

While the trial was not about the legality of abortion, it brings to light undeniable facts about the abortion industry, and the protection Gosnell's clinic received from politically-motivated individuals of the media and people in varying roles of government.

The film is rated PG-13, which I feel is appropriate. There is little to no harsh language, no nudity, and no violence.



The topic of abortion is the only reason I would not recommend the movie to children under a certain age. While the directors spared displaying graphic images in the film, details of what happens to babies during the abortion procedure is explained, and is disturbing enough to an adult, let alone a young child. This subject matter would likely be better explained by a parent or guardian who is familiar with the child's level of maturity and ability to process such information.

I would give the movie '10 out of 10' for its fact-based telling of the heart-wrenching story.

The Difficulty of Truth

NOVEMBER 3, 2018 | PASTOR ZACHARY PUDLO



Introduction

I am a bit behind the times. I recently watched some of the scenes from the most recent live production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* after I found out how many awards for which it was nominated and won. I even compared some of the scenes from the original from the 1970's. One of the scenes that stuck out to me was the scene depicting Jesus encounter with Pontius Pilate. In each version the writers depicted Pilate as struggling with the definition of truth, much like he does in John 18 when he simply says, "What is truth?" However, the writers of *Jesus Christ Superstar* expand on that. Here's what he says in the rock opera:

"What is truth? Not easy to define. We both have truths. Are yours the same as mine?" (2018 version)

"What is truth. Is truth unchanging law. We both have truths. Are yours the same as mine?" (1970 version)

What struck me about Pilate's response in this production is his absolute difficulty with understanding the truth. It seems the Bible and each version of the rock opera depict Pilate as not wanting to believe what he knows to be true. He knew Jesus was innocent. He knew it would be immoral to unjustly punish Jesus. But he also knew that if he didn't prosecute Jesus he would be in danger of losing his high social status and official position.

The Danger of Denying Truth

In a 2016 survey of over 1000 adults, Barna Group found that 57 percent of American adults admit that knowing what is right or wrong is a matter of personal experience. In other words, moral truths are a matter of choice. Even 41 percent of adult practicing Christians agree with this as well.

The implications of this belief system, which is what it really is, are vast and scary. Consider the following as just one example of what happens when morals become relative to each individual: A stranger walks into your home in the middle of the day. He walks to your refrigerator, opens it, and takes a beer and makes a sandwich for himself. After this he walks up to your bedroom and begins looking through your possessions pocketing the jewelry and whatever other items he desires. As he begins to walk out the door, stomach full of beer and food he didn't purchase, pockets filled with valuable items not belonging to him, you shout out to him, "Hey, you can't take my stuff! That's wrong!"

If there is no absolute moral truth, then his response could be, "Says who?" If there is no absolute truth, then you would have no moral basis to say that it is wrong to steal. Taking it even further, you and I would have no basis to say anything is wrong including murder, rape, torture, and every other vile thing you can imagine. If someone says "Moral truth is relative," then they had better be ready to deal with the consequences of a world that actually lives that way.

When put this way, most people begin to realize they do believe in some moral absolutes. So the follow up question is this: Why do so many try to avoid moral absolutes?

Truth Formation

In his book, *The Happiness Hypothesis*, Jonathan Haidt says our inner lawyer is often times the source of our own truth formation. He says,

"One of the reasons people are often contemptuous of lawyers is that they fight for a client's interests, not the truth. To be a good lawyer, it often helps to be a good liar.

The Difficulty of Truth... continued on page 6

THINGS TO DO

NIGHT TO SHINE 2019

Friday, February 8, 2019

To volunteer or be a guest
www.stcroixnighttoshine.org
(sign up opens late November)



TOUR You are invited to join a 10 day tour to Greece..."In the Footsteps of Paul". The tour, May 27 - June 5, 2019, includes a 3 day Mediterranean Cruise. Places of special interest include Phillippi, Corinth, Ephesus, Athens, Meteora, and Santorini. There is also an optional 3 day extension to Rome. For details, contact pastor Eugene Kock at pastorkock@yahoo.com.

Jesus Cares "Worship at the Cross"

Crown of Life is starting an exciting new program! We are beginning a Jesus Cares ministry developed by The Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine.

This is an outreach ministry designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and communities. We will begin by focusing on offering an opportunity to worship God in a way he or she understands.

Our first "Worship at the Cross" service at Crown of Life will be held **Thursday, December 13, at 6:30**. It will feature a 20-30 minute devotion followed by a craft and snack concluding by 7:30.

A number of volunteers have already signed up to help, but we can always use more. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Burgess (emile.burgess@colwsp.org) or Dave Noack (dave.noack@colwsp.org).

We ask for your help in inviting family, friends, and neighbors you know might benefit to join us December 13. We are seeking donations for craft material, snacks, rhythm instruments, and a flannel board. Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Pastor Burgess or Dave Noack. Certainly, we ask for your prayers that God bless this valuable opportunity placed before us.

SCHOOL NEWS

Playground Update

Many of you have been wondering what has happened with the PreK Playground.

Money was raised and we were moving in the right direction. That is certainly a topic that has been discussed in education committee meetings as well as church council meetings. No one has forgotten about it, but we have run into some roadblocks or detours.

Crown of Life collected the money for the playground and after purchasing the class 5, playground equipment and the fence, still has some money remaining designated for that playground. What wasn't anticipated was the drop off in the financial income for the church to the point we, as a church, were \$110,000 in the red. The reserve funds (one being the PreK Playground) were borrowed against to pay the budgetary items.

Since this took place, the COL Church Council appointed a financial committee which is making plans to ensure this doesn't happen again in the future. Before that money can be used by for the playground, we will need to reimburse the money back into the reserve funds. We will be looking to move forward with the installation when weather allows us in Spring 2019.

We will work to keep you better informed of the progress we are making and the plans for installation. Thank you for your concern and interest in this project.

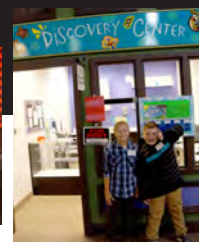


Scholastic Book Fair

Nov 7th, 8 am – 3:30 pm
Nov 8th, 8 am – 8 pm
Nov 11th, 9 am – Noon

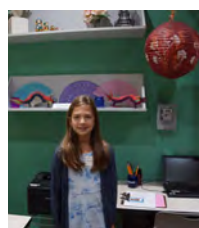
Looking for a Christmas gift? The book fair is a great opportunity to find that perfect story. A portion of each purchase supports our school and classroom libraries.





4th Grade Visits JA Biztown

COL 4th graders spent the first month of school learning much about our economy and how a business is run. All of our lessons prepared us for an awesome field trip - a day spent at JA Biztown! Students interviewed for different jobs and were able to work in different businesses such as the Cafe, Newspaper, Radio Station, Construction Center and more! We balanced our checkbooks, learned how to manage our finances, and had opportunities to spend some of our hard earned money. What a fun opportunity to get a taste of the real world in this educational setting!



Fall Sports Wrap-up

Cross Country

For the first time the 3rd and 4th graders were able to race in the first meet of the season. It was awesome watching their enthusiasm and hustle finishing their races with 1 third place finish, 2 second place ribbons and 2 first place medals. In the second meet COL had another great representation with 1 second place finish and 3 first place medals won. Thank you, Coach Kruse, for all your work with the runners this season.



Soccer

Coach Pudlo and Coach Noack encouraged hard work and dedication as they players worked on their skills throughout the season. The team competed in several close games and made it to the quarterfinals game in their playoffs.

Volleyball

Coach Hackbarth, Mielke and Ohm continued the high caliber of the volleyball program as they coached the girls and experienced great success. Both teams participated in the Catholic League this season for the first time and went undefeated in their games. The B team also won their end of the season tournament and the A team took first place in 2 of the 3 tournaments they competed in.



Disc Golf

COL had 4 disc golf teams that competed in 3 meets this season. It was great watching the teamwork in the "best throw" format of the meets. COL even came away with 1 championship trophy and several second place finishes throughout the season.



Culver's Night November 13 4-7 pm

The Difficulty of Truth... continued

Although many lawyers won't tell a direct lie, most will do what they can to hide inconvenient facts while weaving a plausible alternative story for the judge and jury, a story that they sometimes know is not true. Our inner lawyer works in the same way, but, somehow, we actually believe the stories he makes up."

Here's his point: Lawyers often know the truth but they will conveniently ignore or dismiss it in order to fight for their and their client's best interest. That happens to each of us internally. We all have an internal moral compass which tells us what is right and wrong. And even though we know certain things are morally wrong, the inner lawyer inside of us often dismisses those arguments in order to fight for what we really want.

Here's how Haidt says it, "Over and over again, studies show that people set out on a cognitive mission to bring back reasons to support their preferred belief or action. And because we are usually successful in this mission, we end up with the illusion of objectivity. We really believe our position is rationally and objectively justified." In other words, what we want to be true becomes our own personal truth. Our personal desires and agendas are what form our personal truths. Objectivity is often an afterthought.

What does this look like practically? Well, John and Jane Doe have two very different views on coffee. John loves his coffee. Jane hates it. What do each of them do? John goes on the internet and finds a few different articles that show the health benefits of drinking coffee. Jane does the same, finding articles that show the health risks of drinking coffee. Each one only looks for data to support what they want to be true. Each one only looks at the data that proves what their pride wants to be true. To John, it is true that

coffee is good for you. To Jane, it is true that coffee is bad for you. And so their truths are formed on what they want, rather than what is objective.

Moral Objectivity

Human beings have a way of doing this morally as well. As the election season is again upon us, I can't help but think about how our language has become so bitter and angry as a society. On one hand people will say hateful rhetoric is simply not tolerable. And then go and smear a political candidate all over facebook. In our hearts we know it is wrong to curse and swear at someone. In our hearts we know it is wrong to name call. We know that's the truth. But our inner lawyer says, "But what that person is saying is wrong. So it's ok to name call." Our inner lawyer finds ways to make murdering unborn babies ok, even though, objectively, that unborn baby would be considered life if found anywhere else in the universe. Our inner lawyer finds ways to make gossiping and lying ok, even though we cry foul when someone else gossips and lies about us. Our inner lawyer finds ways to justify almost anything and make it our truth.

But we often forget that when we justify wrongdoing, it harms our relationship with God more than anything. He is the one who placed the moral compass inside each one of us. And when we go against that compass, we are damaging our connection to God.

But here's where it's important to explore one more truth. The uniqueness of the Christian gospel. You see, with all our moral failures, and all our attempts to make them seem ok, it's difficult to find comfort and hope. Every religion has its own explanation for how to find peace in the face of our repeated failures. But when you look at them all objectively there is a pattern that emerges. Each religion suggests the only way to put your moral failures right is through your own actions. If you've done something wrong, you must do something right to make up for it. Every religion in the world says it's up to you to put it right before God.

All except Christianity. Christianity teaches that God alone can make it right. And that's why Jesus came. He came to take the punishment for all our moral failures. That's a difficult truth. It's difficult because it means we have less control than we'd like to believe. It means we are more lost and morally bankrupt than we can possibly imagine. But it also means we are more loved than we could possibly hope. Without knowing the fact that Jesus is the one true God who came to make our failures right, we have no hope. Without this truth, you're just like Pilate, in a sea full of "truths"...lost and without comfort or hope.

If you are looking for honest truth look no further than your own heart. Be objective. Your heart isn't pure. It isn't perfect. But there is hope. And for that you have to look to someone other than yourself. Look to your God who saw your heart. He saw every dark twisted corner and crevice and still loved you. Knowing this makes facing the harsh truths of life and of our own brokenness much less difficult.

What a time we had, roasting hot dogs and s'mores, sipping cocoa, and watching Moana. Thanks to 100+ for attending and a special shout out to everyone who helped organize this amazing event!



November Calendar

Thursday, November 1

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

Saturday, November 3

10 am Adopt-A-Highway - Eagan
5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, November 4

Daylight Saving Time ends

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

Monday, November 5

3:15 pm Lego Club
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Mary/Martha - WSP
Evangelism-EGN

Tuesday, November 6

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP

Wednesday, November 7

*PreK Parent Teacher Conferences
Scholastic Book Fair*
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice
8 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, November 8

*No Bus Service
Scholastic Book Fair*
11:30 am Early Dismissal
12 pm Parent Teacher Conferences
2:30 pm Southview Service
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club
7 pm Elders-WSP

Friday, November 9

Teacher Inservice - No School

Saturday, November 10

5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, November 11

Veterans Day
8 am Worship WSP
9 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, November 12

Veterans Day observed
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Worship Committee

Tuesday, November 13

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP
6:30 pm Education Properties
7:15 pm Stewardship

Wednesday, November 14

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 15

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service
6 pm Jesus Cares Planning Meeting-WSP
7 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, November 17

5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, November 18

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

Monday, November 19

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, November 20

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP
7 pm Council-EGN

Wednesday, November 21

No Bus Service
11:30 am Early Dismissal
5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 22

*Thanksgiving Break - No School
Thanksgiving Day*

Friday, November 23

Thanksgiving Break - No School

Saturday, November 24

5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, November 25

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

Monday, November 26

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

Tuesday, November 27

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP
1 pm Blood Drive-WSP

Wednesday, November 28

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 29

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living Service

November Birthdays

1 Annabelle Kinsley	9 Blaze Graves	13 Steve Turbeville	20 Kent Uecker	24 Richard Schindeldecker
Susan Klessig	Nathaniel Burkhardt	Ann Coates	David Mielke	Anna Spott
2 Abigail Kom	10 Christine Kwasniewski	Sloane Larson	Roman Olson	25 Sheldon Farley
Will Sievert	11 Emily Ahlman	Bruce Schumacher	Ethan Pichardo	26 Jamie Fischer
3 Matt Berg	Abigail Bejblik	15 Savannah Berg	Beth Rupprecht	Henry Seidl
Ronald Kuecker	Nicolas Lemmer	Taite Fischer	21 John Danner	27 Wayne Danner
John Kwasniewski	Bryanna Nordsving	16 Suzie Gydesen	John Koeppen	Sharon Kaniess
4 Stephen Wolfrath	Jimmy Taack	17 John Bejblik	Hilary Mayne	Dennis Klocow
5 John Bejblik	12 Courtney Bluhm	Diane Krosting	22 Rick Hansen	29 Nikki Grunwald
Mia Lawrence	Rollie Dohrn	Matt Otterstatter	22 Ryan Johnson	Scott Haynes
John Wenker	Nick Krueger	18 Hanna Myrlie	Justin Paul	Lucille Tako
6 Jennifer Koeppen	Chet Lander	19 Mathew Boehlke	Keri Solseth	Armin Vanselow
Heather Schroeder	Erin Taack	Cameron Dietrich	23 Wayne Kurth	
7 Jackson Letendre	Madelyn Wallace	Kelli Green	Emanuel Lange	
8 Susan Bejblik	Makenna Wallace	Jeanni Kutz	Matthew Voigt	

REPORTS

September 2018 Treasurers Synopsis – Fiscal Year July 2018 – June 2019

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$439,993.75	\$412,160.82	\$27,832.93
Expenses	\$475,336.65	\$427,298.87	\$48,037.78
Net Operating	-\$35,342.90	-15,138.05	-\$20,204.85
Envelope Offerings	\$275,145.54	\$293,470.08	-\$18,324.54
	Actual	Borrowed	Balance
Special Funds	\$113,027.55	\$111,000.00	\$2,027.55

A detailed monthly treasurers' report is on the bulletin boards at church.

Marriages

- Thaddeus HarriSon and Tiffany Moy – 9/22/18 with Pastor Pudlo
- Jeff Weilage and Cassie Burbank – 10/20/18 with Pastor Pudlo
- Ryan Youngs and Emily Petermann – 10/25/18 with Pastor Huebner

Baptisms

- Henry James Fenske son of Andrew and Alicia at hospital on 5/30/18 with Pastor Kom (Affirmation 9/30/18 with Pastor Burgess)
- Levi Franklin Smith son of Jonathan and Carla – 10/7/18 with Pastor Pudlo
- Corbin Braddock Qualy son of David and Erika – 10/14/18 with Pastor Pudlo
- Eleanor Joanne Mayne daughter of Steven and Hilary at hospital – 8/23/18 (Affirmation 10/14/18 with Pastor Burgess)
- Micah Sonny William Burgess son of Pastor Burgess and Rachel – 10/21/18 with Pastor Burgess
- Wesley Philip Kock son of Drew and Jill at hospital – 10/9/18 with Pastor David Huebner

Welcome to Crown of Life! - Aaron Johnson

TRUNK OR TREAT

Let's just say WOW!!!

This years trunks and volunteers took COL Trunk or Treat to a whole new level. Thank you for making this years Halloween party a great success!

photos – www.facebook.com/crownoflifechurchmn

