



January 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

## Holiday Worship Schedule

### **January 1**

Happy New Year

### **January 7**

School Resumes

### **January 11**

Mattins and Muffins and Panara

### **January 19-20**

Charger Basketball Tournament

### **January 20 - 12:30 pm**

Jesus Cares - WSP

### **January 21**

Martin Luther King Day - NO SCHOOL

### **January 25**

Spelling Bee

### **January 26-27**

Basketball Tournament - West Lutheran



## Complete the Vision Update

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

It has been quite some time since we updated the congregation on the second part of our big campaign from a few years ago. We certainly accomplished the “Clear the Path” in record time! We praise God that we are debt-free as a congregation. But there was the second part of that campaign – Complete the Vision – that highlighted things that we wanted to accomplish as we eliminated the debt. So let’s get you “up to speed” about where things are at with those goals.

### **Goal #1 – Become a regional school.**

This committee completed their work and made a presentation to the church Council. They highlighted the need for Christian education for our out-lying churches and how it would be worth the effort to reach out to congregations around us to partner with them in education by using our school.

To date, we now have “contracts” with at least five congregations who send their children to our school and we are always looking to “expand our reach” to partner with other congregations. The schools we partner with are Christ the Lord Lutheran in Cottage Grove, Salem Lutheran in Woodbury, St. Andrews Lutheran in St. Paul Park, St. John’s Lutheran in Hastings, and St. John Lutheran in St. Paul.

Our Full-Time Education Committee is putting together a formal plan to keep these “contract” churches better informed about our ministry and what is available to them. We want to become even stronger partners in Christian education.

*continued*

## Goal #2 – Revamp our youth ministry

Pastor Burgess is currently consulting with folks who have had much success in revamping Sunday School in congregations our size and working up a plan for ours. Pastor Jon Enter has begun revamping our teen ministry, with an eye on connecting our youth with service opportunities for the future. There are also teen events scheduled, with renewed recruiting going on to build growth in the Word and fellowship with each other. We pray for the success of these programs. (And so much is accomplished when parents “talk it up” at home! Encourage your young people to be active in bible study with their friends at church and to be leaders for their peers in getting involved in God’s ministry at COL!)

## Goal #3 – Hispanic Ministry

This was a difficult one that has yet to develop or get organized. Part of the challenge was that it made our list in the first place because of the high numbers of our Hispanic neighbors coming to our Trunk or Treat events. However, it will need far more research to determine if those families already have a church home in the community and really wouldn’t be a viable group to pursue with significant manpower and resources. Other goals have taken a priority in the meantime.

## Goal #4 – Develop a Marketing Campaign

Some progress has been made in our marketing efforts as well. Did you know that we have developed both church and school marketing videos and put them on our web site? We have also dedicated funds to be used for marketing on Facebook and plans are currently “in the works” for developing a dedicated school web site.

Also, our Ministry Team has been researching and studying ways of further marketing our school. (We have been meeting for at least a year or more) Some ideas have been put in place already. Others are still being explored and discussed.

More can be done, of course. And we will continue to work within our Ministry Team and, perhaps, a more formal program for the congregation as a whole.

## Goal #5 - Developing a Daycare and Goal #6 – Revamp the Eagan Campus

Once the debt was paid off through the “Clear the Path” part of the campaign, these two goals suddenly came into focus more quickly. However, you might recall that we (from the start) wanted to stagger the research and implementation of all of our “Complete the Vision” goals so that we weren’t trying to do everything at once and end up putting a strain on available manpower and resources to get these things done. We had planned on tackling two goals per year, and these last two goals (which we thought would end up costing the most, while needing the most manpower and resources) were slated for year three.

When we considered the many tasks that needed to be done to accomplish these last two goals, we decided that we needed more leaders who were able and willing to take on responsibilities and challenges to get the jobs done. We knew that, once we even identified all of the tasks and research that had to be done in developing a day care program (licensed with the state), as well as revamping an entire campus, the work would intensify and multiply.

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## Crown of Life Spotlight

BY ABIGAIL KOM

This year I had the privilege of being in the Children’s theatre production of The Fantastic Mr. Fox. It was a blast! I got to be head of makeup and I was child fox #2 (Marie). There are always so many laughs when putting together a show, but one of my favorites was between the Saturday performances. We all went into a classroom and watched the movie our play was based on and everyone was laughing and having a great time. I want to make sure to thank all of the grade schools (especially my grade school, Crown of Life) for coming out and supporting us. I also want to thank St. Croix for the awesome support they give me not only in the play, but also for academics and helping me succeed.



# ASK THE PASTOR

## After I've been forgiven, how long does that forgiveness last?

Let me rephrase this question slightly to "When am I forgiven?" What makes the Christian message so wonderful is that you are already and always forgiven. Jesus made payment for the sins of the world (John 3:16). That includes sins past, present, and future. It includes all people past, present and future. So why are some people in hell? It isn't because their sins weren't forgiven. Jesus even paid for their sins. It is because they rejected the gift of forgiveness.

Let me illustrate. When your 5 year old child steals some treats without asking permission and you find out. Do you immediately go up to them and say, "You're forgiven! I love you"? Probably not because that would reinforce in your child's mind that it's ok to steal treats without asking permission. So also when we sin, God

doesn't automatically come to us and say, "It's ok. You're forgiven." Even though he paid for that sin, he doesn't want to reinforce that sin is no big deal. That's why we hear the message of how important it is to repent on a regular basis. When your child says they are sorry for stealing and won't do it again, that's when you say they are forgiven. When there is true repentance that's when God says we are forgiven because that's when we, in faith, receive the gift of forgiveness.

The gift of forgiveness was there all along. It just takes repentance for that forgiveness to become ours. So back to the question...when am I forgiven. Your sins have already been completely forgiven. God's love and forgiveness will never run out. But the gift of that forgiveness becomes your when you repent and receive it by faith.

## Sharing the Joy of Christmas with others!



Thank you to the 40 men, women, & children who used their voices to praise and proclaim the message of our coming Savior! With such a great sized group, Crown of Life members showing up to sing Christmas carols at assisted living centers split into two groups and caroled at Southview Sr. Living & Lilydale Sr Living. Afterwards, the groups returned to the church and enjoyed fellowship over Christmas cookies & cider.



## What Is Mine Is Yours

### Scripture Reading:

*“Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’” (Luke 10 37)*

Scripture is filled with wonderful and moving stories about sharing. Possibly the most quoted story is the Parable of the Good Samaritan. God used a despised Samaritan to encourage us to share our time, talents, and treasures with those in need. The Samaritan showed us what it means to have compassion on someone and to give sacrificially as he tended to the man beaten by the robbers. Not only did the Samaritan provide immediate aid, he brought the injured person to an inn where he could be cared for further. The Samaritan used his own funds for the man’s care. The Samaritan demonstrated the attitude, “What is mine is yours.” Our challenge as Christians is to show our compassion as willingly and generously as the Good Samaritan. God wants us to be His channels of His love and care to those in need.

In contrast to the Samaritan, the priest and Levite, who passed by the victim before the Samaritan came along, showed no compassion for the beaten person. They had the attitude, “What is mine is mine.” They didn’t want to give any time, care, or comfort to the victim.

God has blessed us with many talents, gifts, and resources. Because God has blessed us, He will give us opportunities to use what He has given us for His purposes. Through faith, we receive God’s wisdom to acknowledge that He is the provider of all things so we become more willing to share our blessings with others. When God shows you a need, are you ready to respond?

### Discussion Thoughts:

1. Why was it so significant that the person sharing his gifts was a Samaritan?
2. In what ways have you demonstrated the attitude “What is mine is yours” at home, at work, and at church?
3. What are some other examples in Scripture where people have shared so freely?

### Prayer:

Dear good and gracious Heavenly Father, You show Your love for us in so many different ways. Forgive us when we fail to thank You for all that You do for us. We thank You for Your constant presence in our lives. We pray that You will grant us loving hearts that will be willing to respond to those in need. Help us to love our neighbors. In Your precious name we pray. Amen

# SCHOOL NEWS

## Who is Jesus and what does He do for us?

During the school year and especially during the Christmas season the preschool and kindergarten classes have been focusing on Jesus, who He is and what He has done for us. Bringing Jesus to life and remembering He walks hand in hand with us wherever we go. Each child created a picture of how they see Jesus and shared about His love for us. Here’s what they had to say.

- He helps us.
- He is God.
- I pray to him.
- He helps us fight and helps us draw.
- Jesus is a boy with long hair who died on the cross so that we can go to heaven.
- Jesus saves us. He protects us.
- Jesus is in heaven. He helps us. He is by us all the time.
- Jesus keeps everyone safe.
- Jesus takes care of us.
- Jesus saved the world.
- Jesus loves me.
- Jesus loves us. I hear about him at school and church.
- Jesus is my hero.
- Jesus is my Savior.
- Kind
- My shepherd
- Powerful
- My friend



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Jessica Biggar** - Cameron, Maxwell and Maverick



**Casey & Kirsten (Kowitz) George** met in 2015 at church while Kirsten was in St Lucia teaching. Casey grew up in St. Lucia. They recently moved to Minnesota. Casey is attending Dakota County Technical College and studying network administration. Kirsten is working in the preschool classroom at Cornerstone Early Learning Center in Hugo. Both like being close to family, however are missing the warm Caribbean sun.

## REPORTS

# November 2018 Treasurers Report

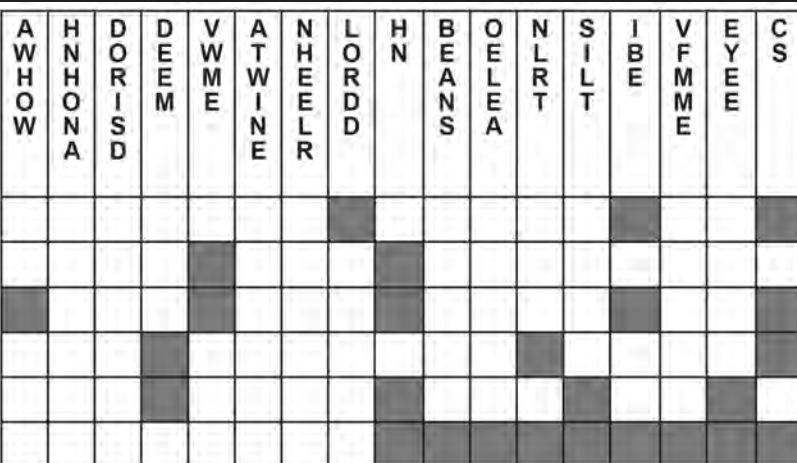
Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

|                    | Actual       | Budget       | Difference   |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| FYTD Total Income  | \$761,347.55 | \$656,330.52 | \$105,017.03 |
| Expenses           | \$732,257.01 | \$662,125.84 | \$70,131.17  |
| Net Operating      | \$29,090.54  | -5,795.32    | \$34,885.86  |
| Envelope Offerings | \$379,742.69 | \$360,815.70 | \$18,926.99  |
| Special Funds      | \$158,737.12 | \$96,473.24  | \$62,263.88  |

*A detailed treasurers' report is on the church bulletin board.*

**Deaths** – Florence Espy died December 2, 2018, funeral at COL with Pastor Kom on December 5, 2018.

JUST FOR FUN



**Quote Fall Dec Answer** - How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God.

# Jesus Cares Ministry

The first COL Jesus Cares gathering was a success. We had 5 participants in a Christmas devotion with snacks, treats, and a gift.

A number of families have told us evenings do not work for their schedule, so starting in January we are switching our Jesus Cares to the third Sunday of the month. **The next gathering will be Sunday, January 20, 12:30-1:30 pm.**

If you know people with special needs of any age who may benefit from this ministry, please invite them.



So here is what we did. We decided to do two things simultaneously to get us where we needed to be as a congregation. We first created a Facility Audit Task force. (F.A.T. as they have begun to affectionately call themselves) They have been gathering information on what needs to be done, not just with the Eagan campus, but what would need to be done with both campuses for necessary improvements. That would be a significant first step with Goal #5 and parts of #6)

The other thing we have done is to begin (we are just rolling out opportunities, etc. now) a leadership training initiative. (Small Groups Ministry, Better use of Time/Talent Database with new software, and Spiritual Growth Home Visits are on the horizon!)

For the next 18 months we are going to strive to develop as many leaders (both young and old) as possible so that we are ready to tackle these goals that the Lord places in front of us.

So I would ask two things of all of you moving forward. Continue to pray for the success of our congregation in meeting these goals, and thanking Him for the blessings and success he has granted already. And secondly, I would ask that you get involved and participate in the leadership initiative we have started. Lead by example by getting involved and taking advantage of opportunities offered, and also encourage others to do the same! We are in this together, and with the Lord's blessing we can and will accomplish so much for His ministry of the Gospel!

## January Birthdays

|                     |                     |                     |                          |                  |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1 Miles Graves      | 5 Maliah Williams   | 12 Nicholas Berg    | 17 Isabelle Kapanke      | 24 Scott Mulinix |
| 2 Dale Herold       | 7 John Johnson      | 13 Ivy Lawrence     | Trinity Lorenz           | Kaylee Rall      |
| Quinn Hood          | Marlys Kohnke       | Timothy Moe         | 18 Serenity Belmares     | 25 Glen Frieze   |
| 3 Jacob Bejblik     | Pamala Otterstatter | 14 Stephanie Lewis  | Carrie Kruse             | 26 Nora Schletty |
| Hailey Jensen       | Elizabeth Stokke    | Arthur Schroeder    | 19 Peter Boehlke         | 27 Abigail Kruse |
| 4 Charles Wiplinger | 8 Matthew Lorenz    | 15 Dakota Krosting  | Joseph Werz              | Jamison Ohm      |
| 5 Beverly Abel      | 10 Paul Monson      | Angela Mulinix      | 20 Maxwell Kutz          | 29 Scott Portz   |
| Bethany Brigham     | Sarah Roberts       | 16 Emily Davids     | 21 Bonnie Kurth          | 30 Adam Brigham  |
| Jordan Johnson      | Dave Swanson        | Ruby Kutz           | Abigail Petermann        | Kevin Kowitz     |
| Charlotte Kock      | 11 Kay Beebe        | 17 Vanessa Belmares | 22 Nora Vitzthum-Brigham | 31 Jan Mullins   |
| Skyla Ohm           | Heidi Voigt         | Jamie Berg          | 23 Scott Pottorff        | Vincent Rahn     |

## January Calendar

### Tuesday, January 1, 2019

New Year's Day  
9 am NO - Men's Coffee - WSP

### Wednesday, January 2, 2019

5 pm NO Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm NO - Bible Class EGN  
7 pm NO - Sr. Choir Practice  
8 pm Praise Band Reh

### Thursday, January 3, 2019

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living

### Saturday, January 5, 2019

5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, January 6, 2019

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, January 7, 2019

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

### Tuesday, January 8, 2019

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

### Wednesday, January 9, 2019

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN  
7 pm NO - Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 10, 2019

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living  
6:30 pm Elders  
Adult Craft Club

### Friday, January 11, 2019

8am Matins/Muffins and Panera  
5:30 pm Basketball AWAY Game @ Holy Trinity (Games played at King of Grace's Gym)

### Saturday, January 12, 2019

5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, January 13, 2019

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, January 14, 2019

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

### Tuesday, January 15, 2019

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

### Wednesday, January 16, 2019

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN  
7 pm NO - Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 17, 2019

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

### Friday, January 18, 2019

No Bus Service  
5:30 pm Basketball AWAY Game @ Mount Olive, Delano

### Saturday, January 19, 2019

Charger Classic Tournament  
5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, January 20, 2019

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  
12:30 pm Jesus Cares-WSP

### Monday, January 21, 2019

ML King Day - No School  
Teacher Inservice  
6:30 pm Worship WSP

### Tuesday, January 22, 2019

No Bus Service  
9 am Men's Coffee - WSP  
5:30 pm PreK & Kind. Open House  
6 pm Elders-Work Session-EGN

### Wednesday, January 23, 2019

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN  
7 pm NO - Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 24, 2019

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living

### Friday, January 25, 2019

9 am Spelling Bee  
5:30 pm Basketball AWAY Games @ Salem, Greenfield

### Saturday, January 26, 2019

B Team Tournament @ West Lutheran  
5 pm Worship EGN

### Sunday, January 27, 2019

B Team Tournament @ West Lutheran  
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, January 28, 2019

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

### Tuesday, January 29, 2019

9 am Men's Coffee - WSP

### Wednesday, January 30, 2019

5 pm Confirmation Class - WSP  
6:30 pm Bible Class EGN  
7 pm NO - Sr. Choir Practice

### Thursday, January 31, 2019

2:30 pm Southview Sr. Living

# Getting to know you - The Enter Family

A little over a year ago, Jon & Debbi Enter along with their four daughters (Violet-11, Lydia-9, Eden-7 and Maggie-4) traveled from their home in Wellington, Florida, to Minnesota to visit Jon's parents and for an event at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School.

When they got off the plane, their whole family shrieked from the cold and said again, something they'd remarked many times before, "We are never moving back to the cold!" God had other plans. After serving as a pastor for 14 years in South Florida "preaching to the tan people", Jon is now serving Jesus at Saint Croix Lutheran Academy as the religion instructor for seniors, mission trips coordinator and encouraging youth into active service.

The Lord truly blessed their ministry in West Palm Beach transforming it from a retiree church with about 70 people in worship and only one youth from 5th-12th grade to a church with three worship services, a second full time pastor and nearly 100 youth 12th grade and younger. Debbi was greatly involved in the ministry as well directing the Kids' Christmas Pageant, singing in the church praise band and helping Jon lead the church's growing youth ministry.

One of the aspects they miss the most about life in Florida was having the youth of their congregation over to their home. So, they've revitalized the Teen Ministry at Crown of Life with monthly teen gatherings at their home in South Saint Paul for Juniors and Seniors in high school. They're also organizing quarterly outings for all high school aged youth. Their first Junior/Senior teen gathering was a Christmas party along with The Cutthroat Christmas Gift Exchange which was a great success and very strongly attended. The feedback from the event and excitement from the teens are ramping up to make the next January gathering another joyful blast!

On Saturday, January 12, from 5:30-8 pm Junior and Senior guys are headed over to the Enter home for a "No Girls Allowed" Boys Club Party with a spread of meat to eat for dinner (brats, bacon, sausage, etc), game room fun and a roundtable bible discussion.



On Sunday, January 13, from 5:30-8 pm Junior and Senior girls are then invited to the Enter home for a "No Boys Allowed" Girls Club Party with a Cheese Fondue dinner (sausages, mini potatoes, broccoli florets, etc.) game room fun and a roundtable bible discussion.

On Sunday, February 10, from 6:45-9 pm, all high school youth can attend our first Crown of Life Quarterly Youth Outing! We are headed to Rockin' Jump Indoor Trampoline Park in Eagan. The place closes at 7 pm...but not for us. We have the entire place rented **Just For Our Group** from 7-9 pm!

It has been quite an adjustment moving from palm trees, sunshine and sandy beaches to sand poured on the roadways, intermittent sunshine and evergreen trees but the move has been an incredible blessing for the Enter family. Despite the cold weather adjustment, the Lord has quickly blessed their transition. Pastor Jon is connecting well with the seniors in class and encouraging the entire student body with chapels at Saint Croix. Their daughters have transitioned well from the public school system in Florida that is not highly ranked, quickly made friends at Crown of Life school and are flourishing. Debbi has transitioned back into full time stay-at-home mom status with their recently four-year-old Maggie so her mom heart is overflowing. And they've plugged into ministry here at Crown of Life very quickly.

If you haven't met the Enter family yet, look for a pew full of blondies and one tall dark haired guy. They are easy to find and, almost every Sunday, are one of the last ones to leave church no matter which campus they're at. They love Jesus and people. And, I'm sure, they're eager to meet and laugh with you!



**Saturday, Jan 12 - Junior and Senior guys**  
Pastor Enter's house 5:30-8 pm

**Sunday, January 13 - Junior and Senior girls**  
Pastor Enter's house 5:30-8 pm

**Sunday, February 10 - Freshman through Seniors**  
**Rock 'n' Jump Trampoline Park** Eagan 6:45 - 9 pm