



ADVICE

the word

April 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

April 5

PreK /Kindergarten Circus - 6 pm

April 6

Man Cave Meeting (gr 11-12) Voigt's

April 7

Girl Talk Time (gr 11-12) Voigt's
Monthly Gathering - (gr 9-10) Kelm's

April 13

Egg Hunt - Eagan - 10 am

April 14

Examination of Confirmands - 9 am

April 18

Maundy Thursday Worship
6:30 pm - WSP, 7 pm - EAGAN

April 19 - NO SCHOOL

Good Friday Worship
Noon, 6:30 pm - WSP, 7 pm - EAGAN

April 20

Egg Hunt - WSP - 10 am

April 21

Easter Worship
6, 8 & 10:30 am - WSP, 9 am - EAGAN
Jesus Cares - WSP - 12:30 pm

April 22 - NO SCHOOL

April 28

Kingdom Kids - Eagan - 10:20 am
Confirmation - 10:30 am WSP



“Heroic” Advice to Confirmands – Then and Now

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

It's that time of year again. Confirmation Sunday is this month and a newly minted group of young people will be confirmed in the faith, welcomed at the communion rail.....and sent off to high school and beyond to face the struggles, pitfalls and temptations that come with living as a Christian in a sinful world. The statistics of survival are not kind. Better than 50% of these young people are predicted to fall away from church and the Christian faith by the time they are done with their schooling – if the statistics hold true.

What every confirmand could use (both the current ones, as well as those from years gone by) is some practical advice moving forward.

So today we are going to ask some “heroes” of faith to help us out – people who faced struggles, dangers, temptations, attacks, intimidation, persecution and even loneliness in their faith life on the pages of Scripture. And God brought them through it. So consider some “heroic” advice to Confirmands. Here is what they would have to say:

“Read Your Bible Every Day” (The Bereans – Acts 17:11)

Did you ever think to question your Pastors – the very people who have been teaching you God's Word in the first place? The Bereans questioned St. Paul and “fact checked” him to be sure he was telling them the truth. And God calls them very noble people for doing it!

continued

But here’s the thing: they would never have been able to fact check anyone if they had not been reading their Bibles regularly. It would be practically unheard of to fact check the Apostle Paul against the whole Old Testament just based on what the Bereans might have recalled in their childhood instruction days. They read God’s Word. They studied God’s Word. They did it often. It made them ready and prepared for the spiritual challenges that came along and confronted them.

Of course, it was also what the Holy Spirit used to strengthen their faith.

Read your Bible every day, Confirmands! It’s how the Lord will strengthen your faith and make you ready for all of the spiritual challenges that are sure to come!

“Hold Each Other Accountable” (James – James 5:19-20)

James would be the first one to tell you that Cain had it all wrong in his mind when he famously said, “am I my brother’s keeper?” The fact is that we are our brother’s keeper. God wants us to encourage each other on the way to heaven, but he also wants us to *call somebody back* when they begin to stray from the faith.

Confirmands are in a unique position. They are friends who have been going to school together for a while as they are confirmed in the faith. They are also entering a critical time for their faith together as they enter high school. So follow James’ advice. Hold each other accountable. If you see a fellow confirmand beginning to stray (haven’t seen them in worship for a while), then contact them! Let them know they’ve been missed! Encourage them to come back, no matter what the

circumstances might be. Refuse to do nothing as you might see your fellow confirmand slipping away from the Lord.

“Go to church! Go to church! Go to church!” (David – Psalm 122:1)

David loved going to worship in God’s house. It was, it seems, one of his very favorite things to do. Did you ever wonder why? Perhaps it was because he could hear God’s Word read and explained to him a little more. Perhaps it was a way to connect with his fellow Israelites as they worshipped the Lord together. Maybe it was a way to stand up and be counted as a follower of the One, True God for the world to see. Or maybe it was a combination of all those things.

David would advise us that there is really more than one reason to go to church. The most obvious reason is to hear the Word of God. But some Confirmands argue that you can get that very same thing “in your closet at home” – so coming to a public house of worship isn’t that big of a deal.

David was so happy to come to God’s house because it was more than just what he could get for himself. What was also important was what he could give – both to the Lord and his fellow worshippers.

The same is true for all of us Confirmands! Worship is about hearing God’s Word read and explained. It’s about encouraging your fellow worshippers. It’s about inspiring each other to serve the Lord in traditional ways and new ways. It’s a way to connect with each other as God’s people, worshipping our Lord together as the body of Christ.

Worshipping regularly in God’s house is so good for our faith!

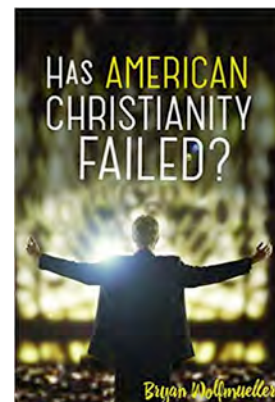
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Has American Christianity Failed?

BY BRYAN WOLFMUELLER | CHRISTIAN | ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

How do I know if I am saved? That’s a question with which everyone must wrestle. Unfortunately, so many prominent Christian leaders don’t point you to any real comfort. “You can know you are saved by how you feel, by the good things you do, by your dedication and your decisions.” That’s not a comforting message because it puts your hope in yourself. Bryan Wolfmueller gives an engaging overview of how those messages are being preached throughout much of Christianity in America.

While none of those things can give you hope, he also points us to the real hope we have... the fact of a Savior who lived, died and rose for YOU! That FACT is our only hope. *Has American Christianity Failed* is a book recommended to me by a member and I’m glad I read it. It was a quick and easy read and reminded me of the truth I need to hear over and over again...Jesus is my only hope.



A New Evangelism Approach

BY MATTHEW OTTERSTATTER (CROWN OF LIFE EVANGELISM CHAIRMAN)

When you talk about evangelism, a lot of people think of community outreach events aimed at recruiting new members to the church. While it's certainly within our mission as Christians to spread the word to those conveniently located near our home base, Jesus reminds us in Matthew 9, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick."

Minnesota has more Lutherans than any state in the nation. In the Eagan area of our congregation, we are in a particularly crowded market, with a Lutheran church on seemingly every corner. Therefore, it makes sense for an established congregation like ours to consider evangelism opportunities outside our immediate vicinity, even if that doesn't directly support recruiting efforts. We'd like to develop some new outreach projects with the simple purpose of "go and tell", serving those in need by meeting them where they are.

When you shift your mentality from recruiting to service, the opportunities appear more abundant, both in our communities and abroad. Where do you begin? How do you even pick one worthy cause over another? It starts with the members leading the efforts and the causes that resonate most with them. We've



all walked different paths in life, and most of us have developed a particular soft spot for something, be it homelessness, prison ministry, drug rehabilitation, unborn babies, hungry children, or something else entirely.

As a congregation, we've chosen a strategy of leadership development. We are actively trying to find ways to get more people involved in the church and its mission. The pastors and others have been gearing up for a new set of small group Bible studies, which will need a lot of new leaders. Similarly, an evangelism focus on unique service projects will create a lot of opportunity for people to lead them.

There is plenty of sin and suffering in the world. Jesus calls us all directly to address it, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." What particular problem in the world breaks your heart? Come do something about it. We have

an open invitation to everyone at Crown of Life to brainstorm new evangelism projects on **April 8th at 8pm** in the West St. Paul building. Joining the brainstorm session doesn't lock you into further obligations. We just want to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please join us!

"Heroic" Advice to Confirmands... continued

"Pray! Pray! Pray!" (Paul – Colossians 4:2)

Pastor Harlyn Kuschel said in the *People's Bible* he authored: "If love is the firstfruit of faith, prayer is its heartbeat. Countless times throughout the Scriptures the Lord urges believers to come to him in prayer. He wants us to bring before him all our wants and needs of body and soul, as well as those of our fellow believers. He wants us to pray even for our enemies. He wants us to pray to confess our sins and to praise and thank him for his goodness, and he promises to hear and answer every believing prayer.

Paul advises us to be devoted to prayer! He said to be watchful and thankful as we pray – watchful for our needs and anything thing that might harm our faith, and thankful for God's blessings to us.

God helps us so much as he answers our prayers! So pray, pray, pray!

"Remember that heaven is always the goal."

(Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham – Hebrews 11:13-16)

All of those "heroes" of faith faced obstacles and challenges in their lives of faith, but what kept them going was God's promise of the life to come. They weren't going to sacrifice anything here in this life that would jeopardize their eternal life in heaven.

Confirmands, live your lives the same way. You are redeemed children of God who have heaven waiting for you. That's what God promised us through our Savior. Make decisions and face challenges like the Bible heroes did – with heaven on your mind.

May God bless our Confirmands, past and present, as we take some "heroic" advice to heart!

WE'VE WON!

Scripture Reading: *“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed . . . the dead will be raised imperishable, and the mortal with immortality . . . The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

We've all been stung by death. Children die. People in peak physical condition die. Sickness or age or accident creeps up on us, and we all die. Sounds morbid, doesn't it? But death is a final and painful reality. When death comes to one we love, no matter the age of the person, we are stung. For some the sting remains, even though it may be eased by passing time. When death comes to a Christian, however, the sting of death is momentary. We who mourn do not mourn without hope, for we know that death is not the end.

The disciples who watched their Savior hang on the cross were stung by His death. They mourned without hope, for they didn't know His death was not permanent. That hopelessness turned to great joy, though, when Christ appeared to them alive! Because He rose from the dead, we, too, shall rise. Death could not triumph over Christ and it cannot triumph over us. Through Christ, we've won! Death is defeated. Eternal life begins at our Baptism and carries us into Heaven.

What a profound mystery this is! Our only response is to cry, *“Thanks be to God!”* The sting of death is removed because, in Christ, we've won!

Discussion Thoughts:

1. Read the entire passage in 1 Corinthians 15:5-58.
2. According to verse 50, what must we have in order to live in Heaven with Christ?
3. According to verse 58, what two things are we to do as we wait for Heaven?
4. What is the promise contained in that verse?

Prayer:

Dear Lord, You have taken away the sting of death through Your death and resurrection. You have given us new victorious lives to live in You each day. Keep us steadfast in faith until the end and use us to spread the Good News of victory in Jesus. In His name we pray. Amen.

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

Jesus Cares

COL's Jesus Cares Ministry for people with special needs has had four sessions since the inaugural event in December. The March event saw a record nine special needs guests and a total of 49 people for the devotion service. We meet the third Sunday of each month from 12:30-1:30. There are crafts, snacks, usually a puppet show, and a 25-30 minute interactive devotion.

For the sake of consistency, we WILL meet on Easter, Sunday, April 21. Invite anyone you know that may benefit from this ministry.



SCHOOL NEWS

6th Grade News

This has been a year full of changes for the 6th graders. Instead of only 1 teacher, they had to get used to having 4 teachers. They had to learn several locker combinations in order to change books and supplies in between classes. I'm happy to say that they've been doing amazing! Not a single one has gotten lost going from one class to the next.

We've added a couple of extra projects onto our 6th grade year as well. During our poetry unit in literature, the students wrote and illustrated their own poems. The Fireside Room at church made for a wonderful environment where the 6th graders recited poetry by a crackling fire. Members of our class have visited WELS Camp Bird, Camp Croix, and Camp Phillip, so we share songs and praise God with our voices. We had fun doing service projects when we constructed shakers for the COL Jesus Cares ministry. The 6th graders started learning to draw in 3-D perspective with Mr. Mark Kistler. We even got to draw with him live when he came and did a school assembly at COL.



Vacation Bible School

Send your kids on a roaring adventure!

June 24-27, 9 am-Noon
(Monday-Thursday)

At Roar, kids will discover that even though life gets wild, God is good. Roar is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids will see, hear, touch, even taste! This high-energy, action packed adventure is for students entering Kindergarten - grade 6. Registration will open soon.

VBS Squad Leaders and Volunteers

We will need help in the following areas: Kindergarten leader(s), imagination station (crafts), games, snacks, and a session called "Kid Vid." The program is very well laid out, so all we need are some enthusiastic people to plug in and direct the various stations.

Please contact the church office if you would like to volunteer.



Gym Class

Crown of life 5th and 6th graders took gym class to the bowling alley. Students learned the fundamentals of bowling and scoring.



Prek & Kindergarten
Circus

Friday, April 5th – 6-8 pm

7th Grade Yarn Painting in the style of the Huichol people of Mexico



April Birthdays

1 Ava Caauwe Alexander Tillman	6 Dawn Doyle Kollette Kinsley Nancy Kuehl	11 Adrian Garcia Kim Ahlman Samuel Footh	19 Linda Haberkorn Beverly Knippenberg	25 Kari Marzinske Wendy Miller
2 Laura Gibson Janet Kogler Megan Kom Eric Lemmer Ryker Loomis Wayne Lorenz	7 John Gahr 8 Betty Becker Paige Belfield Linda Bethke	12 Joseph Jensen Judith Myrlie	20 Sophia Nichols Amanda Tess	26 Abigail Koester Brendan Koester
3 Barbara Berthiaume Jordan Carlson John Fenske Delores Frisch Paige Hastings Gina Myrlie	9 Rachel Boehm Grace Kinsley Anthyanna Lopez Daniel Redner	13 Deven Friese Scott Hunter Jennifer Traynor	21 Elijah Grahl Chase Klocow Jeremy Miller Jude Rich	27 Margaret Cadwallader Carole Constable Brent Hoeft
4 Elijah Sievert	10 Noah Aumann Jeanne Steffen	14 Sandra Enger Paige Seidl	22 Doris Jensen Britany Staab	28 Michael Dohrn Donald McLean
5 CJ Fischer		14 Micah Sievert 16 Julie Fischbach Claire Peterson	23 Elizabeth Isebrand Dale Krueger	29 Sharon Johnson Elizabeth McNamara Orlin Myrlie
		17 Michelle Kom Kenyon Tess	23 Eric Montgomery	30 Richard Burt Megan Huebner Bethany Ohm
		18 Kathy Herold	24 Ellie-Rose Cenicerros Lauren Myrlie Steve Petermann	



Egg Hunts

Eagan Hunt Day - April 13 ~ WSP Hunt Day - April 20

April Calendar

Monday, April 1

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

Tuesday, April 2

10 am Men's Coffee - WSP

Wednesday, April 3

4 pm Worship WSP
5:15 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Worship EGN
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice
8 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, April 4

2:30 pm Southview Service

Friday, April 5

Good Samaritan
6 pm PreK / Kind. Circus

Saturday, April 6

5 pm Worship EGN
5:30 pm Man Cave Meeting
(gr.11-12) - Voigts

Sunday, April 7

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
3 pm New Member Class
5:30 pm Girl Talk Time
(gr.11-12) - Voigts
5:30 pm Monthly Gathering
(gr.9-10) - Kelm's

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

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

Wednesday, April 10

4 pm Worship WSP
5:15 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm NO Bible Class EGN
Worship WSP
7 pm Worship EGN
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, April 11

2:30 pm Southview Service
4 pm Track Meet
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club
6:30 pm PTN Meeting - WSP
7 pm Elders - EGN

Friday, April 12

8 am Matins/Muffins & Panera

Saturday, April 13

10 am Egg Hunt-EGN
12 pm Bowling Meet
5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, April 14

8 am Worship WSP
9 am Worship EGN
9 am Examination
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
3 pm New Member Class

Monday, April 15

Tax Day
6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, April 16

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

Wednesday, April 17

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

Thursday, April 18

Riverview Cemetery-moved to 4/25
2:30 pm Southview Service
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Worship EGN

Friday, April 19

No School - Good Friday
12 pm Worship WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7 pm Worship EGN

Saturday, April 20

10 am Egg Hunt-WSP
5 pm NO - Worship EGN

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday
6 am Worship WSP
8 am Worship WSP
9 am Worship EGN
9:15 am NO - Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am NO - Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
12:30 pm Jesus Cares-WSP

Monday, April 22

Easter Monday No School
2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm NO - Worship WSP
7 pm Youth & Adult Education

Tuesday, April 23

10 am Men's Coffee - WSP

Wednesday, April 24

4 pm PreK Parent/Teacher
Conferences
5 pm NO Confirmation Class
7 pm Sr. Choir Practice

Thursday, April 25

8 pm PreK Parent/Teacher
Conferences
2:30 pm Southview Service
4 pm Track Meet
7 pm Riverview Cemetery

Saturday, April 27

12 pm Bowling Meet
5 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, April 28

8 am Worship WSP
9 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:15 am Education Hour-EGN
10:20 am Kingdom Kids - EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
10:30 am Confirmation

Monday, April 29

6:30 pm Worship WSP

Tuesday, April 30

10 am Men's Coffee - WSP

Have You Heard about LIFE Groups?

It's been mentioned in a sermon or two over the past few months. You've maybe heard about it too... LIFE Groups getting together on a weekly basis to "do life together". What are LIFE Groups? LIFE Groups are small groups of 8-12 people gathering together once/week to discuss some applications from the weekend sermon, pray, and enjoy fellowship with one another. Why haven't you heard much about this yet? The pastors and other leaders are working through a pilot program this Spring so that when the Fall comes around we are ready to start this exciting new ministry!

Benefits of LIFE Groups

for YOU

- Spiritual growth
- A chance to meet and get to know more of the Crown of Life family
- Chances to encourage and be encouraged (Carrying one another's burdens)
- Rejuvenated prayer life
- Make and grow friendships

for Crown of Life

- Increased worship attendance/attention
- Increased buy-in to COL Mission/Vision
- Increased weekend worship connections/fellowship
- Natural new member assimilation
- Vehicle/venue and encouragement for evangelism
- Increased/improved devotional time in homes
- Possible increase in service projects and community presence if some LIFE groups take on service projects as a group

If you feel left out of the loop when it comes to LIFE Groups, rest easy. This ministry hasn't kicked off yet. But be on the lookout for the Fall kickoff of an amazing new ministry at Crown of Life. This fall, let's keep the Crown of Life family growing as we "do life together".

REPORTS

February 2019 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/18 – 5/19

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$1,188,631.25	\$1,109,375.81	\$79,255.44
Expenses	\$1,158,731.64	\$112,7630.32	\$51,215.70
Net Operating	\$29,945.15	-18,254.51	\$48,199.66

FYTD income includes \$58,597.93 of a special bequest.

Envelope Offerings	\$788,931.93	\$792,867.17	(\$3,935.24)
Special Funds	\$172,085.97	\$96,473.24	\$75,612.73

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

DEATHS

- Pearl Wegwerth died on February 14, 2019.
- Donald Unruh died on February 22, 2019, memorial service at COL with Pastor Pudlo on March 2, 2019.

JUST FOR FUN

S C B M N E J E S U S C H R I S T
 K A A P O D V G V A R E J O I C E
 J R V M S P R A Y E R W C B V F S
 Y N O I X I F I C U R C T R M L E
 L A P C O I E B Q O X B B N O O L
 I R E S U R R E C T I O N R E S T
 T R E P P U S T S A L Y E M B L S
 S H L U P V Y T K V F D M T E K O
 O C A R N E P A X R E S I H M R P
 C R M E P E N L D M A N A O I E A
 E U B I K G A A P I J R R R R V V
 T H X C H Y N T N H R S M N A O X
 N C N C A M I E O C T F Y S C S J
 E K E R K O S E W N E I D A L S U
 P U T O N I R N W R P Y A O E A D
 L E Z W R W M D R Q I T Y F O P A
 B S M N D I S C I P L E S C X G S

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| APOSTLES | DISCIPLES | LENT | REJOICE |
| BETRAYAL | FAITH | MARY | RESURRECTION |
| CAVE | GOOD FRIDAY | MIRACLE | RISEN |
| CHURCH | JESUS CHRIST | PASSOVER | SAVIOR |
| CROSS | JUDAS | PENTECOST | SON |
| CROWN | LAMB | PRAYER | THORNS |
| CRUCIFIXION | LAST SUPPER | REDEMPTION | TOMB |

TEEN MINISTRY JUST for TEENS

UPCOMING EVENTS

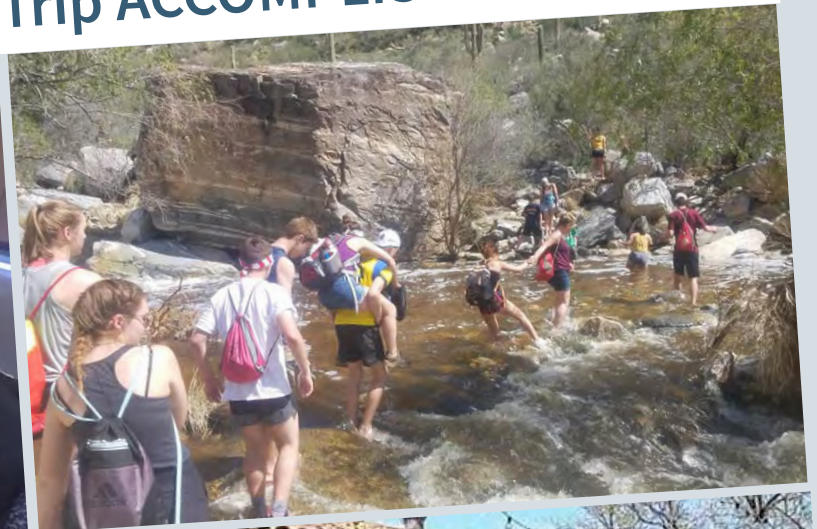
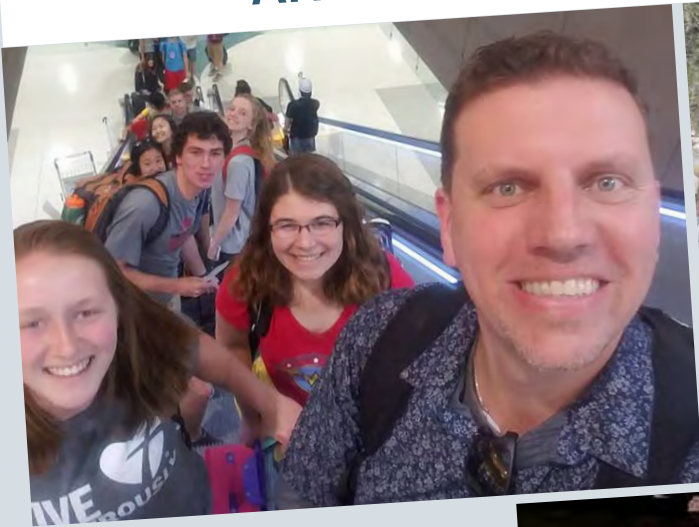
April 6 – Guys Man Cave Convo - NO GIRLS ALLOWED
5:30-8 pm (grades 11-12) at Voigt's - 10969 Alameda Ave IGH

April 7 – No boys allowed Girl Time Talk
5:30-8 pm (grades 11-12) at Voigt's - 10969 Alameda Ave IGH

April 7 – Monthly gathering
5:30-8 pm (grades 9-10) at Kelm's 1092 Seminole Ave WSP

May – The Amazing Race Teen Challenge
Valley Fair – All Day (grades 9-12)

Arizona Mission Trip ACCOMPLISHED!



Over **3,000** doors knocked on
and fliers distributed

450 surveys filled out for the church

125 children now interested
in their new childcare

27 students officially preregistered

74 students interested in the new aftercare

22 happily exhausted mission
trip participants

GOD SO BLESSED OUR TRIP!!!

Did you know???

The Arizona mission trip was just **1 of 5** St. Croix Academy mission trips for teens to take part in this spring.

5 Crown of Life teens took this awesome opportunity and an additional **3** COL teens will be heading to China this summer.