



the word

December 2019 | Monthly News from Crown of Life Church

Holiday Worship Schedule

*No Monday Evening Services
Nov. 25 – Dec. 30*

Advent – Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11

4 pm & 6:30 pm | WSP
Light supper between services

Advent – Wednesday, Dec. 18

PreK–K Christmas Service | 4 pm WSP
Light supper between services

Advent Christmas Concert | 6:30 pm WSP

Sunday, December 22

9 am Eagan
Children's Christmas Service (Gr. 1-8)
8 am & 10:30 am WSP

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight
5:30 pm WSP | 7:30 pm Eagan

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day
9 am WSP

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve
6:30 pm WSP



Crown of Life Church

115 Crusader Ave, West St Paul, MN 55118

A Ray of “Son-Shine”

BY PASTOR MARK KOM

It all started about ten years ago or more. Lois Gydesen was having a nice, casual conversation with the church secretary one Sunday. The secretary mentioned something that she had been doing for some of the homebound members of the congregation. Lois learned that our church had begun sending out cards and notes of encouragement to everyone on the homebound list. And that got Lois thinking.

“I just thought that this was something that I could do. I knew how busy Gwen (church secretary at the time) was and this was a way that I could help.”

But it wasn't just because she wanted to give a busy secretary a break that she started helping with the cards and notes. She understood the struggles, needs and challenges that seniors face, especially as they are confined to a home, senior living center or nursing home. One of the biggest struggles is loneliness. The Devil works long and hard to make our homebound feel unwanted, forgotten and bitter. Some of these folks have given decades of active service to the Lord and His church. They raised their families to follow Jesus and sent children to our school. They made countless meals for pot-lucks and served on boards and committees. They were happy and joyful to serve in all those ways, to be sure. But now all of that seems to be out of reach. Everybody seems so busy – while they are not. They are all of a sudden “on an island” because of their living situation and their independence being crippled. Their church seems so far away and they just don't feel like they know too many people there anymore. And, of course, medical issues and memory issues get in the way as well. The Devil works hard to make our brothers and sisters in our faith feel...forgotten.

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Lois was determined to do something about it. She took over for the secretary and made a few "adjustments." She enlisted some help, for starters. She was quick to point out that she could not do all of these things alone. Marion Franzmeier and Carla Koeppen help out as well. Lois manages the "ever changing list" of homebound and then divides up the duties with the other helpers.

In an effort to make sure that nobody was missed, she simply asked for a list of members who had a birthday any time before 1950 and started from there. She also expanded the list of recipients to those that she and her team hadn't seen in church for a while. She determined that they needed some encouragement, too. The folks on her list always receive a card and note of encouragement on Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving and on their birthday. Lois remarked, "I always sign my name so they know just who in the congregation is thinking of them – and I also put a little heart next to my name so they know they are loved. These are things that I can do so that these seniors know that they are remembered and that someone from church really cares about them."

So...does this program work? Or is Lois just "spinning her wheels" by trying to cater to a crowd she might never meet or even hear from? I know the answer to the question. I'm the Pastor who visits these folks every month to share the love of Jesus with them and to give them communion. When I visit, I oftentimes see the cards that were sent. They are proudly displayed on the dresser or someplace close by. And it isn't just for show. They read those cards over and over again. They will ask me to read

them to them again when they come. They will ask me to thank the person for sending the card to them. And it's always with a look of gratitude on their faces.



What has always impressed me through the years is the connection that people naturally make in their minds between the card that they receive from their church – and the love they have from their Savior. To our homebound, their church is their big connection to Jesus and His love. Receiving a card from someone at church is just like receiving a card from their Savior.

That's why the work of Lois and her team is so important. They are a ray of "Son-Shine" to folks who love to hear from their church and their Savior, especially when they are feeling down and alone.

Every once in a great while someone on her list will thank her for the cards and encouragement. And while it's nice to get a "thank you" for your work every once in a while, that's not why Lois (or anyone else on her team) chooses to serve God's people this way. They are guided and motivated by something else: God's Word. Galatians 6:2 says, bear one another's burdens, and in this way fulfill the law of Christ. ... (Galatians 6:10) So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who belong to the household of faith.

Lois and her team love Jesus. They want to serve Him by serving others. They want others to know our Savior's love as well, especially in some of the more difficult and challenging days of life.

So Lois, Marion and Carla...thank you for your service to our Lord and our seniors!

Need A Ride To Church?

Did you know rides are available for every Sunday (10:30 service) and Special Services including 6:30pm Advent & Lenten services?

On the Ride Date

1. Call the church 2 hours prior, **651-451-3832**
 - Use **Prompt #1** to get to "the church"
 - Then use **Prompt #3** to get to "the Sacristy" for a ride to church
2. Once in the "Sacristy phone" leave a message with your information (name, address, special requirements). An elder or driver will contact you to confirm.
3. The driver will pick you up and return you directly home after the service.

MISCONCEPTIONS

“Is Timothy sexist?”

I recently had a member ask me this after reading through 1 Timothy 2:11-15.

“A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.”

Admittedly, these were words we had to spend an entire class unpacking during my seminary days. What do these words mean? Is Timothy sexist? What is a woman’s role according to God?

1 TIMOTHY 2:11-15

Is Timothy sexist?

“A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.”

What do you mean by full submission?

I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For

Teach? Authority? she must be silent?

Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. But women will be

This sounds like Timothy is blaming all of sin on the woman and Adam wasn’t even there.

saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love and holiness with propriety.”

So women are saved if they suffer through childbirth? What happens to the women who can’t have children?

Let’s start by clearing up who is talking in the passage. Timothy 2:11-15 is an excerpt from a letter from Paul to Pastor Timothy. We know this because Paul introduces himself in the beginning of 1 Timothy. So our question now is, “Is Paul sexist?”

What do these words mean?

Paul is writing about a principle God himself created when it comes to the roles of men and women. In Genesis God created man and woman and he gave each gender specific roles. God created Adam, and he created him to be a **loving leader**. But God was not done, so he said it was not good for man to be alone and he created Eve and said, “I will make a helper suitable for him.” God created Eve to be a **loving helper**. When Paul says, “Adam was formed first,” he is referring to God’s order of creation. Paul is stating that God intentionally created Adam first, because he created Adam to be the **loving leader**. And he created Eve second, because he created Eve to be the **loving helper**.

And what about saying that Adam wasn’t the one deceived? True, it was Eve. But Paul isn’t letting Adam off the hook here. In fact, in Romans 5 Paul doesn’t even mention Eve when he talks about how sin entered the world. Adam alone is to blame. His point is that the roles became reversed. Adam became the helper, and he let Eve be the leader. Both sinned by not living according to the roles for which God created them.

And this phrase, “But women will be saved through childbearing...”? This doesn’t mean that through childbearing a woman may gain salvation for herself. So, what does this mean? This is one of the the most difficult verses to grasp in all of Paul’s letters. The curse of their sin was different for men and women (Gen. 3:16-19). For man it was painful toil in work. And for the woman it was pain in childbearing. Every time a woman suffers great pain in childbearing is to be a reminder of the sin we live in. So the natural question that follows is this: “If I still suffer the consequences of sin (pain in childbearing) does that mean I am not saved?” To that Paul says, “women will be saved”. Even though men and women still live with the consequences of sin, we are still saved by the grace of Jesus’ payment for sins.

Is Paul sexist?

Paul, inspired by God, is applying the roles of man and woman, loving leader and loving helper, to church practices. And so he expounds on what this means when he says, “I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man.” How that principle is applied today in 2019 America looks a lot different than it did in AD 65 Europe. But what does remain is the principle. One other thing to note is that Paul doesn’t say that women aren’t

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allowed to teach at all. He simply states that their teaching should not be a teaching that oversteps the roles established by God. The second half of the sentence helps us understand the first. We might say it as the GWN translation does, “I do not permit a woman to teach in such a way as to have authority over a man” Paul is not being sexist. He is showing love for God, God’s word, and God’s design for men and women.

What then is a woman’s role?

I have heard from more than a few people on their lack of comfort with this teaching. When asked why that is, the response has overwhelmingly come back to “Women can do just as much as men in leadership.” True enough. But the woman’s role as helper has nothing to do with capability. And the word “helper” need not be taken in any way as an indication of inferiority. In His Word,

*The roles are
more about the
relationship
than they are
about the
process.*

Case Study 1 – *A married couple doesn’t understand the roles of man and woman established by God. So when a big decision comes up in the house the man thinks that as the “head of the household” he will make the decision and that’s that. The wife resents him because he didn’t talk to her or even ask her thoughts. She isn’t as upset about the decision as she is about the way he dismissed her and didn’t even hear her out. He led her, but he didn’t do so lovingly.*

Case Study 2 – *A married couple do their best when it comes to understanding and following the roles of men and women. A big decision comes up in the house. Knowing he is to be the “loving leader” the husband listens to his wife. He hears her out and they have a thorough discussion. The husband is the leader and he ultimately made a decision which wasn’t what his wife preferred, which doesn’t happen very often, but he did so because he thought it was the best decision for the family. The wife may not be happy with the decision, but her husband did listen to her, her perspective, and understood her point of view. He made the decision he thought was best for the family and still made his wife feel heard and important. Compared to the woman in case study 1, the wife in this case study felt much better about her relationship with her husband, even if he did make a decision she would not have made.*

What’s the point of these case studies? The point is to show how following the roles of men and women aren’t so much about decision making as it is about the relationship and about communication. Yes, God has created a decision making process with these designed roles, but the process was designed to bless the relationship instead of tear it apart...designed to help with communication in marriage, not break the communication. The roles are more about the relationship than they are about the process.

Conclusion

As soon as you talk about the roles of men and women in the context of capability, you have taken the roles and the Biblical teaching out of context. These roles were designed in the context of *relationships*, not capability.

God calls himself our helper time and again. Psalm 46:1 says, “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present *help* in trouble.” If we think that the term “helper” denotes a lesser ability, then we are greatly mistaken. Oftentimes it actually denotes the opposite. God has far more ability than we do. Teachers often have far more ability than their students and yet they help them every day. The roles God has established has nothing to do with ability.

Then what’s its benefit? Why make these different and distinct roles? Let’s consider just one of the benefits and blessings of these roles. I’ve been married 5 months. I’ve learned how important communication is. My wife might argue, “I’m **beginning** to learn how important communication is.” The more I study and learn about these roles God has created, the more I realize how they are a tremendous blessing for communication. What do I mean? Let’s consider two case studies.

So what unites these roles? Even before God created Eve he placed Adam in the Garden of Eden and put him to work on taking care of God’s creation. God created Adam to serve. These roles, leader and helper, are not created in a vacuum. They were created for a specific purpose...to serve God. If you feel bogged down by the roles, remember you are not called just to lead or just to help. You are called to **lead in serving**, and to **help in serving**. If ever you feel there is no place for you in your role when it comes to your relationship to your spouse or to God, remember that your role always goes back to serving. There is always room to lead in serving God. And there is always room to help in serving God.

There will be opportunity in the near future to study these truths in greater detail at Crown of Life.

SCHOOL NEWS

7th grade class at Eagle Bluff, with Justin Ohm, our 5th grade teacher and chaperone.

7th grade is having a great year!

We have had fun creating some projects for earth science such as straw towers and earthquake proof buildings.

We are studying ancient history this year. Students created their own unique cuneiform language on clay tablets and had to decode each other's messages. We have studied Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. We will cover Greece and Rome before Christmas.

It has been difficult to find time in the schedule for puppet practice, but there are two shows in development.

Some students have helped out with the monthly Jesus Cares ministry at COL for special needs friends.

The highlight of the fall was, again, the 3 day trip to Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN. Our 7-8th graders had classes on Pioneer Life and Wildlife Ecology. They went on a long Root River hike with activities and nature talks. The high ropes course this year had an added twist with this year's course located on the edge of the river bluff making it seem even higher than last year. There was also a night hike and bonfire, as well as nature programs on raptors and a star lab program.



Art abounds

4th grade paper bowls & rocks
5th grade masks



The Gospel Comes with a House Key

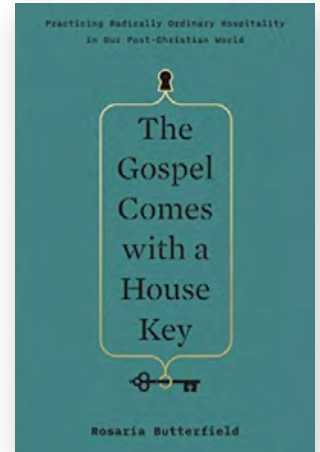
REVIEWED BY PASTOR MIKE & ZACHARY PUDLO



I recently shot out an email to a friend about some books he might be reading. He shot back an email from another pastor with a long list of books and some quick thoughts on each one. Here were Pastor Mike Novotny's thoughts on *The Gospel Comes with a House Key*.

*"Man, I am not sure I have ever met/read about anyone who is more radically loving and more intense about good doctrine than Rosaria. Her sacrificial love for her neighbors, of all identities, citizenship statuses, moral backgrounds, etc. is so wonderful, I find her habits hard to put into practice, since my lifestyle is so far from her own. And her devotion to biblical teaching, the psalms, church discipline, etc. breaks the mold for every other example of such liberal love for others. If that didn't make this book good enough to read, the stories of conversion from her mother and her meth-cooking neighbor broke me down, showing the power of loving our non-Christian neighbors as much as we love ourselves. **One of the best and most challenging books I have read in a long, long time.**"*

After reading this book for myself, I would echo what Pastor Mike wrote, **"One of the best and most challenging books I have read in a long, long time."**



Gift Drive

Last Christmas Crown of Life participated in a Christmas gift drive in support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI Minnesota will again be gathering gifts for youth and adults who are in hospitals or residential treatment, including crisis homes, during the holiday season. There aren't many young children hospitalized so gifts for teens and adults are what is needed.



The most popular gifts are: sketchbooks and journals (no spiral notebooks), colored pens and pencils, card games, word find books, easy crossword books; warm clothing: hats, gloves, socks, extra large warm tops or turtlenecks, socks, long underwear, and toiletries: shampoo, lotions, African American hair products, toothpaste and soap.

Gifts must be new, unwrapped and safe — nothing sharp or breakable, no wire notebooks, no ribbons or strings. Please put your donations in the collection boxes at either COL campus by December 18th.

Sat. Dec. 14 the Thrivent Action Team will be shopping for gifts as a team. Interested in helping NAMI deliver gifts to hospitals or helping to deliver gifts to NAMI on the 19th please call or text Eunice at 651-402-4186.

REPORTS

October 2019 Treasurers Report

Fiscal Year 6/19 – 5/20

	Actual	Budget	Difference
FYTD Total Income	\$597,669.50	\$600,182.28	\$-2,512.78
Expenses	\$593,643.74	\$580,400.48	\$13,243.26
Net Operating	\$4,025.76	\$19,781.80	\$-15,756.04

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

	Actual	Borrowed	Balance
Envelope Offerings	\$359,724.48	\$393,981.96	\$-34,257.48
Special Funds	\$136,270.99	\$20,000.00	\$119,946.84

BAPTISMS

- Cameron Joseph Buysse, son of Nate and MaryJo on 11/3/19 with Pastor Pudlo.
- Emmie Lynne Huebner, daughter of Jonathan and Megan on 11/3/19 with Pastor Huebner.
- Malina Grace Klocow, daughter of Chase and Elizabeth on 11/24/19 with Pastor Burgess.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

- Nick and Kristine Moucha, children Kyla and Aubrey
- Josh and Jennifer Rolfes, children Avery and Andrew

NIGHT TO SHINE 2020 FEBRUARY 7

Are you looking for a life-changing experience?
Consider volunteering for *Night To Shine 2020*.
They have a large variety of tasks to choose
from and are in need of adult volunteers.

Sign up at **crownoflifemn.org**

December Birthdays

1 Quentin Roberts	8 Nick Koester	14 Annie Gydesen	20 Sophia Rubio	26 David Tess
2 Steven Berg	9 Annalise Patton	Mason Rowe	21 Christian Kneisl	27 Makayla Dennis
Laurie Doyle	Cynthia Pieper	15 Lauren Kelm	22 Daniel Oberstadt	Carol Lemke
Lila Steber	10 Brett Gurgel	Briston McCall	Michael Spott	Sydney Seganek
Becky Stein	Jacob Marzinske	Cadence McCall	23 Sean Lemmer	Dave Taack
Avery Rolfes	Charlyn Petermann	16 Rachel Burgess	Sheila Pottorff	29 Lyle Danner
3 Ryan Szczerbiak	11 Madylin Mielke	Grant Johnson	24 Allen Lorenz	Sara Keppers
Venita Warnke	Maren Steffen	Merry Kreitz	Mya Paul	Zachariah Schultz
4 Mase Matkin	12 Connor Aumann	Lori Oberstadt	Carol Thompson	30 David Doyle
Bernice Schaffer	Steve Peterson	Sarah Waldhauser	25 Sara Ceniceros	Kirk Rall
6 Jonathan Smith	Philip Steber	17 Nicholas Burkhart	James Haberkorn	Kristopher Swanson
7 Kane Cadwallader	Robyn Swiderski	Donna Winecke	Charlene Ohmann	31 Micah Boehm
Katya Gurgel	13 Harry Cannon	18 Josiah Roberts	Chad Otterstatter	Micah Koeppen
Tyler Kirchhamer	Landon Osland	Isaiah Steber	26 Joseph Myhre	Aurora Lange
Violet Kutz	14 Melissa Dietrich	19 Amanda Wise	Deb Schultz	Renee Paul

December Calendar

Sunday, December 1

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:20 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, December 2

6:30 pm No - Worship WSP
7:00 pm Mary/Martha - WSP

Tuesday, December 3

9:00 am Men's Coffee Group WSP
1:30 pm Blood Drive-WSP

Wednesday, December 4

4:00 pm Worship WSP
Light supper between services
5:00 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice - WSP
8:00 pm Praise Band Reh

Thursday, December 5

2:30 pm Southview Service
6:30 pm PTN Meeting

Friday, December 6

Crusader for a Day

Saturday, December 7

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 8

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:20 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
Choristers Sing WSP

December 8 continued

Sunday, December 8

6:30 pm Piano Concert
This Is Christmas
by Zach Unke

Monday, December 9

6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 am Men's Coffee Group WSP
5:00 pm Chick-fil-A Night
6:30 pm Properties
Education
7:00 pm Evangelism-WSP
Fellowship Committee
Stewardship
Worship Committee
Youth & Adult Education

Wednesday, December 11

4:00 pm Worship WSP
Gr. 3-4 Sing 4:00
Light supper between services
5:00 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice - WSP

Thursday, December 12

2:30 pm Southview Service
6:30 pm Adult Craft Club
7:00 pm Elders - EGN

Friday, December 13

7:45 am Matins/Muffins & Panera

Saturday, December 14

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 15

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am Education Hour-WSP
10:20 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP
12:30 pm Jesus Cares-WSP
3:00 pm Christmas Concert
Rehearsal

Monday, December 16

6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 17

9:00 am Men's Coffee Group WSP
7:00 pm Council-EGN
8:00 pm Personnel Committee

Wednesday, December 18

4:00 pm Worship WSP
PreK - K Christmas Service
Light supper between services
5:00 pm Confirmation Class - WSP
6:30 pm Worship WSP
Advent Christmas Concert
7:30 pm Sr. Choir Practice - WSP

Thursday, December 19

2:30 pm Southview Service
7:00 pm Riverview Cemetery

Friday, December 20

Christmas Break Begins
Teacher Inservice

Saturday, December 21

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 22

8:00 am Worship WSP - Children's
Christmas Service
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am NO - Education Hour-WSP
10:20 am Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP - Children's
Christmas Service

Monday, December 23

2:30 pm Lilydale Sr. Living Service
6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve
5:30 pm Worship WSP-Candlelight
7:30 pm Worship EGN-Candlelight

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day
9:00 am Worship WSP

Thursday, December 26

2:30 pm Southview Service

Saturday, December 28

5:00 pm Worship EGN

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am Worship WSP
9:00 am Worship EGN
9:15 am NO - Education Hour-WSP
10:20 am NO - Education Hour-EGN
10:30 am Worship WSP

Monday, December 30

6:30 pm No - Worship WSP

Tuesday, December 31

New Year's Eve
6:30 pm Worship WSP

FREE PIANO CONCERT

THIS IS Christmas

ZACH UNKE
CAROLS AND SONGS AROUND THE PIANO

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 8 • 6:30 PM

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
115 Crusader Ave W
West St Paul, MN 55118



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Thursday, Dec. 19
6-8 pm

Join us for a fun night of caroling and sharing the joy of Christmas with others. Don't worry, you don't need to be in a choir or even much of a singer. We will be visiting several Sr. Living Homes where some of our members reside. You will be amazed how many smiles you bring to the faces of the residents.

Meet at 6 pm | WSP

Organize and travel to a facility, then return for refreshments wrapping up by 8 pm

To get an idea of number of carolers, please sign up on the sheet in the church entry or call the church office.

JUST FOR FUN

The 10 Plagues meet 5th Grade

Can you name all the plagues? Stop by the 5th grade Hall to see if you got them all.



BRAIN TEASERS



PRO / MISE

CYCLE
CYCLE
CYCLE

R | E | A | D | I | N | G

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTHS PUZZLES

QUOTEFALL - Grace be to you and peace from God our Father (2 Cor. 1:2) KJV
BRAIN TEASERS - 1. Jack in the box, 2. 6 feet under ground, 3. Standing ovation