



Where You Meet Your Savior and Find a Friend

NEWS & NOTES

Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.
Monday Worship - 7:00 p.m.

www.portagelutheranchurch.org
crossofchristportage@hotmail.com



Church: (608) 742-5609
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AUGUST 2021

ISSUE

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My Daily Walk With God

1	2 Thessalonians; Philemon
2	Colossians
3	Revelation 1 - 5
4	Revelation 6 - 11
5	Revelation 12 - 16
6	Revelation 17 - 20
7	Revelation 21 - 22
8	Psalms 47, 62, 94, 108, 109
9	Job 1 - 5
10	Job 6 - 8
11	Job 9 - 11
12	Job 12 - 14
13	Job 15 - 18
14	Job 19 - 21
15	Job 22 - 26
16	Job 27 - 30:15
17	Job 30:16 - 32
18	Job 33 - 36:16
19	Job 36:17 - 39:12
20	Job 39:13 - 42
21	1 Chronicles 1; Psalm 73
22	1 Chronicles 2; Psalm 104
23	1 Chronicles 3, 4; Psalm 19
24	1 Chronicles 5 - 6:48; Psalm 8, 134
25	1 Chronicles 6:49 - 7; Psalm 15, 52
26	1 Chronicles 8; Psalm 76, 77, 124
27	1 Chronicles 9; Psalm 82, 86, 97
28	1 Chronicles 10 - 12:22
29	1 Chronicles 12:23 - 16:6
30	1 Chronicles 16:7 - 18
31	1 Chronicles 19 - 22:5; Psalm 55

Pastor's Article

"We Can Be Certain Jesus Is Our Savior" Did Jesus really die?

People who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior come up with many different ideas to prove Jesus really did not exist or he did not do the things the Bible claims he did. One of these ideas is called the swoon theory. The swoon theory is a belief Jesus never died on the cross. This theory is found in the Qur'an, which was written in the 7th century. In the 19th century men such as Karl Bahrdt, Karl Venturini, and others said Jesus only fainted on the cross. In 1929 D.H. Lawrence wrote a short story in which he says Jesus fled to Egypt where he fell in love with the priestess Isis. In 1982 *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* mentions Pontius Pilate was bribed to allow Jesus to be taken down from the cross before he died. In 1992 Barbara Thiering also suggests Jesus did not die on the cross in her book *Jesus and the Riddle of the Dead Sea Scrolls*.

As believers in Jesus, we know his death and resurrection is the key to our forgiveness and salvation in heaven. This is why we must be certain Jesus died on the cross. This is where this monthly article entitled, "Questions About Christianity" comes in. In this article, we answer questions people have about Christianity. Our current topic is entitled, "We Can Be Certain Jesus Is Our Savior." In this month's article, we will answer this question, "Did Jesus really die?"

The Biblical books Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all clearly state Jesus endured excruciating pain and agony during his trial and crucifixion, and he did die on the cross. This is supported by Dr. Alexander Metherell and other medical experts who compared the Biblical accounts of Jesus' suffering and death with archeological findings and modern medicine. They state Jesus bled drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane because his upcoming suffering and death caused him such severe anxiety it caused a small amount of blood to enter his sweat glands. This also caused his skin to become extra sensitive and fragile. This medical condition is known as hematidrosis. While still suffering from hematidrosis, Jesus was whipped by the Roman soldiers. They most likely whipped him from his shoulders to his legs using a whip made of braided leather thongs with metal balls and pieces of sharp bone woven into them. The whipping caused severe bruising and tore pieces of flesh from Jesus' body. The loss of blood and pain from the whipping caused Jesus to go into hypovolemic shock. This is evident by the fact Jesus was too weak to carry his cross beam. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, the Roman soldiers most likely dislocated both of his shoulders. This is supported by Psalm 22:14, which says Jesus' bones would be out of joint. Most likely they did not nail Jesus' hands to the cross because his hands would have torn, and he would have fallen off the cross. Instead, they nailed his wrists and feet to the cross. In doing so, they crushed Jesus' nerves which caused him excruciating pain. As Jesus was on the cross it became increasingly difficult for him to breathe causing him to suffer from asphyxiation. As it became more difficult for Jesus to breathe, he suffered from respiratory acidosis, which is an irregular heartbeat. All of this along with the hypovolemic shock led to a collection of fluid around the heart, which is called pericardial effusion, as well as a collection of fluid around the lungs, which is called pleural effusion. This is supported by John 19:34 which says when the Roman soldiers pierced Jesus' side it brought out a sudden flow of blood and water. Metherell and other medical experts claim it was impossible for Jesus to have survived all these medical conditions. In addition to this, the Roman soldiers would have been absolutely certain Jesus was dead when he was taken down from the cross. Otherwise, they would have been killed themselves for letting a criminal escape. Even if Jesus did somehow survive his crucifixion, he would have been too weak to walk several miles to the town of Emmaus. He also would never have inspired his disciples to proclaim he was the Savior who defeated sin and death, if he never died and rose himself.

Looking at the Biblical, archeological, and medical evidence it is clear Jesus did die on a cross on Good Friday. But why did he endure all this pain and suffering and die? It is because of his love for us. Even though Jesus knew he would endure intense pain and suffering and die, he willingly endured it all out of love for us so we are forgiven of all our sins and so everyone who believes in him as their Savior will go to heaven where they will never suffer or die ever again.

Social Distancing Changes

At their June meeting, the Church Council decided there is no longer a limit on how many people can attend Sunday or Monday worship services. People can sit wherever they feel comfortable and they are no longer required to wear masks. However, people are encouraged to socially distance in a safe manner, since there may still be some who feel uncomfortable with these changes. Tentatively, the plan is to return to all pre-pandemic activities by September 2021.

Concert At The Portage

Everyone is invited to attend as a group from Cross of Christ a concert at the VFW Concert series, which is located behind Walgreens. The concert is on August 4 featuring Universal Sound (Rock, Country, Beatles, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, and other types of music). The concert goes from 6:30 –8:30 p.m. Bring your own seating. Food is available to purchase. Hope to see you there!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be held on August 9 - 13 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. The closing Vacation Bible School worship service will be held on August 13 at 7:00 p.m. The theme for Vacation Bible School is "Rainforest Explorers".

You can register your children online at www.portagelutheranchurch.org or by phone at 608-742-5609. If you are interested in volunteering to provide or serve food, to help with registration, crafts, or music, please speak with Joshua Veglahn.



Campfire

On Saturday, August 28 at 4:30 p.m. we will have a campfire on the lower parking lot at church. The Fellowship Committee will provide brats, hotdogs, popcorn and drinks. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chairs, and games you would like to play.

Everyone is invited to attend. Invite your friends and family too. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the back of church.



Mission Fest

Mission Fest will be on Sunday, August 22. There will be a special worship service starting at 9:00 a.m. The guest speaker is Missionary Abram Degner from Paraguay. Anyone interested in giving money to the Paraguay mission should place it in their offering envelope and label it "Paraguay Mission". At 10:15 a.m. Missionary Degner will give a presentation on the Paraguay mission and a meal will be served at 11:15 a.m.



Welcome Home Sunday

There's something about home. Home is where you relax after a long day of work. Home is where you can let your hair down, because you know the people there will love you, even with your quirks and flaws. Home is where you feel most safe, in a world which is anything but.



Jesus intended for his church to be more than a school where we learn about God's Word. He intended it to be more than a cathedral where we praise our Creator. Jesus intended for church to be a home, a place where we gather with Christian family and enjoy all the blessings of home.

On Sunday, September 12, we are celebrating Welcome Home Sunday. We will talk about the importance of having the support of a Christian community. This will also be the first day Cross of Christ is scheduled to return to all its' pre-pandemic practices and activities. After the worship service there will be a potluck meal for everyone to eat. It is the first day of Sunday School as well.

One major goal for this Sunday is we want to have 100% of our members and former members in attendance. Let's pack the house! Let's see what that looks like, when every member and former member comes together. Please do everything possible to set that date aside so you can join your brothers and sisters in Christ for our 9:00 a.m. Sunday worship service or our 7:00 p.m. Monday worship service.

College Student Information

It is getting to be that time of year again when some of our young people will be away at college in the fall. We do not want to lose touch with them while they are away. Please give Pastor Schultz or Sandra Beimborn their school contact information so Cross of Christ can stay in touch with them during school.

School Calendars

St. John's Lutheran School

505 E. LaFollette St. (608) 429-3636
 Pardeeville WI 53954
www.stjohnspardeeville.org



AUGUST EVENTS	
August 9	Registration
September 1	First Day of School



231 Woodland Beach Rd.
 Lake Mills WI
 (920) 648-2321 www.llhs.org

AUGUST EVENTS	
Aug. 3 - 5-8 pm	Registration
Aug. 18	Freshman Orientation
Aug. 19	First Day for all Students

Tuition Assistance Fund

In order to assist parents in sending their child(ren) to one of these schools or another WELS school, Cross of Christ has established a Tuition Assistance Fund. The goal of this fund is to give \$125.00 per child a month for 10 months each school year to the school their (child)ren are attending for their tuition. If you would like to receive assistance from this fund, talk to the Education Chairman. If you would like to contribute to this fund at any time, please mark on the front of your weekly offering envelope how much you want designated to go to this fund.



Jesus, Our Family Guest **100 Devotions for Families of All Ages**



Following the fictional Bailey family, navigate life's day-to-day challenges. *Jesus, Our Family Guest* demonstrates the importance of incorporating Jesus into every situation we face. With more than 100 engaging devotions that incorporate lighthearted humor with the serious presentation of law and gospel, *Jesus, Our Family Guest* is an ideal way to focus on God's Word in the classroom and beyond.

The author portrays real-life issues that adults can relate to, but, more important, her easy-to-follow writing style also keeps children's interest. Devotion leaders or parents are able to promote open discussions with kids and preteens. *Jesus, Our Family Guest* is a great way to bring God's Word to families, homes, and schools. Each three-page devotion begins with a short Scripture text and concludes with a brief prayer.

060737 \$19.99

You can place your order by visiting www.nph.net or call Northwestern Publishing House at 1-800-662-6022.

WELS Websites

www.wels.net

The website for the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

www.nph.net

Northwestern Publishing House's website that sells religious materials.

ForwardinChrist.net

The website for the WELS magazine Forward In Christ.

www.whataboutjesus.com

Learn more about Jesus, the Bible, how to deal with social concerns, etc.

www.christianliferesources.com

Stay up-to-date with important life issues and get answers to difficult ethical questions.

www.lwms.org

The website for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

www.goodsearch.com

A search engine (comparable to Google or Yahoo) that donates money to the Wisconsin Synod when it is used.

Church Council July Meeting Recap

At their July meeting, the Church Council reviewed the new church video and began going over the "Cross of Christ Revitalization Program".

Education Committee June Meeting Recap

Current Members: Chairman Matt Buchholz, Joshua Veglahn, Jill Schultz

At their June meeting, the Education Committee approved the Confirmation Committee proposals. They also began reviewing the Education Committee part of the "Cross of Christ Revitalization Program".

Evangelism Committee July Meeting Recap

Current Members: Chairman Joshua Veglahn, Don Graham, Sarah Hochmuth, Dave Kreklow

At their July meeting, the Evangelism Committee discussed the prospect list, promoting Vacation Bible School, and the church fair booth. They also spent a lot of time working on the updating the church website with a guest WELS member.

Fellowship Committee July Meeting Recap

Current Members: Chairman Joshua Veglahn, Sandy Beimborn, Vi Burmeister, Joan Klappstein, Judy Trebatoski, Johanna Veglahn.

- There will be no fellowship meals served until September.
- A meal will be served for Mission Fest.
- There are snacks being served after the Sunday worship services before September.
- Anyone interested in serving on the Fellowship Committee should speak to Joshua Veglahn.
- Anyone interested in being on one of four Fellowship Groups for serving meals should speak to Sandra Beimborn.
- There will be a campfire on August 28 at 3:30 pm. Every family attending should bring a dish to pass. The Fellowship Committee will provide meat, drinks, etc. Bring games to play and lawn chairs.

Stewardship Committee

Current Members: Chairman Scott Crosby, William Beiborn, Bonnie Dorniak, Dan Heckmann

Scrip orders are due on August 8.

Cross of Christ Ladies' Gathering Recap

Officers: Joan Klappstein, Sandra Beiborn, Jill Schultz, Judy Trebatoski, LWMS Reporter: Sandra Beiborn

There was no meeting held in June.

A painting party is under consideration for sometime during the summer.

Missions

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Virtual Convention was held at the end of June. At the Business Meeting, the following officers were elected:

President Elect: Jacky Stoll,
Treasurer: Becky Jungwirth,
Spiritual Growth/BAM coordinator: Carol Gibson,
Pastoral Advisor: Andrew Schroer.

The Home Mission Project selected was

Project #HM-2020-01: First Public Service Assistance

The World Mission Project was:

Project #WM-2020-13: Hmong Outreach in Vietnam Project.

Each mission will receive one half of the Mission funds turned in by circuits.

The Kids' Care 2021-2022 Project is Outreach to Roma.

New Members

Alex Pudlo, Lisa Neumann-Pudlo, and Chase Neumann were welcomed into membership by transfer from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Verona, WI. Please introduce yourself to them and make them feel like a part of the Cross of Christ family.

Shut-Ins

Elmer Glaeske	Lois Plath
Marian Kreitzman	Norman Stump
Margery McCluskey	Lisa Vahradian
Julie Moran	Audrey Zunker

Even though these members are unable to come to regular worship services, please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Cross of Christ Church Council Members

Dan Heckmann	President & Financial Secretary	(920) 992-5692
Matthew Buchholz	Secretary/ Education Comm. Chairman	(608) 354 - 8708
William Eckert	Treasurer	(608)742-2547
Chase Spillner	Elders' & Worship Comm. Chairman	(608) 408 - 7105
Joshua Veglahn	Evangelism / Outreach & Fellowship Comm. Chairman	(608) 697 - 6526
Tim Scharenbroch	Property Comm. Chairman	(608) 742 - 2421
Scott Crosby	Stewardship Chairman	(414) 791 - 2567

Questions or Concerns?

If anyone has questions, concerns, or comments about our church, please feel free to talk to someone on the Church Council because God has provided these men to assist you.

Thankful Giving Opportunities

In 1 Corinthians 16:2 God encourages believers to give their first fruits as offerings in church in proportion to their income. Believers do this to thank God for what he did for them and to support the gospel ministry.

Cross of Christ encourages all of its members to give their offerings for these reasons. It also offers other programs for its members to give to the church above and beyond their offerings, which do not support our church's budget.

SCRIP: We offer a SCRIP program where members can buy gift cards for many different stores. A percentage of the money our members pay is given to the church. SCRIP deadline is always the second Sunday of the month. Order forms are available at church in the mailbox labeled SCRIP. If you need help, talk to Jeannine Heckmann.

NPH Extra Rewards Program: One of the ways Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) can support the ministry of Cross of Christ is through the EXTRA Rewards Program. EXTRA allows NPH customers to contribute a portion of their purchases to a church or school of their choice. If you have not already, we encourage you to sign up for EXTRA. This program is **free!** For more information visit www.nph.net or call Northwestern Publishing House at 1-800-662-6022. Then, when ordering online, your EXTRA Rewards card number will be applied automatically. When purchasing by phone, simply give your customer service representative your EXTRA Rewards card number.

Newsletter

Cross of Christ's News & Notes monthly newsletter will be mailed by the Sunday before the first of the month. If you have an article, meeting recap, note, or flier for publication, please either email your newsletter item to crossofchristportage@hotmail.com or place it in Sandra Beimborn's mailbox by **August 15, 2021**.



If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please email Cross of Christ at crossofchristportage@hotmail.com or call the church office at (608)742-5609 and leave a message. Thank you!

**Cross of Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Portage, WI 53901**