

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
Pastor Scott Schultz: (608) 617-8409

DECEMBER 2020

ISSUE

Inside This Issue

Daily Walk with God	2
Pastor's Article	3
Stay Connected	4
Holiday Worship	4
Fellowship Activities	4
Children's Service	5
Church Decorating	5
Poinsettias	5
Camp Philip	5
Gift Bags for Shut-In Members	5
School Calendars	6
Tuition Assistance Fund	6
NPH Item	7
WELS Websites	7
Committee Reports	8-9
New Members	10
Shut-Ins	10
Church Council	10
Thankful Giving Opportunities	11
Newsletter Information	11



My Daily Walk With God

December

1	Psalm 18; Romans 15:30 - 16
2	Psalm 36; 1 Corinthians 1 - 3
3	1 Corinthians 4 - 7
4	1 Corinthians 8 - 10
5	1 Corinthians 11 - 13
6	1 Corinthians 14 - 15
7	1 Corinthians 16; 2 Corinthians 1 - 3
8	Psalm 98; 2 Corinthians 4 - 7
9	Psalm 123; 2 Corinthians 8 - 11:15
10	Psalm 139; 2 Corinthians 11:16 - 23
11	1 Timothy 1 - 5:16
12	1 Timothy 5:17 - 6; 2 Timothy 1 - 3
13	Psalm 23; 2 Timothy 4; James 1 - 2
14	Psalm 100, 147; James 3 - 5
15	Psalm 20; John 1 - 2:11
16	Psalm 92, 132; John 2:12 - 3
17	John 4 - 5
18	Psalm 111; John 6
19	Psalm 61, 64; John 7 - 8:11
20	John 8:12 - 9
21	John 10 - 11:46
22	Psalm 49; John 11:47 - 12
23	Psalm 26; John 13 - 14
24	John 15 - 17
25	Psalm 41; John 18 - 19:30
26	Psalm 34; John 19:31 - 21
27	Philippians
28	1 Peter 1 - 3
29	Psalm 70, 87, 101, 131
30	1 Peter 4 - 5; 1 John 1 - 2:17
31	Psalm 150; 1 John 2:18,5:21



"We Can Be Certain Jesus Is Our Savior"

How Does Archeological Evidence Make Us Certain Jesus Is Our Savior?

Archeologists are a lot different than the way they are portrayed in movies. Rarely, do they find vast treasures, and never do they unlock ancient spirits who try to destroy the world. Instead, archeologists spend long hours digging in the dirt to try to find pieces of pottery, coins, city walls, documents, and other items from years ago. Then they decipher what they discovered and publish their findings. At times, their findings support what is already known about passed civilizations. At times, their findings enhance what is already known about them, and at other times they change what is known about them. Archeology has also been very valuable in helping us understand the people, places, and times in the Bible. It has supported and enhanced many things recorded in the Bible. But has it ever changed what the Bible says, especially that Jesus is the Savior?

In this monthly article entitled, "Questions About Christianity", 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 learn how archeology helps us to be certain Jesus is our Savior by answering this question, "How does archeological evidence make us certain Jesus is our Savior?"

Archeologists have discovered many things, which are referred to in the Bible. They discovered the ruins of cities from the Old and New Testaments such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jericho, and others. From the Old Testament, they discovered the water tunnel King Hezekiah of Judah built in Jerusalem when the Assyrians invaded the land, which is referred to in 2 Kings 20:20. They discovered the Moabite stone, which has an inscription on it which supports the Moabite's revolt against Israel, which is referred to in 2 Kings 3. They discovered statutes of the gods which the Israelites and Canaanites worshipped, and many other items.

Archeologists have discovered many things recorded in the New Testament as well. They discovered the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, which is referred to in John 5:1-15 and the Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, which is referred to in John 9:7. They discovered the temple mount on which King Herod's temple was built in Jerusalem where Jesus and his disciples often visited. They discovered Jacob's Well which is referred to in John 4:12, the Stone Pavement where Jesus appeared before Pontius Pilate which is referred to in John 19:13, and many other items. They also discovered historical information about Pontius Pilate, King Herod, Caesar Augustus, Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene, and other rulers of the time.

Unfortunately, archeological discoveries do not usually prove the Bible's teachings are correct, such as the Trinity, and that Jesus is the Savior. However, archeological findings always support or enhance the people, places, and things referred to in the Bible. They have never proven them to be inaccurate. This is vastly different from the Book of Mormon, which has been proven by archeology to be inaccurate. Since archeological evidence proves the people, places, and things referred to in the Bible are accurate, it makes us certain Jesus really is our Savior who saved us from our sins. The reason is because archeological evidence proves what the Bible says is true.

Stay Connected

Finally, as we continue to live in these trying times, the Cross of Christ Church Council will continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic to see when things can get back to normal at church or if any further changes are needed. For this reason, stay connected to Cross of Christ on the church website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to get important updates about worship services and other news and events. Regardless when things get back to normal, find comfort in your risen and ascended Savior Jesus who has forgiven your sins and who uses his almighty power to rule all things for the good of his people so we can one day join him in heaven. There we will all gather together and worship him in his presence safe and healthy forever.

Holiday Worship Schedule

There are several opportunities to worship our newborn Savior this holiday season. The dates and times are listed below.

Wednesday, Nov. 25	7:00 pm	Thanksgiving Worship
Sunday, Nov. 29	9:00 am	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Monday, Nov. 30	7:00 pm	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Wednesday, Dec. 2	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Sunday, Dec. 6	9:00 am	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Monday, Dec. 7	7:00 pm	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Wednesday, Dec. 9	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Sunday, Dec. 13	9:00 am	Worship
Monday, Dec. 14	7:00 pm	Worship
Wednesday, Dec. 16	7:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
Sunday, Dec. 20	9:00 am	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Monday, Dec. 21	7:00 pm	Worship w/ Lord's Supper
Thursday, Dec. 24	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Friday, Dec. 25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sunday, Dec. 27	9:00 am	Worship
Monday, Dec. 28	7:00 pm	Worship
Thursday, Dec. 31	7:00 pm	New Year's Eve Worship w/ Lord's Supper

Fellowship Activities

Due to COVID-19, the Fellowship Committee decided to cancel the following activities in December:

- Snacks after Sunday worship services
- Fellowship meal
- Midweek Advent meals
- Christmas caroling
- Christmas party

Children's Christmas Eve / Christmas Day Service

The Sunday School Children's Christmas service will be on Thursday, December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and Friday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m. The service theme is "The Greatest Gift". Invite your family and friends to attend one of these two services or to watch it on Facebook Live.

Church Decorating

We will decorate the church for the Christmas season on Sunday, December 6 after the Bible Study. Please consider staying to help.



Christmas Poinsettias

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia to beautify church for the Christmas season, please sign up on the table in the back of church. You can purchase red, pink, and white poinsettias for \$7.00. Please pay Tracy McCluskey when you place your order, otherwise your poinsettia will not be ordered. The deadline for placing orders is Wednesday, December 16.

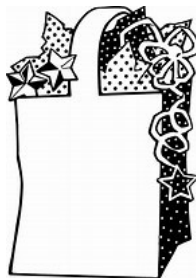


Camp Philip

The Camp Philip Chili Supper has been canceled due to COVID-19. Instead, a collection will be taken after the three midweek Advent services.

Gift Bags For Shut-In Members

The Cross of Christ Ladies will be giving Christmas gift bags to Cross of Christ's shut-in members and the residents of Hamilton Park Place. They are collecting the following items for the gift bags: money, individual tissue packets, gripper footed socks, large print puzzle books, hard candy, sample size lotion, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, and gift bags. The gift bags will be assembled at the December 17 gathering and will be delivered to the church's shut-in members and Hamilton Park Place residents. Please bring the items to church by December 13.



School Calendars

St. John's Lutheran School

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



DECEMBER EVENTS	
Dec. 5, 12 (8:00-9:30), 19 (8:00-10:00)	Christmas Eve Practices
Dec. TBA	Christmas Concert
Dec. 24 - 3:00 pm	Christmas Service
Dec. 24-Jan.1	Christmas Break



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

DECEMBER EVENTS	
Dec. 20, 2:00 pm	Christmas Concert
Dec. 21	Exams 1-3 dismiss at 12:05 pm
Dec. 22	Exams 4-9 dismiss at 12:05 pm
Dec. 23	Exams 10-11 Dismiss at 10:45 am
Dec. 25 - 31	Christmas Break

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.



Counting to Christmas Family Advent Devotions

How could baby Jesus be the Prince of Peace? Who tells angels what to do? Who led the Wise Men to Jesus? Children ask a lot of questions. That's why each day's Advent devotion in *Counting to Christmas* is centered around a question. Each short devotion is followed up with something to say, something to do, and something to pray. There is also a lift-a-flap Advent calendar at the back of the book to physically mark your journey through Advent!

Easy enough for older children to read on their own and younger children to understand, this book will become a yearly Advent tradition in classrooms and homes and spark nightly devotion time in families year-round!

Contains 26 daily devotions, Bible verses, activities, and prayers. At the end of each day's devotion time, turn to the back cover, lift the flap on the Advent calendar, and count your way to Christmas. Recommended for ages 3-8; Grades PreK-3.

OL-4601182 \$9.99

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 November Meeting Recap

At their November meeting, the Church Council decided to take down the Back the Badge sign because some people felt the church was supporting political parties. They decided to cancel the Camp Phillip chili supper, but have a freewill donation taken during the Midweek Advent services instead. They decided to have two children's Christmas services on December 24 at 6:00 p.m. and December 25 at 9:00 a.m. They decided to hire someone to clean church on the weeks the current church cleaner cannot. They also are looking for volunteers to be on the Mission Statement committee.

Education Committee November Meeting Recap

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

At their November meeting, the Education Committee came up with their yearly calendar, their long range plans, and their 2020 budget. They also decided to send gift cards to college students once again.

Evangelism Committee November Meeting Recap

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

At their November meeting, the Evangelism Committee came up with their yearly calendar, their long range plans, and their 2020 budget. They also decided to talk to a WELS member to update the church's website.



Fellowship Committee November Meeting Recap

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

- The following fellowship activities are canceled for December due to the increasing spread of COVID-19: all meals, refreshments following Sunday church services, the annual Christmas party, and Christmas caroling.
 - The Long Range Plans and Yearly Calendar were reviewed, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.
 - The annual Valentine event will take place on Sunday, February 14, during Sunday School. More details will be announced later.
 - Committee members signed up for refreshments for 2021.
 - The next meeting will be on January 10 following the Bible Study.
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Stewardship Committee November Meeting Recap

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

Long-Range Stewardship Plan for 2021 and Form 5: Program Plans were reviewed and updated.

10 for 10 Giving Program is continuing.

The next Stewardship Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 5:00 pm.

Cross of Christ Ladies November Recap

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

At their November gathering, the Cross of Christ Ladies had their annual planning meeting. They decided to have Bible Studies at their January, February, and April gatherings, work on Easter crafts for Cross of Christ's shut-in members at their March gathering, and have a painting party at their July gathering. They are looking for a guest speaker at their May gathering and are interested in ideas for future gatherings. They also decided to make Christmas gift bags for Cross of Christ's shut-in members and the residents of Hamilton Park Place. There is a list of things to donate on page 5 of the December Newsletter.

New Members

- Susie Tomlinson who was received by Adult Confirmation.
- Lisa Vahradian who was received by Profession of Faith.

Please introduce yourself to our new members and make them feel a part of the Cross of Christ family.

Shut-Ins

Lois Plath	Elmer Glaeske
Norman Stump	Margery McCluskey
Marian Kreitzman	Audrey Zunker

Julie Moran

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 **December 15, 2020**.



If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter, please e-mail 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
585 E. Slifer Street
Portage, WI 53901**