

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

NOVEMBER 2020

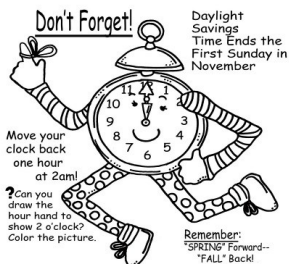
ISSUE

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My Daily Walk With God

Nov.	1	Ezekiel 23:11 - 25
	2	Ezekiel 26 - 28
	3	Ezekiel 29 - 32:16
	4	Ezekiel 32:17 - 34
	5	Ezekiel 35 - 37
	6	Psalm 37; Ezekiel 38 - 39
	7	Psalm 24; Ezekiel 40 - 41
	8	Ezekiel 42 - 45:8
	9	Ezekiel 45:9 - 48
	10	Esther 1 - 5
	11	Esther 6 - 10; Ps. 83
	12	Psalm 42, 126, 129, 137 Malachi
	13	Psalm 89; Mark 1:1 - 31
	14	Psalm 146; Mark 1:32 - 3
	15	Psalm 107; Mark 4
	16	Psalm 142; Mark 5 - 6:29
	17	Mark 6:30 - 8:26
	18	Mark 8:27 - 10:31
	19	Mark 10:32 - 12:37
	20	Mark 12:38 - 14:31
	21	Mark 14:32 - 15
	22	Psalm 16, 21, 22, 67 Mark 16
	23	Psalm 48; Ephesians 1 - 3
	24	Ephesians 4 - 6
	25	Song of Solomon
	26	Romans 1 - 2
	27	Romans 3 - 5
	28	Romans 6 - 8
	29	Romans 9 - 11
	30	Romans 12 - 15:29



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NOVEMBER



"We Can Be Certain Jesus Is Our Savior"

Why Is It Important There Is Credible Evidence About Jesus Outside Of The Bible?

In this column over the last several months, we learned about different reasons why we can be certain Jesus is our Savior from our sins. We learned the Bible is God's holy and inspired Word and everything it says is true. We learned the books the early Christians included in the New Testament were chosen because they were clearly God's holy and inspired Word. We learned we know what the original manuscripts for these books said because they were very well preserved. We learned the gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are accurate even though they seem to contradict each other because their authors were either eyewitnesses of Jesus' life or talked to people who were. In addition, they wrote their books from their own point of view and for their own specific audiences. We learned Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies made about his life in the Old Testament. We also learned the Bible clearly teaches since Jesus was true God and true man He did save us from our sins. Unfortunately, even though these scientific facts clearly prove Jesus is the Savior, Biblical critics still refuse to believe he is. One reason is because they claim there is not enough credible evidence from outside of the Bible to prove 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 non-Biblical sources prove Jesus is our Savior by answering this question, "Why is it important there is credible evidence about Jesus outside of the Bible?"

The Bible is the main source where we get information about Jesus and his life. However, there are other books that were written shortly after the time of Jesus, which give information about him and his life as well. The Jewish historian, Josephus, who was a priest and a Pharisee in Palestine in the first century, wrote in his book the Testimonium Flavianum that Jesus was a wise man, who committed surprising feats, who was a teacher, and who was crucified by Pilate. The Jewish Talmud (including the Mishnah), which was finished in 500 A.D., states Jesus was a false messiah, he was a teacher who had disciples, he practiced magic, and he was condemned to death. The Roman historian, Tacitus, who lived during the first century, wrote in his book Annals that Christus (Christ) suffered the extreme penalty (crucifixion) during the reign of Tiberius (Caesar) at the hands of the procurator Pontius Pilate and afterwards a mischievous superstition (the belief that Jesus rose from the dead) broke out in Judea and in Rome. Pliny the Younger, who was the Roman governor of Bithynia in northwestern Turkey, wrote in 111 A.D. in his book Letters that the Christians he arrested believed Jesus was God. In addition, the Greek author Phlegon, wrote in his book Olympiades he Chronika in 137 A.D. that during the sixth hour in 33 A.D. there was a great eclipse of the sun. It was so dark that people could see the stars. There was also a great earthquake in Bithynia and Nicaea. There are other non-Biblical sources that refer to Jesus and his life in addition to these. The historian, Gary Habermas, references thirty-nine ancient sources in his book The Verdict of History which give more than one-hundred details about Jesus' life.

The reason why these non-Biblical sources are so important is because their authors did not believe in Jesus as their Savior or that the New Testament is God's holy and inspired Word, yet they state many facts about Jesus and his life. They state Jesus was a man and God. He was a teacher who had disciples. He performed miracles. He was crucified by Pontius Pilate and he died. On the day of his crucifixion there was darkness and an earthquake. He rose from the dead, and Christians believed he was the Savior. These non-Biblical sources prove what the Bible says about Jesus is historically accurate and 100% TRUE. This is yet another reason why we can be certain Jesus is our Savior who has saved us from our sins.

Worship Service Update

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is offering in-person worship services on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and Monday at 7:00 p.m. with the following social distance measures in place:

- Only 40 people are allowed to worship in church at a time, in addition to the pastor and the organist.
- People will only be allowed to sit in designated pews.
- Members interested in attending worship services are encouraged to sign up to attend Sunday or Monday worship services on the church's website: www.portagelutheranchurch.org. When members sign up, they can pick the pew they would like to sit in. Anyone who is unable to sign up online can call Dan Heckmann any time from Monday through Saturday between 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 920-992-5692 or on his cell phone at 920-350-1005. You can also email Dan at heckmann@rio.k12.wi.us.
- People are encouraged not to congregate in the back of church before or after the worship service.
- People are required to wear masks unless the mandate changes.
- There will be no greeters handing out worship folders.
- There will be no hymnals or Bibles in the pews. The entire worship service will be in the worship folder/bulletin. If members would like to follow along with the worship service in the hymnal, they can bring their hymnal from home. If they do not have one, a small supply of hymnals will be available to use in the back of church.
- People will place their offerings in plates in the back of church when they first walk in or as they walk out after service.
- Holy Communion will be offered on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, and the Mondays following. During the distribution of Holy Communion, members will line up in the middle aisle and stay about six feet apart from one another. One member will come up at a time to receive the bread and then the wine which will only be offered in individual cups. The pastor will give a final blessing after everyone has received Holy Communion.
- If you do not feel comfortable attending worship services, you can watch Cross of Christ's Sunday morning 9:00 a.m. worship service live or recorded by going to Cross of Christ's Facebook page. If you would like to follow along with the worship service, you may download a worship folder/bulletin from the church's website at www.portagelutheranchurch.org. Links for the church's Facebook page and the worship folder/bulletin are on the front page of the church website.
- People who have a fever, cough, trouble breathing, or other symptoms of illness are encouraged to stay home and worship online until they feel better.

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.

Quarterly Voters' Meeting

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, November 1. At this meeting we will make a decision on updating the sound system. We will discuss pursuing a Mission Statement, and the progress on the church building program.

Thanksgiving Worship Service

On Wednesday, November 25 at we will have our Thanksgiving worship service at 7:00 p.m.

WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The WELS Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing seeks to help congregations share the gospel of Jesus Christ with WELS members and others who are deaf or hard of hearing.

It is estimated that loss of hearing affects more than 500 million people worldwide. One in three people over 65 years of age and one in two over the age of 80 have a hearing loss. Ninety percent of hearing losses can be helped with hearing instruments, and 10 percent can be treated medically and/or surgically. Yet fewer than 5 percent of those who could benefit actually use a hearing instrument. The Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing offers resources to aid ministry to people who are deaf or have any degree of hearing loss. Churches that desire to help people with hearing loss participate in worship services and other church activities can obtain information on assistive listening devices (hearing loop, FM system) or sign language interpreters and VRI (Video Remote Interpreting). See our access directory below for a full listing of WELS churches with hearing loops, signed services and captioned sermons.

School Calendars

St. John's Lutheran School

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



NOVEMBER EVENTS	
Nov. 6	End of First Quarter-full day of school
Nov, 11-12	Parent/Teacher Conferences after school
Nov, 25	No School
Nov. 26-27	Thanksgiving Break



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

NOVEMBER EVENTS	
Nov. 3-4	MLC Focus on Ministry Trip
Nov. 5	No School
Nov. 17	Interim Reports
Nov. 18	Two Hour Delay
Nov, 26-27	No School (Thanksgiving)

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.



Whatever Is True

Written by layperson William Woodington, a sufferer from chronic anxiety, *Whatever Is True* offers gospel comfort and a solid Scriptural foundation to help Christians put their own worries at ease.

Commands like “do not worry” and “fear not” often grace the pages of Scripture whenever God or one of his messengers visits an ordinary believer. For Christians struggling with anxiety, these phrases may appear to be more of a challenge than a comfort. Although books on anxiety can be found in any store, many of them tell readers to help themselves. How can sufferers find strength on their own? Author William Woodington takes a different approach to handling anxiety by reminding believers that all of their help comes from the Lord. *Whatever Is True* equips readers with numerous Bible passages to help them face anxiety with the truth of the gospel. Armed with a new perspective on suffering and assurance of God’s love, those facing anxiety will discover an unending source of peace and strength throughout the book.

\$12.99 OL-1201814

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 October Meeting Recap

The Church Council did not officially meet in October because Pastor Schultz and a few Church Council members had COVID-19. They did decide over email to cancel in-person worship services on October 4 & 5, 11 & 12, and 18 & 19 to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the church. They also decided to reschedule the Quarterly Voters' Meeting for Sunday, November 1.

Education Committee September Recap Part 2

Current Members: Chairman Matthew Buchholz, Jill Schultz, Joshua Veglahn, Nate and Molly Newman

At their September meeting, the Education Committee decided to form a Confirmation Class Committee. The committee will look at different teaching methods, different curriculums, and different Catechism books from Northwestern Publishing House. At their October meeting, the Education Committee plans on formulating a plan for the Youth Group.

Evangelism Committee October Meeting Recap

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

At their October meeting, the Evangelism Committee updated the Prospect list and came up with a plan to contact people who are on it. They also began assessing the church website. They are looking into different ways to give it a more modern feel and to make it more engaging for prospective members. They are also looking into hiring someone to put the new website together.

Fellowship Committee Recap

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

- A lot of members gave food and helped out at a funeral in October.
- Mission Fest was on September 27. The topic was the WELS Campus Ministry. There was no meal afterwards.
- The annual Valentine event in February will take place on Sunday during Sunday School.
- The next meeting will be November 8.

Stewardship Committee October Meeting Recap

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

At their October meeting, the Stewardship Committee reviewed material for the 10 For 10 stewardship series. They reviewed the letter that will be sent with the commitment envelope information. They plan on asking Sandy Beimborn to print out envelopes for it. Dan Heckmann plans on printing out the material for it, and Scott and Jodie Crosby plan on mailing the material out.

Cross of Christ Ladies October Recap

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

CCL. The October Cross of Christ Ladies' gathering was cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. They will have their planning meeting on November 19. All ladies are invited to come and bring suggestions for next year's gatherings, as well as appetizers/hors d'oeuvres to share.

LWMS Beaver Dam Circuit. The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society Beaver Dam Circuit Fall Rally was cancelled. The new circuit officers are Lois Zellmer (President), Dianne Witkowski (President-Elect), Barbara Stetler (Secretary), and Joanne Gregor (Spiritual Growth Woman). The World Mission Project is #WM-2020-28: Latin America Special Projects. The Home Mission Project is #JMC-2020-01: Pastoral Studies Institute.

LWMS Convention. The Lutheran Women's Missionary Society teamed up with the WELS Home and World Missions Offices to host an online event called "Taste and See" from June 27 to July 11, 2020. Presentations from this event are available online until next year.

Officers: Vice President - Kris Olson
Secretary - Mary Jo Barnes
Communications Coordinator - Patty Hirthe
Pastoral Advisor - Pastor Paul Schulz

Mission Projects

HM-2018-16: Hmong Evangelist Training Project
WM-2018-11: Philippine Project

The updated mission offerings have been disbursed as follows:

Board for World Missions: \$41,117.56

Board for Home Missions: \$41,117.55

Kids' C.A.R.E.: \$40,989.56

Bylaw changes were approved. Dues will not be increased in 2021.

New Members

Suzie Tomlinson was received into membership by Adult Confirmation on October 26. Please introduce yourself to her and make her 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 **November 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
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