

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

OCTOBER 2020

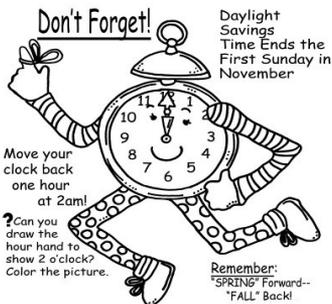
ISSUE

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My Daily Walk With God

Oct.	1	Psalm 118, Isaiah 46 - 48
	2	Isaiah 49 - 53
	3	Psalm 145; Isaiah 54 - 57
	4	Isaiah 58 - 62
	5	Isaiah 63 - 66
	6	Jonah; Nahum
	7	Obadiah; Zephaniah
	8	Jeremiah 1 - 4:4
	9	Jeremiah 4:5 - 6
	10	Jeremiah 7 - 9
	11	Jeremiah 10 - 13
	12	Jeremiah 14 - 17
	13	Jeremiah 18 - 24
	14	Jeremiah 25 - 27
	15	Jeremiah 28 - 31:20
	16	Jeremiah 31:21 - 33
	17	Jeremiah 34 - 36
	18	Jeremiah 37 - 41:3
	19	Jeremiah 41:4 - 45
	20	Jeremiah 46 - 48
	21	Jeremiah 49 - 50
	22	Jeremiah 51 - 52
	23	Lamentation 1 - 3:39
	24	Psalm 79, Lamentation 3:40 - 5
	25	Psalm 25, Ezekiel 1 - 3
	26	Psalm 88, Ezekiel 4 - 7
	27	Ezekiel 8 - 11
	28	Ezekiel 12 - 15
	29	Ezekiel 16 - 17
	30	Ezekiel 18 - 20:44
	31	Ezekiel 20:45 - 23:10



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"We Can Be Certain Jesus Is Our Savior"

How Can We Be Certain The Correct Books Of The New Testament Were Chosen?

Every year National Football League (NFL) general managers and scouts study hundreds of college football players. They attend their games. They study them on tape, and they evaluate their talent at the scouting combine. After they gather all of their information, they figure out which players would be best for their football team. Then every spring they draft the best players available to them. Some of the players they drafted become very good football players. Some are busts. Then there are those which general managers wish they drafted, but didn't.

Like NFL general managers, the early Christian leaders had many choices as to which books they could include in the Bible's New Testament. They chose to include 27 of these books, and they left many others out. As Christians, we believe the books they included are God's holy and inspired Word. But how can we be certain these books are God's Word which tells us the truth about our Savior Jesus and the others are not?

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 why we are certain the early Christian church leaders chose the correct books for the New Testament by answering this question, "How can we be certain the correct books of the New Testament were chosen?"

During the first century shortly after Jesus' ascension into heaven, Christians began to write about who Jesus was and what he taught people needed to believe to be saved. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote accounts about Jesus' life. Luke wrote about the early beginnings of the Christian church in the book of Acts. Paul, Peter, James, John, and others wrote letters to Christians and Christian churches to teach them about Jesus and what they were to believe and how they were to live Christian lives. During the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth centuries people continued to write accounts which they claim were about Jesus' life. These books include the gospels of Peter, Mary, Thomas, Judas, and others. They also wrote letters and books about Christianity. These include Paul's letter to the Laodiceans, the Apocalypse of Stephen, and many others.

When the early Christian church leaders decided which of these books were God's holy inspired Word that they should include in the New Testament and which ones they should exclude, they made their decisions based on three criteria. First, the books must have been written by Jesus' apostles or those who worked closely with them. Second, they had to support the same Christian teachings and beliefs. Third, they had to be accepted and used over the years by a wide area of Christianity. Once they established these criteria, most of the books of the New Testament were quickly accepted as being God's holy and inspired Word and were included in the New Testament. However, the books James, Hebrews, 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, Jude, and Revelation were discussed for some time before they were included. In the end the early Christian church leaders included them because they too met the three criteria.

The reason all of the other books were not included in the New Testament is because they failed to meet one or all of the three criteria. Many of the books that were excluded were written years after Jesus' apostles lived. Some were written hundreds of years after they lived. Some of these books include quotes from the other books of the New Testament. Some taught things which went against Christian teachings and beliefs, and others were not used and accepted by a wide area of Christianity because they realized they were not divinely inspired.

From the very beginning Christians viewed the 27 books of the New Testament to be the very words of God because they all support the same Christian teachings and beliefs, especially about how we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus and not by our works. As Christians, we can be absolute certain Jesus is our Savior from our sins because the books the early Christian church leaders included in the Bible's New Testament are clearly God's holy and inspired Word.

Worship Service Update

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church is currently offering 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.

Important Changes

- Midweek Bible classes, Church Committees, and other groups are once again allowed to gather in church, but they are encouraged to maintain social distancing.
 - There will be no coffee, snacks, or fellowship meals after worship services.
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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.

Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries

Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministries is a nonprofit organization established in 1901 that ministers to people throughout the upper Midwest, who are living in correctional facilities, drug & alcohol treatment centers, hospitals, mental health centers, and extended care facilities. It also offers post institutional support.



Their Mission: To share God's law and the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with all individuals who are or have been institutionalized,

Christian Aid and Relief

WELS Christian Aid & Relief provides resources for individuals and congregations nationwide. Consider supporting these ministries with your prayers and gifts.

School Calendars

St. John's Lutheran School

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



OCTOBER EVENTS	
October 4	Picture Day
October 4	Forensics Night
October 14-18	Fall MAP Testing
October 24-25	No School



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

OCTOBER EVENTS	
October 1-3	Homecoming Week
October 5	Picture Retake Day
October 14	PSAT/NMSQT Testing for Juniors
October 16	1st Quarter Ends
October 19	2nd Quarter Begins
October 29-30	No School

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.

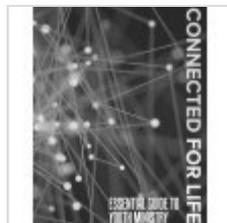


Northwestern Publishing House



Connected For Life Essential Guide To Youth Ministry

Youth are not just the church's future - they're also the church's now. As a leader, volunteer, or church worker, your job is to remind youth that they're loved by Jesus and their congregation. At its core, youth ministry is about connecting childhood to adulthood and laying a strong foundation that encourages members to stay connected to the church throughout their lives.



To do that, you need to be encouraged too. That's where this book comes in. In it, you'll read chapters written by people who know what it's like to serve teens and their Savior, and you'll find guidance, encouragement, and advice on leading a youth ministry that supports young adults in their faith for life. Recommended for youth leaders, teachers, and pastors; but teachers of all ages would benefit from the content of this book.

OL-1205968 \$16.88

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 September Meeting Recap

At their September meeting, the Church Council decided to bring up at the October Voters' meeting that the church should update its' sound system. They decided to contact the WELS Home Missions to begin the first phase of a building expansion program. They also decided to wait until they find out if the masks mandate is lifted at the end of September before they decide how and when they will reopen church up more.

Education Committee September Meeting Recap

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

The Education Committee conducted their meeting via e-mail. They reviewed and approved tuition assistance applications for the coming school year for nine students. Children may attend Sunday school in person at Cross of Christ Church or use online lessons taught by experienced WELS teachers that will be available free via YouTube. The online "Remote Sunday School" will use engaging and age appropriate videos that will tie to the same printed student lessons that our church will be using for our on site Sunday school. Links to online materials can be found on our website. At this time there is no Sunday School music for the children. The Sunday School teachers will keep families updated if there are any changes to Sunday School because of COVID-19. This new approach presents an easy yet meaningful way for children's faith to grow in Christ. Ashley Statz is the new pre-school/ kindergarten teacher. Chloe and Caleb Schultz will begin the school year teaching 1st and 2nd grade until Anna Maas is able to return.

Evangelism Committee September Meeting Recap

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

The Evangelism Committee reviewed recent updates to the church website. They discussed options for updating the church website for a more modern look. They updated the prospect list and divided the names among the committee members to contact. They want to let the prospects know about church's online worship services as well as current in person worship services. The Friendship Sunday that was scheduled for September 13th was cancelled as well as using church as a warming station for people attending the Portage homecoming parade because the parade was cancelled. Next month they will discuss the "Kids day at the Cross" event planned for November.

Fellowship Committee September Meeting Recap

Current Members: Chairman Joshua Veglahn, Sandy Beiborn, Vi Burmeister, Pat Eckert, Joan Klappstein, Judy Trebatoski, Johanna Veglahn, Barbara Youngs.

- The campfire gathering scheduled for August was canceled.
 - A lot of members gave food and helped out at a funeral in August.
 - 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 September Meeting Recap

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

The Stewardship Committee continued to plan the "10 for 10" stewardship program for 2020. Introductory information was provided in a letter to all members in mid-September, along with a brochure entitled *Ten Reasons Why Tithing Matters*. In early November, Cross of Christ members will be challenged to give a tithe (10%) OR to increase the proportion of what they are giving for their weekly offerings for a period of ten weeks. More details will be provided in Mid-October. In the meantime, members are encouraged to prayerfully consider their gifts to God.

Cross of Christ Ladies September Recap

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

CCL. The August Locket Event was successful. Officers were elected at the September gathering. Elected were Joan Klappstein-President, Judy Trebatoski-Vice-President, Sandra Beiborn-Secretary, and Jill Schultz-Treasurer.

The October meeting will be the planning meeting. Please 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 (LWMS) election of officers and Mission Projects was conducted by emailed. Each congregation was allowed one vote. Mission funds were turned in on October 1. The funds collected for Bibles for Brazil will be sent to the treasurer by November 1 to complete the project.

New Members

Peter Gilbert was received into membership by adult Confirmation on September 14. Please introduce yourself to him and make him 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 **October 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**