



# CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

January - February 2018 Volume 10, No. 1



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## What Promises! What Certainties!

by Pastor Laesch



Pastor Laesch

The headline was ominous: “Uncertainties Lie Ahead in 2018.” And it caught my eye. It was talking about the financial situation of our nation and the world in the New Year. The national debt is rising and is expected to cause problems in the future. The Chinese economy is slowing down which could have a negative effect on other economies throughout the world, especially ours. Unforeseen changes in the labor market, the housing market, business confidence, and international conditions cause major uncertainty. In fact, the article made clear that nothing is certain except this: Uncertainties lie ahead.

Gee, thanks for the positive encouragement!

Actually, we should look elsewhere for encouragement as we step into a new year. Don't look at the headlines, or the internet posts, or the magazine articles that gladly stoke our fears or fuel our feelings of futility about future uncertainty. As Christians, we look to the Lord. We look to our God. We look to His Word.

Facing the unknown in a new year of grace means stepping into a future that has almost limitless *certainties!* It is one of the thrilling realities of the Christian hope that we have – that what is unknown to us is known to God. And He has promised to give us all that we need to face the future with confidence and courage.

He has said that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39) What more security for the future could we want or need than that promise of our God?

Our Lord has assured us that He will be with us always, “even to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20) That's a long time! That's a long-range security program!

Uncertain of your needs in 2018? Listen to St. Paul: “My God will supply all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:19) “All your needs!” What a blank check, signed by our risen Lord!

God's love for us will not diminish as we move through 2018 and as we face the next year, and the next year, and the year after that. Even as our strength and our resources fade, His love will never fade. St. Paul shares that hope: “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32)

What promises! What *certainties!* We know by faith that they are true. And so we look forward to a new year of God's grace, *certain* of His love, His leading, His guidance. †††

## Homebound and Seniors' Service and Luncheon

Twice a year, before Thanksgiving and before Easter, we have a special service at Chapel for the homebound and seniors in our congregation, which is followed by a delicious lunch. Though it may be difficult for them to come, many of our homebound are able to make it to these two special services. They are brought by family, friends, caregivers, or volunteers from Chapel who pick them up where they live.

On Monday, November 20, we had 53 people attend this special service. Twenty-two people served as either worship leaders, drivers, or food preparers and servers. So this truly is a group effort to put together. What a special blessing this whole day was for everyone.

Monday, March 26, 2018 will be the Holy Week service and luncheon, and all are welcome to come.

## GriefShare

We have now offered eight years of GriefShare, and what a blessing it has been to the participants. It's amazing how God's living Word can touch and begin to heal people in their darkest hours of grief. During 2017 we had 11 people come in the winter/spring cycle, and 15 for the fall cycle. There were 16 people who attended the special "Surviving the Holidays" session the week before Thanksgiving. This continues to be a great outreach to the community as the majority of the people who attend GriefShare are not Chapel members.

GriefShare is much more than a support group. It is a 14-week program that guides and teaches people about grief, and how God works in their lives at this difficult time. It provides people the opportunity to grow, to deal with grief positively, offers hope and comfort, and

provides a safe place for people to talk and support each other so they know they are not alone in their journey.

The next 14-week cycle begins Tuesday, January 9, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., and Thursday, January 11, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. If you are going through the journey of grief, no matter how long it has been, I invite you to come. If you have other family members or friends who are dealing with this, encourage them to come. Please contact me if you want to know more about GriefShare, or if you would like to come to this time of support and healing.

## Chapel Travelers

This coming spring will mark the sixth spring trip that the Chapel Travelers group has taken, and we will be returning to Branson once again. One of the things we will be doing is seeing the new production of Samson at the Sight and Sound Theater. This two-day trip will take place sometime after Easter in late April or early May. As plans are finalized they will be put in the bulletin. In the meantime, if you are interested in going, talk to Ken and Marilyn Kreitner, or Dave Funke.

## Retreats

Each year in the winter, Camp Wartburg, near Waterloo, Illinois (an hour from Chapel), hosts a retreat for men and women. The dates for this year's retreats are: the **Men's Retreat on January 19-20**, and the **Women's Retreat on February 16-17**. These retreats include a guest speaker, meals, free time, and service projects. It's a great opportunity to get to know each other better outside the walls of the church and to meet people from other churches. ✠✠✠

The due date for the  
March - April issue of  
CrossRoads is  
Sunday, January 28

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by Bill Rusnak, Director of Family Ministry

## We Are Family

Groups are important to the vitality of a church. As Thomas Rainer's research shows, groups are often the primary catalyst in a healthy church. If you look at a healthy church, you'll likely see a healthy group system.

Some research highlights include:

- Groups are stimulated, nourished, and encouraged to grow, split and start again.
- Someone who is in a small group is five times more likely still to be in a church after five years than someone who is not.
- People who are in groups give significantly more than those not in groups.
- Those who lead a specific ministry should also be passionate about that ministry.
- A healthy church group system is a reproducing church group system.

As a church member and part of our church staff, I am happy to repeat what I heard at our November 27, 2017 Voters' meeting; "Chapel is a Family." We cannot overstate the importance of small groups in churches.

We know that being a part of a family means many things. We understand the power of being in a group. Our ministry teams work, play, study and laugh together - often. We place a priority on leadership and partnerships that understand and live out our mission. We clearly identify the champions in our groups and make plans to multiply. We offer "curricular consistency" - lessons that follow a scope and sequence which includes the priority of involving group membership starting in our new member classes, all the way to ministry partner recruiting, training, shadowing, supervised leadership and scheduling.

Being a part of a healthy church family is more than being active - we are here to carry one another's burdens, to lighten loads, celebrate milestones and multiply joys! All of this to say, "May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels." <sup>8</sup>For the sake of my family and friends, I will say, "Peace be within you." <sup>9</sup>For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your prosperity." Psalm 122:7-9 New International Version (NIV). †††

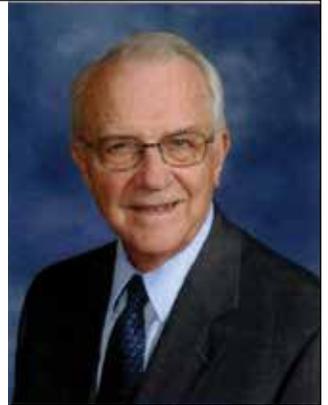
## Youth & Family Trivia Night

On the hit comedy, Seinfeld, what is Kramer's first name? What is the capital of Alaska? What was the first number 1 hit for the Beatles? If you said Cosmo, Juneau, and "Love Me Do" you are correct!

Trivia Night is just around the corner -- January 20, 2018. There will be about 80 questions to test your knowledge of bits of wisdom and worthless data! Please, invite your friends, family, and neighbors to form your team of 8. Sign up at the Welcome Center before Wednesday, January 17, 2018. This is a non-alcohol event so remember to bring your own food, snacks, and favorite drinks. Get into the spirit of the evening and decorate your table, too! Doors open at 5:00 p.m. and the questions start at 6:00 p.m. Door prizes will be awarded between every round of questions and cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second, and third place teams! A silent auction will be held for some nice gift baskets, too. So, don't forget to register your team soon! Entry fee is \$80.00 for table of 8. Proceeds from the event will fund Youth activities. Please contact Bill Rusnak with any questions. †††

## Thank You, Chapel Of The Cross!

I was humbled by the shower of love Sunday December 3rd by my family members, by friends from my three called positions in the Southern District, and by many members of our church family. (If I had known turning 80 would be so great I wouldn't have waited so long!) Being members of Chapel of the Cross is such a blessing, as you all well know. Great pastor, great musicians and singers, great staff members, great worship services, great fellowship, to name a few of them. We are blessed! Clara and I look forward to many more years with you, God willing.



— Pastor Orv Mueller



## Lenten Schedule

**Lenten Midweek Worship**  
February 14, 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21  
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**Palm Sunday**  
March 25  
Regular weekend worship times

**Maundy Thursday**  
March 29  
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**Good Friday**  
March 30  
12:00 noon & 6:30 p.m.

**Easter Vigil**  
March 31  
5:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday**  
April 1  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

# January 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>2</b> Women's Bible St.	<b>3</b> Adult Bible Classes	<b>4</b> Life Team Meeting	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>EPIPHANY</b> Epiphany Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>7</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	<b>8</b> Elder's Meeting Mary-Martha Guild	<b>9</b> Senior's Bible St. GriefShare Joyful Noise Choral Singers	<b>10</b> Adult Bible Classes Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells	<b>11</b> GriefShare	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Worship - 5:00
<b>14</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Women's Bible St. GriefShare Choral Singers	<b>17</b> Adult Bible Classes Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells	<b>18</b> GriefShare	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Worship - 5:00 Youth and Families Trivia Night 6:00 – 9:00
<b>21</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	<b>22</b> Board of Directors	<b>23</b> Senior's Bible St. GriefShare Joyful Noise Choral Singers	<b>24</b> Adult Bible Classes Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells	<b>25</b> GriefShare	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Worship - 5:00
<b>28</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> GriefShare Choral Singers	<b>31</b> Adult Bible Classes Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells			

# February 2018

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
4 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	5	6 Women's Bible Study GriefShare Joyful Noise Choral Singers	7 Adult Bible Classes Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells	8 GriefShare Life Team Meeting	9 Youth Night 6:00 – 8:00	10 Worship – 5:00
11 <b>TRANSFIGURATION</b> Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	12 Elders Meeting Mary-Martha Guild	13 Senior's Bible St. GriefShare Choral Singers	14 Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells <u>Ash Wednesday</u> <u>Worship</u> 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	15 GriefShare	16	17 Worship - 5:00
18 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	19 Presidents' Day	20 Women's Bible St. GriefShare Joyful Noise Choral Singers	21 Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells Early Communion <u>Lenten Service</u> 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.	22 GriefShare	23	24 Worship - 5:00
25 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Class – 9:45 Kingdom Quest–9:45 Jr. Confirmation	26 Board of Directors	27 Senior's Bible St. GriefShare Choral Singers	28 Children's Choirs & Handbells Chapel Bells Early Communion <u>Lenten Service</u> 11 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.			

# Chapel Members Travel To Germany To Celebrate The 500th Anniversary Of The Reformation

by Ken and Marilyn Kreitner



Pastor Laesch, Jon Rogers, Marilyn & Ken Kreitner, Johnny and Audrey Spears, Rod Pelander, Sue Petersen, and Linda Purcell along with 35 other people traveled to Germany to walk in Luther's footsteps and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with many other Christians. Our tour began in Wittenberg where Luther taught at the university and preached at St. Mary's (the City Church). He lived in the Augustinian monastery (the Luther House). It was in the tower of this monastery the Holy Spirit revealed to Martin Luther the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. Martin and Katie along with their children lived in the former monastery. We stood at the door of the Castle Church where Martin Luther posted the 95 theses. We toured St. Mary's (the City Church) where Luther preached many sermons to the common people. Our visit to Wittenberg culminated in a worship service led by Pastor Bob Roegner, Pastor Laesch, and Christian, our tour guide, at the Catholic church in the evening of the Reformation celebration. The organ prelude and the singing of Luther's reformation hymn were the perfect ending to our two-day visit to Wittenberg.

We then toured Eisleben where Martin Luther was born and died. We visited the monastery in Erfurt where he became a monk. We then toured Wartburg Castle in Eisenach where he was protected from the pope and the emperor by Frederick the Wise. It was here that Martin Luther translated the New Testament from Latin to German.

We thank God for a safe trip and an enlightening experience as we celebrated the Reformation in Germany. †††

## Recycle Those Plastic Bags

The Helping Hands Food Pantry uses plastic bags to distribute food and personal items. Right now the pantry has a shortage of bags. Would some of you be willing to bring plastic bags and place them in the grocery cart in the commons? Thanks to all who do so.

## Let Us Know!

Please call the church office (314-741-3737) if you:

- Have a new phone number or email
- Are sick, facing a surgery, or hospitalization
- Are unable to attend worship
- Are in need of prayer

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**Chapel Life Team's Mission Statement:**

*"Motivated by the Gospel and the great love God has demonstrated to us in Jesus Christ, the Life Team of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran exists to equip our church to celebrate, defend, and care for life at all stages."*



## Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday January 21, 2018

Lutherans For Life (LFL) provides unique Gospel-centered, life issue educational resources, audio/video, and Life Team and Life Chapter training from a Lutheran perspective. LFL seeks to "equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life." LFL makes resources available to thousands of Lutheran congregations and parishioners all year long. Through their Word of Hope outreach, they offer the love, hope, and healing power of Jesus Christ to post-abortive men and women.

To do all this, Lutherans For Life relies on financial support from congregations and other dedicated friends to make its work possible. In your offering envelope box, you will find an offering envelope for Lutherans For Life. The Chapel Life Team encourages you to give a gift to LFL. Your gift may be given at any time of the year, but we hope

you will consider a gift in January as Chapel emphasizes the sanctity of human life. Please make your check payable to "Chapel of the Cross Lutheran." All gifts from these offerings will be sent to Lutherans For Life.

In 2018, Lutherans For Life is focusing on the theme Hope For Life. Wherever there is Life, there is God's grace and Christ's compassion. There is HOPE for us, HOPE for them, HOPE for you. God never gives up, and neither do His people. There is HOPE in this. "Set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:13b)

On January 21, Dave Funke will be leading a Bible study during the Christian Education Hour, based on 1 Peter 3:15-17. The Chapel Life Team encourages everyone to attend and learn more about "Hope For Life" that Christ provides. †††

### Two Views of Martin Luther



The wooden sculpture of Martin Luther was done by Chapel member Donald Bachmann and a painting of Luther by Chapel member Jeff Arnold.



Kirk Mueller

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To find out more, contact:

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314.704.4389

[Kirk.mueller@lcms.org](mailto:Kirk.mueller@lcms.org)



## Membership Matters

### TRANSFER OUT

**Phil and Angela Clayton** (and baptized child Thomas) to Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Peters, MO

Former number of members: 987

Gains: +0

Losses: -2

New number of members 985

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Sunday Worship Services  
8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School, Youth, and Adult Classes  
9:45 a.m.

Saturday Evening Worship Service  
5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion

1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.  
2nd, 4th and 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.  
1st, 3rd and 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran  
exists to show the love of Jesus to  
the people of North County and  
beyond so that all may have a  
living relationship with Christ.*

