



CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

January - February 2020 Volume 12, No. 1



In This Issue

Adult Ministry Minute

Page 2

Rev. Orval D. Mueller

Page 3

Family Ministry

Page 4

Day 3 Seeds

Page 8

Life Corner

Page 9

Old Habits for A New Year

by Vicar Jim Marriott

Happy New Year! January, 2020 marks a new year, a new decade! We often think of the New Year as a chance for a fresh start, a new beginning, a chance to reset and rededicate ourselves to good habits. Many make resolutions that are new and renewing. It is a new year offering a promise of a new you!

Most likely, though, by February, if not before, we'll be back to our old habits. We'll realize that 2020 isn't much different from 2019, which wasn't much different from 2018. The monotony of the persistent winter freeze will illustrate the monotony of this life—same old brokenness, same old frustrations, same old dysfunction, same old...

There are, however, some really good old habits that are just as helpful as ever. These habits are the will of the Father, the pattern of the Son, and the work of the Holy Spirit in and through you! I want to take a few minutes to encourage you in these habits as a way of refocusing your 2020.

One habit is **reconciliation**. St. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

What a great pattern there! From the beginning of creation, we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. All of our sins, all of our failures, all of our broken habits—they are reconciled. And we are given a ministry of reconciliation in the pattern of Jesus. We are called to forgive as we have been forgiven, to heal as we have been healed, to love as we have been loved. Reconciliation is new life—it is a life renewed in Christ! You have the chance, right now, this year, to be a minister of reconciliation. Through Christ, you can make someone new with forgiveness, healing, and love. And as you do this, you too will be renewed in the healing and reconciling love of Jesus for you!

Another habit is **prayer**. St. Paul again reminds us in 1 Timothy 2:

I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Often in our society, we hear people say that they “don't want our thoughts and prayers, they want our actions.” But notice how, for Paul, prayer is connected with action! Through prayer, we lead peaceful, quiet, godly, dignified, and



Jim Marriott

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, 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 25, we had 70 people attend this special service. Seventeen 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, April 6, will be the Holy Week service and luncheon, and all are welcome to come.



GriefShare

We have now offered eleven years of GriefShare. My co-leaders, Vanessa Morris, Christy Uttley, and I continue to be amazed at how God's living Word can touch and begin to heal people in their darkest hours of grief. During 2019 we had 11 people come in the winter/spring cycle, and 10 for the fall cycle. There were 14 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 7, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**, and **Thursday, January 9, 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 April will mark the eighth spring trip that the Chapel Travelers group has taken. We are looking forward to returning to Branson to see "Noah" at the Sight and Sound Theater, and possibly visit Dogwood Canyon as well as take in another show. 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 10-11**, and the **Women's Retreat on February 28-29**. 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. ✠✠✠



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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

Rev. Orval D. Mueller 1937-2019

by Richard Gronemeyer

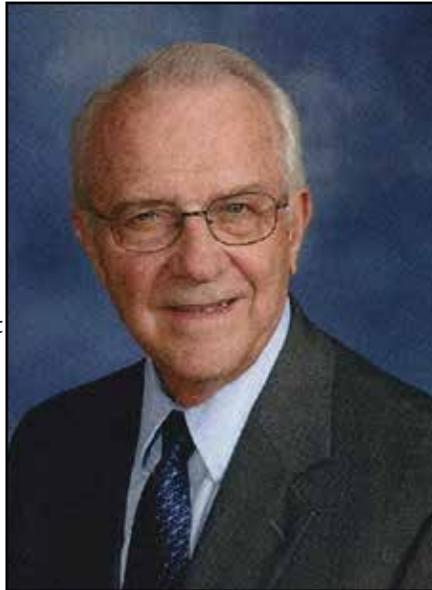
Rev. Orv was called home to Glory on Tuesday, November 19. His formative years were spent at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olivette, MO. He was baptized and confirmed there and in 1964 he was also ordained there after graduating from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Orv met his dear Clara while at Concordia Teachers College and they were married in 1962. They were blessed with three children: Sara, Kevin and Sonya.

He served for 10 years at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, and then 14 years at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Jackson, Mississippi. From 1988 to 2003 he was President of the Southern District LCMS. After that Orv and Clara retired to Florissant, MO, and then we were blessed as he served so faithfully as Pastoral Assistant at Chapel of the Cross. Last summer he was recognized at Chapel for his years of ministry and service as it was the 55th anniversary of his ordination. We thank God for Orv, a steadfast witness to the love of Christ. "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

On a personal note, Rev. Orv enjoyed Culver's restaurant and he knew that I do as well. Its corporate headquarters are in Wisconsin. A few years ago he called me from Janesville, WI, and told me that he and Clara were eating at "the world's largest Culver's." While we have a Culver's in Florissant, I told Orv that it's probably one of the world's smallest. I'll always remember that exchange.

We miss Orv, but we know that Christians never see one another for the last time. †††



What Now?

by Gary Timm

Perhaps you noticed during the visitation and funeral of Pastor Orv Mueller and on the following Sunday, the normal sequence of messages displayed on our electronic signs was interrupted by a simple message reading "**Rev. Orv Mueller... Well done good and faithful servant.**" A fitting sentiment for our beloved pastor and friend. On Sunday afternoon the usual messages were restored, including a message with the times of

upcoming Thanksgiving services. We celebrated Thanksgiving and awoke from our food comas with the stark realization that Christmas is less than a month away; with the requisite gift shopping, card sending, decorating, party planning/attending and special church services. Surely Orv Mueller will be missed, but life goes on. Is that the way this 16 year chapter of Chapel of the Cross's history ends? If so, it would be a terrible waste of the 16 blessed years Orv was among us.

Romans 12:5 tells us "*we, though many, are one body in Christ*" and 1 Corinthians 12:26 goes on to explain "*If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.*" With the passing of Orv Mueller not only are we each individually grieved, but the body of Christ as a whole, especially at Chapel of the Cross, is suffering as well.

For the 16 years he was with us we benefited from Orv's humble, serving, Christ-centered spirit. I do not believe God allowed that to happen solely for our comfort and enjoyment. I do believe part of God's purpose for sending Orv to us was to impact our lives; not only by teaching and preaching, but through the way he lived his life and touched our lives. Now that he is gone it is up to all of us to carry on his spirit and help relieve the suffering in the body of Christ. It is a tall order but when God makes a tall order he also promises great blessings to help us along the way. We should prayerfully consider our response to this call, for the sake of the body of Christ and in loving memory of and gratitude for Rev. Orv Mueller. †††

Mary-Martha Guild

The Mary-Martha Guild would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Christmas Cookie Sale. This year on Monday, January 13, we will host a social night. There will be no business meeting. Everyone is asked to bring games, puzzles, snacks, desserts and drinks. All ladies are welcome to attend.

On Monday, February 10, we will have our regular meeting. That evening Kathleen Stahlhut will give a presentation on The Divine Service. She will talk about how the liturgy is assembled as well as the history and significance of The Divine Service. Refreshments will follow. We will end the evening with a short business meeting. All ladies are invited to attend. †††



by Bill Rusnak, Director of Family Ministry

Chapel's 2019 Decorating Party

In general, reports from staff are a left-brained analysis of data—defined as the procedure by which we break down an intellectual or substantial whole into parts or components.

Synthesis is defined as the opposite procedure: to combine separate elements or components in order to form a coherent whole—some think of as a right-brained activity.

When a staff report includes the telling of a story, they are interpreting or making meaning of some event, activity, or experience. The telling of a story involves “making sense” of experience and making sense could involve analysis, synthesis, and/or interpretation.

These story-telling interpretive activities can take infinite forms. Today I will not be singing—but have chosen to use some pictures and 9 rhyming sets of three-line stanzas or “Tercets” to accompany my printed report—focusing on one event—the decorating party—that I think captures well—why we do everything we do in Family Ministry.



Now, I'm not adept at rhyming—but to make the point with some fun—and in keeping with our Advent theme—I hope this makes sense!

Awake, glad people, come up and see!
It's time to decorate our trees.

Gather one and gather all - as we prepare to greet our King.

Awake, oh youth, there's much to do!
Fit swag and wreath with bright lights, too.
Advent has dawned, the season's here – His birth and love for us to prove.

Awake, and hear the music play!
Hark how the anthems pave the way.
The crane lifts high the large church tree – our eyes look up, we shout hooray!

Awake, you veterans who've fluffed for years,
Whisper not of sorrows nor tears.
The star's in place, we take a look - stand back, spring forth - we have no fears.



Awake! Awake! Be about our task
Who for this work we labor ask?

This sacrifice of time has come – our high-priest, born to save - unmask.

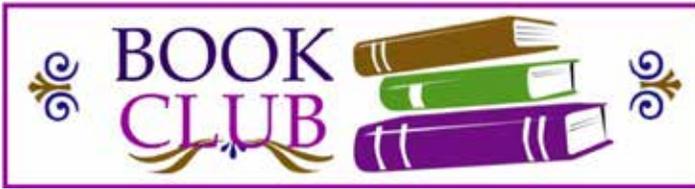
Awake! Arise! Offer up your best
Soon concert songs will pass the test.
Good will to women and to men – Our savior comes and gives us rest.

Awake, and view the crowded inn
The manger scene confronts our sin
Wise Magi show all what to do – bring gifts, bow down, and worship Him

Awake, I would, see my best part
Fit rooms for thee are Your great art
I'm cleansed of grime of word and deed
– By Christ alone who fills my heart

Awake, The Lord of Life is born
Another season - the good work done.
Cookies eaten, pictures taken,
CrossRoads written – thanks for all the fun! †††





To read, or not to read?

by Mary Simon

That is the question... that Chapel's Book Club members get asked a lot! And the answer is, "Either."

Every last Friday of the month, January through October, Book Club ladies meet in the Rosenkoetter Parlor from noon til 2 p.m. for an afternoon of lunch and book discussion. But if you haven't read the book, no worries. There are no trick questions, no test questions, and no requirement to even join in the discussion. Meaning there is no reason to not come enjoy the afternoon.

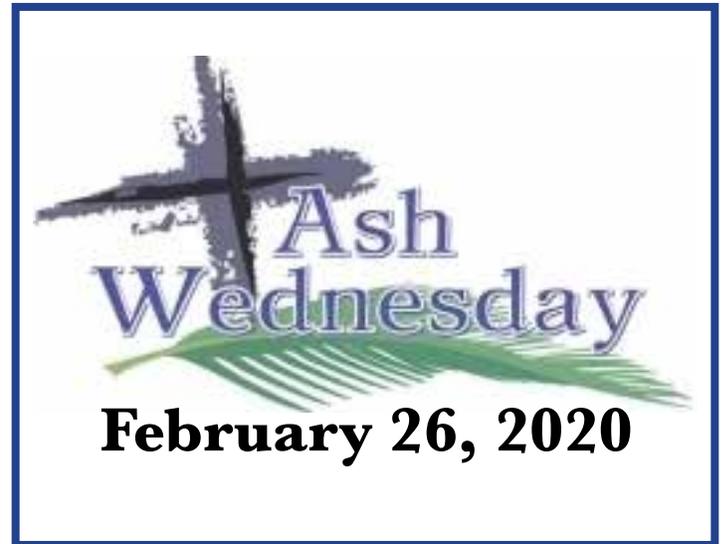
The month's book selection can be any genre – mystery, fictionalized history, comedy, classic lit – you name it. Sooner or later, everyone's favorite literary style comes along. But until it does, we all just enjoy the food and fellowship!

So here's a formal invitation to all you ladies of the congregation — come be a part of Chapel's Book Club. January is the perfect month to attend for the first time; there was no book to read over the holidays. So mark your calendar for January 31, bring a brown-bag lunch and a wrapped gag gift/white elephant to the Parlor at 12 noon, and join in a game of rob-your-neighbor. Book mark provided! †††

Missions and Outreach

Support Eric & Linda Funke and their family as they return from missionary service in Africa. After seven years of service in Tanzania, the Funke family is moving back to the U.S. in March 2020. This move will be a major life transition for them, as most of Eric and Linda's married life has been spent in Tanzania, and Michael and Julia have only ever visited the U.S. It is generally recommended that missionaries exiting their field of ministry have time to intentionally process their experiences both individually and as a family. The debriefing and re-entry program costs approximately \$3000 for their family of four. We at Chapel of the Cross understand the need for support during major life transitions and want the Funke family to have a re-entry process that is as smooth and healthy as possible.

We will be raising funds to cover the cost of the program. If you would like to share your support, please make checks payable to Chapel of the Cross, indicating in the memo line: "Funke Re-entry Program." You may drop your gift in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Thank you for your generous support! †††



Save the Date to be photographed for the new Chapel of the Cross Church directory

**Photography dates
April 22-25, 2020**

January 2020							Feb 2020 ▶
◀ Dec 2019	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2 Life Team Meeting 7:00	3	4 Worship 5:00
5 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	6 Epiphany Service 6:30 Choral Singers 7:30	7 Women's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00	8 Holden Evening Prayer 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	9 Griefshare 6:30	10	11 Worship 5:00 Christmas Decorations Down 9:00 a.m.	
12 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	13 Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 Elders Meeting 7:00	14 Senior's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Joyful Noise 6:30 Choral Singers 7:30	15 Adult Bible Classes 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	16 Griefshare 6:30	17	18 Worship 5:00 Fine Arts Day 10 a.m. Youth & Family Trivia Night 6:30 p.m	
19 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office closed.	21 Women's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Joyful Noise 6:30 Choral Singers 7:30	22 Adult Bible Classes 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	23 Griefshare 6:30	24	25 Worship 5:00	
26 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	27 Board of Directors 7:00	28 Senior's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Choral Singers 7:30	29 Adult Bible Classes 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	30 Griefshare 6:30	31		

February 2020							Mar 2020 ▶
◀ Jan 2020	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
							1 Worship 5:00
2 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	3		4 Women's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Joyful Noise 6:30 Choral Singers 7:30	5 Holden Evening Prayer 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	6 GriefShare 6:30 Life Team Meeting 7:00	7 Youth floor hockey 6-8	8 Worship 5:00 Lutheran Hour Workshop 10:00-2:00 at LHSN
9 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	13	Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 Elders Meeting 7:00	11 Senior's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Choral Singers 7:30	12 Adult Bible Classes 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	13 GriefShare 6:30	14	15 Worship 5:00 Fine Arts Day 10 a.m.
16 Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	17		18 Women's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Joyful Noise 6:30 Choral Singers 7:30	19 Adult Bible Classes 6:30 Children's Choirs 6:00 Children's Handbells 6:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	20 GriefShare 6:30	21	22 Worship 5:00
23 Transfiguration Worship 8:30 & 11:00 Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 Kingdom Quest 9:45 Jr. Confirmation 9:45	24 Board of Directors 7:00		25 Senior's Bible Study 10:00 GriefShare 2:00 Choral Singers 7:30	26 <u>Ash Wednesday service</u> 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Children's Choirs and Handbells 5:30 Chapel Bells 7:30	27 GriefShare 6:30	28	29 Worship 5:00

Day 3 Seeds Event at Chapel

A Day 3 Seeds “Seed Harvest Event” was held at Chapel of the Cross last November 9. Seed was harvested from ripe pods of okra, dry bean, and mature sunflowers. Some of the participants packaged coriander seed for a shipment to Uganda. The 27 people that attended enjoyed great fellowship as well as an international meal with stews from Guatemala (Jocon) and Haiti (Joumou) plus a homemade stew of fresh veggies all from the Day 3 Seeds campus in Bertrand, MO. Over 50 lbs. of new seed was collected which will become well over 5000 packets of seed...“Seed for Future Generations.” †††



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."



"The eyes of all look to You, (O Lord,) and You give them their food in due season. You open Your Hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever." Psalm 145:15-16; 118:1

Made In God's Image - Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, January 19, 2020

As we begin 2020, the Life Team is looking forward to finding new ways to celebrate life at Chapel of the Cross! For the Life Team, one of the highlights of 2019 was hosting a booth at Chapel's Fun Fest last fall. We prepared and displayed a "Made In God's Image" poster which includes pictures of people from all different walks of life, and mirrors, so that everyone can see that they are also made in the image of God. The poster reminds us that every individual, no matter their age, size, nationality, or abilities is precious to God and uniquely created by Him. We will have the poster on display again at our table in the Commons area on Life Sunday, January 19, 2020. Please stop by to take a look!



We also borrowed some Touch of Life fetal models to display at our table at the Fun Fest. It was our first time working with them, but they were very popular with our visitors and were very well received. Kids of all ages seemed to be drawn to them. It was really neat to see the reactions of the children and how much they loved holding them and looking at them. In fact, the fetal models were so well received, that we have decided to purchase our own set. We look forward to sharing them with our church at our table on Life Sunday as well. We will also have a variety of brochures and

other information. Feel free to come by and ask any of the Life Team members any questions that you might have. If you are interested in our work, please consider becoming a Life Team member.

Interesting Note: The *Touch of Life* fetal models have become widely known in the Lutheran community largely due to Owen's Mission, a Lutherans For Life initiative that began in 2013. The purpose of Owen's Mission is to present a Touch of Life fetal model set to every Lutheran elementary and high school in the U.S. free of charge. The hope was that students would be

motivated by what God has done as our Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier that gives value to life and that they would in turn value themselves and others as persons because of this God-given value.

Where did Owen's mission come from? From a very small and special baby named Owen. Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life, shares his story:

"I held my little grandson Owen in the palm of my hand. He died at twenty-one weeks during pre-natal surgery to remove a large tumor. The nurse brought him to our son as we waited in the recovery room for Owen's mother. I find it difficult to describe what I felt when I was able to hold him. I had held the twenty-week *Touch of Life* fetal model in my hands hundreds of times in front of students from preschoolers to seminarians. Holding Owen revived in me the reality behind those models. I will never hold them in the same way again."

As Owen's grandpa, Dr. Lamb wanted to do something special to remember Owen, honor Jesus, and help others understand the value God gives to even the smallest of lives.

Good News! It was announced in 2018 that the \$175,000 fundraising goal for Owen's Mission was reached. Now that the funds have been raised, a fetal model set is available for over 900 Lutheran schools across the country who have not yet received one. God gave that tiny twenty-one week old pre-born baby a purpose beyond expectations and we can be assured that he has a plan for each of us no matter how big or small. †††

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We received a pallet of boxed canned goods that we sorted into food categories from the Boy Scouts Scouting for Food.



Marking the bar codes and dating each can.



Boxes of canned goods from local schools.



Thanks to Mary Martha for a donation from their Mixin Fixin proceeds. We were able to purchase Thanksgiving chickens so that each client family received one.

Hutchens
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Old Habits *from page 1*

pleasing lives. Through prayer, we live as witnesses of a God who desires all people to be saved in knowledge of the truth! That doesn't seem passive at all—it is full of action! You have the chance, right now, this year, to pray for all people as one who is dedicated toward peace and godliness. And as you do this, you too will be renewed in the peaceful and quiet life that Jesus' reconciliation works in you!

Finally, one last habit is **thanksgiving**. St. Paul reminds us again in Philippians 4:

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Thanksgiving and rejoicing go hand-in-hand. Often, our society treats thanksgiving and rejoicing as circumstantial entitlement—when things go well for me, I'll be happy. But notice what Paul is encouraging here—we rejoice always. In the good times and in the bad. When life is easy and when it is hard. When you are treated fairly and when you are not. Thanksgiving is our way of remembering that the Lord is at hand no matter the circumstances around us. And because the Lord is at hand, you have a chance, right now, this year, to be reasonable, to avoid anxiousness, to be at peace, and to rejoice with thanksgiving.

Three habits—reconciliation, prayer, and thanksgiving. I can't promise you wealth or prosperity or health in 2020, but

The due date for the
March - April
issue of CrossRoads
is Sunday, January 26.

Membership Matters

TRANSFER OUT:

Nancy Prine to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dubuque, IA

Carroll Weinhold to St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dubuque, IA

DEATHS:

Kathryn Dickerhoff (October 20, 2019)

Former number of members: 932

Gains: +0

Losses: -3

New number of members: **929**

our Lord Jesus promises His presence! And these habits—reconciliation, prayer, and thanksgiving—keep us mindful of His presence, His will, and His unconditional love. It reminds me of the fifth stanza of the great Epiphany hymn “O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”:

O let the harps break forth in sound!

Our joy be all with music crowned,

Our voices gladly blending!

For Christ goes with us all the way—

Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

His love is never ending!

Sing out! Ring out!

Jubilation!

Exultation!

Tell the story!

Great is He, the King of Glory!

May your 2020 be refocused and renewed by these habits as Christ goes with us today, tomorrow, and every day. ✠✠✠

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To find out more, contact:

Kirk Mueller—LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor

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314.704.4389

Kirk.mueller@lcms.org



Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

CrossRoads



Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran
11645 Benham Road
St. Louis, Missouri 63136

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.*

