



# CrossRoads

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

Spring 2023 Volume 15, No. 1



## In This Issue

### Children and Family Ministry

Page 2

### Mary-Martha

Page 3

### Summer Camp

Page 6

### Life Corner

Page 6

### Senior Living

Page 7

## A Time of Watching

by Pastor Laesch



Pastor Laesch

My dog loves to look out my office window and watch. He watches for deer. He watches for any car that goes by. He watches for the UPS truck (oh, how he loves the UPS truck!).

Sometimes I can't figure out what he's watching. He can be so focused, so intent, so engrossed in watching. It just seems he loves the practice of watching, even if it's perhaps just a dead leaf tumbling across the lawn.

I tend to do some watching out the window too. Watching for the storm to roll in, watching the snow gently falling, watching for a package to come (oh, how I love the UPS truck!). I can get so focused, so intent, so engrossed in watching.

Seems to me that this Lenten time is a time of watching. We watch through the window of this season of Lent at our Lord who journeys to a cross. We watch as we see that perfect Son of God forsaken by His Father that we may never be forsaken. We watch as he cries out: "Father, forgive them." "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?" "Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit." "It is finished!" We watch—so focused, so intent, so engrossed—that selfless act of our Savior's love. We watch as we are made new by the forgiveness won for us on Calvary's cross. And we watch how God points us beyond the Lenten cross to the open and empty tomb—to the victory of Easter.

God watches too, you know. Five times Psalm 121 reminds us how God watches. God watches over us. God watches as a dad or a mom watches over their child—caring for what's being watched. He is so focused, so intent, so engrossed watching over you and me.

Which makes it easy for us this Lenten season to join with David in saying, "...You are my strength, I watch for You; You, God, are my fortress..." (Psalm 59:9) †††





## Chapel Travelers

Chapel Travelers Branson Trip is set for June 6 and 7, 2023.

Contact Ken Kreitner or Bill Rusnak for more information. We will have a short meeting in the Sanctuary to preview itinerary the on Sunday, March 12, after the 11:00 a.m. service. More information will be posted as details are finalized. Highlights include a tour of Dogwood Canyon and attending the Sight and Sound Theater's presentation of "Queen Esther."

The cost will be \$239 double occupancy or \$283 single occupancy. †††



by Mary Laesch, Coordinator for Children and Family Ministry

## Easter Egg Hunt

Chapel of the Cross will host an Easter Egg Hunt for children of the congregation and the community on Saturday, April 8. Children and their families are invited to come for crafts and games from 10:00-10:45 a.m. The Egg Hunt will begin at 11:00 a.m. There are many ways to be involved in this fun outreach project! The congregation is invited to donate individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, take-down, crafts and games, and hiding eggs. You could also help fill approximately 1000 plastic eggs with candy on Thursday, April 6 after the Maundy Thursday service. Sign up in the church narthex or contact Mary Laesch. Thank you! †††



## Lenten Schedule 2023

*Lenten Midweek Worship*  
February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

*Palm Sunday*  
April 1 & 2  
5:00 p.m., 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

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

*Good Friday*  
April 7  
12:00 noon & 6:30 p.m.

*Easter Vigil*  
April 8  
5:00 p.m.

*Easter Sunday*  
April 9  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

## Confirmation

Confirmation class, taught by Pastor Laesch, meets every Sunday during the education hour. This year there are seven students in the class. Two of the seven confirmands will be confirmed this spring: Aniya Cleveland and Ethan Moss. Join the Cleveland and Moss families in celebrating Confirmation Sunday on May 21, 2023 at the 11 a.m. service. †††

## Summer Camp Counselors Needed

2023 Chapel Summer Camp is May 30 through August 4. We are now accepting applications from anyone interested in being a counselor this summer.

Applicants must be at least graduating high school seniors. Please contact Summer Camp Interim Director, Bill Rusnak, to get your application, ask questions, or for more information. †††



A publication of Chapel of the Cross  
11645 Benham Road • St. Louis, MO 63136

**Volume 15, No. 1 • Summer 2023**

Phone: 314-741-3737 • website: [www.chapelofthecross.org](http://www.chapelofthecross.org)  
e-mail: [chapel@chapelofthecross.org](mailto:chapel@chapelofthecross.org)

**Editor:** Richard Gronemeyer

**Associate Editors:** Ken and Marilyn Kreitner



...taking the light of Christ to the ends of the earth

(Isaiah 49:6)

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! For over 50 years, congregations across our Synod have been sending short-term mission teams to northern Canada to remote First Nation communities to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. This is done through LAMP: Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Teams of 4-8 individuals work together to prepare a week of Bible school for the children of a community to which they will travel in the summer. These children do not have weekly Sunday school. The children look forward to Vacation Bible School each summer. They always ask team members, "Are you coming back next year?" Teams from churches in the U.S. and Canada have returned to villages for several years, building relationships not only with the children of the communities, but also with some of the adults. The children are always surprised to learn that there are other Christians, from far away, who care about them and are praying for them.

This coming summer, people from Chapel of the Cross will have the opportunity to be part of a team or teams that will travel to Canada with more Good News. If God has put you in a

position to be able to assist us in bringing the Good News to the children of the North, you will be a blessing to them. There are many ways to assist the teams as they prepare to travel North; through physical preparations, financial support, and through prayer. We would especially appreciate your prayers. Pray for team members as they prepare all aspects of this mission, for their departure, safe travels, and for their families before and during the trip. Pray also for the children who will attend, that their hearts may be receptive to the message of God's love and salvation.

The dates for our LAMP trip are July 19-31. More information about serving on a team or assisting in preparations for the team can be found by contacting Ellen Kehe, 314-607-3734, or Michael Kehe, 314-607-3735. Additional information about the ministry of LAMP can be found on their website at [www.lampministry.org](http://www.lampministry.org).

Thank you for your support and prayers! ✠✠✠

In Service for HIM, COTC LAMP Ministry Team



The Mary-Martha Guild would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Christmas Cookie Sale.

Monday, March 13, at 6:30, Mary-Martha Guild will hold its regular meeting. Our guest speaker will be Lia Weber, the owner of Made by Lia, a craft bakery in Old Town Florissant.

Our Spring Bake Sale will be held on Palm Sunday April 2. A recipient will be announced in the Chapel Weekly later. Thank you in advance for your support.

On Monday, April 10, at 6:30, Angela Gatley, the President of LWML North County Zone, will be our guest speaker.

Monday, May 8, at 6:30, Our guest speaker will be Leslie Bertsch, a registered dietician. She is a Missouri University Field Specialist in Nutrition and Health. At this meeting we will also decide how to disperse our mission monies. ✠✠✠

Contributions for the Summer 2023  
issue of CrossRoads are due by  
Sunday, June 11th.



*Honoring Life. Celebrating Memories.*

675 Graham Rd.  
Florissant, MO 63031  
Ph. 314.831.3100



## Chapel Member Erv Wilson Spent His Time in the Army Playing Baseball

Ervin “Erv” Wilson never predicted his time in the Army would be spent playing baseball. Lots and lots of baseball.

Erv was drafted by the United States Army in 1958 while working as an auditor for the Department of Defense.

“I deployed to Frankfurt, Germany, for a two-year term,” says Erv. “After a year, they found out I played baseball when I was younger and asked me to join the Babenhäusen Rammers, a team that traveled to Army bases to play and entertain the troops.”

Although he grew up playing baseball, he hadn’t formally played since high school.

“I was a little hesitant to agree since it had been so long since I played,” he says. “I quickly realized the skills I had developed were still there, they just needed to be used again!”

Erv was one of 12, members of the Ram-



mers who traveled and played at other-Army bases across Germany and in Paris. Erv played third base, and was considered to be one of the best in the league at his position. After more than a few infield hits and stolen bases, Erv was asked to run track for the Army. He agreed and performed quite admirably in the sprints.

No matter where they played, the Ram-

mers attracted crowds—sometimes up to 500 people! They mostly played in front of military members and their families.

“My teammates became my family—we had so much fun together,” he says. “My fondest memories of my time in the Army are being part of the Rammers and getting to travel to some incredible places.”

Although Erv never played or coached baseball after his time in the Army was finished, he’s been an avid New York Yankees fan, having spent a lot of time in the Big Apple after he got married in 1960.

“Growing up, I just really loved playing sports,” says Erv, recalling his experiences in his apartment at Village North Retirement Community in Florissant, where he now lives. “I was so thankful to have earned a scholarship to the University of Illinois for basketball, but I never thought I would be lucky enough to continue playing a sport of any kind once my school days were over.” 🙏🙏🙏

## Marriage Anniversary Service



Couples celebrating in the annual Marriage Anniversary Service, Sunday, February 12, 2023

## Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars may direct Choice Dollars for the ministry of Chapel of the Cross. Don’t miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Chapel! Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt. 🙏🙏🙏

## Thrivent Members

In preparation for Summer Camp 2023, we are needing 10 to 12 Thrivent Action Team gift cards for specific areas. If you are willing to help in this way speak with Bill Rusnak in the weeks ahead! 🙏🙏🙏

# March 2023

February '23							April '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	4						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		8	9	10	11	12	13
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		14	15	16	17	18	19
26	27	28						20	21	22	23	24	25
								26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
26		27		28		1	2	3	4				
						Lenten Service 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinners 5:00 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	GriefShare 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choral Singers 7:00-8:30 p.m.					4	Worship Service 5:00 p.m. Trivia Night 6:00 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m. Start
5	Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	6		7	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	8	Lenten Service 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinners 5:00 p.m. Children Handbells 5:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	9	Joyful Noise 6:15 p.m. GriefShare 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choral Singers 7:00-8:30 p.m.	10		11	Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
12	Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	13	Mary-Martha 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m. Concordia University Concert Band Concert 7:00 p.m.	14	GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	15	Lenten Service 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinners 5:00 p.m. Children Handbells 5:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	16	GriefShare 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choral Singers 7:00-8:30 p.m.	17		18	Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
19	Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	20		21	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	22	Lenten Service 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinners 5:00 p.m. Children Handbells 5:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	23	Joyful Noise 6:15 p.m. GriefShare 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choral Singers 7:00-8:30 p.m.	24		25	Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
26	Worship Services 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	27	Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	28	GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	29	Lenten Service 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinners 5:00 p.m. Children Handbells 5:30 p.m. Chapel Bells 7:30 p.m.	30	GriefShare 6:30-8:30 p.m. Choral Singers 7:00-8:30 p.m.	31		1	
2		3		Notes									

## 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."*



## Did You Know?

There are quite a few celebrities who came close to being aborted. Some might come as a surprise because they are so influential. It is strange to imagine the world without them.

Celine Dion's mother was overwhelmed because it would be her 14th child. Her priest advised her and offered her support and she chose to raise her.

Oprah Winfrey's mother got pregnant as a teenager and others encouraged her to abort, but she chose not to. Oprah was raped by a cousin and became pregnant at 14. She chose to carry the baby to term but sadly he was born prematurely and died a few weeks later.

Jack Nicholson grew up not knowing that his sister was actually his mother. His mom got pregnant at 17 and his grandparents raised him. He didn't find out the truth until after this mother died of cancer.

Andrea Bocelli's mother was hospitalized with appendicitis. Doctors advised that she abort her baby because he would be born with a disability, but she refused.

Justin Bieber's mom was 17 when she became pregnant. She was pressured to abort him but she just couldn't do it and she knew she had to keep him.

Cher's mother was pressured by her parents to get an abortion but she changed her mind at the clinic.

Steve Jobs' mother decided that she could not keep him, but chose adoption instead of abortion.

Brooke Shields' grandfather (her dad's father) paid her mother to have an abortion but she just couldn't do it. Instead, she used the money to buy a piece of antique furniture. †††

## Summer Camp

by Bill Rusnak  
and the Summer Camp Administrative Staff

### Chapel of the Cross Summer Camp 2023 *a Christ-centered outdoor day camp!*

We are looking forward to having your child join us for a jam-packed summer as we go on field trips to many of the most popular museums and attractions in St. Louis. We'll visit parks, swim, play games, and participate in a variety of activities unique to camp. Campers will also have daily devotional experiences under our theme "The Most Amazing Race - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus," sing praises to God, and then, at the end of the summer, lead a Sunday worship service at Chapel.

Further information about Chapel's Summer Camp can be found on the summer camp website: [www.chapelofthecross.org/summercamp](http://www.chapelofthecross.org/summercamp). This includes the 2023 Parent Handbook, registration form, plus a tentative calendar of activities and the daily schedule. Please read everything thoroughly and complete all the registration materials.

And don't forget to pass on the referral coupon to friends and family members who are also look-



ing for a great summer camp for their children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 314.741.3737 x 102 or via e-mail at [summercamp@chapelofthecross.org](mailto:summercamp@chapelofthecross.org). †††

## Buchholz Mortuaries, Inc.

### • FLORISSANT •

619 St. Francois St.  
Florissant, MO 63031  
Phone: (314) 839-2020



Pre-Arranged Funeral Plans Available

The Buchholz Mortuaries family is dedicated to serving your family's needs now and in the future.



Consultant, Lutheran Church Charities and Editor at Large,  
HOPE-FULL Living and Ambassador of Health, Hope and Aging (AH-HA)

## 2023 Resolution Considerations

1. Be a hand that reaches out to others;
2. Be a smile for those who have no reason to smile;
3. Be a light for those who live in darkness;
4. See the Lord in all that you do;
5. Laugh at yourself and help others to do so;
6. Pray whenever things are going good or bad;
7. Listen to others and see the Lord working in and through them;
8. Say as often as needed—"Oops, I must be wrong";
9. Focus on the meek and help them to share and speak;
10. Come and see the Christ, and go and be His people!

### Having Your Ups and Downs in 2023

*Proverbs 12:25*

"Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up."

"When we ever feel "lost" this year, just remember Who has already found us!

"Once we were lost, but now we are found!" Welcome to the "Lost and Found Club".... the Church! ✠✠✠

## Membership Matters

### Confirmations (December 4, 2022):

**Xavier Hill**

**Amy Meister**

### Deaths:

**Ken Inman** (January 3, 2023)

**Donna L. Miller** (December 13, 2022)

**Anna L. Scott** (December 19, 2022)

### Transfers Out:

**David and Karen Funke** to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Rapids, WI

**Jonathan and Jamie Mueller** and baptized child, Jared to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, TX

**Karen Wahlers** to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN

### Release:

**Chester and Todd Hayes**

Former number of members: 897

Gains: +2

Losses: -10

New number of members: 889



## Concert Band

### Concordia University, NE

## Monday, March 13

## 7:00 p.m.

The University Concert Band, made up of over 50 students and under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, Interim director, will perform a concert at Chapel of the Cross on March 13 at 7:00 pm. Deeply rooted in the more than 100-year history of instrumental musical ensembles at Concordia, the Concert Band was formed in 1906 and is the oldest continuing musical organization at Concordia. Dr. von Kampen also directs the choral program and currently serves as music department chair.



Kirk Mueller

## YOUR LIFETIME PLAN FOR GIVING

*Have you left a lasting legacy of your faith?*

*Have you blessed your family in the best way?*

*Have you remembered your favorite ministries?*

As you can answer "yes" to each of these questions, I know you will experience the peace and joy of knowing God has blessed you to be a blessing.

To find out more, contact:

**Kirk Mueller—LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor**

11645 Benham Road, St. Louis, MO 63136

314.704.4389

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

  
The LCMS FOUNDATION®  
Linking Christians with Giving Opportunities

Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran

**CrossRoads**



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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI  
PERMIT NO. 2656

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.*

