



# CrossRoads

*Chapel Of The Cross - Lutheran*

Summer 2023 Volume 15, No. 2



## Meet Our New Vicar Brett Arrasmith



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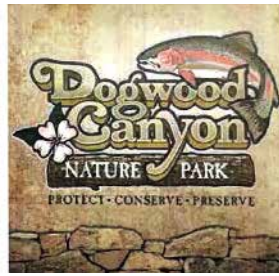
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**G**reetings Chapel of the Cross. My name is Brett Arrasmith and I will be your new Vicar for the next year. I have been married to my wife Kellie for 17 years coming this July. We have three daughters, Shana 23, Madison 9, and Riley 7. We also have a granddaughter named Alaya who is 2 years old and another grandchild on the way. We moved to St. Louis from the southwestern part of Missouri from a small town called Neosho where we lived for 15 years. Kellie and I both grew up in the rural country of McDonald County; Kellie in Washburn MO and myself in Rocky Comfort MO. Kellie has been a nurse for 17 years and presently works at Mercy South in the emergency room. Before coming to the Seminary, I worked for the City of Neosho in the Water Department where I did all sorts of exciting things. Shana and her daughter Alaya live in Oklahoma. Madison will be going into the 5th grade and Riley into 3rd grade. They both attend Captain Elementary which is right next door to Concordia Seminary. As a family we enjoy camping, going to the beach, swimming, baseball games, and other typical family activities. My personal hobbies and interests include hunting, fishing, cars, and just about anything that I find interesting at the moment.

I am very excited to be serving my vicarage at Chapel of the Cross. I look forward to getting involved and learning all that I can for my future ministry and for your ministry to the people of your community. I have an interest in missional work and building relationships with the people who surround us. I believe a good ministry is relational as we have a relational and interactive God. Jesus set the example of how ministry should be. Jesus didn't go at His ministry alone but stressed the importance of working as a team and building each other up. For we are taught in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, that the body does not consist of one member but of many. God has arranged each one of us as He has chosen. Just like our hands and feet serve a purpose, each one of us serve a purpose as the body of Christ. Therefore as a team we serve the Lord in all that we do by teaching His living word to all nations. (See page 2)



## Chapel Travelers

Chapel Travelers Branson Trip was on June 6 and 7, 2023.

Highlights included a tour of Dogwood Canyon and attending the Sight and Sound Theater's presentation of "Queen Esther." †††

Brett Arrasmith (*From page 1*)

God has designed me to be a doer. One who goes out among the people to support and strengthen them not only in faith but also in their daily lives. I look forward to being involved with youth groups, shut-ins, and those at assisted living facilities. For there is much wisdom to be learned from those who are young in faith and from those who have lifelong experiences. God has blessed us in many different ways and everyone brings something special to the table that we can all learn from. As I will spend the next year with my new church family, I hope to be a blessing to you as you will be a blessing to my family and myself. May the Lord be with you always.

In Christ, Brett Arrasmith †††



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## Duties of the Elders

### ARTICLE IX

#### Section 1.

The Board of Elders shall be male voting members of the congregation and shall be ratified by the Voters' Assembly for a term of three (3) years. The Board of Elders shall annually select from their members a Chairman, Vice Chairman and a Secretary.

#### Section 2.

Members of the Board of Elders shall be selected through the following procedure:

The Senior Pastor in conjunction with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Elders will select a list of qualified candidates to fill open positions on the Board of Elders. These men shall be ratified by the Voters' Assembly at the annual meeting and shall assume their duties on January 1 following the meeting. They shall be inducted into office in a public service of the congregation.

Vacancies shall be filled by election of the Board of Elders for the unfilled term. The Board of Elders may appoint additional Elders if necessary, who would then be ratified by the congregation at the next annual Voters' Meeting, with notification to the Voters in the interim. An Elder can be re-elected at the end of his term and can serve an unlimited number of consecutive terms.

#### Section 3.

The Board of Elders shall concern themselves, as Assistants to the Pastor, with the spiritual life of the congregation, and shall be charged with the development and supervision of policies that nurture and promote the use of the means of grace by the members of the congregation, especially regular attendance at worship.

They shall provide for adequate personal spiritual care of those who are members and guests of the congregation; promote the mission of Chapel of the Cross-Lutheran to make disciples of all people; implement church discipline; and provide for the proper and orderly conduction of the public worship services of the congregation.

#### Section 4.

The Board of Elders shall annually appoint:

A. A Lay Ministry Committee to assist the Board of Elders in the soul care of the congregation. Members of the Board of Lay Ministry shall be Voting Members who are at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

B. A Worship Committee to assist in the worship life of the congregation. †††

## God's Family of Believers

by Jim Crosier, Elder

Do you remember the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)? This young man wanted to see the world and asked his father for his inheritance, which meant that he couldn't wait for his father to die. The son received his inheritance, he left home, and lost everything.

He came to his senses and found his way home. His father was delighted that his lost son came home, and he declared a large banquet for the whole town. I always wondered why he invited the whole town to the party. Come to find out that the town was made up of family: sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Do you remember the twelve tribes of Israel? Could they also be called the twelve families? Check out Matthew 1:1-17 and see how important families are. Chapel of the Cross is God's family of believers. We are made part of God's loving family through baptism. Perhaps you remember your confirmation when we were welcomed into the family as "confirmed members" of the church. How beautiful that God invites us and welcomes us into His wonderful family!

Come and see your family members on Saturdays or Sundays and receive the Word, Sacrament, and fellowship. While you are there you may want to take in a Bible study. Bible studies are on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. †††

Contributions for the Fall 2023  
issue of CrossRoads are due by  
Sunday, September 3rd.

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## Concordia Concert Band

by Ryan Meyer

On Monday, March 13, Chapel was blessed to be able to host the University Concert Band from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. Under the direction of Dr. Kurt von Kampen, interim director, the band is made up of over 50 students and is the University's premiere band. 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.

Pastor Laesch began the concert with a word of welcome, and the words of Psalm 150: "Praise the Lord with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." The evening was truly an expression of the Psalmist's words! Their program offered both serious and light-hearted moments, featured a wide variety of musical styles and offered something for everyone to enjoy.

We are very grateful for the many volunteers who contributed in numerous ways to host this ensemble and make this event so successful! Thank you to all those who helped prepare and serve food for their dinner, who helped to promote this event, who welcomed students into their homes for the night, and all those who helped in any other way. We appreciate you!! †††



## Chapel Bell Choirs



If you would like to join the Chapel's adult or children's handbell choir, please talk to Ryan Meyer or Jen Schmidt.



# Juneteenth

by Rev. Ellory Glenn

We have recently gained a new federal holiday, Juneteenth! But what is Juneteenth, you might ask. Juneteenth, a combination of June and nineteenth, is a celebration of the anniversary of an order given by Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger, on June 19, 1865 that freed the slaves in Texas.

The Emancipation Proclamation went into effect January 1, 1863. However, it could only be enforced in states not controlled by the Confederacy. And while the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves, it did not end slavery. Slavery wasn't against the law in the United States until President Lincoln approved the 13th Amendment on February 1, 1865. And even after the war ended, it took some time for the news to spread throughout the old Confederacy-the announcement by Maj. Gen. Granger, on June 19, 1865, ended slavery permanently in the United States of America. The general's proclamation ended slavery for 250,000 African-American men and women. This occasion, known as Juneteenth, was initially celebrated primarily in the South but has increased in celebration over the years, especially among descendants of slaves.

Christians celebrate Juneteenth because we should acknowledge the sin of slavery as practiced in the United States until the 13th Amendment. This is because slavery is a form of disordered dominion. In the book, "Ministers of Reconciliation," in an essay by Matthew D. Kim titled "Preaching on Race in View of the Image of God," he suggests that we begin our search in the book of Genesis, specifically Genesis 1:27, "So God created mankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." The creation of man

is the crown of God's creation, His highest delight.

Everything changed with the fall of man into sin. We lost God's image and were doomed to death. But God had a plan to save man from the punishment he deserved, a way of salvation. And that plan was sending his son, Jesus the Messiah, as a sacrifice to save us. Starting with Cain, sinful man began to undermine the concept of the image of God and that we were no longer creatures of the Creator who wished to worship our Creator but wanted to dominate each other. Dr. Kim states that not only did Cain place himself in God's stead in killing Abel, but he also failed to see his brother Abel as the image of God, who created them both. And this is why slavery performed in America was a sin. American slavery was not based on capture or indenture. Instead, it was based on a false premise that somehow Africans were inferior to Western Europeans and not quite men. This is the same as Cain not seeing God's image in Abel when he killed him. But fortunately, many Christians did understand that

just because someone does not look like you does not mean that they are not just as much in the image of God as you are. We are all God's creatures created in his image and should treat each other accordingly.

So we should all celebrate Juneteenth because the Holy Spirit turned enough hearts in the dark days of slavery to help overthrow this horrible institution. And remember the lesson that we are ALL created in God's image and are God's creatures. We were never to have dominion over each other but were to love each other as God loves us. And that's why everyone should celebrate Juneteenth. May our newest holiday be a blessing from God. 🙏🙏🙏



The Mary-Martha Guild is taking a summer break and will soon begin planning our 2023-2024 meeting agenda.

Listed below is a summary of our contributions and supporting payments made during our 2022-2023 term.

AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
\$ 1,648.00	COTC - Helping Hands Food Pantry
\$ 1,147.00	Day 3 Seeds. Inc.
\$ 830.00	COTC - LAMP Summer Mission Project
\$ 794.50	LWML St. Louis North Zone - Mite Collections thru May - \$585.00/MMG Meetings and \$209.50/Congregation
\$ 300.00	Bethania Kids
\$ 300.00	Staff Gift
\$ 192.00	LWML - Dues
\$ 150.00	LWML - Quarterly Order
\$ 75.00	COTC - Radio Broadcast for LWML Sunday
\$ 15.00	CalC - Memorial- MMG Member Donna Miller
\$ 5451.50	TOTAL

Our Lord and Savior has again richly blessed the efforts of the Mary-Martha Guild.

We sincerely thank all of you for your dedication and support.

**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 Apple Theory**  
by Pastor Lonie Eatherton



If people were just apples, then each tiny little seed  
Could be planted or discarded solely based upon the need.  
And each struggling little seedling looking up to see the sky  
Could be cultivated nicely or cut off and left to die.

Not a life would be protected, not an apple tree exempt  
From the fate that would befall it ...  
And if someone should attempt  
To set parameters for conduct in our dealing with a sprout,  
Then the civil rights committee would step in and throw him out!

If people were just apples, then the green and wormy may  
Without fear of accusation, quietly be put away.  
Any immature or handicapped, the slightest of degrees,  
Might be sorted out like apples and discarded as you please.

If people were just apples, then the ones that start to age  
Growing old and soft and wrinkled, moving far beyond the stage  
Of when the quality of life was fully beautiful and strong,  
Would be ushered to their coffins without fear of doing wrong.

If people were just apples, then we'd measure and we'd weigh  
Which were good enough to save and all the ones we'd throw away.  
And someday soon the refuse pile of life would get its due –  
Someone would come along and judge that we should be there, too!



**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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# Senior Living

## At Seventy A Journal

by May Sarton

Why do we worry about lines in our face as we grow old? A face without lines that shows no mark of what has been lived through in a long life suggest something unlived, empty, behind it....

Still, one mourns one's young face sometimes. It has to be admitted. I now use a night cream for the first time in my life. At the same time, as I went over photographs yesterday for a children's book of biographies in which I am included, I felt that my face is better now, and I like it better. That is because I am a far more complete and richer person than I was at twenty-five, when ambition and personal conflicts were paramount and there was a surface of sophistication that was not true of the person inside.

Now I wear the inside person outside and am more comfortable with my self. In some ways I am younger because I can admit vulnerability and more innocent because I do not have to pretend. †††

## Membership Matters

### Confirmations (May 21, 2023):

Aniyo Renae Cleveland

Ethan Edward Moss

### Transfers In:

**Herbert Barge** from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Mapelwood, MO

**Kristin Bork** from Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO

### Affirmation of Faith:

**Russel and Pamela Mains**

**Kenneth A. Mason**

### Release:

**Julie Norton** and adult children, Jessica and Kevin

### Death:

**Jerry Rubano** (March 2023)

**Dorothy M. Syberg** (March 27, 2023)

Former number of members: 889

Gains: +7

Losses: -5

New number of members: 891



Mary-Martha Guild officers for 2023-2024

## Don't Throw Out That Bible!

Do you have old Bibles and other Christian literature that you could part with? Through the end of the summer, on behalf of Love Packages, Chapel will be collecting Bibles, Sunday school materials, and other Christian books to send the Word of God to those who do not have it. Love Packages supports international mission work by sending the Gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated Bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Bring your donations to the box in the Commons Area by Sunday, August 20. †††



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)

  
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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.*

