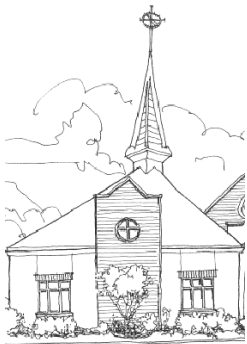


Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching
and Living with the
Cross of Christ

**Cross of Christ
Lutheran Church
and School
512 N. Cockrell Hill
De Soto, TX 75115
972-223-9340
Fax 972-223-8432**

**September 2018
Edition**



Pastors' Page

Pastor John De Young



"Pastor,...

WHAT IS WITH THE KNEEL-
ING DURING THE WORSHIP
SERVICE?"

Recently, one of our parishioners asked this question because he wanted to get a deeper understanding of what was going on during the worship service. I remembered the line from the **"Venite"** in the Order of Matins (LSB: 220). Having looked it up I continued talking about how David – a man after the heart of God – spoke (*sung*) these words as a hymn of praise to God (Psalm 95:1-7). Specifically, I was referring to Psalm 95:6: **"Oh come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."**

Putting into practice what the Bible teaches is a Missouri Synod Lutheran thing. We desire to practice what God speaks. Our LORD and God does not mandate that we bow down or kneel at any particular time or place in the service but as the Scriptures themselves commend bowing and kneeling as a salutary practice – so – pious Lutherans consider doing it.

One of the things I wished that we had in our church was kneelers. I often teased our Eternally sainted brother, Joel Staehs that his next wood project for the church should be to put

kneelers in each pew. He didn't think that was too funny.

But many church buildings in the Missouri Synod have kneelers in the pews. Most of our churches have an altar rail so that communicants can kneel to receive the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the bread and wine for the Forgiveness of sins. Kneeling is part and parcel of worship in the Old Testament and even in our own midst (communion).

So, if we would like to do such things, when would we know when to kneel? The Lutheran Service Book could help us to figure out that question.

Lutherans may kneel to confess their sins (LSB: pgs. 151, 167, 184, 203, 213, 291, 292), or at prayer time (LSB: pgs. 227, 233, 241, 249, 253). When we get confirmed (LSB: pg. 273) and get married (LSB: pg. 276). If the Lutheran is to be a pastor, he kneels to be ordained (LSB: Agenda pg. 166), installed (LSB: Agenda, pg. 181) and he may kneel if he is leaving for another field of service (LSB: Agenda, pg. 195), or retiring (LSB: Agenda, pg. 198). If a son or daughter of a congregation is beginning study for service in the church they may kneel (LSB: Agenda, pg. 207). If a Lutheran is a candidate

for commissioning in service to the church, they are instructed to kneel (LSB: Agenda, pg. 212).

Digging through Lutheran Hymnals and Agendas past and present and you will find kneeling all over the place. Just as a side note: Genuflecting is kneeling, just with one knee.

Recently, some elders began the practice of kneeling with Pastor during our Confession and Absolution in the worship service. Some spoke in our midst that Pastor "made them kneel." Sadly, but quite happily I say to you, "No, I never said anything to the Elders about kneeling during the Confession and Absolution." These Godly men just revered their LORD by kneeling and imploring their heavenly Father to forgive them! If only we would all learn such pious reverence and have the opportunity to "kneel before our LORD and Maker".

Someone might say, "But Pastor, isn't kneeling an adiaphoron?" And I would simply state, "Yes!" But just because it is neither commanded nor forbidden doesn't mean that we "can't" kneel. Remember, though, things like folding our hands in prayer, standing during the Invocation of God's Name or during the entrance of the Crucifix, making the sign of the

Cross, kneeling or Genuflecting during the worship or any of another physical actions we do during the worship service may teach us something or focus our attention more on what is happening in the worship service.

Sometimes kneeling during the Words of Institution is understood that the pastor is, in some strange way, reverencing the host as if the pastor has by some magical power changed the substance of the bread into the Body of Christ (*Catholic teaching of Transubstantiation*), but rather, it is a reverent confession and kneeling because the pastor actually believes that under the bread is the true Body of Jesus Christ and under the wine is the very Blood of Christ according to Christ's Own clear Word. It is this LORD, our Maker, the One through Whom all things were made Who was born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, crucified under Pontius Pilate and raised on the third day who is really present, under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and to drink.

Don't you believe that? Have you ever knelt to receive the Sacrament of the Altar? Did you at that time believe in some magic that the pastor did, or were you receiving the Body and Blood of your LORD and God in humility for the forgiveness of your sins and worshiping Him in true faith? True, genuflecting is a true adiaphoron, but believing that Christ is present in the Sacrament according to His Word is not an adiaphoron. The fact that He is present might cause fellow Christians to kneel in pious reverence. We are free to do so. So are you.

Really? Pastor, how do we genuflect or kneel in the pews when we don't have kneelers? (*Maybe we should look into getting some kneelers placed on our pews?*) Just because you can not kneel very gracefully in the pew doesn't mean you cannot participate with the Pastor and the Elders. You may "*take a hint*" from the Pastor and Elders that when they do kneel you may bow yourselves (*an accentuated bow of the*

hip or a simple bow of the head).

As a note: You will also notice other times that the pastor bows/kneels during the worship service. Ponder what is happening and what is being said and consider why he might be bowing at that point. If you can not figure it out – ask me – I would love to teach more reverence in liturgical practice.

"Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name: That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the Glory of God the Father."

- Philippians 2:9-11

"Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we Name Thee; Though in essence only One, Undivided God we claim Thee And, adoring bend the knee, While we own the Mystery." LSB: 940:5

Your "continuing education" brother in Christ, Pastor De Young

School Report

We welcome the De Soto Little Eagles this school year (2018-2019). The transition with the additional children in the school is going well.

We are excited about this partnership with De Soto ISD and the opportunity to have a role in the education of these great three year olds.

Please remember us in your prayers.

Lila Fussell
School Director



School Board Report

This month we all owe a big thank you to Lila Fussell, our school director. We now are hosting two rooms of three year olds from the DeSoto ISD. This happened because of Lila's contacts with parents. She found that DeSoto school district was using three daycare centers to host three year old kids and that one of them was closing. She found the correct person to contact and let them know we were interested. Now we have a three year contract with them. I am trying to stay out of her way and let her work. She is doing a good job and everything seems to be going smoothly. It is possible that we may acquire more kids from this for our school.

We are continuing our school along with DeSoto ISD kids. DeSoto sends their own teachers and DeSoto pays the salary for them. We just rent rooms and do teacher relief and provide meals. Lila has to work with the staff to make sure everything goes as planned. Again thanks Lila. This will also help the income of the church.

A D Cowser

Board of Properties

One classroom AC unit failed and was replaced at a cost of \$4,300.00. This classroom will be used by the De Soto ISD for the partnership mentioned above. We have another AC unit that will need to be replaced if the program expands as we anticipate. We will monitor the situation closely.

Old desks have been cleaned out of the school attic and the security camera has been replaced. Replacement was required because the previous one could not be repaired.

Due to email issues arising out of the church website prayer emails being tagged as spam, it is recommended that any communication with the church office be addressed to crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com until such time as the current problem

can be resolved. You may receive two emails as we work through this dilemma.

Thanks to Gail Bielefeldt who cleaned all the lockers to be used by the De Soto ISD students and teachers.

There is a second AC unit that covers the morning room and the art room that needs to be replaced. Our hope is to wait until we start incoming funds from the DeSoto ISD.

Greg Fussell



Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Recently, we had a service (the 12th Sunday after Pentecost) in which the Epistle reading was Ephesians 5:6-21. In this portion of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul explains that Christians are "light in Lord." The Ephesians (and us) are to "live as children of light for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth and finds out what pleases the Lord." Christians should have nothing to do with the "fruitless deeds of darkness." Paul concluded that we all should be "very careful how you live ... making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil."

It was this last statement that I found interesting. It would have been logical for Paul to argue "because the days are evil, guard yourselves from temptation." If he had, some might decide to withdraw completely from the world so as not to be exposed to temptation. But, instead, Paul says effectively that because the days are evil; make the most of every opportunity. In other words, Christians should, in days of evil especially, use opportunities for

witness and service as they present themselves. Clearly, the times today are still evil and Paul's message still applies to our Church and us.

Similarly, Synod President Matthew Harrison at the District Convention noted declining attendance in churches across America and said we need to make the most of our opportunities to reach out to others and help them realize the joy of worshiping Jesus Christ. His main theme verse was from 1Thesalonians 5:16-24. The passages starts out saying, "Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Again all circumstances, good or bad, we are to be joyful and give thanks. Even in bad or evil times, we praise the Lord and pray so as to make the best of our time here.

This month, I would like to express my appreciation for the staff, Property Board members and the volunteers that assisted Lila Fussell in getting the School ready for the partnership with DeSoto Independent School District as well get ready for our School year. The School is a great opportunity for our Church to have an outreach to our surrounding community and the wonderful work of everyone in our Church to support this great adventure is what we can certainly give thanks for.

Peace be with you!

Tom

Help us keep our records in order:

If you have a change of address
- or - a change or addition of phone number(s) - or - email address
Please be sure to let our church secretary (Sharon Wilson) know.



"Dear members of Cross of Christ, Love and God's blessings. Our thanks for your prayers & faithful gifts of love in support of our ministry in Bible Translation. Language Software positions in the Center are in urgent need of being filled. Pray also for the changeover in the International Finance office staff. These are urgent needs where personnel is crucial.

Praise God for the six summer interns working in the Language Software Department on various projects. What fine young people whose hearts enables volunteering and a desire to some day serve in the field.

Childcare in the Center is provided for parents enabling them to serve in various roles or attend workshops. Pray for the health of the children and those who serve them providing excellent care.

Thank you for your faithful partnership,

Marshall and Vanice"



September Meeting

Wednesday,
9-19-2018
10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

All women are welcome!





September Birthdays

9-1 Carrie Graves
 9-7 Pastor De Young
 9-7 Kate Duncan
 9-7 Patty McKethan
 9-7 Tim Pedersen
 9-7 Cyndi Springer
 9-8 Alton Schulze
 9-12 Karen Egeland
 9-19 Carol Brown
 9-25 Robert Flye
 9-27 Carl Holmes
 9-28 Verna Geihl
 9-29 Tom Graves

We are sorry if we have inadvertently left your name off the birthday list. Please contact the church office by phone, 972-223-9340, or e-mail at: crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com so we can update our list.



Mark Your Calendar

October 13, 2018
 Country Day on the Hill
 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers needed!

Flamingos often stand on one leg to preserve body heat, tucking the other leg into their plumage so it is kept warm. They alternate legs to regulate their body temperature.



Are you in need of prayer?

Complete a prayer request card (found in the back of the pews in the sanctuary), and place in the offering plate.

Send an email to the church office: crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com

Call the church office at 972-223-9340.



Remember our Shut-ins

Charlotte Walker; Nathalie Smith; Dolores Jirik; Joan Symank; Karen Wenzel; Dr. Falke; Lucille Gropp; Sue Riewe

Welcome to the Little Eagles from the DeSoto ISD!

We are happy to welcome you to the Cross of Christ Lutheran School Campus.



DOW

The Refugee Service Center (RSC) focuses on holistic care through relationships, providing DOW with a unique opportunity to share the Gospel. The RSC offers many services that help our refugee neighbors access assimilation assistance and the staff takes the opportunity to invite our neighbors to weekly Arabic Bible study. DOW continually needs more Arabic Bibles to go along with the Arabic Small Catechism (recently translated by the Lutheran Heritage Foundation) so that these Bibles can be shared not only at the weekly Arabic Bible study, but also on home visits.



Sewing Seeds of Faith

There are new items available from the Sewing Seeds of Faith. Please take a look and remember all items are available for a free will offering.

Items available at the time of this newsletter include:

- * Teddy bears—dressed
- * Cosmetic bags
- * Kleenex covers
- * Pillow cases
- * Table runners
- * Apron
- * Hand bags
- * Large pot holders
- * Adorable little girl dress
- * Chair caddy



Special Report:

I, Gail Bielefeldt, had the pleasure of attending the LWML Texas District Convention in Waco as the delegate from our Cross of Christ LWML Society. The well organized convention with the theme "Filled to Overflow...Serving, Sharing, and Telling" kept attendees busy day and evening. At Thursday's Meet & Greet we sampled premixed Dr. Pepper floats! (Dr. Pepper originated in Waco.) I studied the displays about different Mission Grants to be voted on later.

On Friday, convention opened with prayer and singing as did other sessions. Rev. Ken Hennings, LCMS President greeted us. Katie Luther stopped by since Martin had taken a wrong turn. She stated it was not sanitary to have mites in a box. Luther had them in corn stalks. She planned to worship here and make it Martin's idea. Donna Pyle led a Bible study entitled "Filled to Overflow", based on John 7:38. The offering was for Fortress, an LCMS church plant. After watching a video on the Mission Grant choices, we voted on them. (This updated video, which now only includes the Mission Grants chosen to receive mite money, can be seen at www.lwmltxdist.org) That afternoon, Rev. John Heckmann led a study entitled "A Fixer Upper of a Heart?" Our hearts are evil but our Father gives us a transplanted heart and a new spirit through the Means of Grace.

On Friday evening, Rev. Ken Hennings proclaimed the message "Overflowing" (Isaiah 12: 1-6), at Divine Service with Holy Communion. That night's offering went to mites!

On Sat., Pastor Timothy Appel, District Pastoral Counselor, led "God's Waterfront Property". Mites in Action Speaker, Rev. Naveen Nischal, Director of the Lutheran Student Center at UT Arlington, consisting mostly of students from India, spoke. He is Pastor of Hope for the Nations Lutheran Church, Arlington, a new church plant of Grace Lutheran Church, and a multi-ethnic congregation with a focus on campus ministry and the Asian Indian Com-

munity in DFW. He stated that there are 1200 Hindu temples in North America and that Hindus have thousands of gods. You may be the only Christian they will ever know. Establish an eternal connection. The Scholarship Committee reported that 5 recipients have \$1,060.00 waiting on them at their schools.

Jan Burnette, Vice President of Christian Life, as well as Heart to Heart Sisters District Leader, spoke about "Rejoicing in the God of All Nations."

Saturday afternoon 2 chose to go to 3 Enrichment Sessions instead of helping at Servant Events in order to hear about a variety of ministries. Each session had a choice of 4 speakers. Jan Brunette spoke during each session about "Building a Bond of Unity in Christ in Ethnic Communities." She provided a plentiful list of ideas to implement. At the back of the room, there were women and displays from about 5 different backgrounds and ministries including Heart to Heart Sisters. (Learn more about these at our next LWML meeting on Wednesday, September 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.) Session II I attended Rev. Dr. Johannes Mengsteab's presentation "An Evangelistic Movement to North America."

Session 3 I chose Dr. Barbara Geistfeld's "Life - Gift from God". The pictures of cell growth from one cell onward were miraculous and intriguing. She said abortion is like the tip of the iceberg that you can see. It is only 10% of the scope of life issues. We don't see the others as easily, such as embryonic stem cell research, 600,000 frozen embryos in the U.S.A., (some never given opportunity to grow), adoption of embryos, cloning, genetic engineering, medical care based on age or quality of life, end of life issues, feeding tubes, pain control, Living Will, Power of Attorney, Advance Directive, hospice, palliative care, physician assisted suicide, and euthanasia (where someone else decides you are not worth it).

Saturday evening we had a Fajita Buffet, then musical entertainment by Wendysue Fluegge called 'Bold Life'.

Sunday morning Donna Pyle led

the other half of her Bible Study. She said, "Don't leave the convention theme at convention." The host committee co-chairmen wrote in their welcome letter that the host committee has been praying for attendees and their experiences so that they are Filled to Overflow while at convention and that they Overflow to everyone they meet in the world through Serving, Sharing and Telling. Donna Pyle said, "Spew your guts out!"

The Report of the Teen LWML Committee said 14 teens were present. The Report of the Committee on Young Women said 20 attended. Katie Luther came again on Sunday with Martin. She said, "I could talk for days." Martin said, "This is most certainly true." Martin Luther had been taping "Katie Luther," Abby Faske, Chairman of the Committee on Young Women. It will be on the LWML website. www.lwmltxdist.org The invitation to the 2019 LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, June 20-23 was given. The invitation to the 2020 LWML Texas District Convention, (Coastal Bend, Mid Coast and Rio Grande Valley Zones) in Corpus Christie, June 18-20, 2020 was acted out with colorful beach balls.

At the closing worship, the Rev. John Heckmann preached to spend time with God in His Word and whoever believes in Jesus, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water (John 4:38).

Besides what is noted here, we conducted a lot more business. I enjoyed worshipping, singing, learning, visiting and sharing. Thank you for letting me be the delegate from our church's LWML Society.

Serving with Gladness,
Gail Bielefeldt





Scrip Cards

Scrip cards are great gift ideas for young adults heading off to school.

To purchase Scrip Cards:

See Lila Fussell or Carrie Graves after church on Sundays, or call the school at 972-223-9586, or contact Sharon Wilson at the church office during the week.

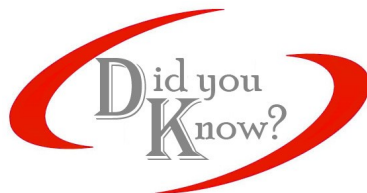


Please help keep our church grounds clean and tidy. If you see trash please pick it up and dispose of it properly.
Thank you!

Pastors Thomas Oberstat (Ebenezer, Manheim, TX) and Matthew Jacobs (Grace, Brenham, TX) are hosting an

11 day Cradle of the Reformation

Germany Tour. The travel dates are May 20-30, 2020 and depart from Houston. A brochure is available on the bulletin board in the main hallway if you would like to learn more.



Did you know the recorded versions of Pastor De Young's sermons are available on our website to listen to?

Simply visit
www.crossofchrist.org
and click on the SERMONS tab, select the Sunday you wish to hear.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/171963486643/>



Volunteers are needed

Greeters - one volunteer needed, serves three (3) times a year

Altar Committee - one volunteer needed, serves three (3) times a year

Saturday Secretary - one volunteer needed, serves once every 8 weeks

Ways you can help:

Kroger

Have you re-enrolled this year? Re-enroll your Kroger Community Rewards card to continue to help our Church grow!

You can enroll and re-enroll at one of the following:
www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com, or call 1-800-576-4377, or take this and your card to Kroger and provide our number, **80948**.



Other Ways you can help: ink cartridges and old cell phones (Place in box on the table in the main hallway.)

Please do not put household trash in the dumpster on the church parking lot. It costs the church over 100.00 for every special call to have it emptied.

Paper for recycling goes in the green and yellow container.

September 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

September 2018 Activities

September 3rd - Labor Day - Church Office and School, closed.

September 6th - 7:00 p.m. Board Meetings

September 13th - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

September 20th - 7:30 p.m. Elders Meeting

Monday Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m. Begins September 10th

Tuesday Ladies Bible Study - 10:15 a.m. Begins September 11th

September 19th - 10:00 a.m. LWML Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

September 26th - 9:30 a.m. Braille Workers, Grace, Arlington

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE:

Polly Braig; Francis Sladek; Kate Duncan

GREETERS:

Polly Braig; Carol Brown; Verna Geihl

USHERS:

A. D. Cowser; Michael Arrington

September 2

COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis

ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse

LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand

NURSERY - Jackie Peña

SATURDAY SECRETARY (1) - Polly Braig; Kate Duncan; Patty McKethan

September 9

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler

ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan

LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell

NURSERY - Kay Boelter

SATURDAY SECRETARY (8) - Mary Caldwell; Gloria Jones; Lila Fussell

September 16

COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker

ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee

LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves

NURSERY - Jackie Peña

SATURDAY SECRETARY (15) - Carol & Bo Brown; Nona Flye; Ellen Holmes

September 23

COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter

ELDERS - Robert Flye

LOCK-UP - Paul Tucker

NURSERY - Cassie Martin

SATURDAY SECRETARY (22) - Bennie & Joan Symank; Vera Watson

September 30

COUNTERS - Bennie Symank; Gail Bielefeldt

ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse

LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand

NURSERY - Jackie Peña

SATURDAY SECRETARY (29) - Carrie Graves; Lila Fussell