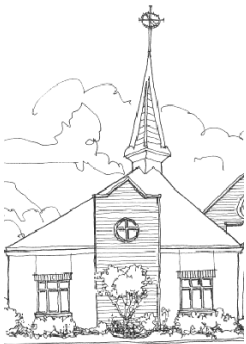


Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching
and Living with the
Cross of Christ

**January 2019
Edition**



Pastors' Page

Pastor John De Young



I must have read it 10 times...*(it's one of my favorite readings during Christmas)* but it registered for the first time the other night.

Early in the Dicken's classic novel, A Christmas Carol, Scrooge has already made his introduction as a hard hearted and well seasoned negative sentimentarian who hated anything to do with Christmas. After grumping and "bah-humbugging" plenty of people in the opening pages Scrooge is in his home sitting closely to the fire trying to "scrooge" the remaining warm out of the dying embers. He suddenly notices the announcing bell that was rarely disturbed begins to move. After moments it begins clanging in wild fashion. Suddenly a slam of a door sends Scrooge into a self induced fear. He unconvincingly tries to convince himself that it is nothing but "humbug". Sounds from below heighten the awareness that this is different but Scrooge continues to dismiss even these as "Bah-humbug". But when a ghostly spirit passes

through the door and the flame of the dying embers flashes out towards Scrooge with an eerie confession, an ashen Scrooge's fears are realized. This is no "humbug".

After a short conversation with the ghostly figure Scrooge is convinced that the image is his seven year deceased partner's spirit, Marley. He has come to encourage Scrooge not to make the same mistake he has.

Scrooge finally asks, "You are fettered (tied down), tell me why?"

Marley responds, "I wear the chain I forged in life. I made it link by link, and yard by yard; I girded it on of my own free will, and of my own free will I wore it."

Then shortly later in the dialogue Scrooge asks, "Are these the things which must be or are these the things that may be?"

Happy New Year!
What? Happy New Year!

Pastor, have you lost it? No! I, too, like Scrooge have seen the shackled chains of sin which condemn me in my afterlife to hell. They

have terrified me. And I, too, ask, "Are these the things which must be?" And God replies "No" with the night shattering silence of the Child of Bethlehem. At the manger stall He releases my chains of sin and places them on His Son. At the Temple He dedicates His Son to the restoration of all mankind. This Child laying in wood would one day be nailed to wood, for my sake that I would not have to be fettered in my next life with sin.

Oh, true, there are a lot of chains that I have carried around (and many that you carry around too) that have been forged by my own free will. But the good news is Christ has broken my fettered sins and then paid the price of death to declare me "Not guilty." No humbug here. Just sheer grace.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, what am I getting at? God has provided the escape from the dreadful chains of our sinful lives through His Son, Jesus Christ. The chains that of our "own free will" we forged through sin. They were shackled around us and

weighed us down and would have followed us into death and the life hereafter. But in Christ Jesus, the Child of Bethlehem, God has answered the question, "Are these the things which must be?" His response, NO!!! "My grace is sufficient." Thank you, LORD for the news of Your Son's birth and the New Year.

There is only one question left to answer, will you take the sins of the old year with you in the New Year? Or will we live in the New Year unfettered by the old?

God Bless our New Year together.
Your brother in Christ,
Pastor De Young

Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As we start a new calendar year, people often make resolutions for the upcoming year. I want to talk about resolutions we may want to consider regarding prayer.

If you are like me, you may find that you are not praying as often as you should. Often, we fall in the habit of just praying at Church and before meals. We often have needs in our lives but fail to ask the Lord to address those needs or help us in addressing issues in our lives. Instead, we think we can handle everything on our own. Or, perhaps, we don't trust in the Lord to look after us.

Mark gives us a story that is relevant to the power of prayer. In Mark 7:24-37, he tells the story of the Syrophenician woman who approached Jesus and begged him to drive out the demons in her daughter. In response to her request, he challenged her by not-

ing, in effect, she was in the view of the Jews, a "gentile dog." But, she did not give up. Instead of being repulsed by Jesus' words, she said, "Yes, Lord; yet even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." In other words, even a Gentile was entitled to have her faith rewarded. In response, Jesus said, "for such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." Mark 7:29.

In regard to this episode, Ken Behnken writes in the "Longer Look at the Lessons" study guide that is used in my Sunday School class, the "woman's persistence in the face of seeming rejection encourages to persist in prayer." He also notes that we need to lay out before Christ our "particular needs," just as the woman did.

In our class, we pray each week, "Heavenly Father, We ask your guidance and blessing for our congregation as we endeavor to reach out in our communities with your Good News of salvation and, for that purpose desire to grow our Church so that, by year end, the attendance at our worship services will have at least doubled in number." Our class has persistently made this specific prayer and will continue to do so. We know that we have to let Him sort things out and act according to His will, but like the woman, we won't give up in making our specific request for the Lord's help.

Over the next year, I hope that you and your family will pray and pray often, keeping in mind the principles of being persistent and not being afraid to ask the Lord for help and support for specific needs. Peace be with you!

Tom

From the President

My brothers and sisters in Christ,
Happy New Year!

I have always loved that the church begins her new year with Advent – the preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus. The looking forward to our new Adam.

I also look forward to a new year growing in Christ with you. Together we dealt with some suffering and the earthly loss of some of our most cherished members but 2018 is ending with Cross of Christ on an upswing. We welcomed classes from the Desoto Independent School District which assisted us in becoming financially solvent. Unlike last year, we were able to pass a balanced budget and we have new leadership on our council. We consistently have quality Bible studies and our service remains true to God's word.

So we rejoice in the Lord always... And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, (continues to) guard (our) hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Paul wrote these lovely words to the church in Phillipi but it seems his target was much wider. It includes us as we prepare for a new year!

Because we are so blessed and 2019 looks so promising, I would like to encourage us to collectively focus attention on growth and evangelism this coming year. I believe that together – with each other and with God – we are set up to ensure 2019 sees tremendous advancement in these two areas. I look forward to working with you.

Yours in Christ, Dan

Phillippians 4: 4

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice!

Chaplains Corner

1 John 4:13-16 (NIV) "We know that we live in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the World. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us."

How often in life have you been discouraged, down-trodden and perhaps even fallen into a state of clinical depression? There is absolutely nothing to be embarrassed or ashamed of when that happens - I have been officially depressed three times. And, suffered a great deal through each one of those episodes because depression is a very misunderstood mental disease. I was being treated by a medical doctor and a Christian Counselor. Making it through each day meant clinging, sometimes white knuckling it, by hanging on to the fact that the Father loved me and lived in me.

Full well knowing and accepting Who God is, meant that I knew He loved me, and if He loved me the way He said, then I found assurance within my mind, heart and soul that all was going to be alright. I clung, in faith, to the Father's promise that if He loved me so much to give His only Son to save the world, then whatever was going on in my life was truly redeemable and fixable in the days to come. It felt wonderful to be able to claim from **Romans 8:16-17** that I was an heir of God, and then co-heirs with Christ, that I will share in His sufferings in order that I may also share in His glory.

- Submitted by Marshall Schultz
SIL International Chaplain

Remember our Shut-ins

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

Sewing Seeds of Faith

There are a few items available from the Sewing Seeds of Faith. Please take a look and remember all items are available for a free will offering. New items will be arriving in the spring.

Items currently available include:

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



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

CATCH A RIDE TO CHURCH

If you need a ride to church the Board of Family Life and Ministries is willing to help.

Contact A. D. Cowser
972-979-3584

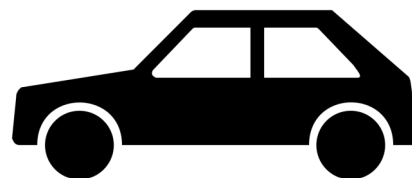
-or-

Sharon Wilson
At church office 972-223-9340.

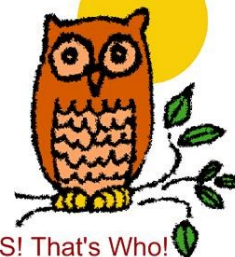
Please allow plenty of time to make arrangements to get you a ride.

If you are willing to pick up someone for church please contact A. D. or Sharon.

Watch for future news about groups going to lunch after Sunday Church Services, a great fellowship opportunity.



Who Loves You?



JESUS! That's Who!

In preparation for the 2019 edition of the Church Directory we are requesting that you review the last directory and let Sharon Wilson know of any changes.—Thank you.



Volunteers Needed

*Sunday School Teachers
Lock-up
Greeters
Nursery
Saturday Secretary*

Scrip Cards



Shop with Scrip!

If we don't have a gift card for a store or restaurant you would like, ask we can add it to the next order, just for you.

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.

January Birthdays

| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 1-1 | Dale Huse |
| 1-2 | Anita Strand |
| 1-3 | Aeriel Blankenship |
| 1-5 | Donald Seilheimer |
| 1-8 | Lewis Vidmar |
| 1-11 | Lila Fussell |
| 1-12 | Nathan De Young |
| 1-13 | Cona Wende |
| 1-16 | Edith Fitch |
| 1-18 | Nona Flye |
| 1-20 | Theodore Bellomy |
| 1-20 | Thomas Lee |
| 1-21 | Deanna King |
| 1-22 | Suette Freerksen |
| 1-26 | Arvid Hall |
| 1-26 | Cheryl Smith |

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.

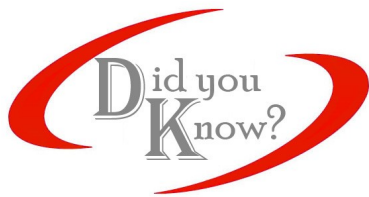
Join us in showing our shut-ins they are loved.

Please purchase 10 Valentines, sign and drop them at the Church office.

We will gather them, address them and get them in the mail to the shut ins.

Please have them dropped off by Sunday, February 3, 2019.





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

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



This month the Widowed Friends Dinner Club will enjoy LUNCH!

On Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. we will have a pot luck lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a dish to share and feel free to invite a widowed friend.

**GET YOUR FLU SHOT
BEFORE THE FLU
GETS YOU!**



**Remember
It is Hip to Clip!**

Box Tops for Education help the school with the costs of supplies.



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 the tour departs from Houston. A brochure is available on the bulletin board in the main hallway, if you would like to learn more.

Ways you can help:

Kroger

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

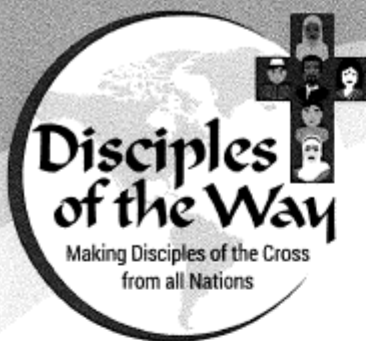
You can enroll and re-enroll at one of the following: www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com, or call 1-800-576-4377, or take this and your card to Kroger and provide our number, **80948**.



Other Ways you can help: donate your old 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.



6500 Greenville Ave., #190, Dallas, TX 75206

www.disciplesoftheway.org

office@disciplesoftheway.org

December 18, 2018

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
512 N. Cockrell Hill Road
De Soto, TX 75115

Dear Pastor DeYoung and Cross of Christ Congregation,

It was a blessing to be with you and share God's Word and fellowship last Sunday, December 16th.

Thank you for your recent donations and gifts that show the continued outpouring of love you have shown this ministry and the refugees from all nations that we reach out to in the name and love of Jesus. We are very grateful for the "Flamingo" campaign and the resulting gift donations totaling \$2,650.

Your gifts for Arabic Bibles will "jump start" the campaign to ensure there is a Bible for every Arabic-speaking person who expresses interest in learning more about Christ. This is an awesome opportunity to be able to provide Arabic Bibles to all who seek to know Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While there are apps available that have Arabic translations, Muslims believe that the Word became a book (the holy Qur'an) and dwelt among them. Therefore they need a physical book (the Bible) to communicate the authenticity of Christ as the Word of God who dwelt among us in the flesh. As DOW seeks to "make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19), providing our Muslim refugee neighbors with the Word of God is indispensable as they continue to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

When people from all nations read the Bible in their own language, it shows that God truly is the God of "all tribes and peoples and languages" (Rev. 7:9) and that He sent His Son to save every one of us, no matter our ethnic heritage.

"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?" Romans 10:14

Saving the lost together in Christ,

Rev. Karim Baid

Rev. Karim Bidaoui

Disciples of the Way Ministries

"Disciples of the Cross Making Disciple-Makers from All Nations" (Matt. 28:19)

حبيب بن داوي

disciplesoftheway.org

GRANT SUPPORTS WOMEN OF FAITH IN SCIENCE

CUI's science department received a \$10,000 grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) to create a Women of Faith in Science program, which will combine lab research and reflection on what it means to be a Christian woman in a scientific field. The grant proposal was written by Dr. John Kenney, professor of chemistry and chemical physics.

LWML representative Marjorie Baumgartner, a longtime friend and supporter of CUI with her late husband, attended the ceremonial presentation of the check.

"Dr. Kenney's proposal was a very valid one and the women appreciated his efforts to mentor young women not only in science but in their Christian faith," Baumgartner says.

Starting in summer 2019, five students will conduct scientific research in a lab, and create a group book and video with devotions and thoughts about their journeys as Christian female scientists. The book and video will leave a legacy of community and mentorship to women coming into the sciences behind them. And each year's cohort will mentor the following group of female students.

In the lab, each student has her own area of research, most involving spectroscopic methods of investigation, Kenney's specialty. Two students are studying astronomical areas. One is studying organic molecules related to photosynthesis.

Madison Kreinheder '19, a chemistry major, is studying the effects of ocean acidification on calcium carbonate structures like clams and oysters, using spectroscopy. When she was younger, she "assumed science was something for boys. I hadn't considered that I was capable of doing science."

A teacher encouraged her pursuit, and in looking for a university where she would be empowered to continue in science, she found CUI and Dr. Kenney "so uplifting and encouraging that it became clear that this was a place where students were encouraged to persevere and learn." Her research may provide significant understanding in its field.

"A deeper, spectral understanding of calcium carbonate will help people who are studying what acidification is doing on a molecular level to organisms," she says. "My research has the potential to impact lots of other researchers who are working on the biological end. I felt called to do this project because I'm a huge advocate for protecting the environment. It makes me very joyful knowing that what I'm doing has the potential to make a difference."

In this program, Kreinheder feels encouraged to think spiritually about science as well. "The more I learn about science, to me it's more proof that there must be a God," she says. "No matter how much I learn, I will only know this tiny fraction of how the world works. I find great comfort in that, knowing that God already knows, and he's going to take care of you and these questions. We should continually search for answers, but there's comfort knowing that it's okay and he already knows."

Kenney's mentorship in science and faith has "played a huge part in my life," she says. "Dr. Kenney not only helps us with science but tells us that we really need to lift things up to God, that our lives are centered around Christ. I am a stronger Christian now, motivated by a love for science and a love for Christ, to advance the field of science and advance God's will on earth."



Students (from left to right) Madison Kreinheder, Mackenzie Graham, Susan Eschelbach, and Michelle Caldwell will participate in the newly-create Women of Faith in Science program. They are pictured with LWML representative Marjorie Baumgartner (center).

January 2019 Activities

JANUARY 2019

| 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 | 31 | | |

January 3rd - 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

January 10th - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting

January 17th - 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

January 23rd - 9:30 a.m. Braille, Grace, Arlington

Monday Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m. (starts back 1-7-2019)

Ladies Bible Study - 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays
(starts back 1-8-2019)

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Mary Caldwell; Charlotte Walker
GREETERS: Polly Braig; Carol Brown; Verna Geihl
USHERS: A. D. Cowser; Mia Adams; Michael Arrington

January 6

COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis
 ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee
 LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
 NURSERY - Jackie Peña
 SATURDAY SECRETARY - Carol & Bo Brown; Nona Flye; Ellen Holmes

January 13

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler
 ELDERS - Robert Flye
 LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
 NURSERY - Cassie Martin
 SATURDAY SECRETARY Bennie & Joan Symank; Vera Watson

January 20

COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker
 ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse
 LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves
 NURSERY - Jackie Peña
 SATURDAY SECRETARY - Carrie Graves; Lila Fussell

January 27

COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter
 ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan
 LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
 NURSERY - Cassie Martin
 SATURDAY SECRETARY - Verna Geihl; Charlotte Walker