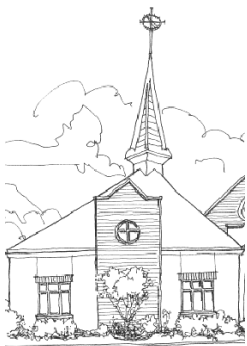


# Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching  
and Living with the  
Cross of Christ

February 2019  
Edition



## Pastor's Page

Pastor John De Young



### *From the Pastor's Desk . . .*

February 6, is a big day for me here at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. It was on that day in 2000 that I was Installed as the Associate Pastor of Cross of Christ. It has been quite the blessing in my life and the life of my family and I pray, in your lives also. Needless to say, a lot of things have changed through the years.

Stepping back to that year: I had arrived in Dallas on January 2 from California (with my brother who helped me make the initial move to Texas). Tammy and the kids remained in California as she prepared our house for the market. They flew here to DeSoto to join in supporting me on that date when I was installed. They returned to California where she continued to prepare the house to be sold. Thankful to God it sold rather quickly.

Thus, we began our life together in Word and Sacrament theology worshipping our Risen LORD and Savior, Jesus Christ (laughing, crying, studying, learning, worshipping, praising, etc.). Since then, many changes have occurred in our midst to say the least. But one thing remained constant: the Word of God has been

taught in truth and purity, the Sacraments have been administered according to the Word of God, many have come to faith and even more have had faith strengthened by God's continual blessing of Spiritual growth in our lives.

Thank you, Holy LORD, Almighty Father, everlasting God; Who has bestowed on us such innumerable blessings throughout these past years that we should be called the Sons of God, *"but chiefly are we bound to praise you for the Glorious Resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our LORD; for He is the very Paschal Lamb, which was offered for us and has taken away the sins of the world. By His death He has destroyed death, and by His Rising to Life again He has restored to us Everlasting life. Therefore with angels and arch-angels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name."* Amen. And in this 19<sup>th</sup> year, God continues to bless our church and my family.

This year will be an exciting and ever changing year for us. In April (28<sup>th</sup>) we gain a beautiful daughter (Taylor) as Nathan and Taylor take their vows before God and men to be

husband and wife. Then 3 weeks later our precious daughter Emily graduates with a Masters of Personal Financial Planning and her Doctor of Jurisprudence on May 17 & 18 respectfully.

Then on June 18, 2019, I celebrate my 30<sup>th</sup> year in the ministry. It only seems like yesterday that a young man and his wife walked out of the safe confines of Seminary Academia and into the ecclesiastical world of Ordained/Installed minister of God's Word and Sacraments.

After such time it does us well to take inventory of our past, present and future to make sure that we are still doing that which God has set before our eyes and not lose sight of His mission. To do such I stepped back and meditated on the oath I took as I was installed as your pastor, (February 6, 2000). With the writing of this newsletter I will answer the same questions for you today:

**P** Do you believe the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you accept the

three Ecumenical Creeds, namely, the Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds, as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors which they condemn?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you believe that the Unaltered Augsburg Confession is a true exposition of the Word of God and a correct exhibition of the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; that the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Small and Large Catechisms of Martin Luther, and the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise on the Authority and Primacy of the Pope, and the Formula of Concord -- as these are contained in the Book of Concord -- are also in agreement with this one scriptural faith?

**R** I do.

**P** Do you solemnly promise that you will perform the duties of your office in accordance with these Confessions, or Symbols, and that all your teaching and your administration of the sacraments will be in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and with the aforementioned Symbols?

**R** I do.

**P** Will you faithfully instruct both young and old in the chief articles of Christian doctrine; will you forgive the sins of those who repent, and will you promise never to divulge the sins confessed to you; will you minister faithfully to the sick and dying; will you demonstrate to the Church a constant and ready ministry, admonishing the people to a lively confidence in Christ and holy living?

**R** I will with the help of God.

**P** Finally, will you adorn the office of the public ministry with a holy life?

**R** I will, the Lord helping me through the Power and Grace of His Holy Spirit.

With sadness of heart and sorrow, I confess that I wasn't always a Pastor at heart over these last nineteen years. Many things could have been different. For those things I am truly sorrowful for and ask your forgiveness. By the same token, I con-

fess boldly and loudly, I stand by my oath of Theology and will not be moved. Like you I take comfort in knowing God forgives pastors as He forgives all His children and that He strengthens us through Word and Sacrament also. So, I thank the LORD for the past nineteen years and I look forward to the years to come. God bless your Easter season and our nineteenth year together!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor De Young

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## Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! My article this month is based on the February 1 Portal of Prayer lesson, entitled "Doctrine." The verse for that lesson is:

"The time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions."

2 Timothy 4:3.

Simply put, this verse teaches that, due to our sinful nature, we don't want to follow the word of the Lord, but want to follow doctrines that validate our lifestyles and let us decide what is right and wrong. Boy, does this verse apply to what is going in our society today! Now it is popular to believe that marriage is not a sacred gift of our Lord that blesses a union between a man and woman. Rather marriage is proper between two men or two women, according to the current mood of the country. Only a few years back that mood was different.

Further, if a Christian today should dare to express the belief that marriage can only be between a man and woman, he or she is labelled a bigot and is persecuted for that belief. Vice President Pence's wife teaches in a Christian school that does not approve of homosexuality or marriage between homosexuals. She, of course, is mocked and derided as a result.

Many denominations are now bowing to this societal pressure and changing their doctrines. Some approve of homosexuality or even allow

pastors or priests to be homosexuals. Others approve of gay marriage. Unfortunately, these churches are not staying true to the teachings of the bible. Instead, they are teaching something that will "scratch" the "itchy" ears of their members.

Fortunately, our church has stayed true to the doctrine in the Holy Scriptures. Our pastor is true to our confessions of faith set forth in the Book of the Concord, including those set forth in the Augsburg Confession and the Apology to the Confession. Those confessions were set forth about 500 years ago. They were sound then and are still sound today. And, of course, the word of God as set forth in the Bible is unchanging. If we think we can change it, then any change simply becomes something that is a sinful work of man and is no longer the word of our Lord.

Our Elders continue to support our Pastor and our Church in staying true to the Word. We should all give thanks that we have a Pastor and Church that follow that sound doctrine, even when it becomes unpopular in today's society.

Peace be with you!

Tom Graves

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

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## Chaplains Corner

**Psalm 91:9-12 (NIV)** "If you make the Most High your dwelling—even the Lord, Who is my refuge—then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. They will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." Words have meaning. Especially those that come from God Himself. But it can become a real challenge when we reflect on this promise of God upon our own lives. Has God protected us from any harm or disaster and have His angels, indeed, scooped us up in their hands for protection from danger? We are at a pivotal time of our New Year 2019 and perhaps it is a

good thing to think of what God is saying here to the world.

There may be believers who would question God on His protection as they review their lives, or even the past year. We know the Bible is absolutely true, and yet based on our experience we know that some painful events have happened in our lives. So, how do we balance out or reconcile the reality of our lives and the assurance that God gives us in the above verses? God is far more interested in the life of our souls than the life of our bodies. God's ability to protect our souls eternally from judgement and death is far more significant than His ability to protect our bodies from disease, or attack, or death. God often protects His children from harm in their lives. But ultimately He protects us from eternal harm—His wrath that will fall on the earth to judge sin. Judgement is coming, but He will protect us from that judgement.

Marshall Schultz  
SIL International Chaplain

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### Remember our Shut-ins

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

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### NEED 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 the 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.

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### February Birthdays

2-1	Christina Smith
2-7	Clint Edsall
2-8	Liese Rill
2-13	Ellen Holmes
2-16	Tammy De Young
2-20	Gail Bielefeldt
2-23	Bennie Symank
2-25	Ronnie McKethan

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](mailto:crossofchristchurchtx@gmail.com)  
so we can update our list.

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### The Widowed Friends Dinner


Club is featuring a study on "Living with Grief".

The next gathering will be a pot luck lunch at 12:30 on the 2nd Thursday of the month (February 14th) in the Fellowship Hall.

Bring a dish and a friend to enjoy a great lunch and fellowship along with discussion on "Living with Grief".

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**Spring Garage Sale** - The date is set for the Spring Garage Sale benefiting the Cross of Christ Lutheran School Playground Project. Start collecting your items and we will let you know when you can bring them to the church.

**Thank you** to everyone who participated in sharing Valentine joy and love with our shut-ins. 

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### Remember It is Hip to Clip!

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

The collection box is now located on the Usher Stand in the Narthex.



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### Volunteers Needed

Sunday School Teachers  
Lock-up  
Greeters  
Nursery  
Saturday Secretary

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### Coming Soon

Gathering items for the Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits: soap; towels; toothbrushes; nail clippers; and wide tooth combs.

Lent Suppers - watch for sign up sheet in the Narthex

Shrove Pancake Supper

FEBRUARY 2019

**February 2019 Activities**

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		

- February 7th - 7:00 p.m.      Board Meeting
- February 12th - 12:30 p.m.      "Living with Grief"
- February 14th - 7:30 p.m.      Council Meeting
- February 21st - 7:00 p.m.      Elders Meeting
  
- February 14th - 12:30 p.m.      "Living with Grief"  
Lunch (see page 3)
- February 16th - 5:45 p.m.      Desserts
- 6:00 p.m.      VOTERS' MEETING
- February 27th - 9:30 a.m.      Braille, Grace, Arlington
  
- Monday Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
- Ladies Bible Study - 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays
- Confirmation Class - 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays

**CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Serving the LORD

- ALTAR COMMITTEE:** Carrie Graves; Lila Fussell
- GREETERS:** Donice Arrington; Suetta Freerksen; Chris Kloess
- USHERS:** David Freerksen; Phil Strand; Arvid Hall

**February 3**

- COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis
- ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee
- LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
- NURSERY - Jackie Peña
- SATURDAY SECRETARY - Vic & Charlene Vidmar

**February 10**

- COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler
- ELDERS - Robert Flye
- LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves
- NURSERY - Cassie Martin
- SATURDAY SECRETARY Cynthia Huse; Amber Parker

**February 17**

- COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker
- ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse
- LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
- NURSERY - Jackie Peña
- SATURDAY SECRETARY - Polly Braig; Kate Duncan; Patty McKethan

**February 24**

- COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter
- ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan
- LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
- NURSERY - Cassie Martin
- SATURDAY SECRETARY - Mary Caldwell; Lila Fussell