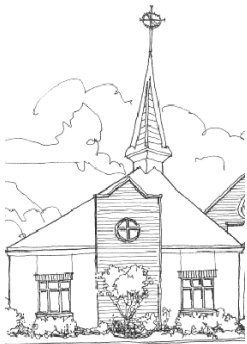


Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching and
Living with the Cross of
Christ

**MARCH 2019
Edition**



512 North Cockrell Hill Rd
De Soto, TX 75115
972-223-9340

Pastor's Page

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The Preface for Lent (the prayer spoken by Pastor right before the Sanctus, "Holy, Holy, Holy LORD,") states:

"You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Paschal Feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the Fullness of Grace that belongs to the Children of God."

This prayer, spoken six Sundays in a row during Lent, speaks so clearly of what Lent is all about. Lent is a time when God's Baptized People cleanse their hearts, minds and souls through the discipline of repentance, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to prepare for the Message of the "Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world."

Lent is a time of Spiritual Growth where God's Children concentrate on their Baptism, God's Grace, the true "openness" of God's Word (Law & Gospel) and joining together with brother and sisters in Christ in sharing the LORD's Supper, conversion in every area of faith and life and walking in the security of the Gospel of Christ's death.

Lent had its origins in the Church's Baptismal dis-

cipline. Several weeks before the Easter Vigil candidates for Baptism were enrolled by the bishop. They underwent intensive catechesis, attended the liturgy frequently (although they were excluded from the Communion, being dismissed after the sermon) and were encouraged to live lives exemplified by the works of repentance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. They were Baptized at the Great Vigil (Easter Eve) of Easter. Their first communion was received on Easter. They sought a share in Christ's *pascha*, being buried into His death by Baptism and joining in the Festive Meal, the Eucharist.

Frederick W. Kemper & George M. Bass, spoke well in their book, *You Are My Beloved!* (St. Louis: Concordia, 1981), pg. 7.

"Lent is a harsh season, yet deep and somehow calm: bittersweet. It begins in ashes and the sign of the cross. It ends by the Font when the Church Baptizes. For all of us, Lent means living up to our Baptism."

Thus, the focus of Lent, in the Church, is not on the death of Christ but rather on our Baptism and adoption as sons and daughters of God. It is not an extended Holy Week time - although

the Cross of Christ will always be at the heart, core, life and worship of the Church as She remembers Her LORD during the Lenten season. You will hear more words such as: Repentance, Baptism, Prayer, Salvation, Cross and forgiveness.

A further explanation would look at the Lenten custom of 40 days. These 40 days remind us of Moses' presence before the LORD on Sinai for 40 days, the 40 years in which God led Israel in the wilderness, Elijah's 40-day fast on his pilgrimage to Horeb, and, of course, our LORD's fast of 40 days. The Sundays falling within the season of Lent are not counted because fasting is not appropriate to the day of the LORD's Victory. Therefore, Sundays are carefully designated as Sundays *in* Lent, not *of* Lent.

There is so much in Lent to emphasize. Yet, we must remember that even in the time of Lent when it *seems* the message is about our repentance, our fasting, our praying, our almsgiving, we are gently reminded by our God on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday - Transfiguration - "This is My Son. Hear Him!" It's all about Jesus!!!

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor De Young



Pastor John De Young

From the President

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

This week I reviewed the letter I sent out in October of last year. In that letter, I informed you of three particular headwinds we faced at the time:

We were woefully short of volunteers to teach our Sunday School. Our finances. The inability to fill Church Council seats.

Today I'd like to give you an update on all three.

Sunday School – We are still short on Sunday School staff but, thanks to some selfless volunteers, we are still able to provide one of our primary duties – teaching our children. I reiterate what I wrote last October. Your Board of Elders and Church Council continue to aggressively work the issue and we can sure use your help.

Financials - As you may recall, we passed an unbalanced budget in 2018. That was an extremely difficult decision that your council did not take lightly. In essence, we brought to you a plan that we did not have a solution for and informed you that we would be stepping out in faith. And blessed we were! We were able to cover our costs in 2018 and still had cash in our account. It is with humility that I thank each and every one of you. The good news is that 2019 does not have an unbalanced budget and you have a council that closely monitors our cash flow.

Church Council seats – It is with joy that I report three additional members on the council – and what an impact they have already had! At our last council meeting, Arvid (your vice President) leaned over to me and said “we sure have a great council” and I couldn't agree with him more. I certainly hope you agree as well.

So it is with encouragement that I say Cross of Christ is strong and blessed far beyond that which we deserve. Our congregation, like it always does, faced our headwinds and persevered. I am excited for the opportunity to face 2019 with that understanding. It is with confidence that I say God's blessings will continue and we can together face any obsta-

cles to the “upward call of God in Christ Jesus!”

Yours in Christ,
Dan

Philippians 4:13-15

¹³...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. Rejoice in the LORD always; again I say, Rejoice!

Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ! This month I want to offer thanks and prayers for a person who has contributed each Sunday over the past few years to our service and now faces a significant health issue. As you may be aware, Charlene Dorsey faces a battle with cancer and it will be some time before she will be able, God willing, to play the organ again.

Let us give thanks for her contribution to our Sunday service. Approximately four years ago, I was asked to locate a substitute organist for our Church. It was a difficult assignment because many of the organists were only willing to play a few Sundays each quarter and lived far away from our Church. It was truly a blessing to find Charlene who was willing to play on a more or less full time basis. I also knew I could count on her to be here. She hardly ever missed many Sundays in a row, except when she broke her wrist (not a good injury for an organ player) and had to recover. I think some in our church took her for granted but I never did and was thankful that she was there for our congregation.

I believe Charlene also greatly appreciated the opportunity to play at our Church. I know she told me that several times, and she loves playing music, especially on our organ. Let's

hope and pray she will have a full recovery and can play again in the not so distant future.

We should also give thanks for Greg Fussell who spent an entire day downloading every song in the hymnal and liturgical music on the computer so it could be played during the service. I thought it sounded great and many members did not even notice that there was no one playing the organ during that first “computer” service. Of course, we will still continue to seek out organists who can play during our services in Charlene's absence. But, Greg's work gives us a much needed back up in the event we can't find someone on a particular Sunday. As they say in another context, “the show will go on.” Peace be with you! - Tom

MARCH is food donation Month.



Every Sunday in March we will be accepting food donations to help others with their needs. Watch for other collection dates throughout the year.

Spring Forward

Sunday March 10, 2019



Chaplains Corner

Hebrews 10:38-39 (NIV) *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.”* When facing personal trials and difficulties, have any of your Christian friends encouraged you to stand your ground in the face of suffering? Stand strong when feeling persecuted or to stand alongside those who are being persecuted? Do we sometimes feel that we are being asked to let go of our valued possessions with no promise of them ever returning? If we remember that we have far better possessions waiting for us in heaven, then letting go of any of our earthly goods and products should be easy, or is it hard to let go of stuff we have worked hard for?

Our faith can give us the courage to stand up and be strong when faced with small, or large challenges. According to the writer of Hebrews, he tells us that we will be richly rewarded (verse 35) if we simply let go of our grasp on our possessions and be willing to stand up. . . . The reward God promises all of us, is really coming. What have we given up out of our love for Christ our Savior? Have we indeed traded our weekends, or vacation times and other personal comforts for opportunities to serve God and His Kingdom? God promises that it will be worth it, every single time we stand up for Him. Are you ready?

Marshall Schultz
SIL International Chaplain



KROGER

Has changed our organization number. The new number is

BX100

Please stop by customer service on your next visit to Kroger and change your Kroger Community Rewards to BX100 so we can continue to earn rewards each time you purchase an item and swipe your Kroger Plus Card.

Remember our Shut-ins

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

Family Life Ministry

Fourteen (14) members of the Lutheran Social Club (you are a member) went to lunch after church in January at Reb Robin restaurant and everyone had a n enjoyable time.

The board feels we should do something every other month. Suggestions are welcome. It does not have to be eating but something we can do as a group. You will be notified in time for planning when we determine our next activity.

A. D. Cowser

March Birthdays

3-1	Joan Symank
3-1	Hilde Doyle
3-6	Michelle Caldwell
3-10	Pastor Karim Bidaoui
3-10	Cassandra Martin
3-14	A. D. Cowser
3-18	Donice Arrington
3-29	Gloria Branscum

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.

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 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of the month (March 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”.

Spring Garage Sale - The date is set (May 4th) for the Spring Garage Sale benefitting 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.

24th Annual Cross of Christ Chili Cook Off

Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 5:30 p.m., at the home of Michael and Donice Arrington, 317 Sandy Creek Ct., DeSoto, TX 972-223-8678.

Bring a pot of Chili to share and compete or an appetizer or dessert to cool the fire! Come join the fun!



LWML is gathering items for the Personal Care Kits. These kits make a difference in the communities where they are distributed because they provide basic hygiene and personal dignity where natural or man made disasters strike.

The following items are needed to make a **Personal Care Kit** (Pictured above):

One light-weight bath-size towel, dark color recommended (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27")

Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 ounces, any brand, in original wrapping

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging

One sturdy comb

One pair of clippers (with metal file acceptable)

The deadline for donations for the kit contents or money to help Lutheran World Relief cover the expense of freight is March 17th.

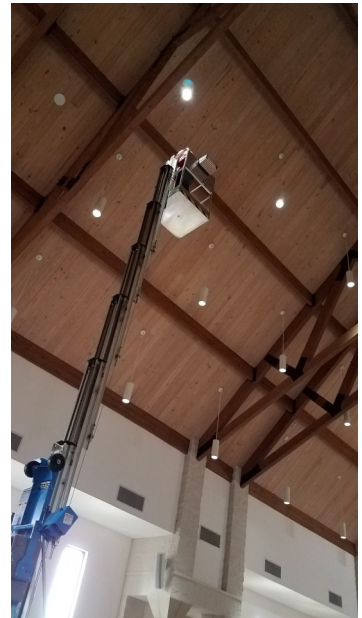
Our Goal is to exceed last year's 99 Kits! Your support is greatly appreciated!

Kits will be assembled following the meeting portion of the LWML meeting on March 20, 2019 at 10:00 a.m..

All ladies of the congregation are welcome to joins us!

Gail Bielefeldt has applied for Thrivent Financial seed money for this project, and was approved.





Question: How many Lutherans does it take to change lightbulbs in the sanctuary and choir loft?

Answer: CHANGE?



Remember to bring in your Box Tops for Education by March 17, 2019.

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

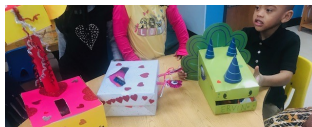
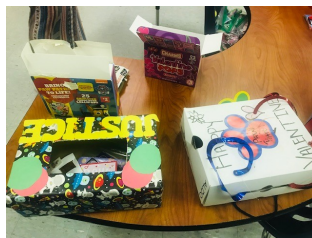


A big THANK YOU to those who participated in the Bethesda Christmas Stocking project. To date we have contributed \$212.60 for 2018.

We could not have done this without you. This is the largest amount contributed in a number of years.

If you kept the stocking, join us again this year and fill the stocking for this worthwhile charity. If you need a stocking there are a few on the LWML table in the Narthex. If you get a stocking filled up, feel free to place on the LWML table.

Valentines Day fun at Cross of Christ Lutheran School



COC Lutheran School Highlights

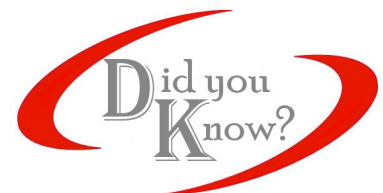
The school children enjoyed participating in the Valentines for the Church Shut-ins.

They also enjoyed a Valentines Day Party.

Plans for Graduation in May are underway.

We continue to give tours of our school and have one new student.

We continue to accept items for our Garage Sale to be held on May 4th. Please get with Lila on where to place donations. Note furniture will not be accepted.



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.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT WORD SEARCH

Q	L	A	B	F	A	E	O	W	V	V	X	L	T	M	X
S	E	S	O	M	S	Q	S	H	X	Y	I	B	T	Y	V
B	V	K	C	B	E	O	R	M	S	V	W	Z	Y	N	U
A	A	S	Q	V	L	J	V	S	M	T	G	U	G	Z	Z
X	R	C	A	K	O	E	D	T	F	X	S	Y	W	N	K
G	T	K	A	U	P	T	V	R	D	T	S	E	H	C	N
K	D	E	R	C	A	S	N	I	N	R	Y	P	I	T	Z
D	Y	N	O	M	I	T	S	E	T	E	Z	N	O	R	B
A	E	S	N	C	Y	A	M	G	M	E	C	N	D	V	P
Y	W	L	W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S	R	M	D
R	S	F	B	T	N	M	J	D	N	I	N	Q	J	A	A
O	Q	Y	A	A	G	B	Y	S	X	I	R	O	D	N	K
E	D	R	M	T	T	N	E	M	A	T	S	E	T	N	I
Z	L	M	I	B	U	R	E	H	C	H	E	A	F	A	W
Y	O	O	M	D	O	O	M	U	U	F	U	W	B	F	Q
C	G	X	H	V	M	L	K	A	W	C	Z	J	V	U	O

Find the CAPITALIZED words listed below in the puzzle above.

Rod of AARON
 ACACIA wood
 Gold ALTAR
 ARK
 ATONEMENT Cover
 Bronze BASIN
 BRONZE altar
 CHERUBIM
 CHEST
 Ten COMMANDMENTS
 DAY of Atonement
 GOLD rings
 INCENSE
 JOSHUA
 JOURNEY

LEVITES
 MANNA
 MOSES
 OFFERINGS
 POLES
 PRIESTS
 SACRED
 SYMBOL
 TABLE
 Old TESTAMENT
 TESTIMONY
 TRAVEL
 TREE
 WILDERNESS

MARCH 2019

March 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	29	30
31						

March 2nd - 5:30 p.m. Chili Cook-off
 March 7th - 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
 March 14th - 12:30 p.m. "Living with Grief"
 March 14th - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting
 March 21st - 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting
 March 20th - 10:00 a.m. LWML Meeting with
 assembly of Personal Care Kits
 March 27th - 9:30 a.m. Braille, Grace, Arlington
 March 31st - DOW Sunday
 Monday Night Bible Study - 7:00 p.m.
 Ladies Bible Study - 10:15 a.m. Tuesdays
 Confirmation Class - 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays
 Lent Services - See page 7.

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Patty McKethan; Chris Kloess

GREETERS: Gail Bielefeldt; Carrie Graves; Cynthia Huse

USHERS: Dale Huse; Ron McKethan; Roe Bobo

March 3

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

March 10

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler
 ELDERS - Robert Flye
 LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
 NURSERY - Cassie Martin
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Bennie Symank; Vera Watson

March 17

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

March 24

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

March 31

COUNTERS - Bennie Symank; Gail Bielefeldt
 ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee
 LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
 NURSERY - Jackie Peña
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Vic & Charlene Vidmar