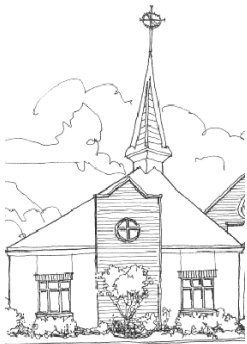


Cross Words

Reaching, Teaching and
Living with the Cross of
Christ

**APRIL 2019
Edition**



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

Pastor's Page

Pastor John De Young



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

Lately, I have been distracted by the realization of how insignificant I am. Perhaps it is a function of maturing or perhaps just listening to the nightly media trying to convince me that the youth of this world have the answers to all our world problems. When I was young I, too, was certain that I would shake up the world and make a big difference. I was the kid that just knew that all those old rules about how and when and what were not absolute and I was going to blaze a new trail.

Then reality slapped me about a bit, and Father Time beat the stuffing out of me, and I discovered that all those old "rules" were not so much immutable laws as the accumulated observations of those who had gone before me. They weren't binding, they were simply and profoundly accurate. The 'hippie' generation started buying SUVs and, when they could, a Lexus. They traded in their tie-dyed tees for suits and "age-appropriate attire". And talent, intelligence, and a kind heart did not mean public approval or praise and financial gain, necessarily.

People abandoned per-

fectly good music for something that made no sense to my ear, art became less comprehensible, and truth did not persuade people simply because it was true. After years of working conscientiously, I discovered that I had not changed the world, and the few marks I had made on it faded very quickly when I turned my attention to other things.

Most of the world does not share my outlook on life. In my little piece of the world, I find myself to be a very small cog in a very large machine - and my piece of the world is rather insignificant when viewed in the context of the entire nation - and America is a mere blip on the screen of human history, and Americans clearly experience this world in a manner very different than most people in most nations on the surface of this planet today. I mean, there are entire populations 'out there' that would find the most impoverished and difficult conditions I have experienced in my life to be generally comfortable and well-provided. I am in a minority in a nation which is, itself, in the minority of the inhabitants of this world - a privileged and envied, and despised minority who look at the world and life

and our place in it in ways the rest of the world has trouble imagining.

I am not having a mid-life crisis - at least I don't think so. I am simply assessing my place in this world, and my impact on it. My place is small, and my impact, however great it might appear at moments of glory, is negligible and very temporary. Great works of art don't last. The works of great writers fall out of print, and are replaced by the pallid proses of lesser men and women. Preachers that once fired the imagination of the world are barely remembered today. The music that inspired a generation is dethroned on your radio dial by grunts and pops and squeaks of various sorts that pass as music today. How much less impact does a Lutheran preacher in the deep south possess?

Oddly, the thought of my insignificance doesn't depress me. It simply makes this time of year so much more exciting. The Lenten and Easter season powerfully reminds us of the love and the Grace of God. Here we are insignificant individuals on that planet in a

vast solar system engulfed by a huge galaxy, and yet God has Loved us with a Perfect Love, and sent His Son to die for us and Redeem us, and has Chosen us - Chosen ME and Chosen YOU to pour out His Grace and Love upon. The awe and wonder of it all!

Why would God Love me - and Choose me? The only answer is Grace. God's Choice for God's Own reasons. The why doesn't really matter. What matters is that He has done it! He has not simply included me in a class, but Chosen me, Called me by name, and Claimed me to be His Own. He paid dearly for me in Blood, sweat, tears, and death. He has fashioned human history so that I would be told the story and then He has worked through His Word to create Faith in me, and to sustain me in Faith in a world gone mad in unbelief and skepticism. How absolutely remarkable!!

I am not insignificant after all. Oh, in the world I am, I suppose. My fan club is very small. But God has valued me at the value of Jesus, and the whole Passion and death of the very Son of God. He makes things happen for me, and when I pray, God stops and listens and considers every word. He and I don't always agree on what I need, or how things ought to be, but He listens to me, and Comforts me, and Strengthens me, and keeps me - and stubbornly insists on doing what is Right and Good and Best for me, even when I want something less and something easier. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter remind me - overwhelm me - with the thought that insignificant me was counted by God as worthwhile, and worth the cross and the humiliation and the pain, and the grave - and the resurrection! Go figure. Rejoice with me, but go figure!

The Apostle Paul remarked on the wonder of it all: *"For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. But God*

demonstrates His Own Love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Jesus even said, *"Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for His friends."* Yet that is the very Love of God for us - and the value He has placed on each one of us. Jesus died for all - the Bible says that - and yet not all believe. We do, however. We believe because the Love of God has been poured out into our hearts and because God has called us by the Gospel, Enlightened us with His Gifts, and Sanctified and kept us in the One True Faith.

God did not just Choose us afterwards, either. He Chose me from the foundation of the world. It was that Gracious Choice that caused Him to send Jesus Christ to the Cross, and work out my rescue from the Justice of God because in my sin I earned condemnation and death. God could not just let me go once I had earned death, not without becoming a partner in my sin. So He had to devise a way to do the impossible - be Just, and the One Who Justifies the sinner. His solution was the Great Exchange of Jesus for me, and His Holiness for my sins. That is how much God Loves me.

And not only me, but you, too. He did it for each one of us, individually. Just as He did for me, when He spoke my name through the lips of His servant, Pastor Brunig on September 17th 1961, and claimed me by Adopting me through Baptism, and gave me Eternal Life - there has been a moment for each of you when He spoke your name, and said, *"Now you are Mine!"*, and Washed you clean and caused you to be Born Again to Eternal Life in Jesus Christ. On that day, He made it clear that the Passion and death of Jesus was for you, personally.

We are the significant ones. We are, according to the Word of God, the ones for whom the world exists, and to Whom all things belong. We are of such a value to God that He

won't let us shortchange ourselves by taking the easy way. He has caused all things to work together so that we have what we need, and that all things work together for our good. He has insured by divine providence that we will take that narrow way of which Jesus spoke in Matthew 7, *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."*

The world may not change its course because you say you think it should. They might not even save you a parking space near the door at the grocery store, like it seems that they should. But you are of such value and significance that the Creator of all that is knows the number of the hairs on your head, and is making things work out so that you have food and family and the fellowship of His Church. So let the wonder of it all sink in. In this world where we seem so insignificant, we have Good Friday and Easter to remind us of the Truth - and we celebrate Maundy Thursday every week, remembering all that Jesus did - all that He counted us worthy of His doing. Your brother in Christ,

Pastor De Young

Board of Elders

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Again, this year, our elders will be preparing Easter breakfast for the congregation. I sure hope each of you can come to our breakfast and enjoy fellowship and food. The elders greatly enjoy preparing the breakfast for you.

I have had the privilege of helping with the breakfast for the past several years. Given that we serve the breakfast at 7:30, it means I have to get up and be at the Church by 5:30. At my house and as I drive to

work, everything is quiet and dark. Rarely, if ever, do I see another car, and the lights in the houses are usually off. It is during my drive to Church, I think of Mary, mother of James and Mary Magdalene.

They, too, were up very early on Easter morning, likely before dawn to prepare for their trip to the tomb. Matthew tells us that they went “at dawn” to see the tomb. Matthew 28:1. Imagine the sorrow that they felt and the grief in their hearts. But, an angel appeared and said to them “Do not be afraid, . . . [Jesus] is not here; he has risen . . .” Matthew 28:5-6. As they left the tomb to tell the disciples, they were now “filled with joy.” Matthew 28:8. Better yet, Jesus met them and they “clasped his feet and worshiped him.” Matthew 28:9. Can you imagine the range of emotions on that morning for these two women? They went from a state of complete despair to one of incredible joy.

Like the two Marys, I pray that your Easter will be one of incredible joy. Easter and the resurrection of Christ is the bedrock of our Christian religion, and without it, we would be in perpetual state of sin and despair. Instead, we can have great joy, as Peter wrote in 1 Peter 1:3-6 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade . . . In this you greatly rejoice . . .”

I look forward to seeing each of you on Easter and to hear our greetings to each other that “Christ has risen. He has risen indeed.”

Peace be with you!

Tom

“Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.” Philippians 1:3-5 (NLT)

Thank you, members of Cross of Christ, for helping others get the Bible in their own language. The positive impact of your contribution is immeasurable!

In His Love,

Marshall and Vanice”

Chaplains Corner

Hebrews 5:13-14 (NIV) *“Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*

When our faith is truly genuine, we not only give it out, we live it out daily. What does it mean in verse 14 when we read “. . . by constant use. . .”? Well it trains us to know good from evil. God gave us the Ten Commandments which is a list of do’s and don’ts that show us how we should live our lives. In this way we never have to wonder if it is okay to steal something or to sleep around, or to even lust after someone else’s riches like bank accounts, houses and cars.

Throughout every day we live, we are forced to make a wide variety of decisions. And in deciding what to do we need to have discernment; we cannot depend upon our own natural instincts. As we age and mature our minds are renewed, our bad desires are retrained, our values and priorities are replaced and we find that our natural in-

stincts are reshaped. This is a beautiful thing as we grow in Christ. The way this mature discernment comes upon us is with and by the Word of God. Whatever things we did before, decisions we used to make, all now become distasteful to us. As we delight ourselves in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our hearts, and we begin to find that what we want most is what is pleasing to God. And that, my dear family, makes Him ever so happy and joyful. I love it that by taking in God’s Word (His instruction with love, grace, forgiveness, etc.), we then give it out to those around us. God’s Word changes us on the inside, and it changes what we want and how we live.

Marshall Schultz
SIL International Chaplain



Easter Lilies

Sign-up sheet is located in the main hallway.
Price this year is \$8.00 each

Clean up the Church Day
begins at 9:00 a.m.
Saturday
April 6, 2019

Lunch will be provided.

Come help us get the church cleaned for Easter.



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



THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Our many thanks to everyone who contributed to the Personal Care Packages made for Lutheran World Relief.

We exceeded our goal of 100 Kits!

Total Kits: **109**

REMEMBER:

As you travel and stay in hotels please pick up the travel size shampoos; soaps; tissues; conditioners; and mouth wash. Place them on the table in the main hallway and we will set them aside for our Gift Bags we present to the Pregnancy Center. We also collect baby socks and booties; onesies; and receiving blankets for this worthwhile project.

Widowed Friends

Widowed Friends is making a change!

We are NOW meeting every two weeks.

The potluck lunches in April will be on the 11th and the 25th. We will continue our discussion about "Living with Grief". We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 p.m.

Bring a dish to share and come enjoy the support and fellowship. Feel free to bring a family member or a friend who is dealing with the loss of a loved one.

Also, share this information with fellow parishioners that may not have received this newsletter.

Family Life Ministry

Thanks to the 16 people who had lunch and socialized at Soulman's BBQ after services on March 10th. I enjoyed it and I think others did also.

The next outing for the Lutheran Social Club (you are a member) is planned for May 5th. Location is yet to be determined. Hold that date open.

We had 14 people at the first outing and 16 for the second. Let's top those numbers for the next outing.

Watch for details coming soon.

We welcome suggestions for future events.

A. D. Cowser

VOLUNTEERS!!

Chris Kloess has agreed to take over as the chairperson for the **Altar Guild** and is asking for volunteers for the Guild. We need two people to complete the current schedule. Please visit with Chris Kloess to learn more.

Sharon Wilson is going to assume the role of coordinating the Saturday **Secretaries**. We need a couple of people to fill the teams of volunteers.

Remember our Shut-ins

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



Need a item for Easter Baskets?

Remember you can purchase SCRIP Gift Cards and support your church and school. To purchase see Lila Fussell or Carrie Graves on Sundays or call the church office during the week.



Remember to bring in your Box Tops for Education. The box is now located on the Usher Stand in the Narthex.



COC Lutheran School Highlights

We continue to accept items for our Yard Sale, benefitting the School Playground Project. The sale will be held on May 18th. Please get with Lila on where to place donations. Note furniture will not be accepted.



LENT/EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

Lenten Pot Luck Supper

at 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Service at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 3rd (Sponsored by LWML & Ladies Bible Study)
Wednesday, April 10th (Sponsored by the Board of Christian Service)



Palm Sunday **Palm Sunday**
April 14th



Holy (Maundy) Thursday
April 18th
7:00 p.m. Service with Communion



Good Friday
Friday, April 19th
7:00 p.m. Service



EASTER

Sunday, April 21st
6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service
7:30 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion
10:30 a.m. Sunday School/Bible Study

Below is the website to enter to the **Amazon Smile** account that benefits Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. Feel free to share this information with others that shop on Amazon.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-1850377>

As you shop you will see "Eligible for Amazon Smile donation". These items will earn .5% for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church at time of purchase. No additional fees or charges will be added to your purchase.



Memorial Service for Charlene Dorsey (organist for the last 2 years) will be held at 10:30 a.m. on May 4th at St. Alban's Anglican Church, 911

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.



THE LAST SUPPER

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

Find the CAPITALIZED words listed below in the puzzle above.

APOSTLES
 BETRAYAL
 BROKE BREAD
 CELEBRATE
 COMMUNION
 COVENANT
 DISCIPLES
 DRINK OF IT
 EUCHARIST
 EVENING
 FAITHFUL
 JESUS
 JOHN
 JUDAS
 KINGDOM

LOAF
 PASSOVER
 PETER
 PREPARE
 REMEMBER ME
 SHOW THE WAY
 SILVER COINS
 TABLE
 TAKE EAT
 TEACHER
 THANKS
 THURSDAY
 TWELVE
 UPPER ROOM
 WASHED FEET

When to Call Your Pastor

Call When there is a Death in the Family.

1. Any time there a death in the family
2. Any time you have been told that the death of a family member is imminent
3. Any time that you have been told that you or a family member has a terminal disease

Call When Entering the Hospital.

1. Hospitals usually do not call the church when someone is admitted
2. If surgery is scheduled and you wish to have Holy Communion or a visit from the pastor do not hesitate to call the church office
3. If there is an emergency and someone is taken to the hospital
4. In any case of an accident or injury requiring hospitalization
5. When a baby is born. Often when the information has reached the church office the mother and baby are home.

Call When in Need of Personal or Family Counseling.

1. Pastor is willing to listen, encourage, pray and apply a Biblical perspective and help in a crisis, but he is not a licensed counselor.
2. Pastor is also happy to assist in finding the right community agency to help with particular kinds of needs, i.e. Professional Counseling, etc...

or

Call When You Need to Talk or Pray.



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

APRIL 2019

April 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				

April 3rd - 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper
 April 3rd - 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service
 April 4th - 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting
 April 6th - 9:00 a.m. Church clean up day
 April 10th - 6:00 p.m. Lenten Supper
 April 10th - 7:00 p.m. Lenten Service
 April 11th - 12:30 p.m. "Living with Grief"
 April 11th - 7:30 p.m. Council Meeting
 April 18th - 7:00 p.m. Holy (Maundy) Thursday Service
 April 18th - 10:00 a.m. Good Friday Service
 April 21st - 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
 April 21st - 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
 April 21st - 9:00 a.m. Divine Service with Communion
 April 24th - 9:30 a.m. Braille, Grace, Arlington
 April 25th - 12:30 p.m. "Living with Grief"

Monday Night Bible Study* - 7:00 p.m.
 Tuesday Ladies Bible Study* - 10:15 a.m.
 Wednesdays Confirmation Class* - 5:00 p.m.

* NO Monday Night Bible Study; Tuesday Ladies Bible Studies; and Wednesday Confirmation during Holy Week and Easter Week.

Lent Services - See page 5.

CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH Serving the LORD

ALTAR COMMITTEE: Anita Strand; Gail Bielefeldt

GREETERS: Karen Dillon; Ellen Holmes; Cheryl Smith; Vera Watson

USHERS: Bennie Symank; Dan Pedersen; Jeff Martin

April 7

COUNTERS - Harry & Eileen Davis
 ELDERS - Robert Flye
 LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
 NURSERY - Cassie Martin
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Cynthia Huse; Amber Parker

April 14

COUNTERS - Elton & LaVonne Kindler
 ELDERS - Allan Kloess; Dale Huse
 LOCK-UP - Carrie Graves
 NURSERY - Jackie Peña
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Polly Braig; Kate Duncan; Patty McKethan

April 21

COUNTERS - Gail Bielefeldt; Charlotte Walker
 ELDERS - Tom Graves; Ron McKethan
 LOCK-UP - Phil & Anita Strand
 NURSERY - Cassie Martin
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Lila Fussell

April 28

COUNTERS - Ken & Kay Boelter
 ELDERS - Tom Caldwell; Thomas Lee
 LOCK-UP - Tom Caldwell
 NURSERY - Jackie Peña
 SATURDAY SECRETARY -
 Carol & Bo Brown; Nona Flye; Ellen Holmes