



Our Vision Statement

We see ourselves as a loving, joy-filled family of believers gathered in celebration and praise around our Lord Jesus Christ. As Bible-based Christians, we seek to share God's word of salvation and to live daily in His healing, hope and guidance. We are committed to reaching out to the whole community, as we embrace and nurture new brothers and sisters with our Savior's own forgiveness and love.



Revitalization Clarification

Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

Since there seems to be some misunderstanding and even confusion over Cross of Christ's involvement in our District's Revitalization Program, I thought it might be helpful to bring some clarity to the whole issue. Let me begin by saying that we are not technically a "revitalization congregation", because when we took the initial vote, after the revitalization team was here, we did not have the two-thirds majority necessary to officially and specifically be so classified. In other words, we had a majority (but not a big enough majority) who were willing to accept all five formulaic prescriptions suggested by the evaluation team of Dr. Terry Tieman and Rev. Jim Kirk. (Some of you may remember that it was an "all-or-nothing" acceptance of the entire report that we voted on.)

What happened then, after-the-fact-so-to-speak, was that the District Revitalization Team decided that our congregation could still participate in various aspects of the program, but that we were not obligated to or bound by the five prescriptions. In short, we could participate on a "volunteer-basis" in whatever parts we thought might be helpful to us: that's why we are having these community events like Normalpalooza and the May Arts and Crafts Extravaganza, why I've been attending the Learning Community gatherings in Loudon, and why we will occasionally use one of the books on the revitalization list for our Sunday morning Bible Class. Where this leaves us is having the continuing freedom to choose various portions of the prescriptions that fit our needs and desires without any mandate that limits those choices or forces us onto a certain path.

Please keep in mind that revitalization is not a magic formula, nor is it wrapped up in a single person that will somehow transform everything at Cross of Christ. It is a renewed perspective that allows each of us individually and all of us collectively to see that in God's eyes we do not exist for ourselves, but for both the present and eternal well-being of those outside our congregation – whether that's the co-worker, the classmate, or the person we have not yet met who needs to experience the love of God through us. Revitalization, simply stated, is nothing more or less than returning with greater urgency to our Savior's Great Commission to "go and make disciples", as we serve as His witnesses in our neighborhoods, community, and world by means of our actions and words. Throughout this Lenten Season and in all the seasons to come may we be open to the working of the Holy Spirit in and through us!

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From the Vicar

Vicar Jake Allstaedt

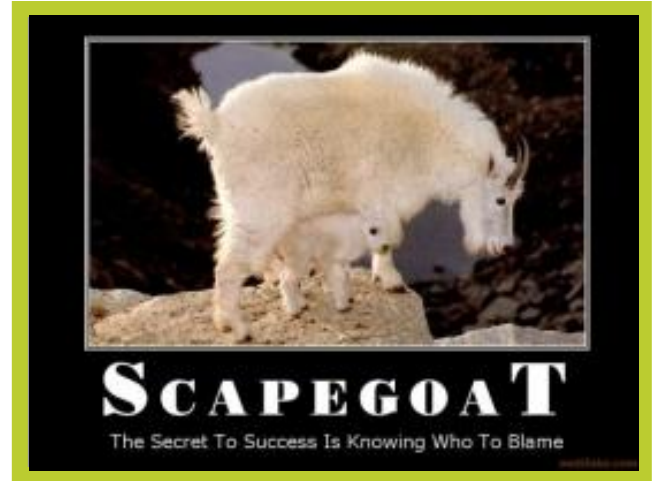
The other day I decided to go for a run on one of the treadmills at my apartment complex. At first the room only had two treadmills and an elliptical but recently they added a widescreen TV, a disinfectant wipe dispenser and a handful of “motivational” posters hanging on the wall. I know you've seen those posters before. They have an inspiring picture with a title underneath the photo and some kind of quote or cliché statement that is supposed to inspire you to achieve greater heights! As soon as I saw those posters, I felt as if I could run at least an extra mile!

Ok, I'm kidding, but looking at those posters reminded me of all the hilarious “de-motivational” posters I have seen over the years. These posters look the same but make fun of something in a witty way. One such poster came to mind. The photo was one of a mountain goat on a rock and the caption read, “SCAPEGOAT: The Secret to Success is Knowing Who to Blame.” One of my pastors from Wausau had used this poster in one of his sermons and it stuck in my head. As I think about our preparation for Easter during this Lenten season, this poster actually hits the nail right on the head.

“The secret to success is knowing who to blame.” Exactly. We had ashes put on our head reminding us that the penalty for our sins is death. We were made from dust and to dust we shall return. Who's to blame for our sins? We are. Success starts at realizing that we are to blame. Nothing good lives inside of us and we rightfully deserve God's “present and eternal punishment.” We are helpless and in need of a Savior. This is exactly where we want to be as we prepare to witness the empty tomb.

But...how does knowing that you are to blame bring success (Of course by success I mean eternal life)? Success does not come from us, but from God. God also knew whom to blame. The beautiful thing is that God did not blame us (even though we most certainly deserved it)! He sent a “scapegoat.” Our “scapegoat” is Jesus. Jesus was “blamed” for our sins--he took them all to the cross and died the death that we deserved. As we have heard it many times before, 2 Corinthians 5:21 rings out once again: “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

“The secret to success is knowing who to blame.” We are to blame, but Jesus took our blame and now we are blameless. May that peace of forgiveness keep your mind on the cross as we journey together to the empty tomb (and know that, because of Jesus, our tomb will be empty too!).



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NO SIN, SO THAT IN HIM WE MIGHT BECOME THE
RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD. 2 COR. 5:21**

Executive Committee Report

Dean Grosskreutz

With pastor's clarification on what the revitalization means for Cross of Christ, I would like to reiterate that the Executive Committee is working diligently on ideas to enhance our community outreach by offering low-key events for our members to attend and enjoy. Our intention in our past events (Journey to the Cross, Parking Lot Frolic, Random Acts of Kindness, Normalpalooza, canvassing the neighborhood, etc) and the events we are planning for the future (Arts & Crafts Extravaganza in May) was to create an easy way for members to be involved without going too far out of their comfort zones while at the same time making our presence known in a community that might not know about Cross of Christ.

Our Arts & Crafts Extravaganza in May will be a great opportunity to bring in some strangers and make new friends. Will any of these people in attendance at the event come to worship at our church the next Sunday morning? Probably not. Not unless someone talks to them. Not unless someone takes the time to be kind to them. Not unless someone extends a hand of friendship. Then if the timing is right and the Holy Spirit has the chance to enter their heart through you maybe they will come back on another day to hear about the loving grace of God. Come give a hand and a commitment not to us, but, to Our Heavenly Father to do what you can either before or during our May 8th Arts and Crafts Extravaganza.

Bibles for Believers

Nancy Allen

The mission continues. We are still collecting monies to send with the SE District mission team going to Tanzania in late May. They will be able to purchase Bibles in-country and distribute them while they are there. The cost of a Bible in the Swahili language is \$6.00 and Lutheran Hymnals are \$7.00. Bookplates are now available if you would like to write a dedication, in memory of, or a short note. The team will place these in the Bibles & Hymnals they purchase. There is a signup sheet in the hall if you want a bookplate. Just indicate how many you'll need and I'll get them to you. To purchase Bibles and/or hymnals, make checks to Cross of Christ and note Bibles for Believers on the front. These can be placed in the offering plate or dropped by the office. Pastor Herd and his wife Nancy will be in Tanzania the first part of March to train Evangelists. More Evangelists mean more people hearing the word. More people hearing the word mean more Bibles will be needed to aid in their journey as new Christians. In the Lord's perfect time, He has given us the opportunity to share his word.

LWML Health Kits

Irma Pinkerton

Cross of Christ will be collecting items for Health Kits that will be sent to Lutheran World Relief to restock their warehouse. Please bring items to church and place in the boxes. The LWML will put them together in kits so feel free to bring as many items as you like. Our final date will be April 24th.

The following items are needed:

- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- One washcloth, dark color recommended
- One bath-size bar (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in its original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- one sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached, (not cardboard emery boards)
- Band Aids (or similar brand), preferably 1/2" to 3/4"

We thank you in advance for your response to this need.



Lenten and Easter Services

Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17, & 24

Supper, 6:00 pm

Lenten Service, 7:00 pm

Palm Sunday, March 28

Morning Worship, 8:30 am

Sunday School, 9:45 am

Contemporary Service, 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Passover Seder, 6:00 pm

Good Friday, April 2

Kar Freitag (German), 6:00 pm

Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday, April 4

Sunrise Service, 6:30 am

Easter Breakfast, 7:30 am

Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, 8:30 am

Easter Breakfast, 9:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 am

Easter Celebration with Holy Communion, 11:00 am

... It's good to hear how well the vicarage is going. But that has been the case every year. The students come back from Cross of Christ and have so many positive things to say about the vicarage. You and the congregation are to be commended for providing such an excellent place for these young men to be prepared for ministry.... I just received preliminary numbers and we will be short vicarages this year. Another way to say this is that we need every vicarage we can get, but especially experienced vicarage congregations that have a record of excellence like Cross of Christ...

I pray our Lenten journey to the cross and empty tomb fill you with peace and hope!

In His Service,
Glenn Nielsen
Director of Vicarage and Deaconess Internships

Crossties

M A R C H 2 0 1 0

Those Who Serve in March

	7	14	21	28
Elders	8:30 Mike Witherby & Tom Manthey 11:00 Mark Kerr & Scott Brewster			
Acolytes	KC Welsh & Jenny Holloway	Jacob & Sarah Clemmons	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt	KC Welsh & Jenny Holloway
Readers 8:30 am	Gordan & Judy VanLoon	Barbara Burrow	Chris Brandt	Larry Zehnder
Greeters 8:30 am	Paul & Barbara Wyatt	Julia Edmundson	John & Joan Musser	Ed & Bea Lago
Readers 11:00 am	Ken Maury	Jim Walpert	Dean Grosskreutz	Gail Winterbauer
Greeters 11:00 am	Jim & Penny Walpert	Jamie & Kathy Holloway	Scott & Allison Brewster	Vicar



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Return Service Requested