



## 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.



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## Life in Service to God

Pastor Barry Hildebrandt

As we are again headed for the beginning of the Lenten Season (set to get underway on February 17 with our Ash Wednesday Communion Service) it occurs to me how vital it is for us to focus on the totality of "Life in Service to God." So often we feel the need to schedule our lives, and as a result we end up compartmentalizing our faith. When we set aside this much time and energy for work, this much for family, this much for recreation, this much for church-involvement and so on, we run the risk of thinking of our faith as a part-time project that only applies to Sunday mornings and occasionally a mid-week worship time. Yet the love of God in Christ, who gave His all for us, calls us to a fulltime commitment to His Son in our discipleship and anticipates our involvement in that same kind of all-inclusive and constant love exhibited by Jesus.

Certainly, as humans we fail in our efforts to live totally for Christ: time after time we fall prey to Satan's wiles, we are led astray by this world and our peers, we give in to our sinful desires, and we resist the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day experiences. But our Savior is always ready to forgive the failings of our past and to empower us for the days ahead. He wants to work in us and through us, enabling us both to understand His will and to commit our daily routine to a day-by-day and hour-to-hour walking in His ways. May we never be satisfied with lives that are anything less than total service to Him and to those around us, whom He seeks to love through our loving care! His was a total commitment and dedication to us . . . can ours be any less than that?

## Volunteers Still Needed!

Volunteers are still needed to fill the following church leadership positions:

- Evangelism Committee Chairperson
- Education Committee Chairperson
- Treasurer

If you are interested in any of these positions, or if you would like more information regarding the responsibilities, please contact Dean Grosskreutz: (423)432-5648, [deanmwa@comcast.net](mailto:deanmwa@comcast.net)

Also, thank you to Tom Manthey who is currently serving as our interim treasurer.

## From the Vicar

Vicar Jake Allstaedt

On Life Sunday, I gave a children's message about the use of "lovespeak." This manner of speaking is in reference to Ephesians 4:15 where Paul tells us that, as Christians, we should speak the truth in love. "Lovespeak," then, has two requirements: first, that we speak the truth, and second, that we do it in a loving way. Although I did not coin the phrase and the message was adapted from a children's message for the day, I really wanted to expand a little bit on this thought because it is the essential language for Christians and honestly, this is the hardest language we will ever learn (and I thought Greek and Hebrew were demanding).

"Lovespeak" was on my mind the other day. One of my friends from Concordia Seminary who is also on vicarage this year sent me a link to a Lutheran radio program that exposes false doctrines and teachings, correcting them in light of God's Word. The particular program that my friend sent to me was one that was specifically aimed at a sermon of particular large church preacher who will remain unnamed. The host of the program exposed all of the misleading and downright unbiblical theology that this individual was speaking in one of his recent sermons. The host even had a guest from a Baptist denomination on the phone and the two of them picked apart that sermon piece by piece like a Thanksgiving turkey.

As I sat there listening to this radio program, I found myself agreeing with the hosts. The sermon that they were tearing apart lead to an inevitable conclusion that all religions are basically the same and that Jesus is not the only way. As Christians, we profess that Jesus is the ONLY way to eternal life. As Jesus tells us in Matthew 13:13-14 (ESV): "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." There is no salvation outside of Jesus Christ. Although this preacher professed Jesus his false teaching inevitably brought him to the conclusion that, maybe there are other roads to eternal life. Now, this preacher was not using "lovespeak." Everything he said was said in such a loving way. I was floored with how loving his speech was—but he wasn't speaking the truth.

*(Continued)*

*(From the Vicar, con't.)*

I found it so easy to jump in with my own comments as this preacher was torn down. That's when I had to check myself and realize that the hosts and I were also not talking in "lovespeak" from the other side of the coin of "truth in love."

You see, these hosts were speaking the truth, but it was with the intent to tear down. Where is the building up in love? How much easier it is to tear down than to build up! I knew that as soon as I starting thinking, "This guy is so off...he's wrong here and here..." that I was no longer using "lovespeak."

My friends, I would guess that our struggle with "lovespeak," as Lutherans, doesn't come from the part about telling the truth—it's the telling the truth in love part that makes "lovespeak" the hardest language to learn. We can easily tear down, but building up one another in love is hard to do. We can only love because God first loved us and sent His Son to die for us. It's HIS totally sacrificial and perfect love that allows us and compels us to love others. May we set aside our own sinful selves as we continue to learn the language of "lovespeak" and speak the truth in love—not just tearing down, but also building up in the best of ways: using "lovespeak."



**“INSTEAD, SPEAKING THE TRUTH IN LOVE, WE WILL IN ALL THINGS GROW UP INTO HIM WHO IS THE HEAD, THAT IS, CHRIST” EPH. 4:15**

## The Revitalization

Dean Grosskreutz, Congregational President

There are several new programs and events to get excited about at Cross of Christ. The Executive Committee has been working on new programming and you will begin to see these changes starting in February.

February 14<sup>th</sup> will be the debut of a new church service bulletin. The printed service will be more user friendly, as we will be removing the inserts and printing the service in its entirety. This will make our service easier to follow for our visitors, and we will recover our cost for the new program by not having to purchase the weekly inserts that include the psalm reading, introit, gradual, collect and bible readings.

Next, the Staffing Committee has been working on job descriptions and manuals for all of the volunteer and paid positions at Cross of Christ. These descriptions will clearly outline the duties and expectations for all the church officers and will be especially helpful to you as you consider which leadership position in the church is right for you.

The planning has begun for an Arts and Crafts Extravaganza hosted by Cross of Christ on **May 8<sup>th</sup>**. We were especially impressed by the success of our marketing efforts at Normalpalooza in November, and decided that hosting our own event would be a great way to enhance our presence in the community. There will be booths available for vendors to rent, and applications are currently available. We also plan to have blow-up attractions and games for children as well as live music and food. Please keep this date in mind as we will need many volunteers and let the executive committee know if you have any suggestions!

According to the surveys taken in the fall, our congregation has shown interest in reaching out to military families while their loved ones are deployed overseas. More information is to come on this outreach program.

Finally, the German Christmas service was extremely successful. Pastor is hopeful to have more German services in the future due to requests by many of the German Nationals who were in attendance on Christmas Eve.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation for your efforts in our outreach to the community and service to God our Father in the days ahead. I look forward to the challenges and the progress we will attain with God's help.



## Quilting Group

Lanette Bagley, 344-9324

The Quilters are back in full swing again. We would love to have some more members. Even if you can't sew or thread a needle we would love to have you. We will teach you everything you need to know. It is a great time for fellowship and to get to know others in our church. We meet every Tuesday morning at 9:30 in the basement of the church. Come check it out. Any questions call 344-9324.

## Mustang Project

Emily Grosskreutz

I'm entering a "Youth and Yearling Competition". This Challenge is a cooperative effort between Mustang Heritage Foundation Trainer Incentive Program and the Bureau of Land Management.

I'll be adopting a wild mustang yearling at the end of February. I will have about 90 days to work with it before taking it to the competition, where we will compete against several other kids and their mustangs.

The goal of the event is to promote adoption by showcasing the Mustang's value and trainability and to help youth build and improve their skills, horsemanship skills and life skills through competition.

I'll keep you all updated about the yearling's progress and post a picture on the youth board of it when it comes.

# Crossties

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 0

## Those Who Serve in February

	7	14	21	28
Elders	8:30 am Larry Zehnder & Jeff Anderson 11:00 Jamie Holloway & Mike Kerr			
Acolytes	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt	KC Welsh & Jenny Holloway	Jacob & Sarah Clemmons	Haley Halabrin & Elora Hunt
Readers 8:30 am	Tom & Sue Manthey	Mike & Monica Witherby	Connie Hamilton	Martha Fishburn
Greeters 8:30 am	Don Burrow	Tom & Sue Manthey	Jo Parham	Dennis & Karen Savor
Readers 11:00 am	Ann Hunt	Jim Walpert	Dave & Cara Welsh	Gail Winterbauer
Greeters 11:00 am	Ray & Pat Veldman	Scott & Allison Brewster	Jim & Sandi Reisenbuechler	Ron & Elsie Schmidt



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