**Crossings Text Study Group – All Are Welcome!**

**Wednesday Mornings at 9:30 A.M.**

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Milwaukee**

Dear Friends, after a long period of recovery from quadruple bypass surgery, I happy again to be back to leading the Crossings text study group. I thank Pr. Ari Mattson, for filling in for my six months absence. If the season of Advent is all about focusing on signs of hope in the midst of adversity, well, I can say that’s what the past six months have been like.

This week, Advent 2 (Luke 3:1-6), focuses on the hopeful sign given in John the Baptist. Note, it is very important to distinguish the “sign” from the “thing” it is pointing to. When the sign says “bump” we ready ourselves for the bump. John and his message is a sign pointing to the one reason for hope in our desert-like (sin ridden) existence: the coming of God’s long expectant messiah into the world, Jesus Christ. Of course, he comes to us in signs over and over again (in, for example, water splashed, word proclaimed, bread and wine set out) not because he is not always with us, but because it is easy for us to overlook him: to lose faith. In the images of this week’s gospel the danger is clear: to overlook his forgiveness, leaves us neglecting repentance, and stuck in our desert, sin ridden existence. Thank God for raising up signs pointing us to Christ. Hmmm! Come to think of it. Might that not also turn us into JB-like signs as well?

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church --**  9235 W. Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53226

**Wednesdays -- 9:30-11 a.m.**

Crossings has developed a visual model for organizing the message of a particular biblical text based on the simple idea of distinguishing law and gospel, God’s own diagnosis of what ails us and God’s own prescription of what heals us.  The model is useful for everyone, both those who listen to and those who proclaim the text, because it helps to remind us what to focus on and listen for in the process of reading and understanding a biblical text and relating or crossing it into our daily life.

Who: Anyone interested in studying the Bible – clergy and lay, preachers and listeners

What: We will learn the Crossing Method by using it on the texts that everyone will hear on Sunday Morning

Questions? Email me or call me at 262-642-6303

For more Info on Crossings go to [www.crossings.org](http://www.crossings.org)

I look forward to exploring the Scriptures with you together,

Peace,

Steve Kuhl

The Crossings Community, Inc.