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

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

**Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Milwaukee**

9235 W. Bluemound Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53226

Dear Friends: The text for Advent 4 (Luke 1:39-55) is Luke’s marvelously crafted telling of Mary’s visitation to her much elder kinswomen, Elizabeth. Luke doesn’t tell us outright why Mary visits her, but we can certainly speculate why. Mary has a problem. She had a wondrous secret waiting to be told about the child she carried and no one to tell it to. Perhaps more accurately, she feared telling the secret. For she knew that the very telling of the secret would likely not evoke mutual rejoicing with Mary, but sideways glances. In effect, her wondrous secret felt like a guilty secret.

But doesn’t that reservation on Mary’s part say as much about the world – about us – as it does Mary? For she knew the society in which she lived; she knew darn well that they would scoff at her in disbelief the moment they heard her story. And she knew that because, deep down, she knew she was more like them than not? She knew that if circumstances were different, she would be right there scoffing with them. For she knew what lurked in the “imaginations of their hearts.” Pride--the illusion that they can keep their actual guilty secrets secret and not be humbled.

But ultimately, Mary knows that no secrets are hid from the Mighty One. For that reason she fears God, unlike “the powerful,” “the proud” and “the rich.” For their pride prevents it and, as a result, ultimate means their demise before God. For, as Mary knows, the powerful will be brought down from their thrones, the proud will be scattered in their deceit, and the rich will be sent away empty.

In spite of the fact that the Mighty One is a God to be feared; in spite of the fact that Mary,

**About Crossings**

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.