



Crosslake Presbyterian Church

Messenger

February 2020

14444 Daggett Pine Road, Crosslake, Minnesota | Tel: (218) 692-4769 | www.crosslakepres.org

Message from

Pastor Tony

I had a pastor's page written. It was ready to go so that the newsletter would arrive before February did. Then, life changed in a flash, as it's prone to. My article no longer seemed to fit. A lot no longer seemed to fit after finding out about Mary Lu. Life took a sharp right turn, and left us scrambling.

When I received the news from Mary Lu's family, I had just arrived at my continuing education workshop in Wisconsin; I had finished rolling in my luggage when I called the family for an update. The news hit me hard; as I'm sure it did for everyone! As people read the email update that Mary Lu would be returning home to be placed on hospice, I got a flood of emails from people offering their help, their time, and their support for the family. I got a few phone calls too from people offering their support and prayers.

In one of the conversations, the person asked, "what about worship on Sunday? Should we do anything differently? What do we do?"

My immediate response was "we worship!" Do the same worship. Keep the order of worship the same. Keep the *Call to Worship*, *Prayer of Confession*, *Declaration of Forgiveness*, the hymns, the scripture readings, offering and everything. Keep all of it. Keep it all in and do it all the same as we do any week.



Worship wasn't the same because I was concerned about showing favoritism. It wasn't the same because I didn't want to recognize the harsh truth. It wasn't the same because I didn't know what else to do; there are numerous prayers, poems, petitions, and platitudes that could have been offered. It wasn't because I was gone; church is the people not the pastor.

Worship was kept the same because comfort can be found in routine and ritual. I firmly believe that!

It's why basketball players have the same warm-up when they are getting ready for a free throw. And why musicians and athletes practice. They don't practice to simply get better. They practice so that when the time comes, when the pressure's on, or when life takes a *sharp right turn* routine and the mind overrides the emotion. Practice, ritual, and routine become the rails of a train track. Guiding the overwhelmed when they are uncertain of what to do next.

This is the same reason we say the *Lord's Prayer* each week, why part the *Forgiveness of Sin* is always the same, and why the *Benediction* is always the same. When the chips are down, when life takes an abrupt turn and we are at a loss, the routine of worship can kick in.

If you're feeling lost in your struggles you just might recall, "in Jesus Christ we are forgiven". When you can't find words for your prayer, maybe the *Lord's Prayer* will come to mind.

More than simply being able to recall words when we're suddenly at a loss for them, worship provides us with a means of remembering two important elements of discipleship. The first being that God is ever present. God is always with us. Worship is a reminder of God's continual presence in the world. Through the good times and the tough times, God is with us.

Second, and maybe slightly more important, worship reminds us to come together; to be a community. It reminds us that faith is not just a personal set of beliefs, it's *communal*. Worship is coming together to share in our common struggles, to lift up those who are hurting, to be there for one another, to laugh together, to cry together, sing together, pray together, carry one another's burdens, and to support the faith of friend when they are having problems carrying it alone.

When we don't know what to do, let's come together to be in the presence of God and of one another; to be a community (God is a community — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and we created in God's image, so are most human when we are in a community). It won't always be easy! We won't always be pleased with what's happening in life, or with God, but we will be together as a community. And maybe, in community the words and actions of our sisters and brothers in Christ, will carry our faith we are struggling to carry it alone!

MONSTER SALE 2020

Keeping this date on your radar and a reminder to please start saving your unneeded treasures.... the sale this year will be the weekend of **July 9th through 11th 2020!** If you would like to help in any way, or have questions please contact Amy Bloch or Tom McCormack. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex soon!



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Plans are getting underway for the St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 14 2020.



Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you are interested in participating in the preparation for and/or the parade itself. Contact Tom McCormack, Amy Bloch or Pastor Tony if you have any questions.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Glenda Meech
- 10 Jack Becker
- 12 Patty Norgaard
- 15 Steve Roe
- 18 Gene Clement
- 18 Pat Tweed
- 24 Becky Bury
- 25 Arianna McCormack



FEBRUARY POTLUCK

The Potluck gathering in February will be on Ash Wednesday, February 26 before the service. We will gather at 3:30 pm and share our appetizers and desserts. If you have any questions please see Amy Bloch.



LENTEN GATHERINGS

During Lent, beginning on **February 26**, our Bible study group will meet Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the Friendship Hall, as usual, to study the Gospel reading for the next Sunday. Following this shortened version of our usual Bible study, we will do Lenten Gatherings similar to those we did during Advent.



The topics for the Lenten Gatherings are Wilderness/Barrenness/Emptiness, Pilgrimage, Enclosures/Safe Places, Language/Words, Treasures/Gifts, and Tears/Mourning, which pair up amazingly well with the scriptures we will be looking at each week.

As during Advent, all are invited to join us for these Lenten Gatherings, even if you are not a regular attender at Bible study. And, of course, you are invited to join us for lunch at Moonlite Bay.
Ginny Anderson

PUB THEOLOGY

Join us on Thursday, February 13th as we continue with Pub Theology, where we meet at **14 Lakes Brewery** at 5:00pm (usually on the second Thursday of each month). 14 Lakes Brewery is located on Route 66 in Crosslake Join us if you can, we'll be talking about faith, life, and beer!





Sun 02/02 10:00 am Worship Service

11:15 am Fellowship

Tues. 02/04 9:30 am Literary Huddle

7:00 pm Mainstreet AA

Wed. 02/05 10:00 am Bible Study

Thurs 02/06 10:00 am Small Group

Sun. 02/09 10:00 am Communion
Worship Service

11:15 am Fellowship

Tues. 02/11 9:00 am Finance Cte Meeting

9:30 am Literary Huddle

2:00 pm Session Meeting

7:00 pm Mainstreet AA

Wed 02/12 9:00 am Senior Linkage

9:30 am Bible Study

Thurs 02/13 10:00 am Small Group

5:00 pm Pub Theology

Sun 02/16 10:00 am Worship Service

11:00 am Fellowship

POTLUCK DINNER

Wednesday, February 26 at 5:00pm

We are gathering before the Ash Wednesday Service and share appetizers and desserts.

MEN'S LUNCH

Thursday, February 20 at 12:00pm
at Pine Peaks in Crosslake

WOMEN'S LUNCH

Tuesday, February 18 at 12:00pm
at Maucieri's Italian Bistro

Tues 02/18 9:30 am Literary Huddle

12:00 pm Women's Luncheon

7:00 pm Mainstreet AA

Wed. 02/19 10:00 am Bible Study

3:30 pm Deacon's Meeting

Thur 02/20 10:00 am Small Group

12:00 pm Men's Luncheon

Sun 02/23 10:00 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship

Tues. 02/25 9:30 am Literary Huddle

7:00 pm Mainstreet AA

Wed 02/26 10:00 am Lenten Gathering

3:30 pm Potluck (Apps & Desserts)

5:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Thur 02/27 10:00 am Small Group

CROSSLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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