



Crosslake Presbyterian Church

Messenger

July 2019

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

Message from

Pastor Tony

In the May newsletter I briefly touched on a phrase I was using at the Senior Expo: *relationships not recruitment*. This phrase has become my new mantra for at least the summer. It's how I now respond to people when they ask about CPC ministry opportunities or what CPC is up to or how things are going. I love this phrase not only because it so clearly encompasses what I feel is such a vital part of ministry (being a Christian really) and the life of the church, but I love it because it's how churches become healthy after times of struggle.

What tends to happen when there's a struggle, conflict, or kerfuffle that causes members to leave is that the church community's (could be congregation members, pastor, denominational structure) focus becomes saving the church. It's a mighty and noble cause. But it's not necessarily a direct goal we need to have; "saving the church" is a by-product of ministry and not the product. What I mean is, through having our focus on relationships, people will begin to see that CPC is a place to belong. They will feel loved, and welcomed, and cared for (by members, the church, and most importantly by God) and will want to ensure that CPC exists.

On the other hand if we focus on recruitment, getting people in for bigger attendance, or for more giving units (people who will pledge), or so we have more leadership (aka: fresh meat to be on committees) people begin to feel as though

they are being exploited. It becomes about what they can do for us and not what God has done for them.

Is our goal to get people into the church or to get them into a relationship with God?



I think it's the second part of the question, with the first part being a by-product of helping people establish, and re-establish, connections with God. Relationships not recruitment is about more than having church growth as a by-product of building healthy relationships. It's about helping us, the current members and friends of the church, feel more at home and at peace within CPC. Again, as struggles and conflicts happen in a church many people "jump ship" because of personal conflicts or just because the water's too rough for them. By focusing on relationships we send the message "come on in the water's fine". When we focus on membership, growth, or the like, we give off an anxious vibe that tells people that things are still too rocky in the church.

This is why it's *relationships and not recruitment*. It's why we do things like **Pub Theology**. (See page 3 for details). Where there is no one correct

Continued on page 2

view, where people are free to talk and ask questions, where we don't mention "Sunday morning worship". It's where people who may have never heard that CPC exists can test the waters without making the leap to come to worship on Sunday, because that can be intimidating for some. It's where members who needed to take a step back during the struggles, can dip a toe in the water to see how things are. Where they can reengage with longtime friends without feeling pressured to give time or money to the church. Where they can hopefully reconnect with God.

The idea of giving people a place to "test the water" is one of the reasons I really wanted to do *Pub Theology* this summer. I wanted to give people a place to test the waters at CPC.

So, if you are someone who was once more active at CPC, or someone who regularly attended worship and you've been looking for an opportunity to "test the waters", maybe *Pub Theology* would offer an opportunity for you to reconnect with longtime friends and maybe even God. We're not trying to convince you that you need to come back into active roles (recruiting you) we are inviting you into relationship, new ones, ones you've had before, and possibly into a deeper relationship with God.

IMAGES OF GOD CLASS



During July, the Images of God adult class will continue pondering names and titles for God, beginning with part two of "What's In A Name?" From there we will consider the names and images of God revealed in recent worship services through our liturgy, prayers, and hymns.

Please join us when you can—the class begins at 9:00 a.m. Sunday mornings in the church library.



- 1 Kyle Oltmann
- 3 Glen William Sargent
- 5 Marie Fischer
- 11 Jerry Norgaard
- 15 Tom McCormack
- 21 Audrey Eiler
- 25 Steve Anderson
- 25 Rev Kate Stangl
- 29 Ginny Anderson
- 30 Roger Grussing
- 31 Judie Larson

Crosslake Presbyterian Church
invites you to join us for

different brews



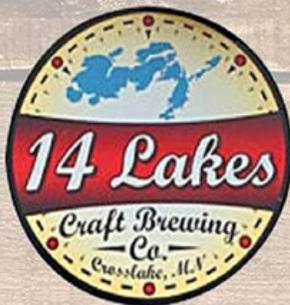
different views

PUB THEOLOGY

BEER, CONVERSATION & GOD

all perspectives welcome

at



14 Lakes Craft Brewery
36846 County Road 66 in Crosslake

Thursday's 5:30pm-7:30pm

on

*June 6th, June 20th, July 18th,
August 1st and August 15th*

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JULY POTLUCK

Wednesday, July 24th at 5:00pm
in the Friendship Hall

MEN'S LUNCH

Thursday, July 18th
Noon at Pine Peaks

WOMEN'S LUNCH

Wednesday, July 17th at 12:30pm
at Iron Range Eatery in Crosby

Tues.	07/02	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		9:30am	Staff Meeting
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	07/03	9:30am	Bible Study
		5:00pm	Choir Practice
Sun.	07/07	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Communion Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	07/09	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		2:00pm	Session Meeting
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	07/10	10:00am	Bible Study
		5:00pm	Choir Practice
Sun.	07/14	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	07/16	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		9:30am	Staff Meeting
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	07/17	10:00am	Bible Study
		12:30pm	Women's Luncheon
		5:00pm	Choir

Sun.	07/21	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	07/23	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	07/24	10:00am	Bible Study
		4:00pm	Deacon's Meeting
		5:00pm	Pot Luck Dinner
		6:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun.	07/28	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	07/30	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	07/31	10:00am	Bible Study
		5:00pm	Choir Practice

CROSSLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Office

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Deacon Of The Month

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