



Crosslake Presbyterian Church

Messenger

September 2019

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

Message from

Pastor Tony

Have you been to the top of a mountain? I pray you have because being at the top of a mountain can be exhilarating. I've been to the top of a few mountains. Most recently, my family and I made a trip to Holden Village about a year ago; if you've never heard of it, I would encourage you to visit their website (holdenvillage.org) because I'd love to go back and take some people from CPC with me!

I'll likely never forget the scenery. The crisp August mornings with the slightest hint of fog rolling out as the sun broke through the smoky sky (there were forest fires in the distance) to light a distant snow covered peak. It was awe inspiring!

Not too long ago, my phone gave me a notification of "memories from a year ago". Took a trip down the memory lane that was our trip to Holden Village last August. The pictures at Holden Village got me thinking about "mountain top" experiences. You know, those moments in life when things seem to be clicking, the times when things seem to be going "oh so well", when we're feeling "all is right", we have a deeply inspiring event taking place, or a long strived after goal is obtained.

What's the first thing almost everyone does when they reach the summit? Take a deep breath and look back. Look back at the scenery. Look at the journey they've made. Look at all that's around and truly witness where they are and the journey it took to get there. They take the full breadth and depths of where the journey began and the heights to which they ascended. And, usually it's because someone said, "just a second, you've got to see this", so you stop, take a breath, and take it all in. It doesn't even have to be at the peak, right? Sometimes, as we're making the journey to the top, we have our heads down because we're trying to conserve energy and focus on where our feet should go, and we end up missing much of

what's going on around us. We become so focused on our goal that we miss the progress we've made. Sometimes the journey is just as breath taking as the destination and it's not until someone makes an intentional decision to stop and look; then encourage the rest of the group to do the same.

I'd like to encourage you to stop, take a deep breath, and take it all in. Look at God at work. Look at how God is working in and through you, in and through the people around you, in and through the world around you! Take a look at your family! Take a look at your neighbors! Take a look at your life! Take a look at our worshipping community here at CPC!



We've been through a lot at CPC, and there's more journey ahead of us too. There'll be valleys, peaks, plateaus, cloudy days, moments the sun breaks through, times when our footing slips, maybe even a few falls or spills, and there will be times when we're sure footed as we make the next move. Before the journey continues, stop and take it in; take it all in. Take in the scenery. Take in the heartache, the pain, the joys, the laughter, the tears, the sorrow, take it all in because we've come a long way. Take in the journey from there to where we are now. Look at where we've come; at where we're come from and where we are headed!

The session and I took such a break at our meeting in August. We stopped what we were doing and took in the *scenery* of all God was doing in and through CPC. Yeah, we still have a journey a head, but it was great to be able to stop and process the journey we've already made! To survey the landscape and take note of what God is doing in and through CPC! It was glorious!

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In the last year we went from being uncertain about the long-term future of CPC, to beginning a new call, to now discussing paying off the mortgage and saving for the long-term future of CPC. What a turn of events! I've heard people say that before we began our ministry together, there was an unspoken question of how long the church would be around. To me, and the session, this gift is a statement that God isn't through with CPC. It's a statement of God's abundant provision, God's long-term call for the congregation, about God being living and active and wanting to be active in and through Crosslake Presbyterian Church.

If you feel called to help prepare for the long-term ministry of our congregation and are feeling called, please consider giving to the *Blessed to be a Blessing* debt free drive. We are very close to paying off our mortgage would like your help in doing so. Preparing for the long-term ministry of the congregation means becoming debt free (paying off the mortgage) and saving for future needs (maintenance and upkeep) of the building.

Like I said we're not at the peak yet, there's still a journey ahead, but we're come a long way. Savor the moment. I know I am. I'm thrilled with who we are and where we are. I am thrilled at the journey we have made and the road ahead of us!

HEARTLAND SYMPHONY

Fundraiser for the Heartland Symphony Orchestra!

There will be a fund-raiser for the HSO on September 12 from 5-7 PM (come and go at will) at the Prairie Bay Restaurant in Baxter. Appetizers will be provided by Prairie Bay and a wine-tasting bar will be provided by Cash Wise Liquors. Music will be provided by members of the orchestra and will include some classical and some show tunes. Cost is \$15/per person with all proceeds going to the orchestra.



Members of our church family who play in the orchestra are Andrea Lund, Mary Anne Bennett and Mary Clement.

PIZZA & PONTOONS



The September event will be a Pontoon and Pizza Party at Moonlite Bay. We will begin with a pontoon ride beginning at 4:00pm at Moonlite Bay, and will dine at approximately 5:00pm.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, **make sure to sign up soon!** Please also indicate if you have a pontoon and are willing to drive, and also whether you are staying to eat pizza and/or taking the pontoon ride. The cost is \$7 per person for pizza, which includes tax and tip. Beverages and other menu offerings optional.

Look for further information regarding pontoons boarding locations, accommodations for mobility issues, plan B in case of inclement weather, etc.



CROSSLAKE DAYS

Got a killer recipe for Chili?

Then we need you! The Crosslake Chamber of Commerce is hosting a chili cookoff as part of Crosslake Days and we'd like to enter!

If you are interested in helping with the chili cookoff (or sharing a recipe), shoot Pastor Tony an email!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

At the August meeting, your Session voted to install a Little Free Library next to our bench near the paved trail on Dagget Pine Road. We are looking for someone who would be interested on building our Little Free Library (plans are available online) and/or donating money to help build or purchase one. There is a man in Missouri who would build and ship us a lovely cedar two-shelf library for about \$225, for instance, and we could likely build our own for less. If you are interested in donating or building our Little Free Library please talk to Pastor Tony or Ginny Anderson.



Once we have our Little Free Library, we will be looking for book donations. Several of you have indicated that you have books you no longer need that are not quite right for our church library, so this may be your chance to find them a home. We will be looking for books for all ages, fiction and non-fiction.

If you would like to learn more about Little Free Libraries, you would find lots of information online. And there is a piece in a recent Sun magazine (which is in our church library) written by a woman who installed a Little Library near her house that you might enjoy reading.

IMAGES OF GOD CLASS



Led by Ginny Anderson

In September we will be looking at Images of God in literature and movies. After doing an online search for possible books and movies for us to consider, I found nearly 100 suggestions. If you have favorite images of God or Christ-like characters from books and movies you have enjoyed, please come and tell us about them. And if you happen to own those books or movies and would be willing to share them with others, please bring them along.

The class begins at 9:00 AM on Sunday mornings in the church library. (The class will not meet on Sunday, September 29th, as I will be on my way to a Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation in Dubuque, Iowa.)

CENTRAL MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON AGING

Central Minnesota Council on Aging (CMCOA), working with the Senior LinkAge Line, is now officed out of Crosslake Presbyterian Church! For a few hours, on the second Wednesday of every month, Senior LinkAge Line will be in the back Sunday School room (aka: the counting room). This is a great partnership for us!



The Senior LinkAge Line will bring us lots of great exposure and will bring a lot of people through our church doors during the week. More than that it's a great resource for the area! If you want to know more info about the work of Senior LinkAge Line you can visit: cmcoa.org

September BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Doug Steele II
- 3 Gail Peterson
- 6 Norm Nelson
- 8 Don Hoger
- 11 Betsy Simons
- 12 Jo Bierman
- 16 Jane Milliman
- 27 Mary Ann Bennett

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING



When God gave Abram the covenant in Genesis 12, he tells Abram he is **blessed to be a blessing**. That is, one of the reasons Abram is blessed is so that he can be a blessing to others; so he can bless future generations. At Crosslake Presbyterian Church, we have been blessed! There's no doubt about it! We have been blessed in many ways and countless times. Most recently, we have been blessed by members of our congregation who want to help us become debt free by assisting us in paying off our mortgage and by helping us to save for future facility needs. Through these gifts we have been **blessed to be a blessing**! We have been blessed so that we can be a blessing to future generations by handing off a church that has no debt!

At the August session meeting, the leadership at CPC voted to begin a drive so we can become a debt-free church. This will allow us to save for the future, and to be unencumbered by financial strain. Becoming debt free will free up our monthly mortgage payment which will be put in a Facility Legacy Fund.

This fund will be used for future upkeep and maintenance of the church facility. Additionally, being without a mortgage will allow us to look at the mission and ministry of CPC with new eyes! Beginning on August 18, and running through the end of 2019 (or until we have reached our goal), the church will be collecting gifts, above and beyond monthly pledges, to help us become a debt free church.

Currently, our mortgage is around \$32,000. We are very close to paying off the balance and could use your help in becoming debt free! If you feel called to give above and beyond your monthly pledge, please use the blessed to be a blessing envelopes found in the chair back or the church office.

WHERE'S THE MISSION COMMITTEE?

The mission committee is no longer! Did that catch your attention? Good! We've been short on people willing to serve on the mission committee, so the session has asked the Deacons for help. Currently, the Mission Committee is a task group of the Deacons, which means they are a "sub-committee" that meets as needed rather than regularly and only give reports back to the Deacons.

In the past, we've gone member to member asking for suggestions on where and how to spend the mission money. While it's a good approach, it does limit the impact of the money by spreading it out over twelve months and to different organizations; it was also an open ended system that didn't have much reporting back to the congregation about why the money was sent to a particular place or even where the money was sent.

Someone suggested rather than a scattered approach to mission, we try having a more focused approach. The focus approach would mean the task group would select a quarterly area of ministry and we spend three months highlighting the need and ways we can meet that need. An example of this would be how we've used the money for July, August, and September. The focus for those months has been children's needs. The work of the Mission task



force has been to support children, so we've had the classroom supply drive, we're supplying gift cards to schools to hand out to teachers who might need to buy something additional or special (one example was shoes for a kid who's family lost their primary source of income and it was the middle of winter), and we've invited someone from The Shop to come share about their work in the area. Additional ministry areas suggested have been the needs of older adults in winter (highlighting the new partnership with CMCOA and Blue Christmas), mental health (which we kind of did in May this year), and food issues. We'd spend a quarter talking about and discussing each of these topics as a part of worship and then inviting people to stay during fellowship to learn more.

If you are interested in working alongside Deacons on the Mission task force, please let us know. We'd love more input, more ideas, and more help!

PRESBYTERY UPDATE

Here's a quick update on the Presbytery meeting that took place Tuesday, August 20, in Fergus Falls. The meeting began as most do, with worship! It's wonderful to hear the Presbytery sing hymns because it's a large group with loud voices; truly inspiring. Another staple at recent meetings is the addition of a speaker or a presentation. This time around it was Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen a professor with Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. His area of study is STAR ministry, which stands for Small Town And Rural! He said he liked the acronym in part because it allowed pastors to say they were called to a STAR church. Dr. Yackel-Juleen shared about his work and how life and ministry in small towns and rural churches is different. It was an enlightening presentation.

Two other things to note are the ongoing work in Guatemala and the Presbyterian Church in Underwood/Maine. For those who don't know, our Presbytery is sister Presbytery's with a Presbytery in Guatemala. Lots of mission and ministry has been done in and through our two Presbyteries over the last few years. Including many mission trips. There's a new mission trip getting ready for the spring! If you are interested in participating in that mission trip or just learning more about it, talk with Pastor Tony or visit our Presbytery's website.

The last note is the new partnership with the Presbyterian Church in Maine, MN which is a union of Underwood Presbyterian Church and Maine Presbyterian Church. They gave a brief presentation of their mission and ministry which included a piece about how they have a larger group in the summer and a smaller one in the winter months because they are a "lake destination" and have a lot of "snowbirds". Both Doug Steele and Pastor Tony though our two churches could benefit from a dialogue about what's worked well and what hasn't. This is still in the "it would be good if" phase; meaning it's our intention to reach out to the Maine Church but Presbytery was only a week ago, so nothing has happened yet. For the August meeting, Doug Steele was the congregational representative. In January of this year, the session voted to have the elders take turns being the official representative. Not only to share the responsibility, but also so we could have new perspectives. This doesn't mean that only session members can go! In fact, anyone who is a member of CPC is invited to any and all Presbytery meetings! We'll be sure to highlight the upcoming meetings in the newsletter and in worship! The next Presbytery meeting is Saturday, November 2, in Redwood Falls! For more information visit the Presbytery's website: minnesotavalleys.org

(If you have any questions about the August Presbytery meeting feel free to contact Doug Steele.)

FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The session has called a fall congregational meeting for **Sunday, October 20**, immediately following Sunday morning worship for the purpose of voting on new Elders, new Deacons, and to celebrate the last 10 months of ministry together. Specifically, we will vote to elect new Elders to Session and new members to serve as Deacons; their terms will begin 2020.

Post voting, we will have a potluck lunch at which Pastor Tony will lead a discussion on the mission and ministry of CPC where will celebrate the work God has done in and through us the last 10 months!

TEACHER SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



Thank you to everyone who donated teacher's school supply items to FILL THE BUS! The supplies will be split between Pequot Lakes Middle School and Crosslake Community School.



AUGUST'S PROGRESSIVE DINNER!

A big thank you to Judy and Mark Regan, Brad and Barb Kohl, Jane Milliman and Jack Becker, for being hosts at the progressive dinner. Delicious food, great company and a fun time was had by all!



APPETIZERS AT THE REGAN'S...

FOLLOWED BY FAJITA'S AT THE KOHL'S...



& DESSERT AT JACK & JANE'S!



Sun.	09/01	9:00am	Images of God Class
	09/01	10:00am	Communion Worship Service & Fellowship
Mon.	09/02	1:00pm	Northern Trackers
Tues	09/03	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		10:00am	Bible Study
Sun.	09/08	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	09/10	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		2:00pm	Session Meeting
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	09/11	9:00am	Senior LinkAge
		10:00am	Bible Study
Sun.	09/15	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	09/17	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		7:00 pm	Mainstreet AA

PONTOONS & PIZZA

Tuesday, September 18 at 4:00pm
(full details are on page 2)

MEN'S LUNCH
Thursday, September 19 at 12:00pm
at Pine Peaks in Crosslake

WOMEN'S LUNCH
Wednesday, September 24 at 12:00pm
at Antlers in Breezy Point

Weds.	09/18	10:00am	Bible Study
		4:00pm	Pontoons & Pizza
Thurs	09/19	12:00pm	Men's Luncheon
Sun	09/22	9:00am	Images of God Class
		10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship
Tues.	09/24	9:30am	Literary Huddle
		12:00pm	Antlers
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
		7:00pm	Mainstreet AA
Weds.	09/25	10:00am	Bible Study
Sun.	09/29	10:00am	Worship Service
		11:15am	Fellowship

CROSSLAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Church Office

14444 Daggett Pine Rd,
Crosslake, MN 56442
(218) 692-4769
office@crosslakepres.org

Pastor Tony

(218) 692-4769 (o)
(952) 393-4895 (c)
pastor@crosslakepres.org

Deacon Of The Month

Audrey Eiler
(218) 546-3337 (c)
eiler.audrey.h@gmail.com