



THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of May 9, 2021

The Baptism of our Lord

Old Testament Reading- Acts 10:34-38

Epistle- 1 John 5: 1-8

Holy Gospel- John 15:9-17

Ctrl+Click this link for the Shadow of the Cross
website: <http://stpaulsfarmington.com/>

and this link for secure electronic giving:
<http://stpaulsfarmington.com/give-st-pauls/>

Worship service livestream:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM0cM0gle1sMO4AbuYc517Q>

SOTC Family, after prayerful consideration and for the sake of serving the community more effectively and efficiently and for the better use of our resources leading to more productive ministry, the SOTC leadership and the board of elders have decided to end our Saturday evening worship service. Instead, SOTC will soon offer two (2) worship services on Sunday mornings; an early service at 8:30 am and a late service at 11:00 am. Bible study will begin at approximately 10:00 am. Holy communion will be served every week as follows: 8:30 am 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:00 am 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays, THESE CHANGES WILL BEGIN SUNDAY JUNE 6, 2021. Ushers, elders and altar guild, please plan to meet as soon as possible to adjust your schedules accordingly. Saturdays will be used for business and committee meetings, our Joining Jesus classes, our Intercessory Prayer meetings, our overflow ESL classes, programs for our visually impaired ministry, fund raisers, servant events, youth programs, community outreach events, concerts, fish fry, drive-in movie nights, etc...



“Only the Strong Survive”

~ Pastor Brian Dupre~

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” – Joshua 1:9 ESV

You have heard it said that only the strong survive. Well it is certainly true when it comes to health, wealth and business. But it is not a physical or financial strength that God is speaking of when he speaks to Joshua in the passage above. It is a spiritual strength, not of body but of faith, and character. You see, it is just as true that only those strong in faith and character will be able to survive the tribulation that the book of Revelation warns has arrived and will get continually worse until the Last day when Jesus returns.

God tells Joshua to be strong in faith and courageous in character so that he may be bold to lead the Israelites in conquering their enemies that occupied the promised land. By doing these things that God commands of him, Joshua will not only survive, but prosper. If survival and longevity are the measure of strength and courage, then my friends, Shadow of the Cross

Lutheran Church has been very strong and very courageous.

We are still here when just two years ago people doubted we survive. Apparently, God had other plans. It would have been very easy to listen to the naysayers and give up, just as it would have been easy for Joshua to heed the report of his scouts that there were giants in the land they were commanded to conquer and give up. Instead, just like Joshua, we chose to listen to the words of the Lord in Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” and trust in His promise in Joshua 1:5 – “Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.”

Yes, we are still here, but by the grace of God who has enabled us to withstand trials and tribulations. And by His grace we are growing and prospering! But understand, it is God who has strengthened us, we did not do it ourselves! He has blessed us so that we would trust that Him to uplift us to be like the 3 faithful houses of God we were born of.

God did not do this “just because”. He has plans according to His will for us. By the time you read this, it will be a day in May, but not a “Mayday” for us. Let us first recognize the tremendous and immeasurable blessings He has given us over these past two years and then fall on our knees in thanksgiving because we could be suffering the same trials and tribulations some of our sister churches are suffering through. And we pray that God would quickly restore them also.

The second thing we need to do is be an example, a living witness to the blessings, grace and goodness of the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And in doing so, we will not fear but be bold, be strong and courageous, just as He instructs and enables His people to be. Amen. May God Bless you and keep you! –
~Pastor Dupre~

SOTC Zoom Account

Any chairperson needing to use the Zoom account for their ministry, please contact the Church office. There is a sign-up sheet in the office to reserve your date and time.

Get To Know Your Neighbor

My name is Nancy Faith. Mike and I have been members of the Shadow of the Cross now for almost two years. Our former congregation was Calvary Lutheran in Lincoln Park where I served as organist.

I have served in the Lutheran Church as a teacher, choir director and organist for over 30 years and have felt blessed to do so.

My favorite bible verse is 1 Corinthians chapter 4 verses 4-9.

I have many hobbies some of which are knitting, reading, scrapbooking, singing, playing piano and organ, taking pictures of sporting events and family gatherings.

My favorite time of the year is summer where I can sit outside and enjoy the warm weather. My favorite holiday is Christmas. I love to decorate and have my house full of light.

I was excited to bring singing back into our service because I feel that is such an important part of our music ministry. I believe it adds to our worship.

I love being a part of the congregation of the Shadow of the Cross.

LOVE SONG ~Merlin Fields~

When we think of the Grace and Peace that is afforded us through Faith in Christ Jesus, it brings music to our hearts, minds and souls. We as listeners of the word of God in the bible sometimes hear these words that are expressed from one human toward another. As we are to celebrate with harp, cymbal, lyre and voices.

In Richard Marx’s (1987) song, “Hold On To The Night”; the lyrics and chorus put so much strength in this love song one could have for another. This is man’s version of praise toward

another, but it is surpassed by the gift we receive through Christ's death on the cross. There are no lyrics or chorus for the praises we sing and appreciate in our gift of eternal life through faith in Christ Jesus.

The song goes: Just when I believed I could ever want for more, this ever-changing world pushes me through another door. I saw you smile and my mind could not erase the beauty of your face. Just for a while won't you let me shelter you. Chorus: Hold on to the night, hold on to the memories. I wish that I could give you something more, that I could be yours

Second verse: How do we explain? Something that took us by surprise, promises in vain. Love that is real, but in disguise; what happens now. Do we break another rule? Let our lovers play the fool? I don't know how to stop feeling this way. Chorus: Hold on to the nights, hold on to the memories. If only I could give you more. BRIDGE: Well, I think that I've been true to everybody else but me; and the way I feel about you makes my heart long to be free. Every time I look into your eyes I'm helplessly aware. That the someone I've been searching for Is right there. Chorus: Hold on to the night, hold on to the memories. I wish that I could give you something more, that I could be yours.

In the first stanza the artist profess that he couldn't, 'want for more'. We see Christ's love gives us so much more, without our ever deserving the Grace we receive. In addition, our want for more is expounded in our relationship we keep pounding in our hearts and minds. To give much more by telling others about this love we are pushed through many doors when we follow the ten commandments and live in the way God wants us to live. We receive grace without ever being worthy of such peace that is beyond all human understanding. And we are at ease just by the knowledge of what we receive from knowing Christ.

You can hold on to the night because that peace can ease your sleep with no worry until you

awake and thank him for the rest and ask for blessings through-out the coming day. In the second stanza, the song expresses the surprise and disguised love that one feels. Christ love offers no surprise and it is not disguised for promises made are promises kept. He (God), has never let us down. We know what happens well into our future for promises assures us, we are complete in and of grace. We were given a place in heaven to await our arrival, when our time on earth is over.

Many songs have us mumbling along with the lyrics, and the jingles that accompany them for years in our sub-conscience minds. Sometimes the stanzas and chorus' can be bouncing around in our heads and before we know it, we have a big smile on our faces. We can express all kinds of words and lyrics in songs, poetry and verse to talk about our spouses, children, siblings, parents and significant others; in comparison to Christ's love for us; it is on an innumerable scale of measurements. That's the feeling we get when we recognize the love and grace, we get through the blessings of knowing Christ as our personal Savior.

The poetic songs we hear expressing love between others is both rhythmic and the quirky phrases', will bring a smile to our lips. The greatest love story is the birth, ministry, death and arisen Savior Jesus Christ. This shows us so much about the greatest love story ever written and we find it in the bible, with words and song with lyrics NO ONE CAN REPLACE.

Merlin Fields
May 4, 2021



Greetings from the Sunday School. The Youth Sunday school is held on the Zoom platform Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. We have had a lot of

support from the youth as well as adults, all are welcome to join us. The lessons are available to pick up from the church during the week. We also put the lesson on line. We have a very inter-active class. If you have any questions regarding our Sunday school please feel free to call any of the Sunday school staff, Dawn Kivimaki, Lori Smith, Laina Burk, Shirley Bowden, Myita Davis, Roderick McClure, Barbara Profit or the church office 248-474-0675. The Zoom link will remain the same until further notice.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6176422508?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWxzCU1NROEl4blI5dz09>

Meeting ID: 617 642 2508, **Passcode:** 648947

Youth Fellowship

CALENDAR: Youth Activities

1. Sunday, May 23 – Worship
2. Sunday, June 27 -- Educational/Scholarship Awards
3. Sunday, August 29 – Worship Service
4. Sunday, October 31 – Worship Service
5. TBD: Fund-raising Schedule for National Youth Gathering – July 9-3 in Houston, Texas.
6. TBD: Meetings – with other Lutheran Churches

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

Scheduled due date -- June 20, 2021

1. College Students: (a) 300 words or more; (b) 2 or more Bible verses; (c) Awards: \$200-\$400
2. High School Graduates: (a) 250 words or more (b) 2 or more Bible verses (c) Awards: \$100-\$200
3. High School Students: (a) 200 words or more (b) 2 or more Bible Verses (c) Awards: \$50-\$100
4. Middle/School Students: (a) 100/150 words or more (b) 1 or more Bible Verses (c) Awards: \$25-\$50 (Elementary also eligible)

SHADOW OF THE CROSS ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES —

- College Graduate: Joseph Sanchez, Lexus Giddings
- Continuing College: Summer Boxley, Kaitlynn Harris, Khalil McAdoo, Kanyae McAdoo, Charles McCants, III, Jonathan Sanchez, Maxx Smith, Marllis White, Shane Heath, Sheryl Ramesh
- High School Graduates: Aiden Rooker, Christopher Sanchez
- High School Students: Amy Adams, Aja Burk, Alayna Cheers, Tomira Cheers, Tonia Cheers, Marco Goodson, Chase Bomar, Myles Harris, Nathaniel Rooker, Nala Sparks-Jones, Hannah Leshuk
- Elementary/Middle School Students: Jewel Major, Nathan Taylor, Ellis Threadcraft
- Other interested students must complete an information sheet

The National Youth Gathering

The LCMS Youth Gathering is an event held every three years for youth of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) to spend time together in worship, God’s Word, prayer, song, and service. The Gathering provides young people an opportunity to learn more about God, Christianity, and their Lutheran identity. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, MO. The next Gathering takes place July 9-13, 2022, in Houston, TX. For more information you may contact Heather Rooker or Barbara Hatcher.

Concordia Lutheran School

5th/6th Grade Teacher and Assistant Principal:

~Judy Schwaegerle~

Lessons from a bottle cap....

I hadn't really paid much attention to plastic bottle caps until we started collecting them this school year. The plan is to use them to create a pair of buddy benches. The original idea behind buddy benches was to give students a spot to go when they are in need of a friend. Numerous times in his

letters Paul tells the family of believers to build one another up and encourage each other.

So what happened with the extra bottle caps? The art teacher has begun four collaborative art projects with the fifth through eighth grade classes. They made a sketch of their final designs and are placing bottle caps to create a mural. Students are searching for the right cap to place in a certain spot to create the overall picture. What most people consider junk when placed in a specific spot has become an important part of the overall picture. How often do we see ourselves as insignificant and yet God has placed us in the right place at the right time.

One of the classes is creating a lighthouse. In John 8:12, Jesus tells us, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus refers to us as lights as well. He tells us the purpose of our light is to let our good deeds point others to God.

We are so thankful that God has brought together the right people at the right place to let his light shine through the mission of Concordia. As we begin preparing for next year, we pause to thank you for your financial and prayer support.

(Still a work in progress)



Cass Corridor Donations.....

During these difficult times dealing with COVID-19 and more people out of work, we are in need of donations. Please bring clothing, toiletries, and potted meat items and put them in the labeled container in the Narthex. For more information see Jackie Banks or Pastor Dupre, Thank you.

A Message from the CDC on Covid-19 precautions: (updated regularly)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> Get the facts about Coronavirus Take steps to care for yourself and help protect others in your home and community. There is a lot of valuable information on the CDC.gov website. Information on: Cleaning & Disinfecting, Schools & Child Care, Colleges & Universities, Businesses & Workplaces, Worker Safety & Support, Parks & Recreational Facilities, Gatherings & Community Events' Health Equity, Tribal Communities and more. Check them out!

Here is what you should know about the virus's symptoms and what you should do if you experience them. The main symptoms often appear similar to the flu: fever over 100.5 degrees; a worsening cough; tiredness; loss of sense of smell; sore throat. In more severe cases, shortness of breath, chest pains, and pneumonia will be apparent."

Remember, that it's important to take precautions to protect not only your health and safety, but also the health and safety of others. Follow CDC guidelines. Stay in your home if you can. If you must go out, wear a mask, don gloves, and stay at least 6 feet away from others. However, note that thrusts of a sneeze with a fan or wind gust, the virus droplets can travel up to 20 feet. Wash hands often for 20 seconds. Clean surfaces with a disinfectant.

Stay safe so to keep others safe, we are our brother's keeper. Over the years that question has been asked numerous times. To that question, many today would respond with firm conviction, "Yes, Cain, you are your brother's keeper, and not only you, but each one of us is our brother's keeper."

Publisher's note: If you have information, prayer request, something you would like to share with your church family, a poem, a song, a scripture, a picture of something that puts a smile on your face, please send it to Ava's email

sotclutheran.officemanager@gmail.com or Dawn's email sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com
 Information for the Newsletter, please submit by the 20th of each month for the following month's publication. Thank you and Blessings!

OPEN HOUSE CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

- ELEMENTARY CAMPUS
- MAY 16, 2:00 – 4:00
- KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 4
- 20805 Middlebelt at 8 Mile at Shadow of the Cross Church
- 248-474-2488

- MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMPUS
- MAY 20, 5:00 – 7:00
- GRADE 5 THROUGH GRADE 8
- 9600 Leverne, Redford at Hosanna Tabor Church
- 313-937-2233



MAY

Gale McIntosh 5/1
 Jonathan Korte 5/4
 Zelma Young 5/11
 Robert Keller 5/22
 Diane Smith 5/23
 Lyndsey Howard 5/27
 Marlene Poe 5/27
 Lexus Giddings 5/29

Marco Goodson 5/28
 Nathaniel Rooker 5/31
 Shirley Bowden
 Keion Bradley
 Tomira Cheers
 Tonia Cheers
 Lexus Giddings

Charles McCants Jr
 Dr. Keith McKee
 Heaven Moore
 David Robinson Sr
 Linda Wilcoxson
 De'Ja Willis
 Jemina Willis

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Clases de inglés gratis

Free English as a Second
Language Class /Practice

ESL
English as a Second Language



Everyone Welcome

**Every Tuesday Bible Study
11:30 am – 12:30 pm**

**Come often or when you can
Practice English with volunteers
in casual conversation
Tuesdays 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

**For more information contact:
Shadow of the Cross Lutheran Church
International Friendship Center
20805 Middlebelt Rd,
Farmington Hills, MI 48336
248-474-0675**



The LCMS Youth Gathering

is scheduled for July 9–13, 2022, in Houston, Texas, under the theme "All Things."

Held every three years since 1980, LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.

During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across Synod.

The planners of the 2022 Gathering are in continual conversations with the City of Houston, government officials and Synod leadership, monitoring the development of COVID-19. The safety and care of Gathering participants will be the highest priority as decisions are made about the event moving forward.

youth.ministry@lcms.org - lcms.org/youth - 888-843-5267 - facebook.com/clustering - twitter.com/lcmsnyg

Shadow of the Cross Youth

Please contact Heather Rooker (734-748-6404) if you are interested in attending the NYG next summer as a youth or an adult leader, by end of July for planning purposes. To be eligible you must be 14-19 years old at the time of the gathering. Registration begins this September and it is NEVER too soon to begin Fundraising! The last NYG was \$1500 per person, we will not know final cost until details are confirmed for flights (TBD), hotel (\$835/4), gathering registration (early \$395/late \$450), food (TBD), and spending money. **Promise Memories To Last A Lifetime!**

2022 LCMS Youth Gathering

July 9, 2022 - July 13, 2022



"In
the