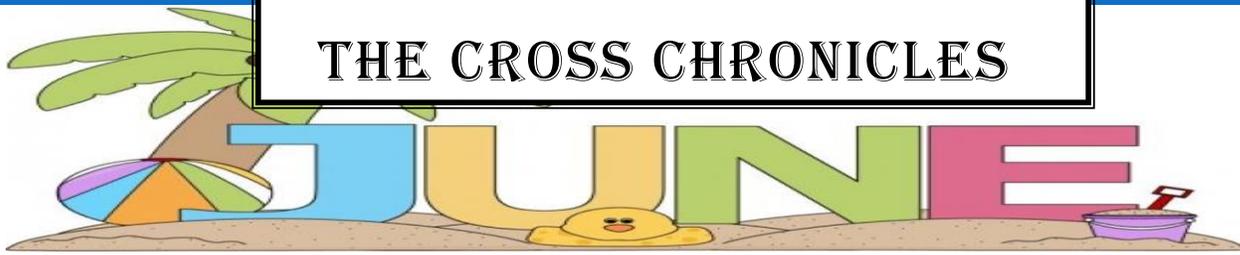


THE CROSS CHRONICLES



Readings for the week of July 4, 2021

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Old Testament Reading- Ezekiel

Epistle- 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Holy Gospel- Mark 6:1-13

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/UCM0cM0gle1sMO4AbuYc5I7Q>

Dear Congregation members and friends, we no longer have **Saturday worship service**. **Sunday services are 8:30 a.m., and 11:00 am**. Fellowship hour with refreshments will follow the 8:30 am and 11:00 am services. Bible study is also scheduled after the 8:30 am worship service at a date and time to be determined. **Holy Communion** will be on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays during the 11:00 service and the 2nd and 4th Sunday during the 8:30 am service.

COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted in the state and also here at SOTC. Social distancing and mask are still respected however they are not required. We ask that if you have not been vaccinated please wear your masks. Please do not come to church if you have a fever, other flu like symptoms or if you have been around someone who has tested positive for the Corona Virus in the past two weeks.

Aaron Clark has created a SOTC YouTube channel and will be streaming the service for those who aren't in attendance can watch. Please direct

all questions to the church office 248 474-0675, Mon – Friday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you.

Pastor Dupre's Tuesday Bible Study is at 11:30 am. You can also join us on Zoom, contact the office for the information.

“Tough Love”

~ Pastor Brian Dupre~

¹⁵ I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. ^{6:1} “Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. – **Hosea 5:15-6:6 ESV**

When I think about the words Tough Love, I am immediately taken back to my childhood. I was a rebellious child to say the least. My mother could probably think of a few, more colorful adjectives to describe me, but let's leave it there for the moment. Now I never thought of myself as a particularly bad kid, I just wanted to do things MY WAY. Tough love was the way my parents chose to deal with my rebelliousness.

The text above tells us of the warning that God delivered to Israel through His prophet Hosea. The Israelites probably didn't think of themselves as "bad kids" either. But Israel had become unfaithful and so God sent Hosea to deliver a message to them. The message was simple enough; repent or be punished. But like me, the Israelites just wanted to do things THEIR WAY. In His infinite wisdom, God recognized that there was no knowledge of Him in the land; But not for lack of priests or temples. The truth is that they rejected the knowledge that God had revealed to them. We all have been rebellious. We all have been unfaithful. And just like with Israel, unless we repent, God is going to deliver justice to us swiftly and righteously. But God's mighty hand of justice comes not out of vengeance, disgust or hate; it comes out of tough, but unparalleled love for us. God's chosen response to sin has always been tough love.

Tough love, at the time it's given, doesn't feel much like love, though. It feels like punishment in the strictest sense of the word. All we can see is the pain and suffering in it at the beginning. I know my parents loved me. But they must have wondered, "How do I get through to him?" God wondered the same thing about Israel. In chapter six, verse four, God cries out, "What shall I do with you, O Judah?" In His holiness, punishment would be the satisfaction for Israel's sin. Out of His enduring love, He gave them warnings to repent over and over again through Hosea because all God wanted from them was their love and faithfulness. This is the essence of tough love; knowing you must punish because of your love, even though you don't want to. It is making tough decisions that hurt; but that are for the greater good. It is the response to deserved punishment and never the response to undeserved punishment. By not responding to sin, it gives the impression that sin is okay. Therefore God could not let **Israel's sin** go unpunished.

Likewise, God could not let **the sin of the world** go unpunished either. As redemption for sinful mankind, God sacrificed His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Does love come any tougher than this! Jesus Himself did

nothing to deserve death. Jesus did not deserve the punishment He got, but the sin of the world could not go unpunished either! So, Jesus willingly laid down His life. Tough love was not a response to Jesus innocence, but to the deserved punishment for the sins of the world. In Jesus, God again worked His own special tough love for our benefit. But through Jesus, we know that God's promise is greater than His punishment. His love is greater than His anger. His desire for our good is stronger than the evil and sin in this world. His will for our good destroys our will to do evil because of our sinful nature. You see, God had a plan for Israel. And nothing in heaven or on earth was going to stop God from working His divine will amongst the Israelites; least of all, the Israelites themselves. Like a loving Father, God gently warned His people of His impending punishment through Hosea. But when the time came, as loving Father's do, He exercised tough love. And Israel was all the better for it.

When I was a child, my parents spanked me when I misbehaved. But before they did, they would always say, "This is going to hurt me more than it does you." Man, that just made no sense to me! I mean, where is the comfort in that? After it was over, I was the only one who couldn't sit down! I thought they just said that to make themselves feel better. But when I grew up, I realized that they really did hurt because they loved me. They knew they must punish *because* of their love, even though they didn't want to. They had a plan for me and weren't about to let anyone ruin that plan; least of all, me.

God had a plan for you and me too. And when the forces of the world and the forces of Satan united to try to stop God from working His divine will amongst us for our salvation, God sent His beloved Son to crush that evil uprising. And when I think of what they did to our beloved Lord and Savior, I can imagine Him looking down from the cross at us; nails driven through His hands and feet, body scarred, whipped, beaten and bruised, blood running down into His eyes from the crown of thorns pressed into His head, every inch of Him agonizing in unbearable pain, yet in a loving voice

saying, "This is going to hurt me more than it does you." And I believe Him. Without Him saying so, I know that He loves us with a love immeasurable! He came to complete God's plan of salvation. And nothing in hell or on earth had the power to stop Him. God's tough love proved righteous and victorious on that first Easter morning when Jesus arose. And we are all the better for it.

The question becomes then; is there still a need for God to respond to us with tough love? The answer is yes! We still have our sinful nature; we are still sinners. But through Christ we are promised that the sting of death will not last for those that believe. So rejoice! God loves us more than we can ever know. And always remember; you are **not** your own. You were bought at a price; the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

God bless you all! –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.

The SOTC International Friendship Cen. ESL

committee members and participants want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to various church members.

We have been gifted with two ESV Japanese/English Bilingual Bibles to be used by our ESL ladies on Tuesday at the newly established ESL Bible study.

We have been gifted with additional monetary funds for the ESL program to purchase copies of the ESL book "English the American Way: A Fun ESL Guide to Language and Culture in the U.S." (Second Edition).

We also are expecting a gift of two Japanese Lutheran small catechism books for our Bible study ladies.

I want you to know that our committee members are excited about the support of our efforts. We are welcoming any others interested in the ESL Bible study. If you know of others

looking for an opportunity to study using their native language Bibles while practicing ESL, please give them information about the Tuesday, 11:30 study. At 12:30, we are enjoying social opportunities.

It is our hope to move into our dedicated space this summer so that we can begin the Saturday program. Thank you for continuing to pray for the International Friendship Center and the ESL ministry. Please share this information with others. Margo

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.



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=Rzdpd09PU05CWxzCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>



Tequila, Lime Shrimp w/Zucchini



Ingredients

3 tablespoons butter,
divided
1 shallot, minced
2 garlic cloves, minced
1/4 cup tequila
1-1/2 teaspoons grated
lime zest
2 tablespoons lime juice

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 pound uncooked shrimp (31-40 per pound),
peeled and deveined
2 medium zucchini, spiralized (about 6 cups)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1/4 cup minced fresh parsley
Additional grated lime zest

Directions

In a large cast-iron or other heavy skillet, heat 2 tablespoons butter over medium heat. Add shallot and garlic; cook 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat; stir in tequila, lime zest and lime juice. Cook over medium heat until liquid is almost evaporated, 2-3 minutes.

Add olive oil and remaining butter; stir in shrimp and zucchini. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Cook and stir until shrimp begin to turn pink and zucchini is crisp-tender, 4-5 minutes. Sprinkle with parsley and additional lime zest.

If you have any Cool Summer Treats you would like to share please email them to the church office and it will be in the Newsletter

I am God's Child By Dana Green

I am a pretty child of God.
A few things might be different about me.
And people might laugh, but I just hold my head
up knowing God still loves me.

I walk a little different than everyone else,
But God still loves me.

I use to wonder why I was so different
from everyone else but, God still loves me.

But out of all things, if no one likes me
because I'm different, It does not matter. Because
I am a child of God,
He loves me no matter what.

And If everybody were the same, life would be
boring so I'm happy just being me.
He'll always love me and be with me no matter
what may go wrong.

HOLY HUMOR

Church Humor/Not Church Humiliation

At a regular monthly meeting the same sister of the church raised issue after issue. At one point the entire meeting was befuddled; by the absurdity of the issues she raised. Everyone in three counties and countries would agree on most of these issues.

Mummers arose from the front to the rear, and it could be heard "CL", lady. What started out as a whispered phrase, "CL"; was finally determined to the understanding of the woman who raised issues and everything came to the surface. She arose from her seat with all the religious zeal she could muster and said, "how dare you murmur crazy lady", to my face!

Much to the chagrin of all present a hush came through out the meeting room. An echo of silence came over the meeting hall. Then an elderly gentleman raised his voice and said, it was "Christ Loved", not crazy lady. A silence fell upon

the entire meeting and not another word was spoken. ~Merlin Field, June 2021~

Some serious trivia about the Psalms

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

Answer: Psalm 117 with only 2 verses

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

Answer: Psalm 119 with 176 verses

Over what period of time were all of the Psalms composed?

The psalms were composed over a period of approximately 1000 years. Psalm 90 may be the oldest Psalm, written by Moses around 1450 B.C. before God's call to liberate the Hebrew people from Egypt.

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) click link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> COVID Data Tracker

Find maps and charts tracking cases, deaths, and trends of COVID-19 in the United States, updated daily by 8 pm ET.

New Vaccination and Case Trends tab displays trends in people receiving at least 1 dose of vaccine and being fully vaccinated along with trends in cases, by age group

Users can now filter all maps on County View tab to display only metropolitan counties or only non-metropolitan counties

COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review

An interpretive summary of this week's data

COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review Thumbnail
How Do I Find a COVID-19 Vaccine?

COVID Data Tracker Weekly Review Thumbnail
Your Community

Stay up to date on the latest data in your community at the state and county level.

County View

Track cases, deaths, hospitalizations, and more for your community

Community Profile Report

View key indicators for all regions, states, core-based statistical areas, and counties across the US.

Community Profile Report -

Forecasting

See expectations for case increases or decreases for your state and across the US

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!