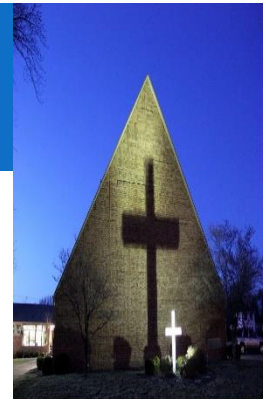


THE CROSS CHRONICLES



**Readings for the week of April 25, 2021**

**The Baptism of our Lord**

Old Testament Reading- Acts 4: 1-12

Epistle- 1 John 3: 16-24

Holy Gospel- John 10:11-18

**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>

Dear Congregation members and friends, **Saturday worship service** is at 5:00 pm. with communion every Saturday. Sunday worship service is at 9:45 am with communion on 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays served in self-serve individual containers to limit contact. While observing the restrictions imposed because of COVID-19, we are still practicing social distancing. Please wear masks unless under special circumstances for medical reasons you are unable. 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 has been suspended during the Lenten season. Bible study will resume on April 13.

**“Who’s In Charge?”** ` *Pastor Brian Dupre*

Well spring is here, winter has gone and as another summer approaches ask yourself, “Who’s in charge?” The seasons keep spinning around in perfect harmony with the year before. The weather grows cooler each fall and warmer each spring; babies are born and the sick and elderly pass on. Who’s in charge? The sun rises each morning and sets each evening. Who’s in charge?

The inescapable answer is God. But we, who are sinful by nature, desire to be the captains of our own ships, the masters of our own destinies, forgetting that we are not our own; we belong to Him who sacrificed Himself for us; the One whose body and blood, paid the price that we could not have.

The Bible is full of those, who like us, tried to push God off His throne and seize glory for ourselves. Somewhere in the back of our minds we think that we know what is best for ourselves more than God does. When Satan came to Eve in the Garden of Eden, he strongly implied that God did not know what was best for her and her husband, and foolishly she believed him. The devil’s approach hasn’t changed since the days of Eden. He seeks to dupe us into thinking that we can take charge of our life, going our own way without any burden of obedience to God. Because of sin, God who claimed us as His own through Holy Baptism often plays no more than an extra in our lives.

In Isaiah 7:10 -17, we meet Ahaz who was the grandson of Uzziah, the king who died in the

year Isaiah saw the exalted Lord in the temple. Isaiah, acknowledging God's authority, responded to God's question, "Who will go for us?" with the words, "Here am I. Send me!". King Ahaz had a problem realizing that God is in charge, and not the king. In his mind, no one was greater than the king, and it is the king who calls the plays. King Ahaz was right, he just didn't know who the real King was.

The Bible also contains stories of those who did know who the real King was. In Romans 1:1-7, Paul obviously knows full well who is in charge. Christ called him to be an apostle. God set him apart for the proclamation of the Gospel. God had given the Good News promises through the prophets long before. God sent His Son. God sent the Holy Spirit. Through God, Paul received apostleship. We belong to Jesus Christ. Grace and peace come to us through Him.

Joseph is presented to us in Matthew 1:18-25. He is a good man, a righteous man. He has formulated his plan as to what to do with pregnant Mary. But he also acknowledges God's veto of the idea. "When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus" (Matthew 1:24-25). Pushing God off the throne leaves us with a dear price to pay in terms of great frustrations and disappointments. The Good News is that He who is always in charge provides forgiveness for our pathetic attempt at playing God. We can rejoice that He who loved us to death is indeed in charge. Let us never forget. Amen! God bless you all!

### **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.

### **Informing How to Pray ~ Merlin Fields**

There are things that stick out in our minds, about things that happened in our lives many years ago. One such incident happened when a friend informed me that they did not know how to pray. Now I must admit I was taken aback; for this admission is the last subject area that we might talk about. We usually talked about the awkward ways we had in our youth that we thought were very hip.

When you run into people you've known in your youth, after so many years to go into these thoughts about prayer. The conversation was open and quite simply and could be readily understood. My job, and I mean job, was to convey a message to my friend in the most direct terms and not a long drawn out example. My knowledge of the bible, Lutheranism, catechism and family were of known importance. When I inform someone about praying, I found that it must be a short message between one's self and an authority greater than yourself. In this case my higher authority is called Jesus Christ.

My friend, pray to the God of your understanding to bless you in the morning when you wake up and ask for guidance for the entire day. At night repeat this process, asking for God to protect you at night keeping you safe. Now this might seem simplistic but for someone who had not prayed it was the only thing I could think of at the moment. I added another time to pray and that was over his food, prior to eating. And to thank him afterward. The ending of the prayer could end with amen.

This seems like such an easy method of telling someone about my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the significance of prayer. Therefore, my exchange had to be broken down to the times which would help any novice in prayer. I am not the best prayer, my cause in this instance was to put forth a message as to start praying. As of this day my knowledge of prayer is still very private and with no knowledge, just try the easiest way to talk to God. When you told me, you did not know

how to pray it said to me; that you were aware of God and needed to find a way to talk with Him.

My friend died some months later and the joy I had for him was that he started on a journey that has no ending. Only salvation comes for believers not by the number of years one believes. My blessing is that I did not make it a long drawn out method of praying.

*Merlin Fields, March 30, 2021*

### **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 Sunday School Staff is very pleased with the way the Zoom Sunday school has taken off. On some Saturdays we have 25 students. We have students of all ages. We have a spiritual Bible lessons, lively discussions and crafts. Sometimes one of our gifted students bless us with a musical selection. We have learned how to utilize the breakout sessions on Zoom, where we can split the group when we have large numbers, adults will go in a different group. We have a lot of things planned for this spring. Come join us one Saturday at 11:00. The zoom link is posted it remains the same. If you would like a Sunday school lesson just let me know and I will leave one with your name on it. There are usually at least 5 extra lesson bags every week. Call me, Barbara Profit 313-516-8740, the church office or any Sunday School

teacher for a lesson pack. You do not have to attend zoom to request a Sunday school pack. Also the Sunday school will be starting our Social Distance drive in movie night next month. Hope to be together again soon. Your Sister in Christ, Barbara Profit, Sunday School Superintendent. the Sunday school staff, Lainia Burk, Shirley Bowden, Myita Davis, Dawn Kivimaki, Roderick McClure, Lori Smith. The Zoom link will remain the same until further notice.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6176422508?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWXXZCU1NROE14bll5dz09>

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

### **Concordia Lutheran School**

God certainly provided an interesting way to get our attention this week. The snow Wednesday was beautiful, especially early in the morning when the sun rose and made everything sparkle. The nice thing about a spring snow is that it melts quickly, so we enjoy the beauty without the work!

Our students took their achievement tests this week. Thank you to the parents for getting them to school on time and ready for the day.

2021/22 school registration is in full swing. Do you know anyone who is looking of a perfect sized school? How to get information is on our website: [concordials.org](http://concordials.org)

Spring is here. Enjoy the flowers and the blooming trees. Wednesday morning we could all enjoy the “dogwood” and “blooming pear” trees we had in our yards. Thank God for the beauty He provides. Take a walk this weekend with your family and just look at the wonderful springtime. And, of course, always remember we are *Sent to Serve*, wherever and whenever we can.



## Quicker Chicken and Dumplings

### Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon fine salt
- 1/4 teaspoon ground allspice
- 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 3/4 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 3/4 cup raisins
- 3/4 cup chopped walnuts

### Directions

1. Position the racks in the top and lower thirds of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment. Whisk together the flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt and allspice in a large bowl.
2. Beat the butter, brown sugar and granulated sugar with an electric mixer on medium-high speed in a large bowl until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl occasionally. Beat in the eggs 1 at a time until blended, then beat in the vanilla.
3. Reduce the speed to low and beat in the flour mixture in 3 additions until smooth. Stir in the oats, raisins and walnuts with a rubber spatula. Drop heaping tablespoons of the dough onto the prepared sheets about 2 inches apart.
4. Bake the cookies, rotating the pans halfway through, until golden brown but still soft in the center, about 15 minutes. Let the cookies cool slightly on the baking sheets,

then transfer to wire racks to cool completely. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 3 days.

### Cook's Note

When measuring flour, we spoon it into a dry measuring cup and level off the excess. (Scooping directly from the bag compacts the flour, resulting in dry baked goods.)

## Holy Humor

**A married couple** were arguing who is making the coffee, the wife said that in the Bible it says that men should make the coffee and the husband asked her where it said that. The wife opened the Bible and said: "Right here in HEBREWS!"

**Q:** Why do they say 'Amen' at the end of a prayer instead of 'Awomen'?

**A:** The same reason they sing Hymns instead of Hers!

**As the storm raged**, the captain realized his ship was sinking fast. He called out, "Anyone here know how to pray?" One man stepped forward. "Aye, Captain, I know how to pray." "Good," said the captain, "you pray while the rest of us put on our life jackets - we're one short."

## 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](mailto:sotclutheran.officemanager@gmail.com) or Dawn's email [sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:sotclutheran.secretary@gmail.com) Information for the Newsletter, please submit by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month for the following month's publication. Thank you and Blessings!

Free ESL Classes  
免费英语课程  
निः शुल्क अंग्रेजी कक्षाएं  
دروس مجانية في اللغة الإنجليزية  
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**

