



THE CROSS CHRONICLES

January

Readings for the week of January 10, 2021

The Baptism of our Lord

First Reading- Genesis 1:1-5

Epistle- Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel- Mark 1:4-11

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, **Saturday worship service will** resume on January 16, at 5:00 pm. with communion every Saturday. Sunday worship service is at 9:45 am with communion on 1st, 3rd, and 5th 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. The church has guidelines in place. We are asking everyone please remember to wear your mask, please be aware of social distancing and please do not come to church if you have a fever, or other flu like symptoms or if you have been around someone who has tested positive for the Corona Virus.

Pastor's Bible Study is on Tuesdays 11:30 to 12:30 resuming on January 12, 2021. We are meeting in the gym practicing social distancing.

Please wear masks unless for medical reasons you are unable. The sanctuary will be cleaned after every service.

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 – Thursday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you.

Dear SOTC family, the funeral for Delores Roy was held on Wednesday January 6, 2021, 11:00 am at Heeney Sundquist Funeral Home. It was a private service with just family. Interment was at Parkview Memorial on 5 Mile in Livonia following the service. Anyone wanting to send a card can send to her daughter, Debbie Kingsbury.

The Folly of Human Wisdom ~Pastor B. Dupre

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. (1 Corinthians 1:18-21 ESV)

I was sitting in a restaurant with some friends several years ago, when the owner/manager, comes over and says to me, "You're a pastor, aren't you? Do you believe in evolution?" "Here we go again; I'm forced into the age old debate", I thought to myself. But I was wrong. This manager wasn't looking to debate me; he was looking for ammunition to use against one of his employees who was openly professing his atheism, his homosexuality, and his total belief in evolution. I responded, "Yes, I believe in

evolution; but not when it comes to the physical bodies of human beings. Caterpillars evolve and become butterflies, but amoebas do not evolve, even over millions of years into human beings.”

I was rather surprised by the manager’s response. He said, “You’re wrong, that’s an example of *change*, not evolution.” It was then that I realized where this guy was coming from. He did not believe in evolution at all. In his opinion, evolution does not exist in any form. And so this belief along with his faith in the Triune God, made this manager and his employee as far apart in ideology as could possibly be. They were total opposites in fact. Now I really don’t like getting involved in this type of debate. You can’t make any headway with either side because both are convinced they are absolutely right. The debater of this age holds to the foolish wisdom of the world. So instead, I simply offered what I see as the difference between change and evolution. Evolution is progressive; it implies forward motion; something becoming greater than it was before. We can say our knowledge, technology and our ability to communicate with one another have evolved, our physical bodies have not. Change can either be progressive or regressive; it refers to motion either forward or backward; change can be for the better or for the worse, such as a change in weather or a change in health. Change we can sometimes make ourselves; evolution happens only by natural process (will of God).

But even this explanation was not soothing to either manager or employee; the manager being convinced faith in God cancels out evolution, and the employee being so lost in his unbelief, rejection of God and sin of homosexuality that even through the folly of what we preach he could not be reached and brought into saving faith by anything I could say or do. They found my words foolish. So I left it at that. The lesson here is that God cannot be known, believed in, or revealed to us through the wisdom of the world. And our own human minds cannot conceive of the wisdom of God. Our own imaginations cannot limit God to only what we can understand or rationalize. We

cannot define God by our weak and flawed human reason. That is why we must trust and rely on the revealed Word of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, the preaching of Christ crucified, and the Sacraments by which the Holy Spirit comes to us. These are the only true ways to discern between the wisdom of God which is holy and eternal, and the wisdom of man, which is sinful and unreliable.

God bless you all! -Pastor Dupre
The peace of the Lord be with you -Rev.
Brian Dupre, Pastor, SOTC

~Getting To Know Your Neighbors~

December’s neighbor: **Lainia W Burk**, wife of Eric Sr, mother of Valen, Aja, and Eric Jr.

How long have you been a member of St. Paul/Berea/ Greenfield Peace/ Faith (please elaborate): I was baptized alongside my brother, William, my sister, Tavia, and my son, Valen in honor of our grandmother's birthday in 2003. I was also married and confirmed at Berea, all by the late Rev. Mark A. Griffin Jr. My grandmother, Catherine Wallace joined Berea when my dad William and my Aunt Linda were young. My Aunt Regina and my daughter, Aja were also raised at Berea. Our family continued on to Faith and here to SOTC.

Do you have a favorite scripture? What is it? Yes, my confirmation verse. Psalm 91:1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. It reassures me of God's Protection and Peace.

What ministries/ offices of the church have you been a part of in the past? Senior Outreach Ministry; Children's Messenger (my first taste of Sunday school teaching); Announcer (church bulletin); LWML Greater Detroit Zone Woman of the Year; It has also been an honor to serve as Teller and as a Delegate at several LWML Michigan District conventions. **What ministries/ offices of the church are you currently involved?** Sunday School/VBS teacher; Body and Soul Ministry; Reader; Youth Fellowship sponsor. **What is your favorite time of year, season or holiday and why?** (CONT.)

I love, love, love being a Fall baby. Harvest season! Thanksgiving, the food, the cozy clothes, the crispy fresh air and God's awesome pallet of natural colors. **Do you have any hobbies?** I love reading and all types of music, especially Jazz, Techno and Rock. I love cooking for family and friends, especially baking. God has truly Blessed me, more than I can even fathom. I love coming to his house and worshipping with fellow Christians. My ear is always attentive to His Word and my eyes look to see his Love in the world.

Installation of the Church Officers will be on Sunday, January 24. Congratulations to all of the SOTC members that were elected for the 2021 Church Ministries. Please see the board in the narthex for a complete list and the elder's board. **Thank you** to all of the members who faithfully served in 2020, we appreciate your hard work and dedication.

Church Organ Fund Raiser for the needed repairs of the church organ. There are small orange envelopes in the pews, to place your donations in and put the envelopes in the basket in the narthex (the basket for tithes and offerings). We thank you for your continued support!



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL Online

Sunday School

Greetings from the Sunday School. The Youth Sunday school will be 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 interactive 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 for this Saturday, Dec. 9, is: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2370235284?pwd=TIN6MmRwVIVBTWhBYnJlQ20yYUNIUT09> Meeting ID: 237 023 5284, Passcode: 746176

Thank you S.O.T.C. family for your generous contributions to our **Annual Youth Blanket Drive**. The blankets will be delivered and will be a blessing to the youth receiving them at the Wellsprings Academy. Thanks again, from your Youth Fellowship.

WELLSPRING LUTHERAN SERVICES

to open Michigan's first public recovery High School in January 2021, for teens struggling with addictions of drugs or alcohol. The Wellspring Academy has the capacity for 120 (grade 9-12) will support teens to maintain sobriety as they complete high school and earn their diploma. The high school is a free standing charter school on 80 acre campus, supported by Michigan International Prep School (MIPS). The existing school building is at 28000 W. Nine Mile Rd. on the Wellspring campus in Farmington Hills. Wellspring Academy will launch virtually in January 2021 with wrap-around recovery support services and a drop-in center at the Farmington Hills campus. In-person classes will officially begin in September 2021. For more information about Wellspring Academy and information on how to enroll your student, please visit

www.wellspringacademy.com.

Concordia Lutheran School
~ Pat Schultz, Principal

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family have a great 2021, blessed with joy and contentment. At this point, relief from the

restrictions we've had in 2020 would be a great joy that we're all hoping comes soon.

And I wish you a merry Christmas season! We are all familiar with the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas," but did you know the twelve days are the days after Christmas? The Advent season is preparation: getting ready for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. In our churches we focus on the Old Testament prophecies, our need for a Savior, and the coming fulfillment of the prophecies. In our homes we decorate, bake, and prepare gifts in readiness for the celebration. Then it's time: the angels announce the birth and our celebration begins. The celebration continues until January 6, Epiphany, when we celebrate the coming of the wise men. In our society today the celebration tends to begin before Christmas and all evidence of Christmas – the decorations, the Christmas music, and the rejoicing – is gone by December 27, only the second day of Christmas. So to those of you who still have Christmas trees in the house, eggnog in the refrigerator, and Christmas music on your playlist, Merry Christmas! Enjoy the Christmas season!

Have you seen the video of the Christmas message from our students? If you haven't had the opportunity yet, it's on YouTube on the Concordia Lutheran School channel. In the confusing environment of masks and distancing, our students did a great job of announcing the unchanging message of the Savior's birth. I think we can all be proud of their work. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hoeft for all their work in taking the pictures and editing the video.

School begins January 4 with students and teachers working remotely. Then, after everyone has been careful to stay at home and stay safe, we will begin in class learning January 11. As we get ready to begin the new year, we remember our school theme for this school year: Sent to Serve. Wherever we are, whatever we do, Christ calls us to serve one another in any way that we are able.

Thank you for all your prayers for our safety and having a successful school year.

CLS: Bottle Caps for Benches

Concordia is collecting plastic bottle caps!

Our goal: 500 pounds We have weighed 285 pounds.

500 will get us 2 benches, 1 for each campus. Please consider saving your caps and depositing them in our collection bin located in the school hallway. See flyers posted around the building for more details.



Three Cheese Artichoke & Spinach Dip

1 package (16 ounces) frozen bread dough dinner rolls, thawed

6 tablespoons butter

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes

DIP:

1 tablespoon butter

1 cup chopped fresh mushrooms

2 garlic cloves, minced

1-1/2 cups mayonnaise

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1 cup shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese, divided

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese, divided

1 can (14 ounces) water-packed artichoke hearts, rinsed, drained and chopped

1 package (10 ounces) frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry

1/4 cup chopped sweet red pepper

*Place a 6-in. cake pan or small ovenproof saucepan in the center of a 10-in. cast-iron skillet. Cut each roll into thirds; roll each piece into a

ball. Place along outer edge of skillet. Gently stack remaining balls on top of bottom layer, leaving some space between them. Cover and let rise until almost doubled, about 30 minutes.

* Preheat oven to 400°. Microwave butter, garlic powder and red pepper flakes, covered, until butter is melted. Brush half of butter mixture over dough. Reserve remaining butter mixture.

* Bake until dough balls are set and beginning to brown, 15-18 minutes. Remove cake pan from skillet. Meanwhile, in a small skillet, heat butter over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms; cook and stir until tender, 5-7 minutes. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.

* In a large bowl, combine the mayonnaise, cream cheese, 3/4 cup mozzarella cheese and 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese. Add the mushroom mixture, artichokes and spinach.

* Spoon dip into center of skillet; sprinkle with red pepper and remaining 1/4 cup mozzarella. Brush rolls with remaining butter mixture; sprinkle with remaining 2 tablespoons Parmesan. Bake until dip is heated through and rolls are golden brown, 10-15 minutes. If desired, sprinkle with additional red pepper flakes.

Holy Humor

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A funeral service is being held in a church for a woman who has just passed away. At the end of the service, the pallbearers carrying the casket accidentally bump into a wall jarring the casket. They hear a faint moan. They open the casket and find that the woman is actually alive. She lives for 10 more years and then dies. A ceremony is again held at the same church and at the end the pallbearers are again carrying the casket out. As

they are walking, the husband calls out, "Watch out for the wall!"

An old dollar bill and an even older \$20 arrive at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. "I've had a pretty good life," the \$20 says. "I've been to Vegas, the finest restaurants in New York, and even on a Caribbean cruise." "You did have an exciting life!" the dollar says. "Where have you been?" the \$20 asks. "Oh, I've been to the Methodist church, the Baptist church, spent some time with the Lutherans..." "Wait," the \$20 interrupts. "What's a church?"

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.

Saturday Silver Sneakers

Worried about missing out on exercise or social opportunities? Good news: If you're a Silver Sneakers member, or you just want to get a little exercise in, you can take advantage of free Silver Sneakers On-Demand workout and nutrition videos. Plus, check out these ideas to stay socially connected—from afar. (CONT.)

(press ctrl & click the links)

<https://www.silversneakers.com/blog/daily-exercises-older-adults/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ps3oXu5Czvc>

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!

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

*Happy
New Year*