



THE CROSS CHRONICLES

SEPTEMBER

Readings for
the week of September 12, 2021

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading- Isaiah 50:4-10

Epistle- James 3:1-12

Holy Gospel- Mark 9:14 -29

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>

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. Pastor Dupre's Sunday Bible study has begun and it is at 10:00 am.

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 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. Please direct all questions to the church office 248 474-0675, Mon – Friday, 9:45 am – 2:00 pm. Thank you. Tuesday Bible Study is at 11:30 am. You can also join us via Zoom, contact the office for the information.

"A Change of Heart Must Come"

"What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

- Matthew 21:28-32 ESV

Jesus, in this parable, cast the tax collectors and prostitutes in the role of the obedient son because they were repentant sinners. And Jesus cast the chief priest and elders in the role of the defiant son, because although they were morally upright, they did not respond to John's call to repentance. Let me tell you a short story I like to call, "The Reluctant Preacher". Many years ago, a man who had faith, kept denying God's call to the ministry. Everyone around him kept telling him that he should enter the ministry; that God had so gifted him. He even saw and experienced first-hand the work of God in his life. Yet he still refused to go.

His wife, pastors, family and friends all urged him to stop fighting the call which seemed so obvious to everyone but himself. Why did he keep refusing? The answer is this: he did not believe that God was calling him to the ministry. But even more so than that, he had his own agenda for his life. That agenda did not include being a pastor or leading a congregation. It was all about him and what he could

accomplish on his own in his life. And it was about money. All of his friends were buying bigger, nicer homes and cars and boats and summer cottages. And our reluctant preacher wanted all of those things too! And he figured that being a pastor was the surest way **not** to get those things. So for twenty years, he fought the call. For twenty years he was disobedient to the will of God. And for twenty years he wrestled with God for control of his life.

What happened to him? Well, as I said, a change of heart must come. And it did. One day God closed all the doors the reluctant preacher had opened for himself and left him no other option than to submit to His will. God forced the would-be preacher to admit to himself that he was a defiant son. He came to realize that the words in the Lord's Prayer are "Thy will be done" not "My will be done". And if Jesus submitted to the will of the Father, who was he that he should not submit also. You see, our friend was guilty of many sins. He was guilty of not recognizing the authority of God, of not hearing the voice of Christ in those who God directed to urge him into ministry; closing his ears to the call of the Holy Spirit; of lack of faith that Christ works out everything for the good of those that believe in Him and of believing his will superior to God's and not recognizing the sufficiency of God's grace.

How did his change of heart come? It came through faith. The preacher remained faithful to Christ by loving Him and confessing Christ as Lord and Savior, clinging to the cross of forgiveness. And Jesus did not give up on him, either. Christ was faithful to the preacher by loving him and by the Holy Spirit showing him all those treasures he had stored up in his heart were worthless compared to the love, salvation and eternal life found in Christ Jesus. Without faith, the preacher never would have recognized the authority of Jesus, and a change of heart would not have occurred. In case you haven't guessed that reluctant preacher was me.

What we learn from Jesus' parable and the story of the reluctant preacher is that we all are called to serve in some way or another. Some of us are hesitant, but we obey. Some of us say we will but don't. But none of us are beyond repentance and a change of heart must come to all of us sooner or later. God looks at our hearts, regardless of what we say or do because there is our treasure and there is our motivation. Our mouths can lie and our hands can deceive and do evil things, but the truth is in the heart. And because the truth is in the heart, a change of heart must occur when we encounter Christ. We cannot remain the same in the presence of pure holiness in the same way that darkness cannot remain in the presence of light. We are all called to be faithful and obedient. This is not optional. You will discover if you haven't already that God's Will is going to be done, one way or another; with you and me or without. A change of heart must come, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen God bless you all! -Pastor Dupre

Youth Shoe's w/Heart Fundraiser

SOTC Youth is collecting new/gently used footwear....

Any SIZE, Any GENDER, and Any SEASON Boots, Sneakers, CROCS, Ballet Slippers, Hiking Boots, Cleats, Galoshes, Wedges, Jelly Shoes, Flip Flops, High Heels, Slippers, Loafers

Bring to church and put in the designated bin near the office or we are happy to arrange pick-ups

It is still garage sale season, mention SOTC Youth Fundraiser they might give FREE footwear.

Call your family and friends, add a note on social media.....

Our Youth truly appreciate your support and so will the 24 countries that will be given a life changing opportunity to learn leadership skills and have the ability to start sustainable retail businesses, a while helping the less fortunate.

All Funds Going Towards 2021 Youth Gathering

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.

COUNCIL OF LUTHERAN WOMEN MISSION FOCUS & FALL MEETING

Come and learn about the Council of Lutheran Women’s mission partners from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday, September 27, 2021. This event is free and includes lunch. To learn more and to register for the Mission Focus event, click here. All are invited to attend the CLW fall meeting, directly following lunch. More information:

<http://www.clwmichigan.com/category/events/>

LAUGHTER AND LOVE

Sunday, September 19, 2021 | St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth

Join Mark Gungor as he shares his hilarious and insightful tips for marital bliss. It's an evening that promises to be powerful, encouraging, practical, and, of course, highly entertaining. Tickets are \$10. For more information and tickets, click here

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/frankenmuth-mi-tickets-137335230371>

THE 2021 ALS WalkTeam “Marc’s Muscles”

The date is October 2, registration is at 10:30 am and the walk will begin at 11:00 a.m. Due to COVID-19 we will not be walking at the Detroit Zoo as we had in the past but prayerfully we will next year. It will be **a virtual walk again this year and we will be walking around Shadow of the Cross Lutheran Church** (lets pray for good weather again). Below you will find the link to register on line and/or donate for Marc’s Muscles. Register as a walker or just support in spirit. -

http://webmi.alsa.org/goto/Marcs_Muscles

or you can see Ava Davis, Myita Davis, Barbara Profit or call the church office. We hope to see you there!

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

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



Sunday School Rally

The rally is on September 11, 2021, 11:00 am until 3:00 pm. It is outside and our **Sunday School Rally** is for all ages. We want to share the love of Christ and tell how awesome He is. There will be Bingo games, carnival games, prizes, food and drinks. We will also give away book bags with school supplies to the school children. Please invite your family, friends and neighbors. Please join us

Band playing at the Rally. The Fossil band will be in concert with a Family Friendly set of classic rock and roll at the Sunday School Rally this Saturday. They will be performing from around 11:30 until 2:30. All are welcome, so please come out and support our Sunday School and enjoy some good old time rock and roll.

Volunteers are needed to man the carnival games and prize tables. We would like to give everyone a prize that participates in the games. **Donations are needed** for the prizes and school supplies.

Youth Sunday school is back and we are meeting in person on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Our adult Sunday school will continue on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom and we hope to see you there. 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 Sunday school Zoom link will remain the same until further notice.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6176422508?pwd=Rzdpd09PU05CWXZCU1NROEI4bll5dz09>

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



(We had this casserole at Bible study on Tuesday and it was delicious- you have got to try it) ;-)

Chicken Casserole ~Mary Rooker~

2 – 3 lbs Chicken breast

2 Cans cream of celery soup

16 oz. frozen broccoli

2 boxes stove top stuffing (1 plain, 1 chicken)

8 oz. Velveeta cheese – sliced

Cook chicken. Cut it up. Cook broccoli. Cook stuffing according to package directions.

Layer chicken, broccoli, cheese, soup, stuffing.

Add cheese on top if you like in a 9x13 inch dish, cook 30 – 40 min on 350 degrees oven.

Serves 8 – 12.

PEOPLE OF HOPE ... IT'S TIME! 2021 MICHIGAN DISTRICT CONVENTION
The 103rd Regular Convention of the Michigan District, LCMS will be held June 26–28, 2022 at Concordia University Ann Arbor. The theme for the convention is “People of Hope ... It’s Time!” (*1 Peter 1:3–5; Romans 10:12–15; 2 Corinthians 6:1–2*).

HOLY HUMOR

Spiritual One Liners

- * Are you wrinkled with burden? Come to the church for a facelift.
- * When praying, don't give God instructions - just report for duty.
- * God doesn't want shares of your life - He wants a controlling interest.
- * Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.
- * We don't change God's message - His message changes us.
- * The church is prayer-conditioned.

Bible Trivia:

- * Question: True or False: David wrote the entire book of Psalms.
Answer: False: The Psalms are a collection by many writers, but David contributed the most.
- * Question: What is the shortest book in the Bible?
Answer: 3 John.
- * Question: How many books are in the Bible?
Answer: 66.
- * Question: How many books in the Old Testament?
Answer: 39.
- * Question: How many books in the New Testament?
Answer: 27.
- * Question: Which New Testament book has Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount?
Answer: Matthew
- * Question: Who was David’s son that became king?
Answer: Solomon.

Mask Mandate: Oakland County health officials are requiring masks for students and staff in all preschools and K-12 public schools regardless of vaccination status.

On Tuesday, August 30, the Oakland County Health Division issued an emergency health order with immediate effect that will impact about 210,000 students across 28 public school districts and 22 charter schools academies. The order also applies to daycare centers and vocational schools.

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

SHADOW OF THE CROSS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP CALENDAR

Sunday, October 31 – Assist with Worship Service

TBD: Fund-raising Schedule for National Youth Gathering–July 9-13, 2022 Houston, Texas

TBD: Meetings – with other Lutheran Churches

Regarding the Pledge..... You can make your pledge in as many payments as you like but please have them paid by the end of this year. The weather is going to start getting bad and we would like to have the work done. Thank you for your pledges!!

Roof Repair/AC Pledge Drive July Report THANK YOU!!

1. Total amount of pledges: \$15,170.00 of our \$50,000.00 goal.

2. Actual Funds Received (as of 8/24/21): \$9,835.00

PLEDGE COMMITMENTS – Roof/AC

Jeanette Adams	Herschel and Angie	John Rousseau
George and Kay Barnes	Hembree	Lola Sample
Carole Boulware	Joyce Hilpert	Diane Smith
John Burhop	Robb Howell	Felicia Smith
Brenda Clavon	Bob and Mary Jo Keller	Ronald and Carol Smolka
Ava Davis	James and Dawn Kivimaki	Joe and Sandy Soukup
Pastor and Margo Dupre	Russ and Lindsay	Norma Speier
Doug Eiben	Lapworth	Dorothy Tankard
Shirley Eiben	Ann Little	Ellis Threadcraft
Herb and Nancy Engling	Sharon Martin	Daniel and Connie
Timothy and Clare Engling	Dorothy McClure	Strausberg
Merlin Fields	Roddy McClure	William & Robin Ward
Nancy Faith	Patricia Melton	Chester & Linda
Veronica Green	Ruth Palmer	Wilcoxson
Barbara Hatcher	Mary Rooker	Charleen Woodfield
	Steve and Heather Rooker	

This list will be updated as pledges come in. Thank you!