

June 2023



# CrossTalk

Holy Cross Lutheran Church



Time away from TV, social media, and the demands of day-to-day life can give your soul and spirit a huge boost. Just because you leave your home for a badly needed vacation, it doesn't mean you should leave God behind.

## TAKE GOD ON VACATION WITH YOU!

### Before leaving home

- Include your Bible and notepad on your packing list.
- Be flexible. Allow time slots for relaxing that allow for reading or just looking for God's fingerprints in nature.
- Pray; not only for safe travels but also for revelations of God's love along the way. Ask for opportunities to share God's love with strangers.

### During vacation

- Take praise and worship music with you for times you can't read or do anything else. Other options are listening to Scripture, Christian podcasts or audiobooks.
- Be realistic about your vacation plans. Sometimes things don't work out the way you wanted. Look for ways to thank God for the re-direction. A change in plans may be protecting you or God might have something better planned.
- Don't compromise your beliefs. If you go to church when you're at home, don't stop now. Find a church in the town or city you're visiting or watch services online.
- Be a good witness by cleaning up after yourself. This is how you'd want to be treated if you were a park or hotel employee.
- Document the ways God is speaking to you or revealing Himself along the way.

### When you get home

- Share with your family, friends, and co-workers about your vacation including the way God protected you, enriched you, and allowed you to serve others.

# FROM PASTOR'S HEART

In our Tuesday and Sunday studies we have been learning about neighborhoods and about neighboring. So I thought I would share with you all what is meant by that? Well, it's a very simple idea, learning to care for your immediate neighbors like your grandparents or great-grandparents did.

How do we go about this, well we need to understand the bigger picture. Do you believe and see God personally at work in everyday life? Not is God 'the creator of me and all that exists', but is God doing something for me and in me and through me in my everyday life? Is God a person or an object? What helps us find the right answer is to be engaged in weekly worship at church and in daily prayer and Bible reading at home.

Next we need to see if we have any neighbors at home or work or the places we frequent (pharmacy, grocery store, ag store, doctor's office, and so forth). Perhaps reviewing the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) will help us discover if we have any neighbors. The people we come into contact within our everyday lives, and especially the ones we see regularly and frequently, are placed there by God for his purposes. And if the Kingdom of Heaven is made of people, then the people of everyday life are exactly who the Kingdom comes near to.

With those two things considered now we're ready to return to that very simple idea above. The primary way we communicate our care of our neighbors is through speech, talking to them. This is an introversion-extroversion thing, a "people person", loner thing, or an outgoing-shy thing. It's a human thing. Every one of you reading this knows how to use God's gifts of words and language and speech. You can also use them for God's purposes of revealing his caring, compassionate Kingdom in everyday life. In other words, showing a little grace and a little kindness to God's people.

By learning to speak to our neighbors we can express our care and concern for them. We can be neighbors to them. By spending time in worship and prayer and Bible study we can learn how God cares for his creation and how to use God's gifts for God's purposes. By knowing God personally we will know his activity in everyday life.

The book that our study groups have been studying is "Joining Jesus on His Mission How to be an Everyday Missionary". This is a great book that has the details about these things that we can't cover in one newsletter article. In it Greg Finke gives five great summary questions: How did you see God at work in your life this week? What had God been teaching you in his Word? What kind of conversations are you having with pre-Christians? What good can we do around here? How can we help you in prayer? Now, I have ordered a few extra copies for those who haven't gotten a copy and would like one. At Holy Cross we'll be taking some next steps with those who are ready to make a difference with Jesus in their neighborhoods and for their neighbors. That's one of the reasons that we took that Church Vitality survey last month. If you are interested why don't you join us on Tuesday afternoon or Sunday morning it's not too late. Plus, I am almost positive that in the fall we will be looking at Greg Finke's second book "Joining Jesus on His Mission Show Me How".

See You in Church

Pastor Alsen



# Don't Divorce Christ | Church Answers

*Thom S. Rainer*

I love the local church. From Acts 2 to Revelation 3, the Bible is about the local church, written to the local church, or written in the context of the local church.

God gave us the local church as his plan A for his mission on earth, and he did not give us a plan B. The local church is just that important.

Please don't say that the church is the people of God and not a building. Yes, the people of God are the church, but they are commanded to gather (and it's usually in a building) and to be in fellowship with one another. Don't use that metaphor as an excuse to skip church.

Please don't communicate to your children that it's okay to skip church. To take a break. To participate in Sunday sports. To go on vacation (most vacation spots have churches). They will know where your priority is. They will demonstrate a similar priority in their adolescent and adult years. They will not need the church. They will not need God.

Please don't use the local church to get your perceived needs met. Your style of music. Your programs. Your ministries. Your schedule.

Please don't say the church is about sending, not attending. It's not either/or. It's both/and. The Bible commands us to send. And the Bible commands us to gather.

Please don't say you don't go to church because it's full of hypocrites. Yes, it is full of hypocrites. We are called sinners. But we are sinners forgiven by Christ's death on the cross. We are living examples of the power of the gospel. Not perfect. Just perfectly forgiven.

Please don't use the slightest excuse to skip church. Bad weather. Good weather. Not enough sleep. Too much sleep. Upset stomach. But not too upset to play golf.

Please don't say that this short missive is legalistic. It is not legalistic. It is biblical. It is about commitment.

I love the metaphor that says clearly we, the church, are the bride of Christ. Read Ephesians 5:25-30. We, the local church, are indeed the bride and Christ is the bridegroom.

And if we are waning in our commitment to the local church, we are waning in our commitment to the marriage between us, the church, and Christ.

Please don't minimize the importance of the local church.

Please don't divorce Christ, the bridegroom.

The local church is just that important.

*Posted on May 8, 2023*

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With nearly 40 years of ministry experience, Thom Rainer has spent a lifetime committed to the growth and health of local churches across North America.





## The Top 10 Things You'll Never Hear a Dad Say:

10. "Well, how 'bout that? I'm lost! Looks like we'll have to stop and ask for directions."
9. "You know Pumpkin, now that you're thirteen, you'll be ready for un-chaperoned car dates. Won't that be fun?"
8. "I noticed that all your friends have a certain hostile attitude. I like that."
7. "Here's a credit card and the keys to my new car. Go crazy!!!"
6. "What do you mean you wanna play football? Figure skating is not good enough for you, son?"
5. "Your Mother and I are going away for the weekend. You might want to consider throwing a party."
4. "Well, I don't know what's wrong with your car. Probably one of those doo-hickey thingies—ya know—that makes it run or something. Just have it towed to a mechanic and pay whatever he asks."
3. "No son of mine is going to live under this roof without an earring. Now quit your belly-aching and let's go to the mall."
2. "Whaddya wanna go and get a job for? I make plenty of money for you to spend."

And the number one thing you'll never hear a dad say:

1. "What do I want for Father's Day? Aahh—don't worry about that. It's no big deal." (actually they might say this, but they don't mean it).



The LCW ladies will be taking an adventure trip to Gruene, TX instead of the June meeting. It will take place on WEDNESDAY, June 7th. Please be at the church by 9:00 a.m. We will leave at 9:30. We will stop at the Gristmill River Restaurant for lunch and then spend the afternoon strolling through the town, shopping and sightseeing.

If you would like to join us, please contact Jan at 361-293-8844 or call the church office. Please RSVP no later than Sunday, June 4th.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

June 18, 2023

### Dad Jokes

My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.

We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.

I only know 25 letters of the alphabet. I don't know y.

What did the janitor say when he jumped out of the closet? "Supplies!"

I got carded at a liquor store, and my Blockbuster card accidentally fell out. The cashier said never mind.

# DISTRICT NEWS!!



## Mission Moment

by Pastor Bryce Formwalt  
Director of Mission Growth

# What exactly is Harvest Workers?

Four years ago, a group of pastors began dreaming about what it might look like to create an online ministry training program that was affordable, accessible, and effectively equipped those God was calling to greater ministry with a solid biblical and theological foundation while emphasizing practical mission and ministry instruction. After all, if we were ever going to plant and revitalize churches, we needed to invest in developing more mission-minded leaders. These conversations eventually led to the Texas District's most ambitious project to date: Harvest Workers!

The program we set out to develop was not intended to be a seminary. Instead, we envisioned a ministry training program for those for whom traditional seminary might not be affordable, accessible, or the best fit. Harvest Workers actually inverts the emphasis of most seminary programs: instead of emphasizing academic studies in Bible and theology while providing a basic introduction to practical ministry, Harvest Workers introduces students to biblical and theological studies while diving more deeply into a wide variety of practical courses in mission and ministry.

Since the program is online and on-demand, there are no semesters or pre-scheduled class times. Students access courses through a personal online classroom portal and meet with their faculty one-on-one for four video conference sessions. There are quizzes, papers, projects, and lots of reading as well as video lectures, as one might expect. This online, on-demand delivery is what makes the program especially unique, allowing students to work their studies into daily life.

Certificate students from the Texas District pay a subscription of \$165 a month for their tuition. We encourage congregations to partner with interested students by providing partial scholarships. St. John, Thrall has also established a scholarship fund in memory of Jon and Kathy Bielfeldt and contributions to this fund are welcomed from individuals or congregations. To make an online contribution, go to [www.harvestworkers.net/support-harvest-workers](http://www.harvestworkers.net/support-harvest-workers).



Harvest Workers is not the only answer to the church's need for pastors and ministry leaders, but it is an important part of our effort to better equip women and men for the Kingdom ministry to which God is calling them. Whether these students become contract pastors, church planters, youth or children's ministers, care ministers or just better equipped church members to serve in their own congregations and communities, I am excited to see the growth and development in each student.

We currently have 21 students enrolled in our certificate program and more than two dozen others have participated in taking individual courses as audit students or as a part of a church group. If you are interested in learning more about Harvest Workers, whether that is starting a group course at your church, auditing a class of interest, or becoming a full certificate student, I would invite you to check out our website at [www.harvestworkers.net](http://www.harvestworkers.net) and reach out to start a conversation about how Harvest Workers may help equip you and others in your church to answer God's call to greater Kingdom ministry.



*Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or [bryce@lcmctexas.org](mailto:bryce@lcmctexas.org). Like us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/lcmctexas](http://www.facebook.com/lcmctexas)*

# JUNE 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10:00 am Chapel	2	3 5:00 pm Worship
4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship on Radio 10:45 am Pastor's Bible Study	5 <i>Pastor Wenzel's day off</i>	6 4:00 pm Bible Study 5:00 pm Christian Ed	7 9:30 am LCW Adventure Trip	8 10:00 am Chapel	9	10 5:00 pm Worship
11 8:45 am Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship on Radio 10:45 am Pastor's Bible Study 2:30 pm Steven's Health 3:30 pm Yoakum Nursing	12 <i>Pastor Wenzel's day off</i>	13 4:00 pm Bible Study	14 2:00 pm Radio Recording	15 10:00 am Chapel	16	17 5:00 pm Worship
18 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship on Radio 10:45 am Pastor's Bible Study	19 <i>Pastor Wenzel leaves on vacation until July 10th</i>	20 11:30 am Golden Nuggets NO Bible Study 6:30 pm LLA Board Meeting	21	22	23	24 5:00 pm Worship
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship on Radio NO Pastor's Bible Study 2:30 pm Evangelism Comm. 4:00 pm Movie Night	26	27 NO Bible Study	28 10:00 am Executive Council	29	30	



**June 2023 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule**

Saturday night - 5:00 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.			Greeters	<b>Council in Charge</b> Jody Maneth - Sat. John Langhoff - Sun. <hr/> <b>Chancel Committee</b> Saturday Doris Zimmerman <hr/> Sunday Billy & Cindy Goodrich
Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers			
3rd	Doris Zimmerman Ralph Polzin	Sue Schneider	4th	Edwin Steinmann Sandra Steinmann	Sandra Steinmann	Edwin Steinmann	
10th	Charles Vahalik Debra Vahalik	Debra Vahalik	11th	Gale Schneider Linda Colman	Linda Colman	Bill Bergey	
17th	Lily Richter Mabel Hickey	Aaron Lehnert	18th	Danielle Pohl Zach Webb	Danielle Pohl	Nancy Langhoff	
24th	Patrick Kram Ralph Polzin	Jan Boehm	25th	Glen Kusak Sheri Kusak	Gery Maneth	Cindy Dekowski	

**July 2023 - Ushers/Readers/Greeters Schedule**

**\*\* NOTE: This schedule is subject to change. See the July newsletter for the correct schedule.**

Saturday night - 5:00 p.m.			Sunday morning - 9:30 a.m.			Greeters	<b>Council in Charge</b> Jody Maneth - Sat. Danielle Pohl - Sun. <hr/> <b>Chancel Committee</b> Saturday Peggy Oliver <hr/> Sunday Lillian Mueller Suzi & Mark Brewer
Ushers	Readers		Ushers	Readers			
1st	Ralph Polzin Mabel Hickey	Mabel Hickey	2nd	Bobby Bland Larry Leahy	Gayle Stasa	Judy Soehnge	
8th	Charles Vahalik Debra Vahalik	Elda Mae Petrich	9th	Tomi Soehnge David Soehnge	Cindy Dekowski	Rose Bland	
15th	Doris Zimmerman Patrick Kram	Aaron Lehnert	16th	Billy Goodrich Cindy Goodrich	Cindy Goodrich	Beverly Rudolph	
22nd	Patrick Kram Lily Mae Richter	Sue Schneider	23rd	Bill Bergey Sandra Bergey	Sandra Bergey	Chris Jendrzej	
29th	Charles Vahalik Debra Vahalik	Jan Boehm	30th	John Langhoff Chris Jendrzej	John Langhoff	Gale Schneider	

IS IT TRUE THAT THE WORD "TRINITY" ISN'T IN THE BIBLE?



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

BOTH THE THREE PERSONS OF GOD AND THE CONFESSION THAT GOD IS ONE ARE IN THE BIBLE. BUT IT TAKES FOUR CENTURIES\* TO SORT OUT THE RELATIONSHIP.



\*1ST COUNCIL OF NICEA - 325

WOW! THAT GIVES NEW MEANING TO... "IT'S COMPLICATED!"



2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13



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## Bible Study Classes



Classes take place on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm & Sundays at 10:45 am

Baptized believers are all ordained by God to share the reason for the hope they have (**1 Peter 3:15**). We simply do this by looking for where God is at work, listening to Jesus through His Word, befriending others, and looking for how we can do good through actions and prayer.



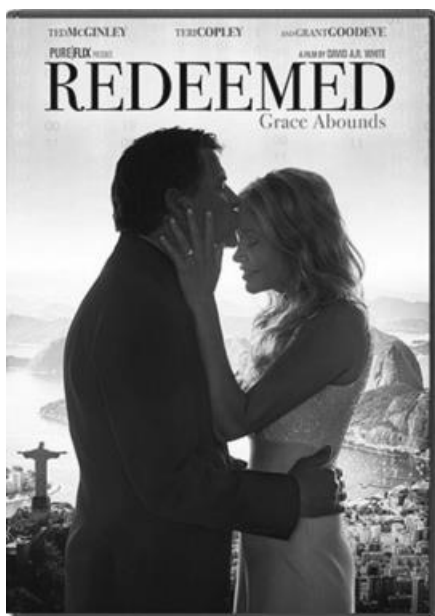
Pastor Wenzel will be on vacation June 19th - July 10th. He will be back in the office on July 11th. In his absence, Pastor Paul Austin will be leading the Worship Services in June and Pastor Percy Smerek will lead the July services. We are truly grateful to them for ministering to our congregation.



## SENIORS LUNCHEON

Please join us for Golden Nuggets on Tuesday, June 18st at 11:30 a.m. You must sign up **NO LATER THAN** Friday, June 14th if you plan to attend. We want to be able to feed everyone without unnecessary waste. Thank you for your consideration!!

Please prayerfully consider returning to Golden Nuggets. It means more to others than you'll ever know. A hot, home-cooked meal, sing-a-long, fellowship, and door prizes are enjoyed by everyone who attends.



## MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, June 23rd  
at 4:00 p.m.

*"Redeemed: Grace Abounds"*

Refreshments will be served. This month's movie is "Redeemed: Grace Abounds". Paul Tyson is a loving husband, devoted father and well-respected businessman on the brink of the biggest business deal of his career. And then Julia walks in and the relationship goes a bit farther than intended. The question arises—Just what is adultery?



# LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Monthly meeting of the Lutheran Church Woman was held on May 4th in the fellowship hall.

\*Faith Darilek & Ginger Filip were hostess for May

\*Meeting was opened & prayer devotions were read from Pastor Mary Hovland based on John:17

\*Program was SOUND MEDICINE, given by Dottie Bitterly, RN. Program entailed variations of tones from bowls used for healing. Dottie also talked about nutrition & exercise. The guests enjoyed creating salads in a jar.

\*Under new business: June 7th (WEDNESDAY) will be a ladies field trip to Gruene, Texas in lieu of monthly meeting. July 6th meeting, hostesses will be

Jan Boehm & Stephanie Almand. August 2nd (Wednesday) will be a field trip to Rockport, Texas. Jan Boehm will be coordinating both of these field trips. Detailed information will follow in Church Bulletins.

\* Meeting closed with Prayer followed by refreshments.

## Upcoming LCW Events

### Monthly Meeting

June 7th

Cultural Adventure Trip to Gruene, TX



**Keynote Speaker:** Tilaye Daba, Global Mission Director of Lutheran Church Makane Yesus in Ethiopia

### Preachers:

Caleb Bahr, Immanuel, Taylor, TX  
Kari Malinak, Living Word, Grapevine, TX

**Tickets:** Adult - \$75 thru 6/30 (\$100 after)  
Youth - \$40 thru 6/30 (\$60 after)

We come together for great food and fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels, TX to learn about ministry opportunities, receive powerful teaching, and worship the Most Awesome God!

Friday, July 28th - 12:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Saturday, July 29th - 7:30 am to 3:45 pm

Contact Pastor Wenzel for registration information.

**PUZZLE 1: BLESSED IS THE MAN...  
(PSALM: 1-5)**

Y	P	R	A	Y	E	R	T	R	Y	K	V	N	B	K	R	L
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M	B	A	O	A	H	A	V	E	Y	T	M	H	P	E	D	Q
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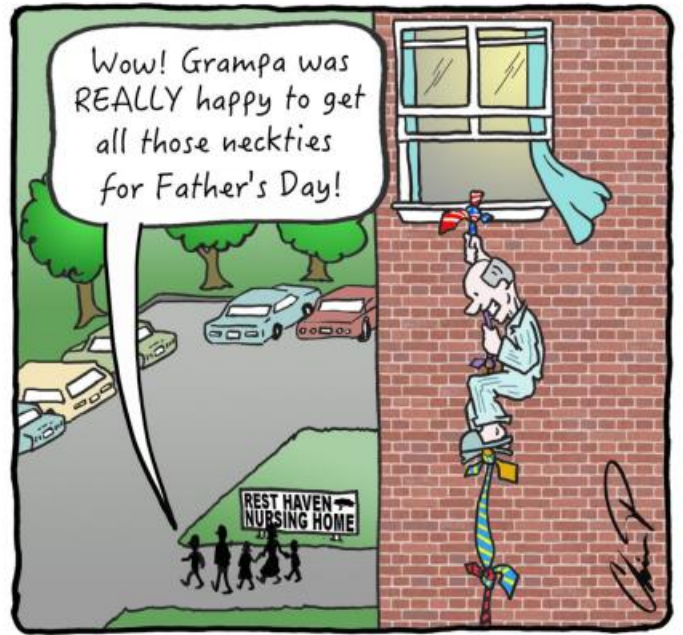
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WORSHIP



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## UNITY in our community



The First Baptist Church in Yoakum will be offering an **Open Gym for Parents and Kids** this Summer.

This is **not** a childcare.

All children under the age of 13 must have an adult present at all times.

The gym will be open and gym toys will be brought out for kids and parents to play.

Thursdays from 10 am to 2 pm

June 22nd      July 6th

June 29th      July 13th

July 20th

The gym will be open for pickup basketball. This is not a league, tournament, or childcare.

Tuesdays from 1:30 pm to 4 pm

June 20th      July 11th

June 27th      July 18th

**These people would gladly take phone calls or visits from our church family. Please remember them in your daily prayers.**

### TRIALS AND ILLNESS

- Debbie Bordovsky
- Georgie Clark
- Tommy Cliffe
- Rose Finch
- Lisa Garrett
- LeRoy Manning
- Peggy Oliver
- Sandy Patton
- Jillian Pohl
- Roy Richter
- Landra Richter

- Judith Russell
- Charles Striedel
- Mona Welke
- Our Soldiers and their families

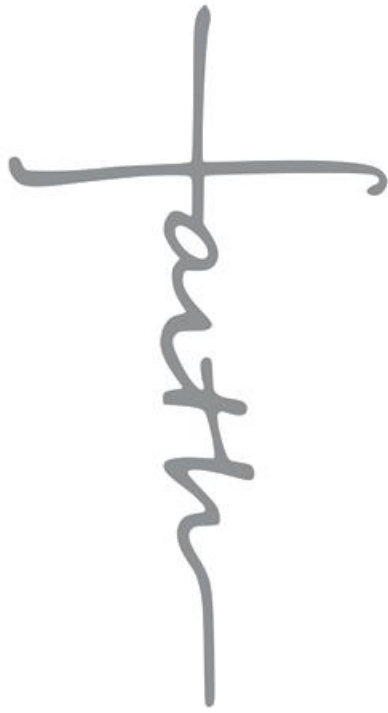
### NURSING HOME/ HOMEBOUND/ OUT OF TOWN

- Ruby Colle
- Eric Eckhardt
- Liz Ewing

- Viola Havlik
- Patricia Hicks
- Gerald Johnson
- Lois Josephus
- Renie Knape
- Marilyn Muehlstein
- James Nolte
- Mary Pargmann
- Audrey Schindler
- Bob Putnam
- Betty Rathkamp







**F**orwarding  
**A**ll  
**I**ssues  
**T**o  
**H**eaven

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Lord's Little Angels  
361-293-9203

**OFFICE HRS:**

Mon-Fri 8 am—5 pm

Return service requested

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