



Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church  
*Members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*  
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September 2020

## MOTC NEWS & NOTES

*A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MISSION OF THE CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH*

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM  
[Holy Communion celebrated every Sunday]  
Fellowship Time 10:30 AM  
Youth Sunday School 10:45 AM Sept.-May  
Adult Bible Study at 11:00 AM

† ***By Scripture, Grace, and Faith Alone!*** †



## Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

When you were a child did you secretly hope for the day that you would become an adult? If not at five years old, certainly during adolescence you became increasingly desirous of entering into the adult world where you no longer would be under your parents thumb or tied to your mother's apron strings. I suppose it's the natural order of things to want to be independent and make our own way in the world, but in one respect there is a down side to giving up our childhood to face the realities of an adult world.

Instead of being hounded by your parents to get out of bed, now you have to get up on your own to make it to work on time, that is, unless like so many youth today you thought you could hang around home until it's time to retire. But if you take adulthood seriously, work, marriage, politics, economics and the church too, it requires that you engage in an adult world. You simply cannot act like a child, think like a child or persist in childlike activities and be a responsible adult who has embraced all the responsibilities that go with it. In fact, if you do not embrace what the worlds defines as demonstrating a functioning adult life, you might find yourself not doing so well economically, socially and even politically, you might not find that being an adult is all that you thought it would be cracked up to be. That is just the way of the world!

Now, what seems odd to the world and surely Christians at times is that Jesus calls for us to be like children in His kingdom. St. Paul, however, notes that we ought to be like mature adults, but often forget the essentials for life that we learned as children and need to go back to the basics before moving on to adulthood again. St. Peter also says we are to start out by drinking milk as infants do, but then need to be weaned as children are on solid food that we might grow up. Both Apostles seem to be at odds with Jesus, telling us we need to grow up to be adults. So which one is it, what are we to be, children or adults in God's kingdom?

Of course, both! Be a child and an adult all wrapped up in one package. It is possible you know? How many times for instance have you seen a child acting more mature than a lot of adults and how often do adults act more like children. Both age groups have their advantages and disadvantages. Whining as a child, throwing a temper tantrum or shirking your duties, none of these is seen as acceptable traits, neither in children or adults. These bad behaviors tend to cross both levels of human development. Being responsible, following the rules, making good decisions are applauded. These good behaviors can cut across both lanes of development also. We are astounded to see a very young child acting cool and calm, reserved and thoughtful, polite and intelligent, because they are demonstrating things we would expect from an adult. And then we find adults acting foolhardy and reckless, having no personal restraint or boundaries, without a thought, acting rude and ignorant. We are complex beings who can demonstrate all these behaviors, even thoughts and beliefs that are either consistent with or inconsistent with the calendar age we find ourselves at.

So what is Jesus expectation when He tells the disciples that we need to be converted and become like little children or we cannot enter into His kingdom? He sounds like a regression therapist that wants us to give up our adult lives to enter the world of children once again, to get in touch with our inner child as psychologists try to get people to do. In one sense that's true, in particular when it comes to our beliefs, when it comes to our understanding regarding our independence and our salvation. Jesus does want us to return to our childhood, to that time for example when we depended on adults to sustain our lives and protect us from harm and danger. He does want us to submit to His authority as the adult so to speak, the One who has the maturity and wisdom to keep us safe from harm, to feed us and provide a roof over our heads so that we might survive to maturity.

As little children do, Jesus affectionately wants us to respond to His parental care as the One who loves us so much that He is willing to sacrifice His adult independence in order that we might have all that we need. He is like our parents who got up every morning went to work, put food on the table, bought us shoes and clothes to wear, paid the heat bill, carted us around to our school activities as well as did their best to provide for our emotional care. With Jesus, however, He does so much more. He provides for our spiritual care, our heavenly home, and it is in this home that we are to act like children, trusting in His decisions, listening to His household rules, abiding by His curfews so that we are kept safe and secure until the day when we grow to the full maturity of faith and find ourselves living in His kingdom for an eternity.

He wants us to have a faith that trusts unconditionally and unequivocally in His desire to care for all our needs, whether earthly or heavenly. He wants us to have a faith that trusts that He alone is able to rescue us from this world of sin which is a dangerous place for us to live because it seeks to destroy the living spirits that He gave us in baptism. He wants our trust that with Him we can find a home that is secure and without danger, free from sin and free from Satan's attacks. A place where we need no longer worry as adults do because we are confronted with the responsibilities that burden us as we try to protect our children, who as we know keeping thinking, "won't it be great to grow up to be an adult," when little do they know.

Thus, since little do we know of spiritual things and the dangers of the principalities of darkness and no less, Jesus kingdom, He makes it possible for us to become children of His kingdom in our ignorance of these things as St. Peter preached this 'good news', "***Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God, shall call.***" So kids, enjoy your

childhood *“in Christ.” In Christ Pastor Uhrinak*

**Please take the time to read the Confessional Corner !!!**

Our Mission Statement at MOTC:

*To bring peace, healing, and salvation through faith in Christ to all people by:*

Supporting a powerful proclamation of His Gospel through Word and Sacrament;  
Providing quality liturgy, education, pastoral care, and hospitality; and by fostering acts of love and mercy among the people of our church and community.

## **CALLED TO SERVE MOTC THIS MONTH** **September 2020**

<b>Usher:</b>	<b>Wally Erickson</b>
<b>Elder:</b>	<b>Jon Porter</b>
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	<b>Jan Staricha &amp; Darlene Wilson</b>
<b>Cleaning:</b>	<b>Buzz &amp; Shelley Fritch</b>

### **Meeting reminders:**

**LWML: Thursday September 10<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 PM**

**Church Council: Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> @ 12:00PM**

**MN Confessional Lutheran's Meeting: Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**CROSSLAKE CRAFT & FLEA MARKET**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020**

County Rd 3 & 102  
13716 County Road 103  
Crosslake, MN  
Hours 9-4

Vendors may contact Al @ 612-597-1827 or [afschewe@gmail.com](mailto:afschewe@gmail.com)  
\$25.00 per space

**The Thrivent benefit for Fall 2020 is the Crosslake Area Community Center Meals on Wheels & Emily Care-N-Share. Donations of items are for 30 “Blizzard Bags” to be distributed to people in need due to inclement weather. Cash donations are also welcome. We will be collecting items through September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Examples of single serve pre-packaged items would be:**

**Individual packets of crackers or cookies**

**Nonperishable microwaveable meals**

**Rice Krispie bars**

**Granola Bars**

**Tea or hot chocolate packets**

**Mini candy bars (1 bag of 25 pieces)**

**Small variety pack cereal boxes**

**Fruit cups, or pudding cups**

**Canned soups**

# September Worship Schedule

**September 6<sup>th</sup> – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Gospel – Matthew 18:1-20*

Divine Service 3 – The Lord’s Supper

**September 13<sup>th</sup> – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35*

Divine Service 3 - The Lord’s Supper

**September 20<sup>th</sup> – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16*

Divine Service 3 - The Lord’s Supper

**September 27<sup>th</sup> – Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Gospel – Matthew 21:23-32*

Divine Service 3 - The Lord’s Supper



“At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 18:1-4

**God's Word to Ponder!**

*“Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; Praise thy God, O Zion. For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee. He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest wheat. He sendeth forth his commandments upon the earth; his word runneth very swiftly. ”*

***Psalm 147:12-15***

**Confessional Corner: Our Lutheran Understanding of Faith**

Man!

*“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet(1)*

Psalm 8 and Genesis 1-3 give us great insight into God’s regard for humans. Man is the pinnacle of creation with God given stewardship and responsibility for all that He has made. But how do you regard man? Do you have the same godly opinion? In the midst of political unrest, social upheaval, uncertain economic conditions and pandemic is man to be considered so highly?

It is easy to regard our fellow man as something less than what God has said he is. Today he could be merely a disease vector, a ne’er-do-well, a greedy elitist, a racist or political opponent. In a broken world with sinful eyes it is easy to see humans as something less than they are. To us who must live among and with them, they are easily considered as unwanted burdens and hindrances to our life being lived as we think it ought to be.



To be sure, there is much to dislike about humans as God's Word declares. Yet God continues to express His love for us. Christ says, *“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.”* And according to our redemption, God through Paul says, *“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus...”*

Despite our sin God remains in the people business, loving the unlovable. He would have all men be saved and shows mercy on all. As those who bear His name and in whom our Lord dwells, we too are in the people business. It can be no other way. By His Spirit we regard all humans as those whom God created and for whom He sent His Son into this world. We do not know who will receive the Word in faith and who will reject it. What we know is that all of humanity needs the Word and God promises to work through it according to His will.

The work of the Church is to proclaim the Word of God in its entirety to all peoples. It is the Law of God which sets man's fallenness before his eyes and the Gospel of the Lord that reveals and gives him the Savior, Jesus Christ. He is the remedy for our mistaken perception of man. He is man's only Savior.

The current tumult is nothing new and neither is the tendency to hate our fellow man. Join us in the [ACELC](#) as we continue to strive for the unity of the Church through the Gospel preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and the sacraments administered in accordance with God's Word. Only through these means God saves man in Jesus Christ alone.

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Volume 18, Issue 9

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