

Crossroads Church

a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

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Christians passionately dedicated to impacting our world with God's love, one person at a time.

Recently I watched a man splitting wood on the side of the road. A tree had fallen and was now being split into smaller pieces and hauled away (presumably to be burned for heat). This was clearly not easy work. Three foot diameter pieces split by hand. Hard work! This was work that would not bring results for another year as drying had to happen before the logs could be used for burning. This man clearly had a long-range vision that kept him going.

I was reminded of the similar long-range vision necessary to continually nurture faith. I thought of the many small but vital steps that keep the fires of love and commitment hot – quiet times, times of study and reading, regular worship, nurtured friendship providing regular accountability, service to others, etc.

And I remembered the amazing gift I was given at birth – God-fearing parents who nurtured me in such a way I do not give a second thought to many of these small steps. They are simply automatic!

For instance, I feel strange if I do not attend worship on a Sunday. Attending church socials, or other events where fellow Christians will be present is a priority, not because I have intentionally made it so. It simply was how I was raised. Not to do so puts my life out of whack.

None of these activities or choices appears to make a huge difference on a daily basis. However, cumulatively, they make a difference. They are like the drying process of firewood. You can burn wet wood. But it takes more energy and is less efficient. The long-range vision is important for a consistent and effective faith.

You may be facing a choice today that does not seem to be all that big a deal. However, the choice you make may make all the difference one year, two years or ten years down the line. The great life is not a sprint, but a marathon. What you choose today will make a difference in the long run.

So keep the long vision! Run with perseverance!

Sunday

Sunday: This Sunday our Scripture passage is about the man we often call Doubting Thomas. Ever wonder why he doubted when the evidence seemed so clear? It may not be much different than the reasons you and I question certain things happening in our lives. Come and join in the discovery. Our Scripture Passage is John 20:19-31.

Our offering will be for **Denominational Ministries** - In the Christian Reformed Church, one important way that we participate in God's kingdom work is through "ministry shares" - a way of sharing in the support of the important work of ministries within our denomination. The following ministries are part of Ministry Shares: Back to God Ministries International, Faith Alive Christian Resources, Home Missions, World Missions, and Special Assistance Fund to help smaller churches, Calvin College, Calvin Theological Seminary, chaplains and support of the disabled.

Check it Out!

Kingdom Kids

All children ages 4 through 5th grades are invited to Kingdom Kids on every Wednesday night from 6:15 -7:45 pm. Snacks are provided for all. In addition, we have a Bible lesson, some challenging crafts and some super fun games. Invite your friends to come too.

Unashamed Youth

Please join us every Wednesday night from 6:15 – 7:45 pm. This Wednesday we will have a Group Chat. Our goal is to help the boys and girls grow spiritually and have fun by learning.

Special next Friday and Saturday, April 8th & 9th come and participate in a *Dare to Share Conference with High Point Church Youth*.

For more detailed information and if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan.

Opportunity to Serve

We are in need of volunteers to join our Luke House groups. Each group serves dinner one night in a quarter, with a commitment of just four times a year. It's a great time of fellowship as well serving those who come in for a meal. We need volunteers in all capacities: provide food (some assembly required at times), serve or work in the kitchen and cleanup, help with costs, or even helping on occasion as a substitute. Please contact Diane, Bette, or Pastor Doug for details. Join us! Meal included!

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Wednesday Evening Coffee Break

Welcome Back! Mark your calendar as next week Wednesday, April 13th, the evening Wednesday Coffee Break meets again starting at 6:15 pm. If you have any questions, please call Sue.



Reserve the date:

We will be holding an *Art Camp* June 15th – 17th from 5 - 7:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcomed and appreciated! No artistic ability necessary! More information will follow.

Have a wonderful Weekend! Enjoy the gifts God has given you. Honor Him in all you do, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!!

May Jesus' love be your strength.

Pastor Doug

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