

## Crossroads Church

*a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church*

3815 S. Dutch Mill Road Madison, WI 53718-6805 (608) 222-1159  
E-mail: [crossroads@crossroadscrc.org](mailto:crossroads@crossroadscrc.org) Website: [www.crossroadscrc.org](http://www.crossroadscrc.org)

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

I feel heaviness today as I write. Our nation has again been rocked by violence and tragedy. Children have lost dads. Families' lives have been shattered. Communities are in turmoil, and trust is again called into question.

As news reports spread the coverage of the shootings of two black men in Baton Rouge and Minneapolis, and twelve police officers in Texas, I find myself feeling the fear that grows with each new act of violence. I also know that I will never experience what it is like to live in fear because of the color of my skin when stopped by a police officer. I have imagined my reaction should my son be killed by an officer, and I imagine the fear my son-in-law feels each time he stops a driver for a violation in the middle of the night in some patch of Illinois highway.

Fear! President Roosevelt is credited for reminding us "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself". He then identified this fear as "nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance." Retreat is always a temptation in the midst of fear. Going back to what we once knew as safe, secure and defined is attractive. Yet it is impossible. Retreat to the past is a search for a non-existent place. We live in the present and move toward the future.

So what do we have to offer our communities, our nation and our world in the midst of all this brokenness that is all too often slapping us in the face? Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke clearly, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that." (Martin Luther King Jr., A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings and Speeches)

The Apostle John reminds us "*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear.*" (1John 4:18)

Jesus showed his followers what great (perfect) love does. "*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friend.*" (John 15:13)

It is easy to talk glowingly about love as the answer. It is another thing entirely to make this great love a life calling. To do so forces me to ask a basic question: For whom am I willing to die today?

The great prophet Isaiah puts such a question in more practical terms, and I leave you to reflect on his words:

*"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,*

*with the pointing finger and malicious talk,*

*and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry*

*and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,*

*then your light will rise in the darkness,*

*and your night will become like the noonday.*

*The LORD will guide you always;*

*he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land*

*and will strengthen your frame.*

*You will be like a well-watered garden,*

*like a spring whose waters never fail.*

*Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins*

*and will raise up the age-old foundations;*

*you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,*

*Restorer of Streets with Dwellings. (Isaiah 58.9b-12)*

I pray you may be a Restorer of Streets with Dwellings today.

## Sunday

**Sunday:** This Sunday we continue our study of Paul's letter to the early Christian Church in Philippi. Our Scripture reading is from Philippians 3.1-11. Please join us as we Praise our God for His rich blessings!

Our offering will be for **Classis Ministries** - Classical Ministry Shares helps to provide support for various mission projects within Classis Wisconsin such as the 3 new church plants in greater Wisconsin communities, educational and training opportunities for members of Wisconsin churches and Scholarship funds for Wisconsin Seminary students.

## Check it Out!

### DR Youth Team Next Week

Our youth along with High Point youth will fly to the Dominican Republic to begin their mission trip next week on July 19<sup>th</sup>. We ask again for your prayers for their safety, health, enthusiasm,

good weather and that God would move through this ministry in the lives of our youth. The youth will be returning to Madison on Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **DR Dresses**

Please return all completed DR Dresses by this Friday, July 15 to church so that they can be packed and shipped when the DR Youths leave on Tuesday July 19<sup>th</sup>.

A big super ***thank you to all*** who helped out in any way with the sewing and assembly of the DR Dresses. They are appreciated more than words can say.

### **Mallards Baseball Game**

Don't forget to sign up for the Mallard's Baseball game on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> which starts at 4:05pm. The cost of \$10.00 includes a Mallard's baseball cap, a hot dog and a drink. The sign-up sheet is on the table in the narthex. Questions? Contact Patty. We hope you join us for an afternoon of fun. The last day to sign up is Tuesday July 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **CRC Leadership Forum**

Set aside Sunday afternoon August 28<sup>th</sup> for the 2016 Classis WI Leadership Forum at Brookfield CRC, 14135 W. Burleigh Blvd., Brookfield, WI. The cost is \$20 per person which includes the seminar and dinner. People involved in ministry at any level of church are welcome to attend. Information and registration can be done online at [www.classiswisconsin.org](http://www.classiswisconsin.org). Brochures are available on the signup table. Register early.

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