

# 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.*

Next week at this time Thanksgiving 2015 will be over. Will it have been everything you had hoped for, planned for or prepared for? Let's be honest, perfect holidays are hard to pull off. Something happens or someone pulls something that tends to challenge grace. However, as you anticipate the upcoming holiday there are two things you can choose to avoid to help make the day happy and filled with joy.

1. Avoid feeling you deserve all that for which you give thanks or celebrate this Thanksgiving. A feeling of deserving all these good things (be they family, friends, food, position, possessions or prosperity) leads to ingratitude. When ingratitude dominates grace diminishes, and when grace diminishes impatience and tensions increase. Remember, there will not be anything or anyone around you this Thanksgiving that is not a gift from God. Gifts are never deserved. Gifts are the evidence of grace. So celebrate the gifts of grace from your family, your friends and your God.

2. Avoid feeling you deserve what others have. In the midst of abundance there is always the temptation to look around at those whose abundance is even greater. It is also easy to rationalize why you are more deserving of greater abundance than the person who has greater abundance. This is envy, and it will kill thanksgiving and joy faster than most anything. Envy not only kills joy, its pathway will take you to greed and bitterness. Should you go down that pathway there is a good chance no one will want to spend Thanksgiving 2016 with you. If you are tempted with envy over this holiday season, remember that none of us deserves any of the wonderful gifts and riches for which we give thanks this Thanksgiving. God has created you in a wonderful and amazing way, and He knows precisely what is best for you. Give thanks for His gifts and grace in your life! Each of them is evidence of a love far beyond compare!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving – however and whenever you celebrate it this year!

## Sunday

**Sunday:** This Sunday we continue our series of messages entitled *Feasting on the Word* – taking stories from the Bible and spending time tasting, savoring and being nourished by them. Our Bible reading will be *John 18.33-37*. Please join us!

Our second offering will be for **2<sup>nd</sup> Harvest Food Pantry** - Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin is a nonprofit organization dedicated to ending hunger in southwestern Wisconsin through community partnerships, serving nearly 141,000 people annually, including 43 percent who are children. We help people in our community understand and apply for government programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is called Food Share in Wisconsin and used to be called the food stamp program. Through food and financial donations and volunteer support, Second Harvest acquires and distributes food

to 300 partner programs in 16 counties. Trucks pick up and drop off more than 5 million pounds of Fresh Rescue food each year. It is one of 200 members of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity.

### **All Children & Youth**

Sunday at 11:00 am join our Children's and Youth Sunday School for ages 4 years through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. All children and youth will meet in the Youth Room. We will sing together and then break off into our classes. Come and bring a friend along with you.

### **Adult Bible Study**

Participate in Adult Sunday School this Sunday! Leaders will lead us in a study of "*The 21 Most Dangerous Questions of the Bible*" by Dave Earley. The class will meet in the council room after our morning worship.

## **Join Us**

### **Thanksgiving Day**

Please join us on Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at Crossroads along with Geneva Campus Church and the Spanish Church at our 9:30 am service. This year's Thanksgiving offering will be for the World Renew Disaster Relief for Syrian Refugees. Invite your family and friends to join us.

### **Wednesday Coffee Break**

Our ladies Wednesday night Coffee Break will not meet again until January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Please update your calendars. Why not come to our Thursday morning Coffee Break at 9:00 am? Everyone is welcome.

### **Save the Date - Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am!**

This is the date we will be presenting "The Christmas Carol Special Report". Plan to invite grand-parents, family members and friends to this year's Christmas presentation. All are invited to the Fellowship Hall after the performance for coffee and treats.

## **Dominican Missions**

### **Dominican Lunch**

The 2015 Mission Teams will be hosting a lunch on Sunday, December 6th at 12 noon here at Crossroads Church. Please join us for an authentic Dominican Meal, and hear their stories of the wonderful things God is doing in the *El Almirante* community in Santo Domingo DR. We will be showing the video from that trip, as well as sharing many stories and pictures of our work and time this past summer. Please RSVP by December 1st.

### **2016 Dominican Republic Mission Trip**

**Adult Dates:** June 25th - July 2nd (application deadline - December 7, 2015)

**Youth Dates:** July 19th - 26th (application deadline - December 18, 2015)

Please prayerfully consider whether God may be nudging you to consider joining one of these teams going to the DR in 2016. If you have questions regarding either of these trips please talk with Pastor Doug or Vicki.

Applications are available on the table in the foyer or in the youth room. For more information please join us for the DR Lunch on December 6th at 12:00 noon here at church.

## Youth Christmas Dinner

### Kingdom Kids and Unashamed Youth

Our next meeting will be on December 2nd when we will be hosted by Pastor Doug and Vicki for our third annual *Youth Christmas Formal Dinner*. Dinner will begin at 6:15 p.m. and will be at Pastor Doug and Vicki's home.

## Reminder!!

### Crossroads Logo Contest

We are in the processes of making some changes to our weekly bulletin. One item we would like to include on the front is a Crossroads logo. Although our denomination has a logo we sometimes use, we would like one specifically for our church.

For this purpose, the Worship Committee is having a contest for the creation of our Crossroads logo. A prize will go to the winner, and we encourage your participation. Submissions should be in usable digital format.

Your entry does not need to be an original (although we would love it if you would create one). However, if you use another's ideas or creation please get their permission. Also, please no violations of copyrighted material.

Finally, if your submission is in color, it should be able to be attractive in black and white as well as much of its use will be on black and white documents.

Other than this, it is wide open – be creative!

Please submit your design to Pastor Doug, Sylvia or Diane no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Have a wonderful Week-end! 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

[if you no longer wish to receive these weekly e-mails please send a return e-mail with "[unsubscribe](#)" in the "subject" line. If you enjoy these, consider passing them on to someone who may be encouraged as well]

