

Crossroads Church

a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

3815 S. Dutch Mill Road Madison, WI 53718-6805 (608) 222-1159 Fax (608) 222-2755

E-mail: crossroads@crossroadscrc.org Website: www.crossroadscrc.org

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

We attended the opening night of the musical *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* this week. It was a fun evening and a great performance. What made this show such an enjoyable entertainment was, to a great degree, the way the “non-stars” performed.

Make no mistake about it, the Grinch, Max his dog and Cindy Lou Who were center stage most of the time. They were so wonderful to watch we found it difficult to turn our attention away from them to take in the whole scene on stage. However, when we did were treated to a host of minor characters totally into the story, each performing their piece of the story in flawless beauty!

Although these minor characters seldom appeared center stage, each presented their character with such skill the audience became engaged in everyone, not simply with the Grinch, Max or Cindy Lou.

It was a thing of beauty. Each actor on stage focused on their individual task, doing it in such a way the story truly came alive!

Wednesday morning, I was still amazed at this pageantry and work, and I wondered if the world ever sees a little glimpse of Jesus' Church in this way? Does the world ever notice the care the nursery volunteers give to the little children? Does the world notice the detail and love given to the floral arrangements or flower beds? Or is the attention always on the headliners and front people?

The Apostle Paul notes that the church is a body – each member having a role to play, each role absolutely vital to the healthy working and functioning of the church. The little toe, seldom seen or thought about, does its part to keep the balance so musicians can move and sway rhythmically. The one who changes light bulbs or smoke detector batteries seldom is seen, yet is vital to the ministry and safety of all.

All of this caused me to wonder how often we consider our tasks or roles in ministry as being “unimportant”. I wonder how often we tell ourselves that we will never be missed because we don't believe what we do is all that important.

Watching the nameless Whos in Whoville we saw a beauty seen only when all know they are valuable to the production. This type of beauty inspires and strengthens all who participate.

I pray you may know how important you are to God and to His Church! You and I are the body of Christ, and without each individual the body is not that glorious production Jesus desires it to be.

Wherever you find yourself on this grand stage today, know that what God is calling you to do, how He has equipped you to perform, is absolutely essential to His honor. Perform with dignity, class and purpose today!

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. We finish our study entitled *5 Solas* (otherwise known as 5 “Onlys”). These 5 “onlys” are 5 non-negotiables in the Christian Life, and they make all the difference in how we live, how we see God, and how we see ourselves. Our Scripture reading will be from Isaiah 43.1-13. I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

Bread of Life Food Pantry at the Life Center - a joint outreach ministry at the Life Center in Madison embracing the motto “Get your nourishment of encouragement!” expressing life, hope, and access to natural and spiritual nourishment, and breathing new opportunity to individuals, families, and community with provision that changes their condition. The pantry is open for everyone on Thursdays 10am-12noon. The Bread of Life is currently serving approximately 20-30 families on a monthly basis, including 3-5 senior citizens, and the average family size is 4. The Bread of Life is grateful for the relationship with Crossroads and appreciative of all donations, food and monetary.

This Sunday!

Please return your *Peter Fish* this Sunday for World Renew’s work.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE TODAY!

Please be sure to turn in your Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms and payment this Sunday! Extra order forms are on the sign-up table in the foyer. (Please see attached flyer)