

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.

As I write I am surrounded by stacks and piles. Books I have been using for my sermon preparation are stacked in various heights on my desk. Papers surround me - some with "to-do" list from our recent Council meeting, some with schedules not yet entered into calendars, and some simply on my desk because they contain an action item I must complete before Sunday arrives. This clutter isn't due to a lack of attempts at filing. I have more drawers of files than anyone should need. Those who outlive me will not be happy with the amount of material they will need to comb through. To paraphrase the author of Ecclesiastes, "Of the making of files there is no end."

All this would be understandable had I not recently organized and filed the stacks of books and files accumulated over the weeks. If you had come into my office last week you wouldn't have recognized my desk. It was clean.

Today it again feels cluttered. Some papers, it seems, simply don't have a good place to go. They stand by themselves. If put in a file they will remain alone in that file until someone goes through my stuff asking, "Why in the world did he keep this?!"

I've come to accept that desks, like life, cannot always be organized and tidy. Just when it appears things can be controlled and systematized something comes along that defies organization. It stands alone, unlike anything else, and demands to be kept apart.

Long ago I stopped trying to demand my life be totally organized, compartmentalized and controlled. Living in community with friends and coworkers requires fluid schedules and flexible agendas. Not everything fits into neat predetermined time frames or expectations. Nor would I tolerate a life that did - the unexpected is often that which brings the greatest joy and the deepest growth.

Yet, there are times when I would like to be able to go more than a few days without the papers and books piling up. Until then, I will see the piles and stacks as a gentle reminder of the work and purpose God still has for me in life, and I will give thanks for these.

Sunday

Sunday: This Sunday's Lesson is what is often considered the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Sometimes it is called Jesus' first sermon - therein lies the challenge - to write a sermon on a sermon. The Bible reading is found in Luke 4.14-21.

Our second 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.

Children's and Adult Sunday School This Sunday

Adult Sunday School and Children's Sunday School are back in progress. Welcome to all ages!

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. Our goal is to help the boys and girls grow spiritually and have a night of fun and learning. Help yourself to additional copies of the upcoming events calendar on the sign-up table.

This weekend our youth along with High Point youth spent an exciting Winter Weekend at Camp Fairwood. The weather was perfect and they all had tons of fun.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ryan.

All Youth Go Sledding

This Wednesday night, January 27th, both the Kingdom Kids and the Unashamed Youth will be going sledding at Hiestand Park. As usual, please see Pastor Ryan for further information.

Women's Coffee Break Has Started Again

Women of all ages are welcome to come to Coffee Break Bible Study. Our Wednesday evening group meets every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:15–7:45 pm. Our morning group meets every Thursday morning from 9:00-10:30 am. Our Wednesday night group will start up again this week, January 13th, and our Thursday morning group started on January 7th. You are welcome to join at any time.

Listening & Discussion

Reminder: The Council reminds you of their invitation to join in our time of Listening and Discussion next Sunday after our morning service. Please refer to the letter sent to you and placed in your mail boxes for more information. Additional letters are located on the table in the foyer. The Council also encourages you to stay for a light lunch after this time together. As always, if you have questions or would like further information please talk to Pastor Doug or one of your Council members.

Luncheon Next Week

Following our Listening & Discussion next Sunday, January 31st, the Fellowship Committee will be serving a light lunch in the fellowship hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer for those who would like to help out with bringing a main dish, a fun salad or a dessert to share. The Fellowship Committee will provide coffee, water, lemon-aid, rolls and butter. Please contact Patty with any questions. We hope you will join us.

New Member's Class

Pastor Doug will be hosting a New Member's Class Sunday, February 7th from 1-4 pm. We will spend time becoming acquainted with basic tenets of the Reformed Faith, with the history of Crossroads Church that has made us who we are, discovering what membership in Crossroads Church involves. If you are interested in membership at Crossroads or just curious, please contact Pastor Doug about joining this class.

[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