

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.

Today I am troubled by the tone of our civil discourse in our country. The level of acceptance with which we listen as our candidates for the highest office of our land argue and debate disturbs me. I am bothered when name-calling, personal attacks and yelling become the norm and are applauded. I fear we have become, not only in name, the bullies on the playground. If so, we have lost our right to call ourselves a Christian nation. Christians do not bully, nor do they cheer when others do.

I suspect the primary reason I experience such anxiety and concern is I feel so helpless to stop it. I choose not to engage so as to avoid listening to such vindictiveness. And I remember God's claim on my life – to be one living in the character of Jesus.

Jesus says that when you and I live in the character of Jesus we become the salt of the earth. Salt is seldom at its best when it is the dominant ingredient. It serves very well, however, when it can add flavor, or help preserve.

I suspect Jesus understood human nature well enough to know that apart from his followers being the salt of the earth humanity would degenerate more quickly than it does, and our mess would be even greater.

Understanding this, I realize that I am not helpless in all of this. I may not be able to change the tone and nature of the rhetoric. However, I can be salt in the places where God has placed me. I can be kind and encouraging. I can choose to not demean or insult those God places in authority over me, regardless of how I see them behaving or governing.

I can be the quiet saltshaker on the table, adding flavor. All this may not feel like much, but according to Jesus it is the stuff that may just keep everything from turning upside down.

In last night's debate Governor Kasich was the salt of the earth when he refused to demean his opponents, and it was the encouragement I needed to once again hear Jesus' words, "*You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.*" *Matthew 5.13*

Be the salt of the earth today in the midst of all you encounter.

It's Not Too Late . . .

. . . to sign up for our *Making Disciplemakers* seminar tomorrow – Saturday morning from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. This promises to be an enjoyable and challenging time in which we learn how to respond to Jesus' call for all to make disciples of all nations. Come and discover very natural and everyday ways to care about people and reach out to love as Jesus does.

I'd love to see you tomorrow morning. Bring your Bible!

We will finish at noon, and have pizza available for those who wish to stay a little longer and ask questions or talk a little more on this important subject!

Sunday

Sunday: This Sunday is the fourth Sunday in Lent. Our Scripture passage is the familiar story of the two brothers and the father, all of whom have a party. Which party are you attending? The Bible reading is found in Luke 15.1-3, 11-32.

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.

Join us for Adult and Youth Education Classes after our worship.

Easter Flowers Due This Sunday

Easter flower orders are due today. You can place your order in the box on the signup table in the foyer with your payment. Checks can be made payable to *Crossroads Church*. Additional order forms are on the sign-up table. If you have any questions, please call Vonna. Thank you for your support.

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.

This Wednesday night, we will have our Group Chat. On Friday, February 26th we will be going to Tyrol Basin for a ski trip from 4-9 pm. If you have any questions or need details, please email Pastor Ryan.

Wednesday Evening Coffee Break

We invite you to join us this Thursday, March 3rd at 9:00 am for our morning Coffee Break Bible Study. Please remember March 9th and March 23rd, the Wednesday evening Coffee Break **will not** be meeting. Think about coming to our Thursday morning Coffee Break during this break. The Wednesday evening Coffee Break will reconvene on April 13th at 6:15pm. If you have any questions, please call Sue.

Reserve the Dates

Chili Luncheon & Movie

Everyone is invited next Sunday, March 13 after our church service to our chili luncheon and movie. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the foyer.

Geneva Campus Church

Dear friends at Crossroads Church: Your brothers and sisters at Geneva invite you to worship and observe the Lord's Supper with us at a Good Friday service, in the sanctuary at The Crossing (1127 University Ave.),

Friday, March 25, at 7 p.m. As you exit the service, you will have opportunity to contribute to an offering for World Renew. Everyone is invited to a simple supper prior to the service, at 6 p.m. It will be served in the Fellowship Hall downstairs at the Crossing building. You may park in The Crossing lot, or (free of charge except for metered spaces) in the zoology lot at the corner of Johnson and Charter; the entrance to the zoology lot is one block south of the entrance to the Crossing Lot

Next Weekend

Spring Ahead!

Next Sunday, March 13th Daylight Savings time begins so don't forget to **turn ahead** your clocks 1 hour on Saturday night. On the other hand, if you forget we'd love for you to join the Praise Team in practice!

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

[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]