

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.

I was with some friends yesterday. Some of us have lived most of our lives in Wisconsin while others of us are "immigrants" to this wonderful state. A few who have lived here all their lives were staring longingly out of the window when one of them said, "When is the sun going to shine?"

A few of us who have lived in West Michigan laughed. One of us commented that he should be thankful for only a few days like this during the winter because memory recalls winters in places like West Michigan where there can be 90 consecutive days where no sun is visible during the winter months.

This began some discussion on thanksgiving – on living with thanks. One of the realities, as illustrated by my friend's wistful desire to see the sun, is thanksgiving is often affected by context. When one simply assumes the sun is going to be seen most days, a few consecutive days of overcast grey becomes laborious. However, when one has experienced long sequences of this sunless daylight a few days of overcast is still reason to give thanks because one knows the sun will soon be seen.

The Bible is clear in its call for God's people to give thanks. This thanksgiving is to be in response to the greatness of God as well as simply rejoicing over what He does for us every moment of our lives.

The Bible also gives other reasons why giving thanks is a requirement for those who follow Jesus. Thanksgiving is an antidote to worry. Thanksgiving helps us deal with resentment we feel about our situation and toward others. Thanksgiving enables us to live more peaceably with ourselves and with others, and it prepares our hearts (attitudes) so we can stand before God without pouting or acting as if we are spoiled kids.

For what do you give thanks today? You may not like the grey overcast skies in Central Wisconsin today (not sure what it is like today in West Michigan), but there are things in your life for which you can lift your eyes and say, "Thank you, Jesus!" What are they?

Over the next few weeks you will be asked this question, and room will be given in this weekly e-mail for you to jot down your response. I would love if you would share these with me; but if not, the act of writing down or making a list will still change you.

In addition, beginning Sunday the 17th, we at Crossroads will have an insert in the bulletin asking us to jot down things for which we are thankful.

You may want to make it a daily exercise for 30 days (or maybe for this season of Lent you may choose to give up complaining, and as a help in this, daily list the things for which you are thankful).

Here is the space for you to begin your list:

Today I am thankful for . . .

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the first Sunday in *Lent*. Our Bible reading is from Deuteronomy 26.1-11. I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

Offering for the Month of March: InterVarsity

InterVarsity's vision is to see students and faculty transformed, campuses renewed, and world changers developed.

For over 75 years they have had a vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, courageously proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, engaging in discipleship around Scripture, and loving people of every ethnicity and culture.

Education for all Ages: Join us after the service for education classes.

This Week

Unashamed Youth

All youth 6th-12th grades are invited to join us on Wednesday nights 6:15-7:45PM! Our goal is to help young men and women grow spiritually and have fun while learning. *Dinner is provided!*

This Wednesday – March 13th:

Worldview: Meaning

For more detailed information and if you have any questions, please contact:

Pastor Ryan Moorad by email: crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com

KINGDOM KIDS

All children ages 4 through 5th grades are invited to Kingdom Kids on Wednesday nights 6:15-7:45PM.

We have a Bible lesson, some challenging crafts and super fun games! We encourage you to invite and bring friends along with you!

Dinner is provided!

This Wednesday – March 6th:

Unit 2: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Thursday Morning Coffee Break

*Every Thursday morning 9:00-10:45AM Studying a Coffee Break international bible study **The Book of Mark***

Save the Date

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting another fun event! Please mark your calendars for **Chili and a Movie on March 17th!**

AAA Driver's Safety Class: Come sign up for AARP's Smart Driver Course! You will learn defensive driving techniques, proven safety strategies, and new traffic laws and rules of the road. It will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, 9am-1pm, at Crossroads Church. Please call the church (608.222.1159) if you are interested in this for yourself or someone you love.

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