

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.

This coming Wednesday (March 6th) is Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of Lent.

Lent is the time in the church's year that helps us remember, reflect and focus on the suffering of Jesus and our participation in that suffering because of our failures and sin.

The 40 days of Lent is the church's way of helping us get in touch with our "dark" side that is hard to face or recognize – that side that majors in selfishness, self-centeredness, and self-blindness to our responsibility for the pain in our own lives and the lives of those around us.

40 Days of Lent – the interesting thing about Lent is that it goes for 6 weeks. By my math 7x6 is still 42 (plus the previous Wednesday through Saturday would make 46 days). What's with that?

That's the beauty of Lent. Lent does not include the 6 Sundays. When speaking about these 6 Sundays we refer to them as the 6 Sundays **in** Lent not **of** Lent. In other words, we recognize these Sundays as reminders not of Jesus' suffering and our responsibility in His suffering, but rather, as celebrations remembering, in the midst of the heaviness and darkness of the season, Jesus' victory. Sundays are our invitation and assurance of being included with the One who conquered death and sin with all of its darkness and evil, with all of its shame and guilt.

Another way of looking at this is that Sundays are the days God gives us to celebrate who we are in Christ! Sunday is the day we are told to cast aside all the guilt, all the shame, all the heaviness and relish the absolute wonder and beauty of who God is making us to be.

We may get beat up, walked on, put down, ridiculed, mocked, laughed at every other day of the week. But when we awake on Sunday morning and walk into church we do so as the amazing, gifted, free children of God because of what Jesus has done. Sunday is the day we are reminded of what is still to come. Sunday is the day we look forward to everything being new, wonderful, fulfilling, peaceful and exciting! We may not be experiencing all this today. But we know Sunday is coming! We know hope because Sunday is coming!

And someday, that Sunday of all Sundays will come and usher in a lifetime of Sundays!

It is for this day that I live. It is for the One who promises me that "Sunday is Coming" that I live, and move and have my being! I pray the same for you!

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the final Sunday of *Epiphany* as next week the season of *Lent* begins with *Ash Wednesday*. Our Bible reading is from Luke 9.28-36. 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 6th:

Ultra Zone

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:

Ultra Zone

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