

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.

On occasion I go back in time and check what I wrote on this corresponding date years ago. What you find below is from the May 13, 2011 weekly e-mail.

I know someone – actually, a very nice person – who throws all her change in a jar, and once or twice a year goes to a casino nearby and spends an evening at the slot machines. I have never been one to enjoy this sort of thing, but it sounded innocent enough. After all, who really misses spare change? And she is having fun – at least she always laughed when she would talk about this.

What do you do with your spare change? Spending money for vacations? Extra money for an extravagant purchase of some sports equipment or special clothing item? Dinner out with your sweetheart? Whatever the answer, many of us have experienced extra change as a guilt free avenue to spending we otherwise would not make. In this way it becomes a way to some small happiness.

What if this same change could provide medical care for a young mother, thereby increasing the chances of a child growing healthy and being able to get a good education? What if that little spare change could help someone needing counseling to propel them over the hump of a history of bad choices and destructive behavior? What if your change could help provide a home for a young person on the edge of despair? Would you be willing to forego your guilt-free spending spree if it could make a difference – a real difference for someone else's future?

I don't know anyone who is so self-focused, so inward looking that he or she would not be willing to give up the 75 cents a day to help a real need.

So here is my "spare change" challenge: Right now there are more than 175 of you who receive this weekly e-mail. Let's assume half of you read to this point – so we are beginning with 87 of you. How much of a difference can we make with our spare change in the next month? Are you willing to give it a shot with me? Over the next month put your spare change in a jar, dish or some container. When you get change, don't spend it. In fact, spare the customer behind you the aggravation of waiting as you dig in your purse or pocket for the "I think I have a penny" routine. Take your change home and at the end of the day add it to your container. Let's see how much we can raise to make a difference! On Father's Day week-end I'll ask you to let me know the amount you collected and to what organization you plan to donate. I'll tally up the amounts and organizations and let you know the results.

Just so we are clear, I do not want you to send me the money so I can distribute it. You take the money you collected and give it for some great cause. Here at Crossroads we've begun the Baby Bottle Campaign – a wonderful opportunity to help medically, educationally and emotionally those who seek the help of Care-Net. If you haven't yet taken a bottle for your change there are plenty remaining.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is just one example. There are many others. You choose! You save and collect. You distribute. Then you let me know so together we can know how we did!

75 cents a day doesn't sound like much. However, combined with 87 others it comes to nearly \$2,000!! Wanna give it a shot?!

Find a container (baby bottle?).

Empty your pockets or your change purse.

Invite your kids and your friends to join you.

Start collecting!

Oh, and while you are doing this, every time you throw the spare change in the container, say a prayer of thanks that you are blessed to be able to make this choice!! It'll change your day!

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the 5th Sunday of Easter. Our Bible reading is from Acts 11.1-18. – It is a story repeated from the chapter before, and it seems rather simple. Yet it is filled with wonder and amazement – Something like God Himself – it is a God story! 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 May: Care Net

Care Net provides services for women and men facing a pregnancy decision. They serve as “a source of compassion – forgiveness, understanding and love.” Building trusting relationships with their clients.

This Week

Interested in how the proposed remodel is coming along? The Building Committee will be meeting this coming Monday (20th) at 5:30 p.m. at the church. They invite you to join them to learn more about what is happening!

Unashamed Youth

This Wednesday - May 22nd:

Honor to Seniors

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

Pastor Ryan Moorad by email: crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com

KINGDOM KIDS

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Mark Your Calendars

Church-Wide Garage Sale

May 31st – June 1st from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you have things you'd like to contribute please bring them to the church. They can be placed in the "Craft Room" behind the front of the sanctuary. If you can help out in setting up or being available on the 31st or the 1st please let Vicki or me know.

Congregation Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting (budget & nominations of new elders and deacons) will be held on June 2nd after our morning worship service. More information will be available next week!

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