

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.

I was surprised by joy last evening. In the midst of what has been a less than extended family Christmas, I was surprised by joy.

As some of you know, I have been fighting a bad cold this past week. During the week I have avoided close contact with people, have not greeted parishioners with hugs or handshakes on Sunday. I have turned down hugs from friends who normally greet me with an embrace.

Christmas day I was not able to join with good friends because of the fear of passing on my cold to a friend whose immune system was already compromised. Throughout the week I had to forgo two breakfasts with children because no one wants a hacking coughing dining partner.

Tomorrow was to be the time of seeing kids and grandkids in Chicago, sharing our gifts with excited and expected young ones. It will not be. No mother needs her 1 year old exposed to something this nasty.

Even a New Year's Day resort trip is now up in the air.

All in all, this will not be a Christmas remembered as a high mark of shared joy with family.

However, last evening was our regular evening of practice with the Praise Team. Although I do not lead on Sundays with the Praise Team I do normally join them to sing through the songs for the upcoming service.

As we were singing I felt a quiet surge of joy. Singing lifted my spirit. Regardless of not feeling all that well physically, not being able to join family and friends in celebrating this past week, I experienced true joy simply in being able to join with a few voices praising God for 45 minutes.

It certainly hasn't been the first time I have felt joyful in singing. I remember High School Choir being a highlight of my day because I was getting credit for something I truly enjoyed.

However, last evening I was surprised by the surge of joy simply because the holiday week had not been what I had planned nor was the upcoming few days looking more hopeful.

This surprised by joy was again a reminder of how often God takes what I consider disappointments and discouragements and infuses His presence, peace and joy.

Maybe you have had a few of these surprises recently as well. I'd love to hear about them, as I'm sure would others.

Sharing these surprises from God is one simple way of honoring Him!

Thanks for allowing me to honor God in telling you one of my stories.

Have a wonderful week and be open to God's surprises.

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the First Sunday after Christmas. In the Church Year Christmas is not a one day celebration, but rather a 12 day of extending praise for the gift of Jesus. In worship we will continue to listen to Matthew as he tells us his story of the One who came as the Long Expected One. This Sunday we will hear the story of Jesus' escape to Egypt, and again see how God uses disappointment and tragedy to accomplish His purposes. Our Scripture Lesson is from Matthew 2. 13-18. I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

Our Offering:

Luke House - The Luke House Community Meal Program is staffed by nearly 40 faith communities from around the city. Each one takes responsibility for one meal a month – preparing the food, serving the food, and sharing the meal. On the second Thursday of every month Crossroads Church members prepare a delicious ham dinner for over 100 guests. The Luke House meal is a great way to work together for a good cause.

Have You Considered . . .

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE

DR MISSION TRIP!

Have you considered joining the 2018 DR Mission Team? Do you have questions about the trip? Pastor Doug and Vicki would love to talk to you about the trip. Dates for the adult trip are June 19-26 and youth trip will be June 12-19.

Get Added to the List

If someone forwarded you this e-mail, and you are not currently on our church's "e-mail list" but would like to be included in future mailings please send a return e-mail requesting this.

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