

# 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 am definitely not a winter person. The last time I went sledding I refused to go down the hill – my health is not worth the slide. I haven't skied or tobogganed since my Grade School and High School days respectively. Skating two years ago left my feet and back so sore I felt like I was 90.

On days like yesterday, give me a pile of oak and a fire place and I will be content the whole day. I am not a winter person.

But last night and this morning was amazing! Between the pops and booms from the frost quakes and the sun glistening off the icy blades of grass and tree branches the past 24 hours were an awesome display of God's beauty and creativity.

For those of you who may not know what a frost quake is (I did not either until Vicki schooled me last evening), it is a natural phenomenon that occurs when extremely cold temperatures lead to sudden deep freezing of the ground after it has become saturated with water. The sudden freeze causes the underground ice to expand, causing soil and rock to crack which produces the booms, and sometimes shakes.

The booms were so loud at times it sounded as if someone had hit the side of the house with a huge rock. I was concerned that something was becoming structurally unsound until Vicki sent me information on what the pops and booms were. Then I sat back and enjoyed the audible display (I just heard another pop as I was writing this).

And when this morning's sun shone the earth sparkled with splendor. I love the way ice storms are explained in Job:

*God's voice thunders in marvelous ways;*

*he does great things beyond our understanding . . .*

*The tempest comes out from its chamber,*

*the cold from the driving winds.*

*The breath of God produces ice,*

*and the broad waters become frozen. (37.5, 9-10)*

And then God confronts Job with these questions:

*From whose womb comes the ice?*

*Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens*

*when the waters become hard as stone,*

*when the surface of the deep is frozen? (38.29-30)*

Driving to church this morning and on I-94 this afternoon the trees absolutely sparkled – not one or two, not a row or so, but hundreds of trees all shimmering, as if God were winking with His glory.

In the last 24 hours God once again reminded me that He shines regardless of whether I happen to like the weather, the day or the circumstances of life. God's wonder and glory, God bringing out His best, is not dependent on my mood or my liking anything. He does what He pleases and He does it extremely well.

In all this God gently reminded me (ok, when the first few booms! sounded last night it did not feel so gentle) that life is best lived in simple trust in Him even when things don't always seem so great. Because He is great the life He gave me can be great!

Today, the "feels like -20" is amazing!

## Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the fifth (in case you are counting) Sunday after Epiphany Sunday. Our Bible Reading tells a great fish story what becomes incidental to a decision. Our Bible reading is from Luke 5.1-11. 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 February: Luke Society*

*The Luke Society provides resources and support for international Christian health visionaries passionate about ministering to needs in their own cultures. Our ministry empowers nationals to share the saving grace of the Gospel through preaching, teaching and healing.*

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

## Mark your Calendars!!

### Valentine Luncheon & Movie

The fellowship committee is hosting a Valentine Luncheon & movie on February 17th, after our church service. Childcare will be provided so parents can enjoy a romantic meal together as the kids enjoy a meal with each other. After lunch we will be showing the movie *Love's Abiding Joy*.

Please let us know if you are able to attend so we can plan accordingly. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the narthex table.

## **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 – February 13:***

***Worldview—Origin***

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

**Pastor Ryan Moorad** by email: [crossroadsmadisonyouth@gmail.com](mailto: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 - February 13<sup>th</sup>:***

***Joseph Interprets Dreams***

## ***Thursday Morning Coffee Break***

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

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]