



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

Celebrating the Lord's provision

Members and friends of CrossWay gathered on a sunny Sunday, Feb. 23, to dedicate the new south wing of CrossWay Community Church, enjoying a pot-luck buffet lunch, hearing presentations on the history and prospects for the celebrated addition, watching a continuous slide show of every stage of construction and thanking our Lord for His provision of funds, workers and patience.

The large gathering followed a Sunday morning service of praise and worship in our sanctuary and demonstrated how flexible and useful our new meeting hall is ... and how functional and beautiful is our new kitchen, right there in a corner of the multipurpose room. A good feast, good conversation,



inspiring speeches by our pastors, contractor Dave Pray, architect Nathan Funk, church chairman Bob Greenhoe and elder Bob Johnston (above), were followed by some fun on the basketball court.

You have been asked!

Our children's ministry is in need of a two-weeks-a-quarter helper in serving our babies in the nursery during the worship service.



At the same time, our toddlers need you to volunteer as a "teacher" during the worship service, also two Sundays per quarter.

Please do not wait to be approached personally! Please do pray about this call to you and your fellow churchgoers, and then contact Becky Alves to volunteer. She's in the fellowship directory.

Thank you!

The CrossWay kitchen team — and really all of us! — offer a word of thanks to those ladies who brought needed items for our new kitchen at our "kitchen shower" on Feb. 1. We are equipped, in so many ways, to offer hospitality in style, thanks to so many CrossWay families.

This month, we resume our regular schedule of first-Saturday Dutch-treat ladies' breakfast together, 9 a.m. at IHOP on 28th Street. All ladies — and girls! — are welcome!

And the men — and boys! — of CrossWay are welcome at the monthly Dutch-treat breakfast at Bob Evans, also on 28th.



Observing Lent Together

Each Wednesday evening this month, we'll be observing Lent together at CrossWay.

After a light supper of homemade soups and bread, Pastor Funk will present Scripture lessons and teachings on the theme of "Keeping Lent."

On page two, we publish the complete schedule for this Lenten series, including the services for Holy Week and Easter.

The Season of Lent



Coming Up at CrossWay Community

- Every Sun. 10 a.m. Worship together
- Every Sun. 11:30 a.m. Sunday School (all ages)
- Every Sun. 6 p.m. Book Club (coordinator Brenda Weilnau)
- Every Tues. 1 p.m. Ladies Bible study
- Every Wed. 6 p.m. Lent Light supper & teaching
- Every Wed. after L.L. Hinkle small group
- Every Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m. Learn Biblical Hebrew (here)
- Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m. *Wholyfit* exercise (church hosting)
- March 7 9 a.m. Ladies' Breakfast @ IHOP
- March 7 9 a.m. Men's Breakfast @ IHOP
- March 10 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. Pres. Preference Primary Election
- March 10 & 24 6:30 p.m. Veurink small group @ A. Le's
- March 22 6 p.m. All-church prayer meeting

Thank you for giving!



The young moms and their babies who are served by the Pregnancy Resource Center of Grand Rapids — and the center staff — are blessed and grateful for the generosity of CrossWay families in filling baby bottles with change, bills and checks for donation to the work of this caring Christian ministry. Your church thanks you, too!

Get your smile ready!



We're trying something new this year ... adding photos to the church fellowship directory to help us all recognize each other and call our fellow churchgoers by name. After all, CrossWay is known as a welcoming congregation!

So, please say “yes” and smile for the camera when you're asked to pose. Julia Stevens has joined Pam Reed and Penny Pullen on the photo team, so don't be surprised if one of these three ladies approaches you.

About our denomination

CrossWay Community is the only church in Grand Rapids and immediate environs which affiliates with the Evangelical Free Church of America, an association of autonomous churches united around the same theological convictions.

Many of us were drawn to acquaintance with CrossWay by the denomination's commitment to sound Biblical preaching. Upon formally joining, our members become knowledgeable also about the denomination's Statement of Faith and are asked by our pastors to subscribe to that statement.

The 10 topics of the EFCA Statement of Faith will be featured, one each month, in the *Current* during 2020. In this March edition, we offer the Statement's second principle:

The Bible

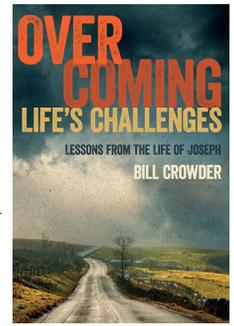
We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

New to the CrossWay library

Featured this month is *Overcoming Life's Challenges: Lessons from the Life of Joseph* by Bill Crowder.

Sign it out of our library and enjoy a trip back to Genesis for a look again at the life of Joseph, who shows us what it means to walk by faith in the midst of overwhelming trials.

Our thanks to *Our Daily Bread* for providing this resource to CrossWay.



Inclement weather

On rare occasions, we need to call off or postpone activities — even (though infrequently!) a Sunday service. If you are wondering, tune in to WOOD-TV (ch. 8), WZZM (ch. 13) or WCSG Radio (91.3 FM). We'll notify them if we need to cancel.



Wednesday Night Lent Light

A 40-Day Observance for Lent 2020
CrossWay Community Church

“Keeping Lent”: A Season for Reflecting and Practicing

Schedule: 6 Wednesday Evenings

Lent Light Soups and Bread Supper 6:00-6:40 p.m.

Teaching Series 6:45-7:25 p.m.

Closing Prayer 7:25-7:30 p.m.

Scripture Lessons and Themes

Feb. 26 – Introduction: The What & Why of “Lent”

Matthew 4:1-11, 6:16-18 – Fasting: Jesus' and Ours

March 4: Ephesians 4:13 – Maturing

March 11: Ephesians 4:20-22 – Changing

March 18: Psalm 40:10, Luke 10:38-42 – Resting

March 25: Joel 2:12-14 – Returning

April 1: Matthew 3:1-12 – Repenting/Preparing/Producing

Summary: The Essence of “Keeping Lent”

Looking Ahead . . .

April 5: Palm Sunday Service (10 a.m.)

April 10: Good Friday Service (7 p.m.)

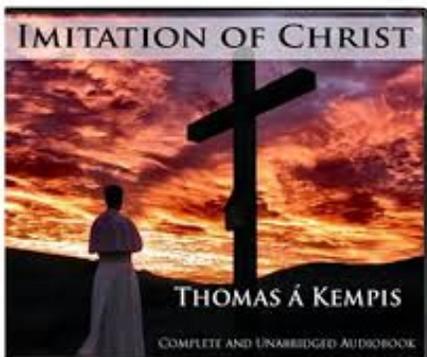
April 12: Easter Brunch (8:30 a.m.)

April 12: Easter Sunday Service (10 a.m.)

This message
from Pastor Bob Funk

Lent, Life and *The Imitation of Christ*

Our church is now in the midst of the Christian season of Lent, and we will be fast approaching “Holy Week” and the grand celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Church has historically encouraged us not to hurry to Holy Week but, rather, to slow down our approach so that we may prepare for our remembrance of Christ’s saving work by drawing near to Him. It is now a season for reflecting on our lives in this world, of re-calibrating our desires and passions through repentance and returning to the Lord as His Word and Spirit guide us.



As some of you know, one of my favorite devotional classics is *The Imitation of Christ*, by Thomas A Kempis. Next to the Bible, no other Christian book has been reprinted more or sold more throughout history. *The Imitation* begins with 25 short chapters on what has been called “The Way of Purgation.” As Fr. Dennis Billy wrote,

“This beginning stage of the spiritual life encourages us to let go of those things that hinder us in our walk with the Lord. It points out the various temptations and undue attachments that keep us from growing in the life of the Spirit...Knowledge of self, caution toward the allurements of the world, a disciplined regimen of prayer, and reliance on God’s grace are necessary steps that each of us must take on our walk to Christian maturity.”



To “imitate Christ” means, among other things, to meditate on His life and words, to walk in His ways and to draw near to Him in faith and with longing hearts, that we may know Him better and love God more. In light of these thoughts, and in line with our Lenten observance, I offer you the following quotes from Chapter One of *The Imitation* for your prayerful reflection:

- “Anyone who follows Me shall not walk in darkness,” says the Lord. These are the words of Christ, and by them we are reminded that we must imitate His life and His ways if we are to be truly enlightened and set free from the darkness of our own hearts. Let it be the most important thing we do, then, to reflect on the life of Jesus.”
- “So, it is vanity to seek material wealth that cannot last and to place your trust in it. It is also vanity to seek recognition and status. It is vanity to chase after what the world says you should want and to long for things you should not have, things you will pay a high price for later on if you get them. It is vanity to wish for a long life and to care little about a good life. It is vanity to focus only on your present life and not to look ahead to your future life. It is vanity to live for the joys of the moment and not to seek eagerly the lasting joys that await you.”
- “Make every effort, then, to shift your affections from the things that you can see to the things you cannot see, for people who live in the world on its terms instead of on God’s stain their conscience and lose God’s grace.”

May our Easter be not only “happy,” but also full of God’s Presence and grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel



*'Got
Jesus?'*

“Got milk?” was an advertising campaign in the 1990s that encouraged the consumption of milk, often showing a famous and fit person with a “milk-stache” above their upper lip. In this article, I’d like to ask the questions, “Got Jesus?” And, what might be the Biblical version(s) of the “milk-stache,” showing we indeed do have Jesus? Here’s a few rambling thoughts:

- If I’ve “got” Jesus, it’s because He first “got” me. This is another way of acknowledging verses like John 6:44, 15:16 and I John 4:19. The beauties of this truth abound! At its core, I acknowledge if I have any interest in “getting” Jesus, it’s because He is first drawing me.
- I “got” Jesus if my heart’s core *desire* is to love Him. I get this idea from Scriptures like Jeremiah 31:33 and Ezekiel 36:25-27 that speak of the new heart (desire/motivation) given to us in the New Covenant. Yes, I do acknowledge, even believers who truly “get” Jesus do not always love Him, but we truly want to love Him. It’s part of our new DNA.
- My “Jesus-stache” can be seen not only in my *desire* to love Him but in my *actual obedience* (again, albeit imperfect) to His commands (John 14:21), which includes loving His kids, a/k/a the church. Have you ever heard someone say something like, “I love Jesus, I just don’t like the church/Christians”? Well, according to the Bible, if your love for Jesus is true, you will also love His kids. (I John 2:9-10) We do not merely love the *abstract idea* of love, but our “Jesus-stache” can be seen in laying down our lives for one another in tangible ways. (I John 3:16-18)
- Perhaps counterintuitively, I can be reasonably assured I “got Jesus” when I doubt I “got” Him. If you are mourning the lack of Jesus’s presence

in your life, this might be because you have been closer to Him in the past. People do not lament the loss of something (Someone) they have never had. And so, with our “Got Jesus?” question, when I am feeling lost, wondering if He’s in my life, maybe His Spirit is suggesting something like, *“I know you’re not feeling Jesus lately, and maybe even you’re a bit disillusioned and disappointed in Him, but that’s okay, because I got you.”* Similarly, I love the advice John Piper gives Christians who might be struggling with depression. He says, *“Stop looking at your faith, and rivet your attention on Christ. Faith is sustained by looking at Christ, crucified and risen, not by turning from Christ to analyze your faith. ... Paradoxically, if we would experience the joy of faith, we must not focus much on it. We must focus on the greatness of our Savior.”* (John Piper: *When I Don’t Desire God*, p. 218)

On a more personal note, one thing I have learned, am learning over the years, is that even when I begin to doubt Him, His goodness, timing, sovereignty, etc., and I don’t sense Him or have much pleasure in Him, He has *always* drawn me back to Him. I needed a Savior when I first met Him, and I am even more aware now, some 40-plus years later, that I *still* need a Savior. Even on those days when I’m not sure I’ve “got” Him, He’s *got me* in the palm of His nail-scarred hands, holding me close. (Isaiah 40:11; John 10:28-29) It’s easier sometimes to believe the lines in the song that says, “He’s got the whole *world* in His hand” But by His grace, I pray we will believe on a more personal and intimate level the lines that say, “He’s got *you and me*, brother, in His hands.”

Brothers and sisters, He’s got you.

CrossWay missions this month

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” — the last recorded words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)

He spoke to His disciples, and they obeyed His command. But He meant it for all believers, down through the ages. And that means us.



CrossWay has a long history of supporting missionaries who leave their native land and go to the nations in His Name and for His glory. Our present roster of missionaries are serving in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. They plant churches, train leaders, form networks of frontline workers, serve medical needs, produce television programming, organize Bible studies and prayer groups, and build relationships. You can join a prayer/communications support team by contacting a member of our Missionary Support Steering Committee: Marcy Greenhoe, RaeAnne Hansberry, and Dennis Veurink.

We’ve also formed a Missions Outreach Steering Committee (Annette Doerr, Stella Michael, and Paul Samuelson) to organize our congregation’s approach to immigrants and refugees who live in the neighborhood of our church building. We invite others to join this effort. Please inquire of one of these leaders or CrossWay Missions Coordinator Pam Reed. They’re all in the fellowship directory.

Standing in the need of prayer



Zhang Wen Shi, also known by his Korean name and title as Deacon Jang, is an ethnically Korean Chinese citizen who lived in Changbai, China, a town on the border between China and North Korea.

North Koreans often visit Chinese border towns to purchase goods for reselling in North Korea, to seek medicine or other help, and to conduct business.

Deacon Jang regularly hosted these visiting North Koreans for days and weeks at a time before they returned to North Korea. He supplied their physical needs and shared his faith with them, winning many converts.

In November 2014, Deacon Jang was kidnapped from China and put in a North Korean prison. Deacon Jang was sentenced to 15 years in prison for his ministry to the North Korean people. 🙏

CHALLENGE



passions of its youth conference attendees, some 5,300 strong — entering 7th grade through completing 12th grade, joining together to worship God.

CHALLENGE is your opportunity to break out of the walls and serve God’s Kingdom. A \$50 commitment fee entitles you to lodging and meals in Kansas City, Missouri, July 13-17. Requirements: minimum 21 years old, have a heart for teenagers, love to talk about your faith in Jesus Christ, resonate with the Challenge values, ready & willing to serve wherever needed.

This youth gathering has proven to be a catalytic environment challenging students to live on mission with Jesus every day, everywhere, and with everyone. It’s also been instrumental in bringing students to a saving faith in Jesus. From start to finish, it’s about the glory of God in the face of Christ (II Cor. 4:6). He’s the One they’ll remember and talk about when they go home.

How about you? Are you ready for a CHALLENGE? Check it out at challengeconference.org. It’s a life-changer!

Love Jesus? Perhaps, then, you’re looking for ways to pour into the lives of our youth. The Evangelical Free Church of America, our denomination, is seeking volunteers to stoke the



*Lights ...
music, poetry
... and coffee!*



*First 2020
CrossWay Coffeehouse
January 31*



*A fine, rockin' time
was had by all
in our new boom room!*

Our long-awaited south wing ... dedicated to God

*Glorious gathering ...
Sunday,
February 23*



What's a party without a scrumptious cake?



Church chairman Bob Greenhoe telling the story



Service at our new kitchen



And a sumptuous buffet!



Uncrowded space for a nice-sized crowd!



The man who made it happen ... honored guest Dave Pray, general contractor



Architect Nathan Funk delivering his "baby"



Souvenir coffee mugs, CrossWay signature t-shirts ... a little extra help for the building fund