



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

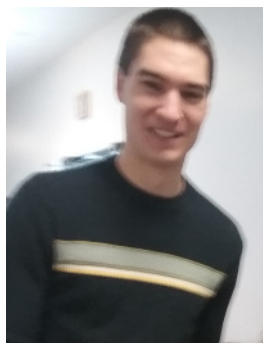
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Decisions, decisions . . .

CrossWay's congregation is called to gather for business on Sunday, May 19, following our worship service. It's time for our Annual Congregational Meeting, where we'll hear ministry reports of this past ministry year and make decisions regarding leadership and budget for our next ministry year, beginning June 1. (Light refreshments will be available, as these meetings tend to run through the lunch hour.)

One such decision has been in the making for several months and has been concluded by the hiring of Cody Hinkle as our new part-time Ministry Coordinator. Cody will be meeting with leadership team members and launching some new ways of organizing our various activities for future ministry to the glory of the Lord. He's written a note to the congregation about his new role, which we publish here:

Brothers and Sisters,



I'm excited to begin serving as CrossWay's ministry coordinator. Perhaps you have questions regarding what this position entails. So do I! While we are still determining practical day-to-day responsibilities for the position, our big-picture hope is to improve the ability of CrossWay's members to love and serve. Our first step toward this goal has been to arrange recurring meetings for ministry team leaders. These meetings will focus on how existing ministries at CrossWay intersect with and influence one another. We'll also discuss unmet needs at CrossWay and develop plans to communicate these needs to the congregation. Have something to contribute to these meetings? Please e-mail me. (Flagging me down in the lobby is fine also, but e-mail will help me keep things organized.)

Yours,
Cody

(Cody's e-address is in the fellowship directory.)

Many hands ...

Our building and grounds folks are



calling for volunteers to enhance our look

on Sat., May 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Plan to bring your lawn and garden gear, including a wheelbarrow or two, along with some basic tools and cordless drills. Lunch will be provided for those willing to help with spreading mulch, installing new landscape timbers, and accomplishing some light carpentry tasks. We might also be asking for help with moving our Evening at Bethlehem set pieces to offsite storage.

Let's get it done, so we can look our best for the fresh season upon us. (Contact Bob Johnston.)



Join the fun at CrossWay's CoffeeHouse
 Friday, May 3, 7 p.m.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

- Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, south wing classroom
- Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
- Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Ladies weekly Bible study
- Tuesdays • 1^{PM} - 3^{PM} • Neighborhood prayer walk
- Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home
- Wednesdays • 6:30^{PM} • Underhill Club @ Marchiones'
- Wed., May 1 • 7^{PM} • Elder meeting
- Thurs., May 2 & 16 • 6:30^{PM} • Small group @ Le's
- Fri., May 3 • 7^{PM} • CrossWay Coffeehouse**
- Sat., May 4 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
- Sat., May 4 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
- Sun., May 5 • 11:30^{AM} • All church prayer meeting
- Sun., May 5 • 12:30^{PM} • Stevens pre-wedding Meet & Greet**
- Sat., May 18 • 9^{AM} - 2^{PM} • Spring Work Day**
- Sun., May 19 • 12:30^{PM} • Annual congregational meeting**

A great time to be in Budapest!

Our own Matthew Robles went to Budapest for five days in April expecting to attend the Budapest City Team's Summit conference. We'll hear his in-person report during our Sunday School hour on June 9. In the meantime, let's take a sneak peak at other happenings associated with Matthew's short-term mission trip:

'The Big Event'

That's what full-time Kingdom Ambassador Kate has called the arts program she and husband Matyas helped organize as an outreach. It took place the evening of Matthew's arrival, but the team was short on cash to purchase very necessary arts materials for it. Thanks to CrossWay, Kate knew Matthew would be bringing some (rummage sale) cash with him for her use, and *voila!* Need filled! Happy artists display their work:

Made possible



by the hand of God

Kate says: "Here are photos from last night! We had 19 people come! Two new people who spoke only Ukrainian, plus 17 others speaking Spanish and English! We did have a Hungarian come, but she enjoyed practicing her English with the others.

"The topic was 'dance in the rain,' based on the quote: 'Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain,'" based on Habakkuk 3:17-19

*"Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls,
yet I will rejoice in the Lord,
I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

*The Sovereign Lord is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,
he enables me to tread on the heights."*

You're invited





Caleb Ward is stepping on stage again with the Koinonia Players. This time, a stage adaptation of Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. Kent Theatre in Cedar Springs, May 10 at 2 p.m. and May 11 at both 2 and 7 p.m. See the Ward family for ticket information.

New Hungarian church underway

Matthew, to the right of Kate in this photo, was privileged to attend a fellowship event for the new Hungarian Church Kate and Matyas are planting. The couple succeeded in bringing together 34 people, made up of 15 volunteers and 19 guests, for a wonderful time of getting to know each other, study God's Word and worship, led together by Kate and Matyas.



Please pray for:

-  African worship night event May 11
-  Hungarian worship event May 25
-  Hungarian fellowship event May 26
-  Peace in Ukraine in the midst of war escalation
-  God's increased financial provision to meet ReachGlobal requirements to stay on the field

You're welcome to add to CrossWay's support for this couple. Write tax-deductible checks to

EFCA - ReachGlobal

attn: Donor Services - gift designation #2348

901 East 78th Street

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55420

or

Online -- <http://bit.ly/kondorgiving>

Your giving counts



The totals are in for the CrossWay response to the Pregnancy Resource Center's Baby Bottle Campaign. Our congregation gave a total of \$433.85 over the course of about a month. Just think of all the support that offers to new moms!

New to the CrossWay library

This month, we're featuring a pair of books, new to the library but published in 1990 & 1991. They're paired for obvious reasons: *How to Say Goodbye: Working Through Personal Grief*, by Joanne Smith and Judy Biggs; and *How to Survive the Loss of a Love*, by the team of Melba Colgrove, Ph.D., and Harold Bloomfield, M.D., along with Peter McWilliams. Both are practical volumes and handy to have in a church library, for when the need arises. They'll be displayed near the lobby coffee bar.



Just because He sings

“He will rejoice over you with singing. . .”
(Zephaniah 3:17).

“In the church I will sing your praises.”
(Hebrews 2:12)

“On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone — while the morning stars sang together?”
(Job 38:6-7)

“And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy . . .”
(Revelation 5:9)

“They sang the song of God’s servant Moses and of the Lamb.”
(Revelation 15:3)

We sing, the angels sing, and God sings. God loves singing. He loves singing over you. Just because.

While it is true the *“voice of the LORD is also powerful and majestic . . .”* (Ps.29:4), I believe the songs He most wants you to hear are songs born of redemption. Songs born of the delight He has in renewed relationships that were once estranged. That’s the kind of songs He sings in Zephaniah and the kind of songs you hear being sung in the book of Revelation. Those are the kind of songs Jesus sings in churches that gather to praise Him. (Heb. 2:12)

Imagine a newborn baby. The baby of course is messy, needs to be cleaned up from the difficult event of birth. “There,” the nurses, or new Mom and Dad might say, after cleaning up the newborn’s first dirty diaper — “all clean!” Well, “all clean” of course until the next time (usually five minutes after the last clean-up!) and the spit-ups and mess-ups the newborn infant brings. All along the Dad and Mom, delighted to have this new family member, sing over the child. Lullabies. Songs of delight and comfort. They take the baby after another messy clean-up, wrap the baby in a blanket, get in the rocking chair and soothe the baby with singing.

Now I ask you: What has that baby done to “deserve” such tender love and care? You say, “absolutely nothing.” The only thing the baby can “give” (beside the messes) is the inestimable joy that comes to the Mom and Dad, Grandmas and Grandpas and all the siblings, that “this baby is ours.” We belong together. He or she came from me. The messes are just a part of the deal. So, I ask you, What do you and I bring to our Heavenly Father, as those who have been born-again into His family?

Other questions: How many “messes” do we make each day—mental, emotional, relational, spiritual — those messes that often meander to and affect about every relationship around us? Sometimes I wonder if our Heavenly Father ever wants to stop singing over us.

At this point in my relationship with Jesus, while I get tired of me and imagine He does, too, the answer to this question has been a clear and convincing “NO!” It’s His kindness, His singing over His wayward people that gives us the ability, incentive and motivation to repent, to come back to Him and begin to hear, again and again, the party music for the prodigal.

So let me ask you again: besides “dirty diapers,” what do you bring to God the Father that would move Him to sing over you or invite you to come and sing new songs of salvation along with Him? I would suggest we really don’t bring a whole lot, if anything, that would move Him to sing over us. What moves Him to sing over us, as far as I can tell, are two simple things: 1) His “just because” love, and 2) our need for His tender mercies – again.

Christian songwriter Matt Redmond penned a song titled “The Father’s Song” based on the Father’s singing over His restored people Israel in Zephaniah 3:17-18. Some of the words: “I have heard so many songs, Listened to a thousand tongues, But there is one that sounds above them all - The Father’s song. The Father’s love - You sung it over me and for eternity. It’s written on my heart. Heaven’s perfect melody. The Creator’s symphony. You are singing over me - The Father’s song. Heaven’s perfect mystery - The King of love has sent for me. And now you’re singing over me - The Father’s song. You sing it over me – Father.”

Think once again of the baby. Why do the Father and Mother love this precious child? Is it because of the sleepless nights, spit-ups, throw-ups, etc.?! Not at all, but the loving Mom and Dad love in spite of all that. Just because. This is their child. YOU are God’s child. Whatever form your messiness might take, do not let it keep you from the love song of our God. Give Him your fears, your sins, your worries, yes, all your “messes” — all the things you are tempted to feel shame over — and listen instead, not to the voice of shame, but to the voice of a Father’s delight in His child. Just because.