

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17) - August 28, 2022

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

– Hebrews 13:8 -

“We live in uncertain times.” Every generation going all the way back to Adam and Eve probably uttered the same words. And to a certain extent, I agree with the statement. There’s a lot of “stuff” that happens in this sin-stricken world that we aren’t certain about. We don’t know what the world will be like when our great-great grandchildren live through it. “Uncertain times” can be scary, but for the Christian, there’s “certainty” even in “uncertain times”.

2020. Enough said, right? 2020 brought on the Covid-19 outbreak throughout the world, riots throughout cities in the U.S. leading to outrage and anger, churches and businesses put in positions to close their doors for a time - it was unbelievable in many ways. We know that 2021 and 2022 haven’t been a walk in the park either. Fighting continues, uncertainty continues. But there is certainty in the midst of it, and it comes in the form of Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ doesn’t change.

It is said that Bill and Gloria Gaither felt uncertain and worried about the future for their newborn baby. They noticed the chaos of the world around them. It’s the same world we live in today: a world filled with many dangers, the threat of war not far off. As a mom to three young kids, I find myself feeling the same anxiety. Any parent would. It’s hard trying to explain why certain countries invade other ones, why people would murder another human, why someone we look up to would harm an innocent child. It’s hard to explain because we don’t fully understand it as adults. We can’t make sense of it, other than we know that evil is real, the devil exists and has power. Well, even though Bill and Gloria Gaither worried about their newborn baby growing up in a world full of sin, God provided peace and solace for them. He gave them the words of a song that would become a popular one for many Christians. The Gaithers recorded the words: “Because He lives, I can face tomorrow / Because He lives, all fear is gone, Because I know He holds the future / And life is worth the living, just because He lives.” Yes, we live in uncertain times. That’s the nature of a sinful world. But we also have the certainty that Jesus Christ never changes. And for that we can find peace, we can face tomorrow because he lives.

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THIS WEEK AT CROSS

- Mon. 8/29 Pastor’s Day off
1st day of School, Opening Chapel 7:45 am
Normal office hours resume
- Tues 8/30 New member class
- Wed. 8/31 Confirmation Classes 5:30 - 7:30 pm
- Thurs. 9/1 Jean Quilts 1 pm, School Board 5:30 pm, Properties 7 pm
- Fri. 9/2 NO School
- Sun. 9/4 Worship Service with Holy Communion 9:30 am

RALLY DAY - We are getting back to Sunday School this fall with a **Sundae Sunday Rally!** On Sunday, September 11th, at 10:45 am (after the church service), families are invited to join in the gym for ice cream sundaes, games, and sign up for Sunday School. Everyone signing up receives a special gift! Sunday School classes will begin on Sunday, September 18th promptly at 8:45 am and end at 9:25 am. If you are unable to attend the Sundae Sunday Rally, please join us on the 18th.

NEW CROSS CHURCH MEMBER CLASS - Those interested in becoming a member of Cross Lutheran Church will have the opportunity to attend a new member class Tuesday, August 30 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

UPCOMING CONFIRMATION CLASSES - **Wednesday**, August 31st, the 6th/7th grade class will be held from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. and the 8th grade class will be held from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The 9th grade class will be held from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm starting Wednesday, September 21. If you would like your son or daughter to attend confirmation classes, please contact Pastor Glenn or notify the church office.

Contributions for Sunday, 8/21 were:	\$6,539.36
Budgeted need:	\$6,056.00
Above Budget:	\$ 483.36

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
8/30 Dave Jarvis	9/28 Norm & Tonja Nelson, 51 yrs.
8/31 Joshua Higgins Stephen Schuette	9/02 Mike & Connie Eden, 44 yrs. Ken & Betty Licht, 55 yrs.
9/03 Ken Schulze	9/03 Al & Peggy Licht, 39 yrs.

BUILDING FUND - We would like to thank everyone for their support to the Building Fund. At the present time though, we need more support. Any amount in dollars will help. Remember, we all approved this fine church and school. We believe Cross Lutheran stands out in the community as a shining beacon to all. Our growing school enrollment is proof to that. Norm Nelson - Stewardship

FAREWELL - Cross bids a fond farewell to the Henkelmann family who have been faithful members here at Cross for many years. Anyone wishing to stay in contact with them can do so at the following address:

Fred & Raylene Henkelmann,
Stoney Point Meadows, 1900 Stoney Point Rd. SW #301,
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404.

THOSE IN NEED OF CONTINUED PRAYER

Beth Elston, Lydia Decker, Robbi Shaffer, Muriel Hurdelbrink, Dorothy Henne, Joe Stodola, Matt Edler, Janet Schumacher, Dave Jarvis, Larry Adams, Al Collison, Rachel Higgins, Michelle Walsh, Anna House, Susan Beller, Hope Kittel, Bill Hurdelbrink, Delores Johnson, Inez Buchholz, Noah Adams, Kyle Walker, Whitney Peyerk, Kayle Thepsourinthone, Kay Schuette, Roberta Danks, Posie Tuckey, Corey Messing, Marvin Trost, Kevin Faupel, Ezra Sturm, Deann Lewis, and Robert Krzeszewski.

THOSE IN THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOMES

Dolores Elftman and Martin Knost

THOSE IN THE HONORABLE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY

Nathan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Ryan Schulz (U.S. Marines), Nicholas Swanson (U. S. Air Force), and Michael Cox (U. S. Navy)

Please remember to keep all of those on our prayer lists in your personal prayers and reach out to them with cards of encouragement.

Women of Faith Devotional/Bible Study

The next two meeting dates are Saturday, September 10 and Saturday, October 15. We have a **new beginning time of 9:30 AM** and are done in approximately 1 hour. Books are still available and you are welcome to join in at any time. Please speak with LuAnne Sokolowski or contact the church office if you are interested. Our devotional book cost is \$11. If you would like to preview the book, you can take one from the shelf in the overflow area near the mailbox unit.

Hope In the LORD

Find the 24 bold words from Psalm 131:1-3 (ESV)

E V H Z Q B K U X I O P U A Y
 Q R N E M Z B L Z X I R I G S
 R B O U A C V G D C J H P T T
 H I T M W R R E Z K Y I Y J P
 D C F Q R E T Y L C G S P J I
 Z D E N A E W F P K O R U F X
 N I H T I W V Z D V P A C N E
 D J G U S E Y E B K D E C P L
 X O Q M E D M A R V E L O U S
 O P K M D L H Y M O T H E R M
 H H I Z A I F F S O F T V Z O
 C T F C G H T R O E I R R A Y
 R F B H I C H M U K L O R D A
 D F O W W K X B L A J F K Y J
 I O K P D P X D N A N B U D L

O LORD, my **heart is not lifted** up; my **eyes** are not **raised too high**; I do not **occupy myself** with things too **great** and too **marvelous** for me. But I have **calmed** and **quieted** my **soul**, like a **weaned child** with its **mother**; like a weaned child is my soul **within** me. O **Israel**, **hope** in the **LORD** from this **time forth** and forevermore.

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