

United Methodist Church of the Cross



Living the Word

A CARING COMMUNITY REACHING OUT TO TRANSFORM LIVES THROUGH KNOWING, LOVING AND SERVING GOD!

SEPTEMBER 2017

Get Refreshed On Wednesdays (G.R.O.W.)

Beginning Wednesday, August 30, 2017

Schedule:

5:30-6:15 Grateful Grub (meal)

6:15 Worship together

6:30-7:45 Small Groups



The children will Dig In with their new Studies to include Science, Crafts, games, and music.

The 5 Love Languages



Sunday Aug 27
Wed Aug 30



Sunday Sept 3
Wed Sept 6



Sunday Sept 17
Wed Sept 20



Sunday Sept 24
Wed Sept 27



Sunday Oct 1
Wed Oct 4

Grasping the Width, Length, Height and Depth of the Love of Christ

On August 19, 2017 we gathered in Trinity UMC's Family Life Center for our second all church retreat—a gathering, that like last year's retreat, was centered on a nautical theme inspired by a Bible passage (Luke 5:1-11 this year). This passage finds Jesus advising a group of discouraged fishermen who are cleaning their nets on the shore of the Sea of Galilee after an unsuccessful night of fishing to go out to deeper waters and let down their nets for a large catch. In heeding this advice the fishermen, and their boats, are overwhelmed by a copious catch of fish. The passage closes with Jesus telling this group that they will no longer spend their energies catching fish but will, instead, thereafter be fishers of people.

Drawing on this story of heading to deeper waters in order to experience an abundant catch as our source of inspiration we spent our morning exploring the connection this story illustrates between going deeper in our individual and corporate experience of God's power and grace and our ability to live into our church mission statement. The connection is easily recognized when we remember that we claim to be: "A Caring Community reaching out to transform lives through knowing, loving and serving God" and notice that the first part of this plan of action calls for us to know God.

Throughout our morning at Trinity the vision that our leadership teams have cast aimed at allowing COC members/attendees to know God more deeply was presented. In the pages of this month's newsletter you will see some of these growth opportunities described. When we speak of knowing God it's key for us to realize we're not just talking about head knowledge, but are talking about something much deeper, something like what Paul, in prayer, asks for the church at Ephesus as he writes, saying:

I pray that out of his glorious riches [God, the Father] may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge —that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

As we make our way through the remainder of 2017 and into 2018 we at COC are going to be laser focused on offering opportunities for people to experience all that Paul requests for the Ephesians. We are currently in the process of recruiting and training leaders for groups that will allow people to engage in practices that will connect them with the Holy Spirit and cause them to be strengthened with power in their inner being. Leaders who will make it possible for our members and regular attendees to participate in activities that will enable Christ, through faith, to dwell in their hearts. Leaders who will help people access the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is.

"Deep calls to deep," says Psalm 42:7a, this attractiveness of "depth" is the point Luke is making when he has Jesus telling his first disciples they will be fishers of people going forward. Depth calling to depth, as Paul describes it in Ephesians 3 is the sole function for which the church exists. The absence or presence of such depth will be the determining factor of a church's success or failure. As we finish out 2017 and head into 2018 we will be heading out to deeper waters so that we might truly be "A Caring Community reaching out to transform lives through knowing, loving and serving God" now and forevermore!

Pastor Loren

Director of Children's Ministries and Spiritual Formation.

Wow, that's a really long title, but how powerful it will be! While I really hate to stop working with the youth because of the wonderful bonds I have made with the youth, and with those who helped. God has redirected my focus on providing support to adults in the areas of ministry. He has tugged on my heart to help parents and other adults GROW in their Faith, and as He does, He placed it on the hearts of others to make this a reality.

This new title brings new opportunities to all of us. Here are ways that I can help the church: Provide support for current Sunday school classes, new Sunday school classes, Wednesday night adult ministries, Healthy Congregations, and even individualizes devotional support. If you feel the tug to feed your Spiritual bank let me help find the right path.

Marti Higdon

Director of Children's Ministry and Spiritual Formation

NEW DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY



Hi! My name is Robin Cates and I am so excited to be the new youth director at Church of the Cross. I grew up in this church and learned much about who I am and who God is, during my time as a youth. I'm excited to help the youth of our church do the same. Over the next few weeks I will be reaching out to our youth, parents and volunteers, so we can get together and start making plans! If you have questions, want to get involved, or want to volunteer, please reach out to me at 452-1782 or crabbypants23@yahoo.com

I'm so excited to get to know everyone, and start making plans for our adventures!

Retreat Discussion on Facilities

During our COC Retreat, we devoted time to discuss our facility and the opportunities we have to enhance for growth. Charles Renz, architect with Jones, Gillam, Renz, presented some information about the process for a major church renovation project and some of the processes we may want to consider.

The participants then considered 3 questions:

- 1. *What facility issues are we currently making do with, or by finding work arounds?***
- 2. *What Ministries do we need to think about when considering facility changes (what's important?)***
- 3. *What facility enhancements would help our Ministries grow?***

Some of the consistent themes in the discussions included:

- The need for better classrooms/meeting spaces for all of the ministries that occur in our church (we average over 600 people in our building each week and the current configuration should be changed to allow more effective ministries to take place)**
- The gym needs to be better utilized**
- The kitchen does not meet our growing needs**
- Restrooms should be remodeled with the addition of a Family Restroom/Showers**
- Angel Academy's needs are very important as they are a vital ministry of COC**
- A general upgrade to modernize the building is needed. Upgrades could include the exterior façade, sanctuary, lighting, energy efficiency considerations, and multimedia capabilities**

What's Next? Feasibility. A task force will be created that will take the retreat discussions and incorporate input from ministry teams and the congregation. We will consider the ministry impacts and the financial possibilities for changes to our facilities. This will be a very deliberate process as we consider our current and future needs for the life of our church. Everyone will be asked for their input as we move through the Feasibility Phase. Be a part of envisioning our future!

PRAYERS & PRAISES



John & Lois Pardee
 (Judy Beck's Uncle & Aunt)
 Judy Beck's Parents (in the path
 of the hurricane)
 Pastor Loren
 Brandon Baker
 Montana
 Curt & Vicki Richards
 Becky Weaver
 Jayne Holechek
 Kyle Morris
 Terry Doty
 Julie Wilcox
 Lyla Arnold (Gene Arnold's Mom)
 Naomi Hartman
 (Jan Burn's Mom)
 Hunter Burns
 Carolyn Burrows

Blood Drive Success



Thank you to the 19 people that donated blood on August 22. As a result, 57 lives were impacted by your gift. The Red Cross is in a blood emergency and your gift is a life changer. The next blood drive will be Tuesday, October 31 from 12 to 6 pm. Sign up is available in the Welcome Center. Please consider becoming a donor at the next drive.



Grateful Grub

Grateful Grub is back! Need a delicious meal before Wednesday night activities? Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:15 on Wednesdays. Suggested donations are \$5 per Adult/Youth and \$3 per child.



Everyone is invited to the meal and enjoy some fellowship as we GROW! The weekly menu will be posted on the bulletin board in the Entrance Hallway and by the kitchen. Check it out and nourish your body as well as your soul on Wednesday!

CHURCH OF THE CROSS - Financial Summary

July 31, 2017

	2017			2016
	July	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Prior YTD
Income				
Giving	\$ 26,752	\$ 182,332	\$ 186,667	\$ 181,101
Angel Academy Income	6,603	91,381	107,858	79,675
Other Income (Expense)	982	5,476	5,017	8,071
Total Income	34,337	279,189	299,542	268,847
Expenditures				
Ministerial & Staff	15,955	118,851	129,640	118,874
Operating & Education	1,994	13,839	17,470	10,376
Buildings & Grounds	8,773	36,863	32,800	33,655
Conference Missions & Ministry	2,690	18,619	19,541	7,470
Angel Academy Expense	6,603	91,381	103,900	79,675
Unbudgeted Expenses	-	-	146	
Total Expenditures	36,015	279,553	303,497	250,050
Excess of Receipts Over (Under) Expenditures & Transfers	\$ (1,678)	\$ (364)	\$ (3,955)	\$ 18,797
Unpaid Bills		\$ -		
Cash & Investments Balances:				
General Fund		\$ 28,239		
Restricted/Designated Funds		\$ 171,760		
Memorial Funds		\$ 11,787		
Trustee Building Fund		\$ 28,733		
Total Cash & Investments		\$ 240,519		

Amazon Supports COC!

Do you shop on Amazon? Use Amazon Smile and support Church of the Cross. For the quarter ended June 30, we received \$13.56 based upon your purchases. Register your charity as Church of the Cross at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0616859>. Let's grow that number!

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

Support Church of the Cross United Methodist.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

amazon
smile

Angel Academy Preschool



The hallways and classrooms are once again full of laughter (and a few first day tears)! We are off and running! We have a great new group of kiddos and families who are all just as excited as we are to be starting a new school year. We have about **162 kids enrolled**.

Please pray that all of the families, kiddos, and staff would be blessed this school year!

We have a few new and a few returning teachers this year. Ms. Deann and Ms. Sue will teach a morning and an afternoon class Monday-Friday. Ms. Kate will teach Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning and afternoon class, and a Tuesday/Thursday morning class. Ms. Lexy and Ms. Heidi will teach a Monday, Wednesday, Friday morning class and a Tuesday/Thursday morning class. Ms. Lexy and Ms. Joycelyn will teach a Monday, Wednesday, Friday afternoon class. Ms. Nadine will teach a morning and an afternoon class Monday-Friday. And Joyce Drummond will be the one to help in the classrooms where she is needed.

Another new face is Amanda who is working with Layla as her office assistant.

Stop by and check out the bulletin board just inside the front door and make sure that you have met all of them. If not, we would love to introduce you!

Layla Peppers, Angel Academy Preschool Director



Organized by Salina District Leadership Team
Rev. Dee J. Williamston Salina-Hays DS

SAVE THE DATE

Salina District Celebration & Annual Church
Charge Conference

Sunday November 19th, 2017

3pm - 5pm

Concordia First Church

Preaching: Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr.



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Wednesdays

The **5** Love
Languages®



DIG IN
CREATING DEEPER BIBLE EXPERIENCES FOR KIDS



The children will Dig In with their new Studies to include Science, Crafts, games, and music.