



## The One We Can Count On

by Pastor Ted Laesch

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Really? Is it? Will it be? Is it going to be a happy New Year? Maybe. Maybe it will be happy for you and for me. But maybe not. We certainly hope it will be! We wish for it... That prices will come down. That the war in Ukraine will end. That hostile dictators will become a little less hostile. That hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, earthquakes, pandemics, and things like mass shootings and terrorism might take the year off. That would be nice, wouldn't it? Though it's unlikely. What's more likely is that there will be more of the same. Moving from 2025 to 2026 really changes very little.

But just in case you're thinking to yourself: "Wow, thanks for the 'encouragement,' Pastor Laesch!" Hear this encouragement! Instead of hoping for change, which may or may not come in this new year, perhaps, as Scripture tells us, we put our hope in the God who does not change – our God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8)! And when things happen in the world and in our lives that cause us sadness or frustrate us or make us afraid or provoke us to wonder who really is in control, rather than drive us to anxious despair, those things drive us to the One we can count on; the One who is good, works good, and can bring good out of evil; the One who makes promises and keeps them; the One who will one day make not just a year but all things new. That is our encouragement as we enter a new year.

So, happy New Year!

Really?

Yes! As we cling to our God who does not change. **†††**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*Philippians 4:6 - 7*



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## BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning 9:45 Bible Study  
**SHORT STUDIES ON TOUGH TOPICS**  
 January and February 2026

"What are the best ways to deal with outrage?" "To whom has God given authority in this world?" "What might prayer sound like when calamity strikes?" "Why is being alone dangerous?" These are just some of the tough questions for people of faith.

We all have questions about how to live in our society, as well as how God gives order, discipline and community to His creation. This series of short devotionals is intended to guide discussions about difficult topics. The studies are intended for teens and adults.

Each study includes a short devotional, Scripture verses for biblical context on the topic, and conversation points to consider and discuss. The topical series includes: "Authority", "Dying for Christ?", "Evil", "Government", "Isolation", "Marriage", "Natural Disasters", "Vengeance." 

Date	Topic	Texts
Jan 4, 2026	<b>Authority</b>	Romans 13:3-5, Mark 10:42-45
Jan 11, 2026	<b>Dying For Christ</b>	Luke 6:22, John 15:18-19, Matthew 5:10, Matthew 10:19, John 16:33
Jan 18, 2026	<b>Evil</b>	Matthew 6:13, Colossians 2:15, Psalm 23:4, Ephesians 6:12-13
Jan 25, 2026	<b>Government</b>	1 Peter 2:1-3, 1 Peter 2:13-14, John 19:11, Romans 13:1-4
Feb 1, 2026	<b>Isolation</b>	Matthew 9:36, Genesis 2:18, Proverbs 18:1, Hebrews 10:24-25
Feb 8, 2026	<b>Marriage</b>	Mark 10:9, Genesis 2:18, 21-23, Hebrews 13:4, Proverbs 18:22
Feb 15, 2026	<b>Natural Disasters</b>	Psalm 148:8, Nahum 1:3, Matthew 8:27, Luke 13:1-3
Feb 22, 2026	<b>Vengeance</b>	Hebrews 10:30, Proverbs 22:24-25, Isaiah 35:4, Romans 12:17-21

## When You've Been Wronged

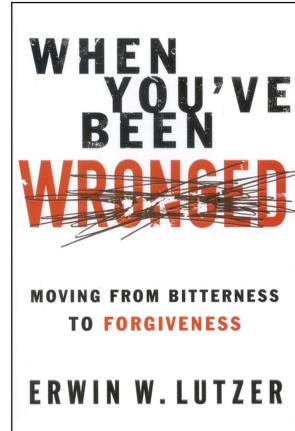
### Moving from Bitterness to Forgiveness

Author Erwin W. Lutzer

Ladies Study – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays Starting January 6, 2026

Chapters:

1. Satan's Mixed Bag of Offenses
2. The Blinding Power of an Offense
3. Meet Cain the Destroyer
4. Families at War: When Trust Fails
5. Dodging Spears
6. Christians in the Courtroom
7. From Bitterness to Blessing
8. The High Cost of Reconciliation
9. When Reconciliation Fails



Relationship conflicts are inevitable, but healing and reconciliation often are not. Time and again after we've tried every option and failed, what we seem to be left with is a load of guilt and pain.

Sometimes when we are wronged, we struggle to overcome the anger and bitterness that come with unforgiveness. Pastor Erwin Lutzer examines different types of offense and offenders and offers practical, biblical advice for handling these conflicts in a God-honoring and freedom-producing way. †††

### Lenten Schedule 2026

#### Lenten Midweek Worship Wednesdays

February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25  
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

#### Palm Sunday

March 29  
5:00 p.m. (Saturday)  
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. (Sunday)

#### Maundy Thursday

April 2  
11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

#### Good Friday

April 3  
12:00 noon & 6:30 p.m.

#### Easter Vigil

April 4 (Saturday)  
5:00 p.m.

#### Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5  
8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

## What do Elders do?

by Jim Crosier

In the Old Testament, elders were primarily appointed by Divine instruction, with God commanding Moses to select them to help lead the Israelites. Elders served as judges and leaders for the people, as their authority was derived from God and empowered by His Spirit. Moses chose seventy elders, as he was a direct agent of God's.

Today, at Chapel of the Cross we have approximately fourteen elders who reside on the committee, who have been assigned a flock of 65-70 members. The elders assist the pastor by calling their flock and reporting information that might be relevant.

What else do elders do at Chapel of the Cross? The elders attend 10 meetings a year and turn in written reports generally every month. Elders assist with baptisms, Holy Communion, and some funerals. You will also find elders serving on church committees, ushering, choir, Advent and Lenten dinners, maintenance projects, and grass cutting. You may see our elders attending other events such as Bible Study, funerals, and the Chapel travelers.

Did you know that an elder on Sunday morning from 10:45-11:00 am will be in the small Chapel praying for health concerns of Chapel family members and friends? You are welcome to join in and pray for your family.

Elders are often thanked and have received cards to show appreciation for their service. It is said that 90% of a church's needs are performed by 10% of the members and you will generally find some elders in this group.

To become an elder, you must be a male member of Chapel of the Cross. If you feel God calling you to serve as an elder, please contact Pastor Laesch at 314-741-3737. I hope you have a better understanding of what an elder does at Chapel of the Cross. **†††**

### CROSSROADS SUBMISSIONS:

Contributions for the Spring issue of the CrossRoads are due by Sunday, March 8. Please submit both a paper copy to the CrossRoads box as well as a digital copy, if possible, (including any pictures) emailed to [office@chapelofthecross.org](mailto:office@chapelofthecross.org)

## Family Nights Highlight

by Vicar Chuck

Over this fall semester, we have come together once a month, alongside the ministries of Bethlehem, to host Family Night. Each month we have welcomed parents from our community to join their children for a shared meal, a short devotion, and age specific sessions designed for both adults and kids. These gatherings have been a joy to host, and they would not have been possible without you. Your willingness to step out of your weekly routine and volunteer your time has made every one of these evenings meaningful.

I especially want to highlight November's Family Night. We paused our regular programming and were able to share a full Thanksgiving dinner with 37 people from our community. It was a beautiful night of warmth, conversation, and gratitude as families sat together and enjoyed a meal many of them would not have had otherwise

Truly, these nights remind me (and I pray they bring you the same encouragement) of what it means to be the Church. Loving and serving our neighbors in ways that care for their physical needs and also speak Christ's love into their lives is at the heart of who we are called to be. I pray you can join us on this journey of reaching out to our community. Whether you support us with a prayer or by giving your time and talents, every bit of help is deeply appreciated.

†††

### Did You Know?

1. Who said "They that are whole need not a physician...?"  
**A. Luke B. Jesus C. Gamaliel**
2. In which book does the following appear? "Vanity of vanities – vanity of vanities, all is vanity."  
**A. Ecclesiastes B. Titus C. Obadiah**
3. Who had four daughters who prophesied?  
**A. Peter B. Philip C. Paul**
4. How many concubines did Solomon have?  
**A. 100 B. 200 C. 300**
5. It is a fearful thing to fall into whose hands?  
**A. Satan B. Baal C. The living God**
6. When they met, did Esau treat Jacob with hatred or kindness?  
**A. With kindness B. Hatred**
7. During the Passover, what plant was used to strike the blood?  
**A. Bramble B. Hyssop C. Bulrush**
8. Before His crucifixion, what bodily harm was done to Jesus?  
**A. Flayed B. Scourged C. Hung by His thumbs**
9. What did Elisha cause an iron axe head to do in the river?  
**A. To float B. Sink C. Dissolve**
10. Who said "The Lord is my light and my salvation...?"  
**A. Saul B. Jonathan C. David**

## Christmas Concert Highlights

December 14, 2025



## CHAPELS 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS

October 19, 2025



## MARY-MARTHA GUILD

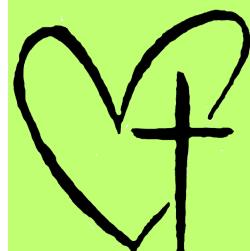
The Mary-Martha Guild would like to thank everyone who supported our annual Christmas Cookie Sale.

On January 12 we will have a Social Night with no business meeting. Members are asked to bring games to play and snacks to share. This promises to be fun for everyone.

February 9 is the date of our Soup Supper. Along with the delicious dinner we will have Vicar Chuck Wallace as our guest speaker.

Monday March 9, Mary-Martha Guild member Kay Medlock will be our guest speaker. Her topic will be OASIS tutoring.

The dates of our annual Spring Bake Sale are Saturday and Sunday March 28 and 29. †††



### MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

Please join us Sunday, February 15, 2026 after the 11:00 a.m. service (around 12 noon) for our annual Marriage Anniversary Service. All married couples and their families are invited to celebrate and renew their wedding vows. Bring a wedding picture to be displayed.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### Deaths:

Henry Austin  
(September 22, 2025)

Robert Reese  
(March 12, 2025)

Former number of members:	848
Gains:	+0
Losses:	-2
New number of members:	846

### Answers

- B., Jesus, Luke 5:31
- A., Ecclesiastes, Ecclesiastes 1:2
- B., Philip, Acts 21:8-9
- C., 300, 1 Kings 11:3
- C., The living God, Hebrews 10:31
- A., With kindness, Genesis 33:4
- B., Hyssop, Exodus 12:22
- B., Scourged, Matthew 27:26
- A., To float, 2 Kings 6:1-6
- C., David, Psalm 27:1

# JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Office closed	1 New Year's Day	2	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m. Epiphany Service 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Take down Christmas 10:00 a.m. - Noon	Women's Fellowship 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 5:00 p.m.	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Worship Service 5:00 p.m.	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	Office closed	Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Worship Service 5:00 p.m.	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	Board of Directors 7:00 p.m.	GriefShare 2-4 p.m. Family Night 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Bible Study 6:30 p.m.	Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.		Worship Service 5:00 p.m.

# FEbruary 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>2</b>     	<b>3</b> Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	<b>4</b>     	<b>5</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.     	<b>6</b>     	<b>7</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>8</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>9</b>     	<b>10</b> Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	<b>11</b>     	<b>12</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.     	<b>13</b>     	<b>14</b> Women's Fellowship 9:00 a.m.     
<b>15</b> Transfiguration Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>16</b>     	<b>17</b> Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	<b>18</b> Ash Wednesday     	<b>19</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.     	<b>20</b>     	<b>21</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>23</b>     	<b>24</b>     	<b>25</b> Lenten Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Early communion Class 7:30 p.m.	<b>26</b>     	<b>27</b>     	<b>28</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.

# MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	<b>4</b> Lenten Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Early communion Class 7:30 p.m.	<b>5</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>8</b> Daylight Saving Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>9</b> Mary-Martha Guild 6:30 p.m. Elders 7:00 p.m.	<b>10</b> GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	<b>11</b> Lenten Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Early communion Class 7:30 p.m.	<b>12</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Women's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. GriefShare 2-4 p.m.	<b>18</b> Lenten Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Early communion Class 7:30 p.m.	<b>19</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>22</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Lenten Services 11:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. Dinner 5:00 p.m. Early communion Class 7:30 p.m.	<b>26</b> Choral Singers 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Worship Service 5:00 p.m.
<b>29</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> Worship Service 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Youth & Adult Bible Study 9:45 a.m.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> GriefShare 2-4 p.m.				



CHAPEL OF THE CROSS - LUTHERAN

*CrossRoads*

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**Weekend Worship Services**

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Education Hour**

**(Sunday School, Youth, & Adult Classes)**

Sunday: 9:45 a.m.

**Holy Communion**

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday of the month: 8:30 a.m.

2nd, 4th, & 5th Sunday of the month: 11:00 a.m.

1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday of the month: 5:00 p.m.

*Chapel of the Cross - Lutheran  
exists to show the love of Jesus to  
the people of North County and  
beyond so that all may have a  
living relationship with Christ.*

