

CrossWay Church is a Bible-teaching church intentionally building disciples of Jesus Christ using His model as our example.

Our ministries and activities are intended to promote spiritual growth and opportunities for service.

CrossWay Church is a place where you and your family can grow, love, and connect with others who are on a journey with God.

We want to glorify God together by loving and serving Him and our fellow man.



Contact Us

Gregg Laskow | Senior Pastor
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Angel Petersen | Office Manager
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Associate Pastor | Open Position

Libby Aulenbach | Financial Assistant
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Elders: Gregg Laskow,
Tim Medianick, Tim Royer,
Ryan Gehris, Curt Hartenstine

Deacons: Alex Posey, Micah
Albrycht, Jim Stoltzfus, Jeff Beiler

General Fund Year to Date: Week 37 of 53

Budget to Date	Weekly Budget
\$367,454	\$9,931

Offerings Received	Jan. 7, 2024
\$458,997	\$7,461

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures."

James 1:17-18 (ESV)



Welcome to CrossWay Church

God Loves You and Has a Difficult Plan for Your Life
Luke 9:51-62

Current Series
Luke

Pastor Gregg Laskow

Welcome

We are so glad you joined us today as we worship the Lord together again! We pray that you will experience the joy and encouragement which only comes through knowing Jesus Christ personally.

Worship Order

9:10 a.m.

Prelude
Praise
Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19

Prayer

Dean Linsky

Pre K-1st graders may be checked into KidSide

Hymns #133 & 107

"All Glory Be to Christ"
"Fairest Lord Jesus"

Message

Pastor Gregg Laskow

Song

"My Worth Is Not In What I Own"

Parents: please pick up your children from childcare.

Break

10:40 -10:55 a.m.

Coffee and tea are available in the Connections Café.

Bible Fellowship

10:55 -11:30 a.m.

Pre K-4th grade may head to KidSide.
Middle School meets in the Youth Center.
High School students meet in Room 5.

Q & A with Pastor Gregg

Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes by the doors.

"Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'"

Luke 9:62 ESV

Announcements

Winter Weather

It's the time of year when winter weather can be tricky. If inclement weather is forecasted for a Sunday morning please visit the main page of our website, www.crosswayberks.org, our Facebook page, or check your email for information regarding changes to the service day or time.

Visitors

We are thrilled to welcome you to CrossWay Church and are honored to have you as our guests today. We would love to get to know you better and ask that you fill out a connections card, available at our welcome table in the lobby. Please ask a greeter or an usher for a welcome packet.

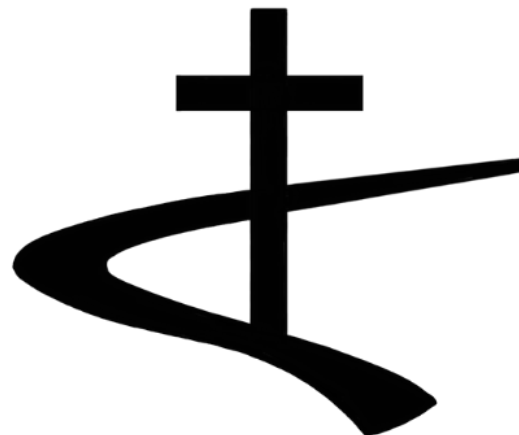
Assisted Listening System

For those who may need it, we have an assisted listening transmitter in the sanctuary. Should you wish to use a receiver to enhance the sound during the service and ABF please see the team on the soundboard.

Associate Pastor

Please be praying for the man God has to fill our open Associate Pastor position.

January						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



CrossWay Ministries

CrossWay Mommas

CrossWay Mommas will meet next on January 19th, 9:30-11 a.m. Please see Laura Gehris for more information.

Truth for the Heart

Ladies, TftH begins again on Tuesday, January 30th, 9:30-11 a.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend! Please see Lauren Martin or Marcia Crook for more information.

Men's Ministry

Men, save the date! The Men's Retreat will be held at Refreshing Mountain Retreat and Adventure Center, April 19-21, 2024. Watch for more information to come.

Missions Ministry

Please be praying for the Csiha Family, serving in Hungary:

- ★ Pray for an increase in numbers at their weekly prayer meetings
- ★ Praise for the church's successful monthly eldership training
- ★ Pray for guidance on Marci's decision to pursue an MDiv.
- ★ Pray for Marci's much needed knee surgery for a torn meniscus
- ★ Pray for upcoming decisions to be made about education for their children

Looking Ahead

Jan. 19 - CrossWay Mommas, 9:30-11 a.m.

Jan. 21 - 7-12th grade Dinner and Fellowship, 6:30-8 p.m.

Jan. 30 - Truth for the Heart, 9:30-11 a.m. & 7-8:30 p.m.

Feb. 2 - Monthly Prayer Gathering, 7-8:15 p.m.

Feb. 10 - Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m.

God Loves You and Has a Difficult Plan for Your Life (Luke 9:51-62)

1. The Confused and Misguided Zeal of James and John (v.51-56)

- Luke is the only evangelist who describes the ascension of Jesus to heaven following His passion, death, and burial (24:40-53). For the following ten chapters (Lk. 9:51-19:41), Luke will describe matters concerning discipleship:
 - Jesus' mission is to save, give life, ultimately die (9:22, 44), and has already been spoken of by Mary (1:46-55), Simeon (2:29-32), and Himself in His inaugural address (4:16-30).
- Luke comments that the "days are drawing near for Him to be 'taken' up to Jerusalem" as He "set his face" to Jerusalem (v.51). The reader is informed of Jesus' resolve and single-mindedness to what awaits Him in Jerusalem.
- There have already been allusions to His upcoming "exodus" (9:31) and death (9:21-22, 44). Now, Jesus seems to be mindful of what awaits Him in Jerusalem.
- It is in Jerusalem where the prophets are killed (13:33) and where He will be arrested, betrayed by a kiss, flogged, and abused by the soldiers. In Jerusalem, He will be stripped naked, nailed to a cross, buried, and raised from the dead.
 - Although Jesus, as God, necessarily possesses omniscience, He chooses not to access it as man, depending upon the Father for all things (Jn. 5:19).
 - In preparation for His trek to Jerusalem, since Samaria was the shortest route, Jesus sent messengers ahead of Him as He did previously (9:1-6), which is proleptic imagery to that of those who were sent to enter the Promised Land (Ex. 33:2, 14; Deut. 4:37-38) and those who prepare the way for the Lord (Isa. 40:3-5), specifically, in the appearance of Elijah (Mal. 4:5).
- The Samaritans did not receive any of His messengers because of the socio-cultural hatred between the Jews and Samaritans. This hatred was centuries old, because the Samaritans were considered "half-breeds."
- Jews, during the Assyrian captivity, married with the Assyrians, had children who had Gentile blood, and thus were unclean (Deut. 7:3-4; Phil. 3:5).
- To the Samaritans, the Jerusalem temple represents a false religion. To the Jews, the Samaritans represent a false religion (the temple in Mount Gerizim). The Samaritans, who set up their rival temple at Mount Gerizim, established rival liturgy and published their version of the Pentateuch. The Jews responded by publicly cursing the Samaritans in the synagogues and praying that they might not inherit eternal life.
- James and John (Sons of Zebedee) requested to incinerate the Samaritans by calling down fire from heaven upon the villages that refused to welcome Jesus, hearkening to Elijah's actions in response to wicked King Ahaziah (2 Kgs. 1:1-18).
 - James and John have yet to understand the mission of Jesus, confusing His First with His Second Coming. They are intoxicated with their power and are "trigger-happy."
 - They have forgotten Jesus' direction to those who refuse them (6:27-28, 36; 9:5) and are wrong about the Son of Man: He will not accomplish His mission through physical force but through His suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection (9:22). His Second Coming, however, will be different (Rev. 14:17; 19:14).
 - Jesus is not Elijah, but Elijah-like. Their response merited a stern rebuke (v.56).

2. The Call and Cost of Following Jesus (v.57-62)

Luke records three interactions with unnamed men under the auspice of discipleship. "Follow" is the common thread as Jesus interacts with these three candidates (v.57, 59, 61).

A. Candidate #1: "Mr. Hasty Ignorance" (v. 57-58)

- As Jesus is "going along the road," one man offers himself brashly and confidently. This man commits to "following Jesus wherever He will go" (v.57).

- Jesus loves this would-be disciple and informs him of the life he can expect if he follows Him. Jesus does not "complain" but instead "informs."
- This unnamed man would expect to follow Jesus like most students before a rabbi: he would go from one village to the next, make friends, and learn the Torah. It would be a life of ease and standard rabbinical studies.
- Jesus educates this man that He has no permanent dwelling as the Son of Man.
 - The "Word-made-flesh" had nowhere to lay His head and is forever a stranger in the world He created (Jn. 1:14; 1 Pet. 1:1, 17; 2:11).
- Interestingly, Jesus mentions "foxes" (v.58):
 - This may be an allusion to Herod, whom He calls a "fox" (13:32). Herod, who possessed power and authority, lived in luxury while God incarnate was rejected by those He came to save (Jn. 1:11).
- Jesus challenges this man to count the cost of discipleship if he is to follow Jesus.

B. Candidate #2: "Mr. Hesitation and Full of Excuses" (v.59-60)

- Unlike the first candidate, Jesus calls this second to "follow Him" (v.59).
- He calls Him "Lord," yet his actions betray his words as this man has the "chutzpah" to tell Jesus his conditions for following Him.
- The reader learns of the man's request: He wants to wait until his father dies (v.59).
 - We are unaware of how old this man is, how old his father is, the condition of his father, or any details of his father's health.
- The Torah requires children to honor their parents (5th commandment). This is taken up in the NT (Eph. 6:2) and reaffirmed under the Law of Christ. Jesus rebuked the Pharisees, scribes, and their disciples for "Corban" (Matt. 15:5, Mk. 7:11) and for refusing to care for their parents in their old age.
- While the command to honor parents is in the Torah, Jesus speaks to this man specifically and commands him to follow Him.
- We are not given more details than Jesus telling this man to follow Him.
 - "The "spiritually" dead can bury the physically dead (v.60). This man is called to proclaim the kingdom of God. When receiving this direct summons, he is not to return home, as to return home and "wait" for his father to die is to commit idolatry.
 - Following Jesus has priority over everything, even one's parents. This man needed what the first candidate possessed: urgency.

C. Candidate #3: "Mr. Convenience-Reminiscence" (v.61-62)

- Like "Mr. Hesitation and Full of Excuses," he is a "but" man or "let-me-first" man who has the "gall" to set up conditions to follow Jesus (v.59, 61).
- This man requests to say goodbye to his loved ones first by getting his affairs set in order.
- Jesus uses a farming metaphor, not primarily Elisha's encounter with Elijah since this man is different from Elisha (1 Kgs. 19):
 - Elisha was allowed to say goodbye to his father and mother, but not this man in Luke. Elisha removes all connections with his previous life, even to slaughtering the oxen.
- This man in Luke wants to return to his old life and wait for a convenient time to follow Jesus.
- The plowman who looks back not only furrows in a jagged line but also demonstrates a divided heart and affection. Those who put "both hands to the plow":
 - One hand guides the plow while the other holds the long goads, which spur the oxen to work. Since the plow is light, the plowmen must lean forward with all their weight to keep the share in the ground. The plowman who looks back is not committed to his task because he is easily distracted by what is "behind" him.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus possessed the single-mindedness, complete devotion to service, and unconditional faithfulness He requires from all His disciples (Jn. 4:34). Did these three men follow Jesus?