

DOES GOD REALLY DEMAND PERFECTION?

Did you know?

- In 2013, the Florida State Seminoles were celebrated as college football's BCS Champions after completing a perfect 14-0 season.
- In the 135 year history of Major League Baseball, only 23 pitchers have tossed a perfect game. Each of those 23 pitchers is widely celebrated for accomplishing one of baseball's rarest individual feats.
- In 2009, USA Today reported that a Michigan teen got a perfect score on her ACT—and her SAT—and her PSAT! She was rewarded with a full-ride scholarship to Princeton University.

If perfection is so celebrated and idolized because of its rarity, should the opposite be true as well? Should imperfection be condemned? I mean, if perfection is considered the rarest of all



feats, shouldn't it be considered acceptable if the rest of us don't achieve such a vaunted status? Nobody's perfect at life! We are all flawed. No matter how hard we try, we inevitably fall short. We all make mistakes. Who cares?

Well. God cares! While imperfections are an accepted part of life for us, they are not acceptable to our God. Imperfections run contrary to the way God intended this world to function. When he finished his work of creation,

God was pleased to know that everything worked in harmony. There were no imperfections; **"God saw all that he made and it was very good"** (Genesis 1:31).

However, sin entered the world, and imperfection became a part of the human experience. Our imperfections are therefore an offense to our perfect creator God. They are not excused; they are not overlooked. They are punished for the offenses that they are.

Sure, nobody's perfect. That's why we need someone to be perfect for us!

Despite our flaws, God loves us unconditionally. **"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God"** (2 Corinthians 5:21). Yes, Jesus Christ who had no sin or imperfection became our imperfection so that he might receive all of the punishment that we deserved, paying for it all by his death on the cross. In return, he grants us the perfection that we could not achieve on our own. In Christ, we become **"the righteousness of God."**

This pastoral vacancy has been hard on all of us, but I am grateful that through it all, we have pulled together as the body of Christ in spite of our imperfections! As members of His body, we have recognized our call to love one another as Christ loves us, accepting each other's imperfections and overlooking minor faults.

I've seen countless examples of God's people extending grace and forgiveness, just as God extends grace and forgiveness to us.

In a world that is often harsh and judgmental, let's continue to strive to be a community of love and acceptance with Christ and His cross at the very center. Let's encourage one another, build one another up, and forgive one another freely. By doing so, we can help create a more loving and supportive environment where everyone feels valued and accepted.

Remember, we are all imperfect. But through Christ, God sees us as His perfect and dearly loved children. Let's embrace His grace and love, and extend that same grace and love to others. Celebrate the perfection that is ours by faith in Jesus Christ! In Christ you are perfect; believe it! Celebrate it! Live it!

I LOVE BEING YOUR VACANCY PASTOR!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. G. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Wright

(Next month: *What happens to us when we die?*)

From the Deaconess

To the members of Holy Cross:

Thank you all for being welcoming into this congregation. In future issues, I will add more items to ponder, but wanted to give a brief outline of what to look forward to in the coming months. I have been helping in various ways within the church itself, including helping do visits to those who are home bound, but I am sure a lot of you have heard me playing the organ as well. And just as importantly, helping oversee Sunday school and Youth.

Right now, we have 5 that will be going to Higher Things in Michigan this summer. If anyone is interested in going as well, please reach out to me or stop by, there should be room to add another youth or two if interested. Along with that, there will be future times for fundraisers that will go towards this trip (including a Lenten Dinner).

Lent is right around the corner, and to have it on the radar for Journey to the Cross come April. Also, for Holy Week, I would like to get a Choir for Maunday Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services. Please watch the next newsletter for details on practices

We cannot do it without you, Holy Cross. Please feel free to ask any questions or suggestions!

In Christ,

Amanda Hahn

Vacancy Update; The eight names submitted by our membership were mailed to the District January 6, 2025. Tom Stunkel, Call Committee Chairman inquired, in a most gentlemanly tone, January 22nd on the status of those names. President Mohr had received them that week and will process them as quickly as his workload permits. Once the names are returned to us:

1. Tom will convene the call committee promptly.
2. The committee will quickly condense the list to four names for deliberation by the Voters.
3. A reasonable time for individual Voters to review the PIF/SET information
4. Options for quickly convening a Voters Assembly to extend a call will be reviewed.

Your prayers and support for the Elders and Call Committee really do help and are appreciated!

Also – Lent begins next Month

The Elders have established the following service times for the Lenten season and Holy week this year:

- Ash Wednesday: No dinner, service begins at 6:30 pm and will include imposition of ashes and Holy Communion
- Midweek Lenten services:
 - Dinner served 5 – 6 pm
 - Circuit Pastors will rotate among the churches again this year
 - Worship service at 6:30 pm, there is no hymn - sing prior to worship
- Maundy Thursday; 6:30 pm service w/communion
- Good Friday and Easter Vigil (Saturday) services: 7:30 pm
- Easter Sunday there is one service:
 - 7 am worship service w/communion
 - Easter breakfast following the worship service (approx. 8:30 am)

Information on the midday Tre Ore service and other Easter Season details will be shared when they become available.

Scammers, as we have experienced, impersonating trusted pastors are targeting victims nationwide. Cybersecurity experts warn that the swindlers may be using information available on church websites to get a leg up on tricking faithful churchgoers. This is the reason our online bulletin has service information only.

Here are tips if scammers are successful. Use your gift card and gift card store receipt for these next steps:

1. Report the gift card scam to the gift card company right away. No matter how long ago the scam happened, report it.
2. Ask for your money back. Some companies are helping stop gift card scams and might give your money back. It's worth asking.
3. Additional Reporting of the scam:
 - a. Copy the message and forward it to 7726 (SPAM). This helps your wireless provider spot and block similar messages in the future.
 - b. Report it on the messaging app you use. Look for the option to report junk or spam.
 - c. Report it to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud).

Do not be embarrassed by a “close call.” The truth is anyone can be caught by these scams, no matter how experienced or educated in fraud awareness. It only takes a moment of inattention.” Scammers are constantly looking for new tricks to deceive generous people. Protect one another and tell your friends so they can be aware of the latest ruse.

You are always welcome at any of our weekly Bible Classes, held in the fellowship hall. You do not need to start at the beginning of a unit or topic. Please come whenever you can. Bible study is on Wednesdays at 9am and Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.



PRAYER LIST

Please help to keep this list current by calling the church office when a name can be added or removed. This list is also printed in the Sunday bulletin.

Members in Facilities: **Heritage Woods of Moline** – Susan Wyant; **Park Vista** – Ron and Caroline Luecke; **Friendship Manner** - Dick Hochstetler, Phyllis Thorngren, Delphine Swarz; **Woodridge Supportive Living, Galesburg** - Dick Ristau; **Illini Restorative Care** – Henry Setton; **Mercer Manor, Aledo:** Bob Koehler; **Charter Memory Care of Moline** – Jan Phillips; **Hope Creek, East Moline** - Elizabeth Cobb

Serving in the Military: Alexa Ellis (daughter of Tera Elliot, granddaughter of Mike and Cheryl McLaughlin), Logan Noard (son of Kyle and Marilyn Noard), Stephen Waugaman (grandson of Donna Knudtson), Cameron Moore (grandson of Lew and Maria Steinbrecher), Matthew Glider (grandson of Doris Glider), Andrew Tolley (son of Carole Tolley), David Revel (son of Craig and Laurie Revel), Jeffrey Teuscher (nephew of Willie Swain), Austin Cox (Grandson-in-law of Sieg Paulsen), Leith Masri (son of Peggy Jones), Jakob Ryckeghem (grandson of Connie McKean), Brett Kramer (grandson of Terry Kramer)

Members of the Congregation receiving cancer treatment: Rev Murdock, Katherine Hopkins

Friends of the congregation receiving treatment for cancer: Steven Bell (nephew of Pastor & Phyllis Murdock), Dan Schmidt (brother of Sarah Paller), Tom Lehey (son-in-law of Bob Hellstrom), Gail Stuenkel, Lisa Crawford, Joanne Lyons, Dave Patterson, Harold Foster, Judy Knudsen, Peggy Arkland (friend of the McLaughlin's), Kim Trask (sister of Robbie Garrison), Corey Dombrowski (neighbor of Dan & Melissa Thorngren).

Serious Health Concerns: Rev Murdock, Ladd Poell (Friend of Donna Knudtson), Tracy Bennet (friend of Sieg Paulsen), Sandy Lohse, Bob Trueblood (brother of Joyce Spidle), Tony Loritz (Friend of Jennifer Swanberg), Dennis Rusk, Richard Geisler, Heidi Sias,

Maureen DeLassus, Kelly Teuscher, Kenny Lackey, Gwen Shrake, Pam and Bill (friends of Gwen Shrake), Monroe 'Chip' Kemerling (cousin of Don Freeman).

Recovering/Ongoing Health Concerns: Anita Ingold-Kroll (daughter of Martha Kroll), Levi Koopmas (relative of Patricia Erickson), Penny Dawson, Donald Dawson, Scarlet Durbin, Phyllis Murdock, Sherri Lohse, Helen White, Gary Johnson, Fred Poe, Carol Ferrell, Susan Jamieson, Joshua Duburg, Sieg Paulsen, Cindy Davenport



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the **family of Lucy Jahns**. Lucy passed away on December 23rd. Funeral

Our Christian sympathy is also extended to the **family Beryl Edwards**. Beryl passed away January 20th.

February Bible Reading Guide

02/01 Luke 2:29-32/Exodus 1-3	02/15 Psalm 72/Leviticus 1-3
02/02 Psalm 59/Exodus 4-6	02/16 Psalm 73/Leviticus 4-6
02/03 Psalm 60/Exodus 7-9	02/17 Psalm 74/Leviticus 7-9
02/04 Psalm 61/Exodus 10-12	02/18 Psalm 75/Leviticus 10-12
02/05 Psalm 62/ Exodus 13-15	02/19 Psalm 76/Leviticus 13-15
02/06 Psalm 63/Exodus 16-18	02/20 Psalm 77/Leviticus 16-18
02/07 Psalm 64/ Exodus 19-21	02/21 Psalm 78/Leviticus 19-21
02/08 Psalm 65/ Exodus 22-24	02/22 Psalm 79/Leviticus 22-24
02/09 Psalm 66/Exodus 25-27	02/23 Psalm 80/Leviticus 25-27
02/10 Psalm 67/Exodus 28-30	02/24 Psalm 81/Numbers 1-3
02/11 Psalm 68/Exodus 31-33	02/25 Psalm 82/Numbers 4-6
02/12 Psalm 69/Exodus 34-36	02/26 Psalm 83/Numbers 7-9
02/13 Psalm 70/Exodus 37-38	02/27 Psalm 84/Numbers 10-12
02/14 Psalm 71/Exodus 39-40	02/28 Luke 2:29-32/Numbers 13-15

February Birthdays

Jennifer Gripp	2/2	Abigail Waters	2/12
Jay Welvaert	2/2	Janine Moffitt	2/15
Sam Welvaert	2/2	Richard Geisler	2/17
Kathleen Whiting	2/2	Jakob Ryckeghem	2/17
Tami Winter	2/2	Dan Thorngren	2/17
Wes Greenfield	2/4	Nicholas Hepner	2/18
Benjamin Brondos	2/4	Carol Ferrell	2/20
Vivian Geisler	2/5	Lyle Kushmer	2/21
Beverly Carlisle	2/6	Alexa Ellis	2/22
Jill Eastman-Foss	2/7	Chelsey Ellis	2/22
Bill Larrison	2/7	Noah Thompson	2/22
Sandra Lohse	2/8	Kaleb Thompson	2/25
Zach Ryckeneghem	2/8	Eric McKean	2/26
Brian Gustafson	2/11	Mason Kushmer	2/27
Alicia Casanova	2/12		

According to our records, God has blessed you with the privilege of celebrating a birthday this month.
Please inform the Holy Cross office if this information is incorrect
Have you remembered the Lord's work in your will and estate planning?



Christ the King (Cristo Rey) Lutheran Church

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E-mail: cristorey-em@sbcglobal.net Ph. (309) 738-6124

Rev. Pablo G. Domínguez



FEBRUARY 2025

"Blessed is he



who reads aloud

**...and blessed are
those who hear..."**

- REV. 1:3

A church member told me that she decided to read the Bible. She has read it through twice, and she has started to read it for the third time, and various Bible texts. She told me that reading the Holy Scriptures has been a great blessing and comfort for her soul. I congratulated her for her commitment to nourish her faith. She then shared with me that she was not enjoying reading the Book of Revelations. She tried to read the chapters fast because she didn't like all the numbers, the horses, the wars, the blood, and the many things that disturbed and frightened her. I could see her anguish and fear as we talked. I explained to her that the book of Revelations has difficult passages to understand and to interpret. That's why other believers have teachings different from ours, such as, the rapture account where it is believed that

the faithful will be snatched into heaven based on Mat. 24:40-41; the millennium account where it is believed that Christ will reign on the earth for 1000 years based on Rev. 20:4; and the Armageddon account where it is believed that a great war will occur based on Rev. 16:16. I also explained to her that some groups dare to name the very dates they believe Jesus will return. The different groups have various teachings and find it difficult to agree with each other. Lutherans do not accept these interpretations. First, because they are mere speculations which have no firm Scriptural basis. Secondly, we believe what the Bible teaches that we cannot know the day and the hour when Jesus will come again. Thirdly, we believe that the majority of these passages are symbolic and should not be taken literally. It is clear that there are many Christians who spend a lot of time studying these prophecies while trying to set dates and interpret each symbol. However, we believe that it is more pleasing to God to pass our time serving our neighbor and fortifying our relationship with Christ. Besides that, we always need to prepare for our death or for the second return of our Lord. After this brief explanation, our sister in Christ, will no longer need to fear, and it is the same for all of us. Christ is the central truth as He says, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end"* Rev. 22: 13

The Rock Island Circuit Mission Council, also called the Hispanic Council, began in 2002 with a project. Pastors and laypeople in the Rock Island Circuit knew that Spanish-speaking Pastor Pablo Dominguez was coming to East Moline, called as a District Missionary. They also knew he would be starting Hispanic ministry in the Quad Cities from scratch. Initially, those who gathered as the mission council thought of themselves as the church council that he did not have at the time.

Circuit churches sent one representative apiece to the mission council. Its meetings provided information about Pastor Dominguez's work and sparked interest. The mission council also became a way to bring to bear and coordinate various skills that members of circuit churches wanted to contribute to the Hispanic mission: carpentry, bookkeeping, laying carpet, etc.

In time, the mission council also provided financial support to the mission. The council opened its own bank account. For a while it paid various expenses such as van insurance. In 2019 the council closed its account, for

Cristo Rey Lutheran Church had assumed responsibility for all the expenses which the council had been paying. And several council members were instrumental in arranging fundraising projects in circuit churches to help

Cristo Rey return \$10,000 of subsidy money to the Central Illinois District in 2019. Council members have enjoyed learning about Hispanic culture. Pastor Dominguez has taught them a great deal, not only about culture but also about servanthood in Christ.

The Rock Island Circuit Mission Council's role has changed over the years. Yet its commitment to Christ and to the cause of Lutheran mission outreach to Spanish-speaking residents of the Quad Cities has remained.

The Lord has used its dedicated efforts in cooperation with the Central Illinois District.

"I thank my God . . . because of your partnership in the Gospel" (Phil. 1:3-5). {January 2020}

You are welcome to be part of the Hispanic Council. Contact us

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30A Bible Study/SS 10:45A Service w/HC	3	4	5 5:30P Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9:30A Bible Study/SS 10:45A Service w/HC	10	11	12 5:30P BOE 5:30P Confirmation	13	14	15
16 9:30A Bible Study/SS 10:45A Service w/HC	17	18	19 5:30P Confirmation	20	21	22
23 9:30A Bible Study/SS 10:45A Service w/HC	24	25	26 5:30P Confirmation	27	28	

Events: Ash
 Wednesday is
 March 5th

Contacts:
 Pastor Wright
 Church Office