

News of Nathaniel Brown's Seminary Journey

February 2018

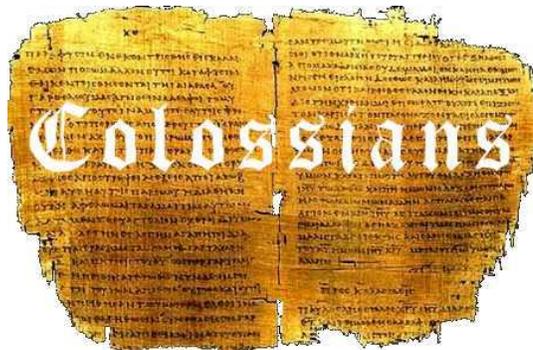
Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the crucified Jesus Christ! I was thinking about this newsletter and at first it seemed to be a really simple month. Looking back, I realized that it actually has been really busy. I started my second



module that is needed for first year Seminarians to complete, and that is my Cross-Cultural module. I chose to serve at Christian Friends of New Americans, which is an after-school location that helps the refugee and immigrant populations. It has been

awesome to meet and get to know people from all around the world.

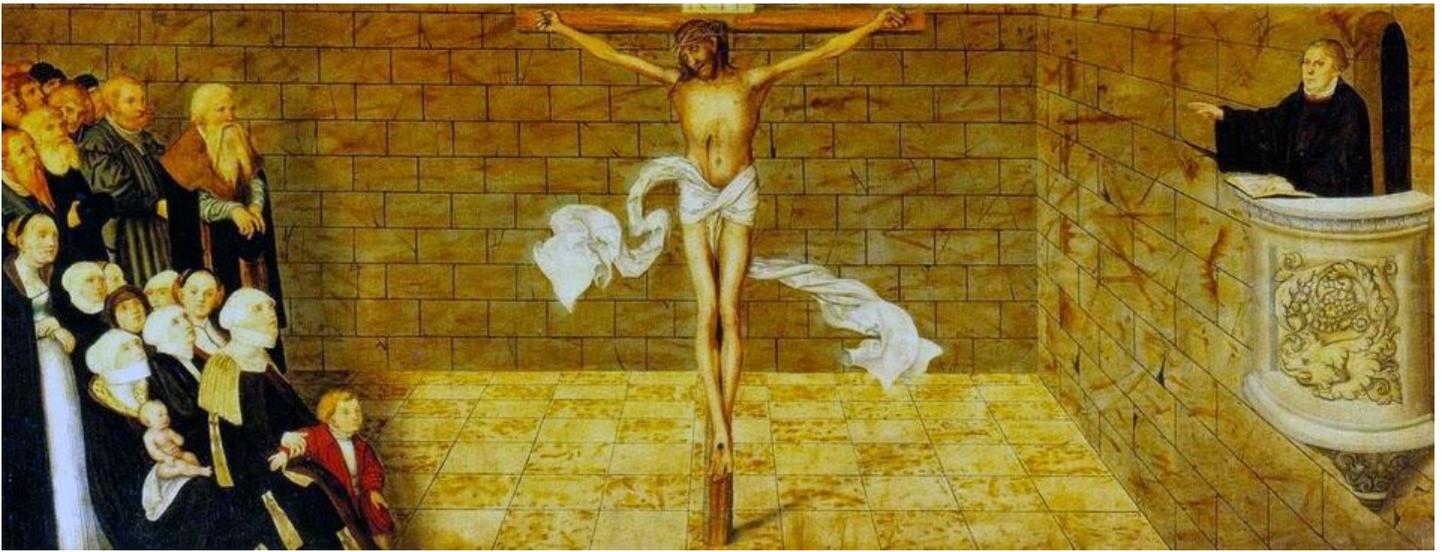
I have also been going through the book of Colossians as a Bible Study on campus. It has been enriching to be diving into a specific book of the Bible which is not really covered in the Lectionary Series. In the letter to Collasae, Paul urges us not to separate the physical and spiritual parts of our life. As we are now in Lent, it is helpful to remember that we can fast for Lent, but we don't have to. Some people think that it is a spiritual discipline to fast, and it is, but it is also a physical discipline. We cannot separate the physical from the spiritual in any of our activities. Taking care of our physical body is important because maintaining a healthy body is also spiritually beneficial. This is shown on the Last Day, when Christ will come and restore our bodies to live on the New Earth.



Prayer List:

- For all people, that they may come to the knowledge of Christ and so be saved.
- For all our leaders, that the rules they enact may lead us to quiet and dignified lives.
- That the Church, may be strengthened.
- For the Seminary students in St. Louis and in Ft. Wayne, that they may be able to serve His people faithfully.
- For the friends and family of the victims of the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, that they may have comfort in Christ as they grieve.
- That those hurting from infertility may continue to trust in Christ's sufficiency.
- That the Olympic athletes may compete with joy and build the spirit of international peace after the Olympics have been completed.

If you have prayer requests, or want to talk, please send them to me! My email is brownn@csl.edu, and my address is: 801 Seminary Place St. Louis, MO 63105



Classes have also been busy. I have loved my Homiletics class because preaching is complex, but it is God's Word applied to real lives who are living in a sinful world. One of the things I learned about sermons is it is okay to change your sermon at the last minute, but you shouldn't do that all the time. I think that is why this newsletter has been such a struggle to write. While on campus, we have been involved with classes, field education, interacting with others on campus and of course homework. While we are busy with all of this, we also stay on top of the news. This newsletter was going to be about how my Synoptic Gospel class has been wonderful, how excited I was about celebrating my birthday on Ash Wednesday instead of solely Valentine's Day, and explaining more about what I am doing at Christian Friends of New Americans.

All of this seemed meaningless to talk about in the wake of the shooting that occurred on the 14th at Stoneman Douglas High School. This act of pure evil hijacked what was a day focused on love, and for Christians a day of solemnity and repentance. It is absolutely heart-breaking to hear of another school shooting, and the questions can arise: *Where was God in this tragedy? Why did God allow this to occur? We know that Christ has won the battle over sin, death, and the devil, but we don't know why the battle continues. As I saw photos of the aftermath, this photo stuck with me. Even though we have the certain hope of Christ's return on the last day, we still are going to experience sorrow and anguish. We are not able to separate the physical from the spiritual, but we can give comfort to those hurting in this world. As St. Paul also says, "We preach Christ and Him crucified." We love to talk about the Resurrection, but we all are also called to share that Christ died for our sins. I don't want to end on a hard note, but it is needed. God's peace be with you this month.* †

