

Traveling with God's Word...

Holy Cross' vision statement is "providing strength for the faith journey." In Baptism we promise to nurture and encourage a person in their journey of faith. As people of faith we also make a commitment to spend time together in community, around the Lord's table, in prayer, caring for others and time with the holy scriptures.

There is no denying that we have busy schedules and lives and the thought of trying to squeeze out one more moment for one more task may be beyond our comprehension.

However, if we work to make our faith relevant and alive then we come full circle back to our vision statement. So, where do we tap into the strength we need to discover, explore and participate in the adventure of the Christian faith? Prayer and scripture play a key role in our relationship with God. They provide us with the opportunities to listen and imagine what God is up to in our lives and this world.

In 2012, Holy Cross will launch a congregational initiative to encourage all of us together to be more intentional and thoughtful in creating time to "Travel with God's Word".

We have a wonderful resource through E-Word Today (www.ewordtoday.com and www.BibleYear.com). The benefit of using this resource is that you will be able to access from any computer or smart phone anywhere you are.

You will be able to choose from one of the five different reading plans which will allow you to personalize the approach that makes sense to you.

Beginning to End: Read the Bible from start to finish, from Genesis to Revelation.

Chronological: Read the Bible as its events occurred in real time. For example, Job lived sometime after the beginning of creation (Genesis 1) but before Abraham was born (Genesis 12). As a result, the Book of Job is integrated into the Book of Genesis.

Historical: Read the books of the Bible as they were written historically, according to the estimated date of their writing.

New then Old: A BibleYear.com exclusive! Read through the New Testament first, then read through the Old Testament.

Old and New: Each day includes a passage from both the Old Testament and New Testament.

In addition, there will be three levels of participation for you to engage in this process. The "**discover**" level is the base level where you make a commitment to spend time with God's Word on a daily basis. The "**explore**" level will provide you opportunities to participate in monthly conversation groups that will meet in members' homes or at the church to explore where God's Word is working in your life. Finally, there is the "**adventure**" level that will provide you with 6- 8 events throughout 2012 to come together for an evening led by one of our pastors or a college/seminary professor who will provide material behind the scripture by spending time with major biblical themes.

Begin now praying about your involvement. More details will be shared during November and December. If you have questions please direct them to Pastor Joleen, Pastor Krista or Pastor Bob.

Exploration Questions...

What word or phrase strikes you, and where does it take you?

What images or stories or memories come to mind?

What confuses or challenges you?

Who are the most generous, those who have more or those who have less?

What is God calling us to be, to do, or to tell?

Adventure Questions...

What insights from history would be helpful to know in order to hear, read, study, or understand this passage more accurately?

What stands behind the text?

Do we know anything about the author? Who wrote this letter?

Do we know when this material was written, where it was written from and where it was written to?

What about the original context would you like to know?

In what ways do we hear this passage as law?

In what ways do we hear this passage as Gospel? What is the good news for our church and world today?

How does this passage move us from God's salvation to our vocation?

What are we called to do in response to what God has done for us?

How might others hear this passage, especially folks from cultures, traditions, or age groups different from their own?