

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

January 2021

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VIRTUAL

SUNDAYS
JANUARY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/
SERMONS

DRIVE-IN

SUNDAYS
JANUARY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
9:30 AM

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

The Gift of Another Year...

At the beginning of 2021, here are a few questions to ponder.

When you pray, when you open the pages of Scripture, what are you looking for? When you think about church what are you hoping for? Are we looking for *anything*, or are we just going through the motions of a religious life we inherited from our family of origin? Are we seeking consolation? Affirmation? Belonging? Certainty?

Are you looking to gain power, or to surrender it? Which comes first? Action? Contemplation? Do you start with your heart and mind or in the world? Are you looking to arrive, or to journey?

As you might imagine, there are no 'right or wrong' responses to these questions. There are only the responses that hold truth and have meaning for our life. There is, of course, the matter of Jesus and the insights that he offers to us about a life of abundance that God creates us to participate in. There is the matter of us deciding in the first place whether Jesus is even going to be a part of the conversation that these questions generate. Then, there is the matter of how far we are willing to follow Jesus each day of our life.

Looking. Seeing. Finding. These are the things we are called to do, not once, but over and over again as people of faith, as children of God and as Christians. This is the heart of discipleship, not to hasten the end of our search, but to pursue it ever more deeply and intentionally. To cultivate a willingness to consider a different perspective and worldview. A willingness to see and be seen. A willingness to tell the truth about what we have found. A willingness to venture forth again, even when we don't know exactly what we are supposed to be looking for.

The invitation of Jesus to "come and see" is an invitation to leave our comfortable vantage points, and dare to believe that just maybe, we have been limited and wrong in our certainties about each other, about God, and about the world. To "come and see" is to approach all of life with a grace-filled curiosity, to believe that we are holy mysteries to each other, worthy of further exploration. To come and see is to enter into the joy of being deeply seen and deeply known, and to have the very best that lies hidden within us called out and called forth.

Honestly, this is a very selective process. We have choices when it comes to what we look for, what we prioritize, what we name, and what we call out in each other. The selves we present to the world are layered and messy, and it takes both love and patience to sift through those layers and find what lies at the core. But there is great power in that sifting, too. Something healing and holy happens to us when we are deeply seen, known, named, and accepted.

What do you suppose Jesus would see if he were to take a look at each of us? Would Jesus see us for who we are and what lies beneath the fumbling, the fear, the mixed motives, and the doubts? I would like to think that each of us would benefit from a second look. To offer that second look, that deeper, kinder, and more penetrating look, is grace. It is the gracious vision of Jesus, and it is the vision we are called to practice in a world that too often judges and condemns at first glance. Is there anything that feels lonelier than the experience of being unseen, misunderstood, and prematurely dismissed? And is there anything more life-giving than the experience of being seen for who we really are, deep down beneath the fragile defenses we hold up out of fear? It is when we have been loved right down to the core of who we are that we find the capacity to embrace other people as Jesus embraced every sinner, every doubter, and every believer who crossed his path.

May 2021 be a year when we gain more clarity about what we are looking for so we will know when we find it.

Peace,

Pastor Bob



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**Sunday, January 31, 2021
11 am via Zoom**

All confirmed members of Holy Cross are encouraged to participate. Full details and Zoom link at [HolyCrossChurch.org/annualmeeting](https://holycrosschurch.org/annualmeeting)

**Attention all ministry members:
Kindly submit your reports for the 2020 Annual Report to office@holycrosschurch.org by Monday, January 4.**



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LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060
OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

[HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG](https://holycrosschurch.org)

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator
Janet Carr, Congregational Activities
Randall Casey, Director of Music
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Sarah Grayer, Director of High School Youth Ministry
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries
Beth Malecha, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Operational Ministries
Mike Price, Business Director
Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Attendant
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications
Manny Rivera, Property
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Director of Worship Technical Arts
Tom Zombolo, Property

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Sam Cooper, Director
Roxanne (Rocky) Kupfer, Assistant Director

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sonny Randall (*President*), Katie Ormson (*Vice President*),
Andy Eidson, Mick Garrison, Bill Miksch, Karl Nygard,
Amy Sekili, Jim Smalley, John Villani, Martha Watt,
Rich Yocius
Secretary, Terry Berger
Treasurer, Eric Ormson
Financial Secretary, Lori Fedyk

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiv
Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

Annual Congregational Meeting

As with many other aspects of life, the ongoing pandemic is affecting our plans for Holy Cross' annual congregational meeting. We will be meeting via Zoom instead of gathering in person as we have in years past. The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31 at 11 am.

The Annual Report will be made available on Sunday, January 24. View the Annual Report PDF document online at [HolyCrossChurch.org/annualmeeting](https://holycrosschurch.org/annualmeeting). Printed copies will be distributed during Drive-In Worship on Sundays, January 24 and January 31 at 9:30 am. If you're unable to attend Drive-In Worship and would like a printed copy, please notify the church office as soon as possible to arrange contactless pickup or for a copy to be mailed to you. office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060

Meeting Guidelines

Please review the following guidelines which will be in place for the Zoom meeting.

- All confirmed members of the congregation are encouraged to join the meeting.
- For us to begin on time, please allow extra time to connect and test your settings. Test Zoom in advance at zoom.us/test
- In order to cast a vote on Zoom, each participant will need to log in to the meeting with a dedicated device. While multiple people in a household can watch the meeting on one device, they will not be able to cast more than one vote per device. If more than one person plans on voting during the meeting, please connect to Zoom with additional devices. Please note that landline phone calls to Zoom will also not allow voting.
- Questions during the Zoom meeting may be typed in the chat section. To submit a question prior to the meeting, please send an email to office@holycrosschurch.org by Friday, January 29.

Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Explanation of virtual meeting format for discussion and voting
- Approval of minutes from January 2020 Annual Meeting
 - Vote to approve 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
- New Business
- Election of Council Members
 - Vote to close nominations for candidates
 - Vote to approve 4 candidates for church council
 - Andy Eidson (second term)
 - Gail Kelly (first term)
 - Harold Sargent (first term)
 - Nicole Drake (first term)
- Approval of 2021 Proposed Ministry Budget
 - Vote to approve 2021 Budget
- Stewardship Reflection
- Ministry Reports
 - Vote to accept Ministry Reports
- Holy Cross Staff Transitions
- Recognition
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment
 - Vote to adjourn the 2021 Annual Meeting

The Cross Connection, parish newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is published monthly and is available online at [HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters](https://holycrosschurch.org/newsletters). Articles should be submitted by the 1st of the month to Janet Carr at janet@holycrosschurch.org

Join the Zoom meeting on January 31 at 11 am



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97180145674



Dates: Sundays, January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Time: 9:30 am

Radio Frequency: FM 87.9

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Holy Cross parking lot for worship with Holy Communion and live music in a safe and socially distant manner. You may choose to remain in your vehicle or bring a lawn chair to sit in your designated parking space. Masks are required when you leave your vehicle. Please check our website at holycrosschurch.org/sermons for each day's support material and schedule updates.

We will continue to offer pre-recorded worship videos on our website that offer the same messaging as the Drive-In Worship services.

Farewell from Pastor Sally

by Rev. Sally Hanson

Dear Holy Cross Family,

As my time at Holy Cross comes to a close, I am filled with gratitude. The gratitude for the opportunities that I had to learn from, grow into, dream about and experience alongside this amazing congregation. The strength and vibrancy of Holy Cross comes from the energy and commitment of members and friends. I was continually inspired to try new things, expand my learning, and grow into my identity as a pastor.

A pastor's first call is always special as a congregation takes the risk on someone new to the career field and walks alongside them through all the firsts in ministry. Sadly, one of the "firsts" is saying goodbye to a congregation. It is bittersweet to say the least and I am incredibly grateful for all things Holy Cross.

Thank you for the wonderful farewell and sending to my family and me as we begin to transition to our next adventure in ministry at St. Luke's. You all will be carried with me throughout my ministry as the very special "first call" that taught me how to be a pastor. Thank you for this incredible opportunity.

With deepest gratitude and blessings,

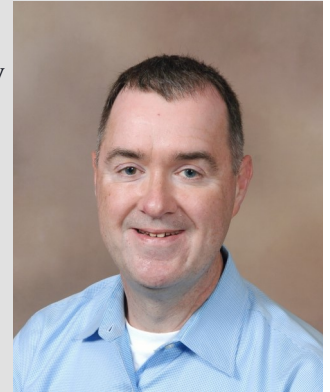
Pastor Sally



Introducing the Director of Operational Ministries - Steve Oelschlager

by Steve Oelschlager

Holy Cross is a significant organization with lots of moving parts. In a "normal" year, we employ 45-60 people and steward a roughly \$2.7 million budget to operate the church and our early childhood ministries. While Holy Cross is not a business, we have many things in common with how companies work, including staff, property, budgets, risk-management concerns, and more. Our members and supporters rightly expect that Holy Cross will make vibrant ministry happen, from pastoral care to worship, faith formation, as well as external outreach and partnerships affecting the community and larger world.



I'm excited to announce that I will be serving as your first Director of Operational Ministries. As Holy Cross reimagines how we make ministry happen, we are trying to restructure responsibilities so that our pastors can focus less on administrative and operational tasks and more on pastoral/spiritual duties. This new full-time position is about living into that goal. Our church council approved the job and my hiring in October, and December 1 was my first day.

Why me? I have been a member and active participant at Holy Cross since 1997, served on church council, as treasurer, on the finance team, and most recently as the Director of Generosity and Engagement. For the last eight years, I have also worked for our denomination, the ELCA, in stewardship and resources for vital congregations. Before the ELCA, I was an entrepreneur for over 20 years, working with businesses on marketing, communications, and technology solutions. I have an undergraduate degree in engineering, a master's degree in economics, and a lifetime of experience in the church.

At their best, I believe that a life of faith and organized religion offer something of profound value to everyone. It's no surprise to say that as our world and culture become more secular, smaller percentages of the population are resonating with religion's value add. The challenge is to keep looking for new ways to connect with people, support them spiritually, be relevant, and operate at the highest levels of efficiency and impact.

PASTORAL ACTS



BAPTISM

Luke Asher Dolcimascolo

son of Joseph and Dawn Dolcimascolo
Saturday, December 12



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Jesus: The Source of Our Vision

by Steve Oelschlager

Our attempts to follow Jesus are primarily about aligning ourselves to his alternative vision, his distinct picture of truth, reality, and existence. Jesus gave his vision a name, "the Kingdom of God," and claimed that it already was present, underway, although still in process. Jesus taught us to pray that his vision might be fully known "on earth as it is in heaven." Why? Because Jesus' vision is the way, the truth, and the pathway to life. Ultimately Jesus reimagined life rooted in love, mercy, grace, hospitality, inclusion, kindness, generosity, non-violence, and justice. Jesus' ministry articulated God's dream for people, for creation that multiplies health, flourishing, and well-being. Jesus' ministry was more than just words, however. He also modeled for us the choices and behaviors that would make this dream come true. And, Jesus believed his vision is not only worth dying for, but it's also worth living for.

As we think about our vision for our world, for Holy Cross, and our own lives, it is useful to think about Jesus. Do we want to be agents and co-creators of the Kingdom, to bring health, flourishing, and well-being on earth as it is in heaven? If so, how might we organize ourselves, strategize, govern, behave, and make choices to move in that direction? Jesus' life and ministry suggest that the journey will involve pain, adversity, suffering, and sacrifice. Still, it will also be the wisest investment we ever make, full of meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

Entering this new year, I continue to be excited about our faith community here at Holy Cross and for all of you. We have so much potential to be about the things that Jesus envisioned, to move the needle toward health and well-being through the things we do together, and through all the little ways we engage with life 24/7/365. Holy Cross is at its best when we can ground our vision in Jesus' vision, when we can learn to see the world and life as Jesus saw them, and when we can inspire each other to keep choosing this way of life. I'm grateful to be on this journey with all of you, and I look forward to continuing to invest with you in a vision worth living for.

Join us for conversations on the Sermon on the Mount (details on page 6) to do a deeper dive into Jesus' vision for our lives and world.

Access Your Giving Statements in Church Community Builder

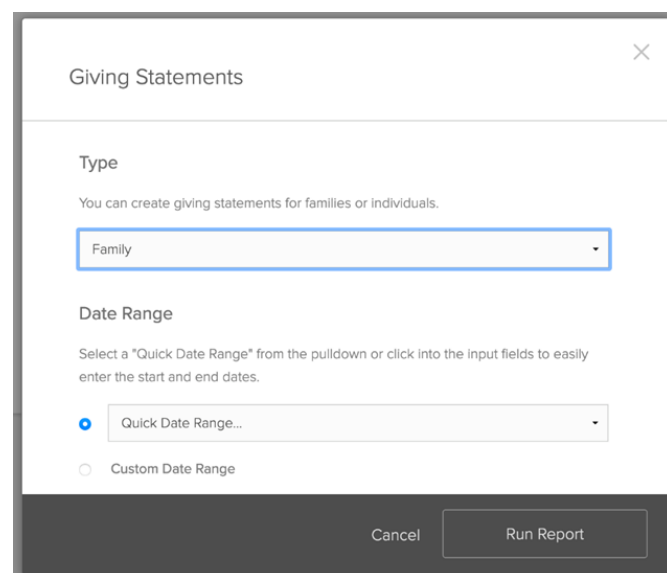
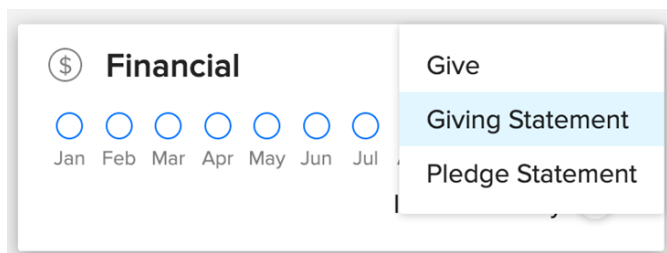


Holy Cross will continue to mail out giving statements periodically. Still, if you want to retrieve yours on your own, you can generate one for any period in the last seven years through our new church management system, Church Community Builder (CCB). Using CCB and setting up an account is not a requirement, only an invitation for a better link between Holy Cross and you and your family. Downloading your giving statement is one example of the benefit of getting connected.

If you do not yet have a login and would like to use CCB, you can request an account at this link: bit.ly/HCCB_signup. Once you submit the form, an email will typically be sent to you within one weekday with a link to activate your login.

When you can log in, click the circle with your picture or initials in the top-right corner to see your profile. Click the link near the top for "Involvement" and then make sure the "Financial" check-box is selected. You will then be able to see a tile further down the page that is titled "Financial." When you roll over the Financial tile, you will see three dots in the upper-right corner that will give you the menu options to generate your statement. Click the menu option for "Giving Statement" and go from there.

If you have any questions about CCB, your giving statement, or accessing your giving records through CCB, please contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org



A Look at Epiphany

by Randy Casey

January is named after the Roman god with two faces, Janus. One of his faces looked forward while the other looked backward, so it was deemed appropriate by a sage to utilize his name for this time when we indeed ponder the year behind us and then look to the one ahead. At the risk of being deemed heretical, I shall submit that Epiphany functions similarly in our liturgical calendar as January does in our secular. In other words, at the start of Epiphany we are recognizing the arrival of Jesus, while by the end of this season, we are anticipating Lent.

We celebrate the start of Epiphany on January 6 by recalling the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. One way we do this musically is with the familiar carol "We Three Kings of Orient Are," which it may surprise you to learn is not in our "cranberry" hymnal, the ELW, and is not in the old green LBW either. I can only surmise that Lutherans picked up this carol from its straying into the secular world or from visiting an Episcopal church whose present and previous hymnals (1982 and 1940) contain "We Three Kings." I hasten to add that the hymnals of both churches have "As with Gladness Men of Old," the text of which was written in 1860 in England and first appeared in a British hymnal in 1861. The "men of old" here refers to the Wise Men.

Easily my favorite Epiphany hymn is "Brightest and Best of the Stars," whose title, of course, presents the Star over the manger at Bethlehem. In a word, the text is descriptive and the music, at least to me, is grand.

There is a quiet song that appears in the Christmas section of our ELW that we could sing every Sunday during Epiphany and rejoice inwardly at doing so. I refer to "In the Bleak Midwinter," whose tune is lovely and whose text includes my favorite verse in all of Christendom: "What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give him my heart." This is from a poem by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), born in London. From the John Julian *Dictionary of Hymnology*, p. 978: "Miss Rossetti's verses are profoundly suggestive and lyrical, and deserve a larger place than they occupy in the hymnody of the church. Her sonnets are among the finest in the English language."

The "lamb" referred to in the third line of the verse just quoted anticipates the singing during Lent of the opening chorus of Handel's *Messiah*, part II, which declares "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world." And then there is the exquisite anthem by John Tavener simply entitled "The Lamb," which is a setting of a poem by William Blake. A line therefrom: "For he calls himself a Lamb."

The same creative man who used the analogy of "evergreens" to describe texts such as the parables of Jesus, the *Iliad*, and the writings of Shakespeare (which I mentioned in my December newsletter column) declared that Jesus was able to feed the 5,000 people because He "thought differently" than His disciples and the other people around Him. Likewise, I would ask you to think differently about Epiphany. It is not just an indeterminate amount of time between Christmas and Lent during which we can look forward and backward to that which has been and may be. Rather it is a period of blessing during which we can explore His creation like a fawn in a field, curious yet cautious, looking if not seeing, trying not to fall.

Eagle Scout Projects at Holy Cross

Three local Boy Scouts chose to support Holy Cross with their Eagle Scout projects this past fall. Nathan Shinn chose as his project to repair and restore the path leading to our fire pit and built new benches to surround the fire pit. Lucas Thomas then improved the fire pit by lining it with new brick and mortar, and added a retaining wall to level the area. Matthew Berner chose to improve the drainage area at the west end of our property by removing the existing rock from the swale, regrading it, and then restoring it with existing and new rock.

We thank these young men for their efforts that will benefit our property for years to come, and wish them well in completion of their Eagle Scout certifications.

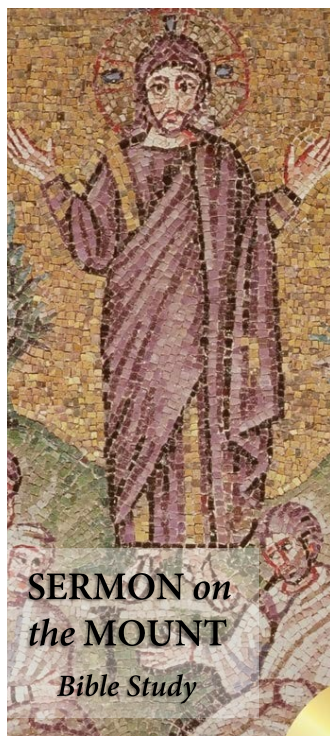


**BOOK CLUB****TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 7 PM**
 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92072689933

This month we will discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict. Hedy Kiesler (Lamarr) is lucky. Her beauty leads to a starring role in a controversial film and marriage to a powerful Austrian arms dealer, allowing her to evade Nazi persecution despite her Jewish heritage. But Hedy is also intelligent. At lavish Vienna dinner parties, she overhears the Third Reich's plans. One night in 1937, desperate to escape her controlling husband and the rise of the Nazis, she disguises herself and flees her husband's castle. Our discussion host for the evening is Jeri Powers. If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com

**Saturday
Men's Group****SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP****SATURDAYS AT 7 AM**
 zoom.us/j/301891517

This group is for men of faith to come together throughout the year to share their faith and thoughts about challenging topics. All welcome. Starting on January 9, we will be looking at a 6 part Bible study on the Sermon on the Mount (also offered as a class on Tuesday nights.) See below for more information and participant book details. Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

**SERMON ON THE MOUNT - 6 PART BIBLE STUDY****TUESDAYS, JANUARY 12, 19, 26, FEBRUARY 2, 9 & 16 AT 7 PM**
 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98980130894?pwd=ZUNxVnICRTNocXBsN2RRNm1nVi81Zz09

The "Sermon on the Mount" is the presentation of Jesus as a new Moses who interprets the Torah, who offers wisdom sayings on how to live the way God wants, and, who provides practical instruction. This work is more than just the beatitudes. When we go deeper into understanding Jesus' Jewish context and Jewish message, we are able to make more sense of Jesus' teaching. Jesus' teaching reminds us that the kingdom of heaven is already available to us and manifested when we live into God's will on earth.

Each Gospel has a signature story. For Luke, it's the synagogue sermon in chapter 4. For Mark, it's the double healing of the blind man in chapter 8, which precedes Peter's confession. For John, it's the prologue, "In the beginning was the Word." For Matthew, the signature story is "the Sermon on the Mount" in chapters 5-7.

DVD support material will be provided by Amy-Jill Levine, the University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. A participant's book will be needed, which can be purchased through Amazon or other booksellers for direct delivery to you. Details are as follows:

Title: Sermon on the Mount...A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven

Author: Amy-Jill Levine

Publisher: Abingdon Press ISBN-13: 978-1-5018-9989-8 [amazon.com/dp/B0859M58ZL](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0859M58ZL)See an outline of the weekly topics online at holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetingsQuestions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org**GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP****FRIDAY, JANUARY 8 AT 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM AND IN PERSON AT
BLUE SKY YOGA, 700 FIRST ST. LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048**

Back by popular demand! Join us as we gather as a community in the new year to stretch our body and our spirits into the presence of God. This will once again be offered in person or online. In person will be limited to 15 participants and unlimited online participation. Free will donation with a suggested cost of \$10/person. Please register by emailing myblueskyyoga@gmail.com. Event will be held at Blue Sky Yoga and hosted by Angie Miller. A Zoom link will be provided via email by Angie prior to January 8.

**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP****TUESDAY, JANUARY 5 AT 9:30 AM**
 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97238891441

2020 was full of ups and downs. What is one word that describes your experience of 2020? As we look toward 2021, what are some of your hopes and dreams? Is there a word that you hope to grow into for the year? Come prepared to share a word on your reflection of 2020 and a word or phrase to focus on as you move into 2021. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

by Sam Cooper

Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

Back to Learning

2021 is finally here! I think we are all looking forward to what a new year will bring us. Students and staff have returned from their winter break and are ready to get back to learning! The second half of the school year will consist of the students learning new things while also mastering already learned skills.

The students have had so much fun participating in Virtual Chapel. The best part is the upbeat music! The children love to dance and sing along! Following the video, the teachers read them the bible story to go along with the video.

CrossWays Preschool will not be in session on Monday, January 18 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Winter Fun

Welcome to 2021! I hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing holiday. Now that the holidays are over, the children will be getting back into a normal routine at school. The second half of the year, teachers start working on nailing down the skills students have been practicing.

Winter is upon us which means fun outdoor activities are here! Children have a blast building snowmen, sledding on the hill, and experimenting with snow. It also gives the students a chance to practice their self-help skills such as zipping, buttoning, and putting on their own snow gear.

Preschool Enrollment for 2 to 5 Year Olds



Come join our CrossWays Preschool family where love and learning meet! Our dedicated teachers create a fun, safe environment for our students to grow and establish bonds with each other and their educators. CrossWays Preschool uses a variety of tools, curriculums, and resources to give our students a wide range of learning experiences. We offer two types of preschool programming: our Traditional preschool model and an Enrichment class. In both programs, students enjoy fine motor fun, circle time, and unique crafts! Students get a chance to play on the playground, blacktop, garden, and wetlands.

Open enrollment is ongoing for the current school year and 2021/22 registration starts on January 18 for members/ current families. For more info and a virtual tour, visit cpreschool.org

Open Enrollment for Ages 6 Weeks to 12 Years



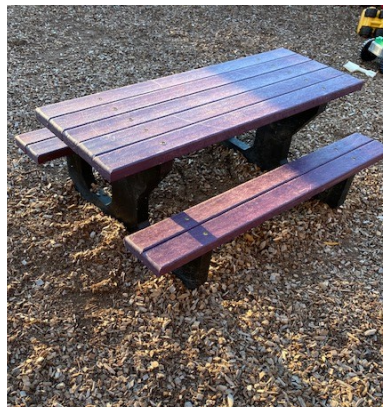
Celebration! Childcare focuses on the social/emotional development of children by creating strong bonds and positive interactions. Children learn best in an environment that they feel safe and comfortable at, which is what Celebration! Childcare offers.

In addition to your child's emotional needs, teachers work on developmentally appropriate skills and practices using a variety of tools, curriculums, and activities to keep children engaged and interested. Students of Celebration! Childcare love our 10 plus acres to play on.

Find more information online at cchildcare.org and take a virtual tour of our program!

Plastic Cap Project Completion

After months and months of collecting caps, we reached our goal! The 800 lbs. of collected caps were driven to Indiana for drop off in early November. In exchange for all our hard work of collecting, sorting, and weighing we purchased a bench for the front walkway, a picnic table for the playground, and four benches for the church patio. Thank you to everyone for bringing in your caps!



crossways@holycrosschurch.org
(847) 367-4367
cpreschool.org



**CrossWays
Preschool**



**Celebration!
Childcare**

celebration@holycrosschurch.org
(847) 367-6208
cchildcare.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Ages 3 - 5th Grade
All welcome to participate



Celebrate Wonder

by Rev. Dr. Robert Davis

Join us as we find JOY in all that we do through the eyes of the gospel as we welcome the Magi to the home of the boy Jesus. Learn more by joining us Sunday morning at 9:30am via Zoom. Upcoming dates/ topics:

January 3 – Winter Break

January 10 – The Magi

January 17 – Jesus' Baptism

January 24 – Calling the Disciples

January 31 – Showing Love

Each week we are growing with more and more participants! Carrie and Jamey Mack bless us with a musical gathering followed by an instructional video prepared by Pastor Sally and Dale Tippet, Jr. Our time together concludes with conversation, interactions and activities with Mrs. Mack and our youth and adult helpers. We would love for you to join us Sundays at 8:30am when Sunday School is scheduled. Each session runs approximately 30 minutes.

If you miss a virtual session, the lesson video portion will be available to view for a week on the Holy Cross Sunday School Google Classroom. If you haven't joined the classroom yet, you can do so at the following link:

bit.ly/sundayschoolGC Classroom code: ksnvyua

Questions? Or interested in helping out? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org



Upcoming Sunday School Sessions via Zoom



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/99278276804

January 10, 17, 24, 31



CONFIRMATION

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

There will be no retreat in January this year due to the pandemic. We hope to plan a day to be together with retreat-like activities in the spring.

Reminder, that each month an average of two electives are expected to be completed. These can be done independently or as a part of a larger learning class. Keep watching for updates of the next electives offered for the month. Please RSVP for these electives online through Church Community Builder.

January 12 from 7 - 8 pm: Crochet & Prayer Shawl with Jessica Brown

January 24 from 7 - 8 pm: Dreamers of the Bible with Terry Berger

Don't forget, an independent learning elective is always an option. View the full Confirmation Elective Course Catalog online at bit.ly/confirmationECC

New! Confirmation DVD lending library. We are developing a lending library with common elective DVDs. Added this month is the Luther (2003) movie. Contact the church office to make arrangements for pick up.

Class Schedule:

Large Group: Sunday, January 10 at 6:30 pm

Small Group: Sunday, January 17 at 6:30 pm



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94379688512

All confirmation large and small group gatherings will remain virtual until further notice. Please contact Pastor Bob with any questions at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org

The Parent Connection

The Parent Connection is designed for parents of 9 – 12 grade youth. The Parent Connection meets during the monthly Crossroads High School Youth Group events and includes:

- Building relationships with other Holy Cross parents
- Discussing best and “not so best” practices related to our teenagers
- Sharing insights from topics based small group conversations

For more visit holycrosschurch.org/parentconnection

What's going on next?

Parent Connection is held every second Tuesday at 7 pm

Zoom Link: [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94739927926?](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94739927926?pwd=V3B0T1FSQXhXdm11bzVJeVNzU0xoZz09)

[pwd=V3B0T1FSQXhXdm11bzVJeVNzU0xoZz09](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94739927926?pwd=V3B0T1FSQXhXdm11bzVJeVNzU0xoZz09)

Meeting ID: 947 3992 7926

Passcode: 739431

Crossroads High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group for 9 - 12 Grade Youth

The Crossroads Purpose & Vision

Our Purpose:

To develop and sustain a vibrant and connected high school youth group by creating a safe space for spiritual growth, and real conversations to help the youth learn more about themselves, each other, and God's Love.

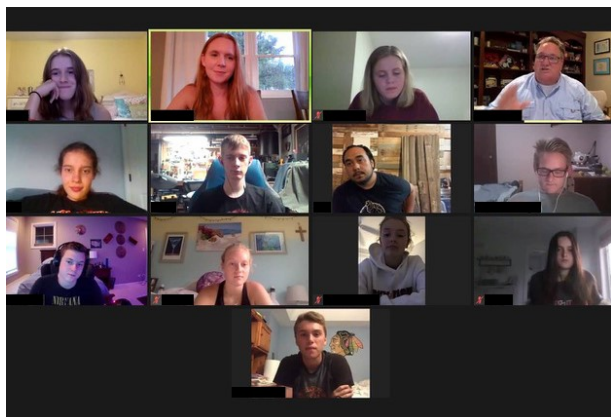
Our Mission:

To build a foundation for life-long faith formation that is grounded in God the Trinity, connected to peers, supported by parents, and nurtured by congregational members.



Connecting & Thriving!

The Crossroads Youth Group both respects the COVID-19 restrictions and still finds ways to connect by having regular Zoom meetings for the youth, as well as in-person activities as able that always include the parents. Recently we have had a spooky-fun virtual murder mystery, discussed ways to talk about hot button topics around the November election, had a great online "speed-dating" night, and gave our opinions on cancel culture.



FYI: Living a Better Story

Holy Cross was chosen to participate with 13 other churches in the wider Chicagoland area in the Fuller Youth Institute two-year co-hort called "Living a Better Story!" The FYI is a great organization, research trailblazer, and thought leader related to all things youth and family ministry. The Holy Cross team consists of 5 adults and 2 youth who meet with the other churches to share best practices and apply new methodologies. We are excited to introduce some new ministry opportunities in 2021!



Hi, I'm Sarah Grayer. I'm the Director of High School Youth & Family Ministry. When I was a teenager my youth group was huge in helping me develop my faith. Because of that, I am now passionate about developing great ministry opportunities with high school youth and their parents. In addition to serving on the church ministry staff in this part-time role, I also work full-time with a wealth management & financial planning group and enjoy married life with my wonderful husband Justin. In my spare time I do a bunch of yoga, reading, and have lots of outdoor fun time with our Australian Shepherd Chloe.

Connect with me any time about your ideas or questions at sarahgrayer@holycrosschurch.org

What's going on next?

In January we'll be getting together for more Crossroads Youth Nights! Please visit holycrosschurch.org/crossroads or contact Sarah Grayer directly for information on upcoming events.

Quilting News

by Deb Sherrock

On November 24, 2020, ten quilts were delivered to the COOL Ministries offices in Waukegan. The quilts were given to families residing in their Family Housing program. The Holy Cross quilting group, completed seven quilts in late 2019 and early 2020 before they stopped meeting to sew in mid-March 2020. Deb Sherrock created two twin-sized quilts during the 'stay-at-home' summer and included another from her stash of completed quilts to help meet our ten-quilt goal. The group also made three smaller quilts that were donated to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

In past years, the quilts would grace the altar and side windows of the sanctuary one Sunday in the fall for members of the congregation to see the beauty this group creates. Since we could not meet for in-person worship, the quilt display did not occur in 2020. Also, the entire quilting group of five ladies usually participates in the quilt delivery to COOL. This year, one person delivered the quilts.

It is unknown when we will gather again to sew as a group (we usually met on Wednesday mornings from 9 am to noon in the resource center in the basement of the west wing). Currently members of the group have sewing 'assignments' to work on blocks for a quilt which will be assembled once the blocks are completed. Others are making entire quilts working alone at home.

If you have quilt tops that you no longer want or need, or have sewn a quilt top that you would like to be donated to a good cause, consider giving it to the quilting group. Donations of 100% cotton fabric, either scrap pieces or yardage, are always welcome.

For more information, contact Deb Sherrock at debs695@aol.com or 630-267-7802.

Quilting group members are: Nancy Joiner, Sharon Pierluissi, Felicia Brandt, Melanie Houser & Deb Sherrock

Pictured below are COOL representatives, Mindy Lindholm (left) and Amanda Williams.



Project Reindeer Rosebud Update

by Therese Delli Paoli

This is our 13th year of supporting our Lakota friends on the Rosebud reservation. Because we were unable to host our annual Cookie Walk event to benefit the folks at Two Strike, we launched 'Project Reindeer Rosebud' to help us guide our way through the fog of Covid-19 to bring Christmas to every girl and boy (age or at heart!) at the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota.



Project Reindeer Rosebud was an exceptional success. We were able to donate a total of \$4,000 to several ministries in Rosebud. They include: Tree of Life Ministry, where they serve food daily to over 300 families and were in need of disposable food containers to continue their valuable ministry; Panther's Clothes Closet, a part of the Rosebud Elementary School, which provides both clothing and food to every student throughout the year; and because we were so successful, we also donated to The Boys and Girls Club of America in Rosebud, which provides transportation and extracurricular activities to their youth. We also financially support our missionary, Dorothy Peterson, as she continues to support families on the reservation. We are thrilled to be able to collaborate with these ministry partners and bring them joy and hope this holiday season.

From your overwhelming and generous donations, we raised over \$8,000! We could not have accomplished this effort without YOU! Thank you!

Going forward, these funds will be used next year for projects on the Rosebud reservation and for the Lakota people who face many obstacles on the reservation.

We are thankful that we can carry on this tradition at Holy Cross to support our Lakota friends. Special thank you's to Pastor Bob, Pastor Sally, Sarah, Ellie and Janet who so graciously supported our effort this year.

We wish you God's blessings and peace throughout the New Year. With sincere appreciation...

'The Cookie Walk Team'

Karla Boucek, Therese Delli Paoli, Melanie Houser, Gail Kelly, Carole Kenney, Amanda Komashka, Patty Moyer, Joyce Kveton, Melody Schneider, Joyce Twardock and Karen Yocius

Congratulations to Melissa Bryson, the winner of the raffle for a \$50 Mainstreet Libertyville gift certificate. Thank you for your generous donation!



ELCA Environmental Stewardship

by Dave Husemoller

The year 2020 will not be likely forgotten with the devastating pandemic and continued and protracted climate extremes. Such crises, coupled with the opportunities of a new year, give us the opportunity to rethink our priorities and choices.

With record-breaking temperatures, wildfires, flooding, melting ice, and rising oceans, what on earth can we do to put us on the path to fix our broken planet? The ELCA asks us to be careful stewards of the land and not exploit the wonderful things that the earth provides. (elca.org/Environment)

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we share a deep love for all of God's creation and a profound responsibility for it. Made in the image of God, we are called to continue what God is already doing for the earth (Psalm 104), enabling it to flourish. God assigns humans to care for the earth as God does, in loving servanthood. (Phil. 2:7, Gen. 2:15). Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Earth Day Statement, (4-16-18). (elca.org/News-and-Events/7922)

The ELCA is collaborating with ecoAmerica's Blessed Tomorrow, a faith community initiative that empowers climate action and advocacy. This program offers ideas, tools and resources to put us on the path to a positive future. Visit BlessedTomorrow.org to find ideas for how you can care for our shared creation.

The Giving Tree Update

by Katie Ormson

Thank you for your support of families and individuals in need in our community through our annual Giving Tree program.

This year, Holy Cross members donated 75 holiday gift items that benefit families in the COOL Transitional Housing program in Waukegan!

As of this writing, Holy Cross members contributed over \$7,000 towards holiday meal boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas, which is the equivalent of at least 350 families receiving holiday meals. Thank you for your incredible generosity to assist those in our community.

We would also like to thank those that contributed to LSSI's fundraiser. They announced that they were fully funded and exceeded their fundraising goal to purchase Christmas presents, boots, hats, and gift cards to meet urgent needs of the 110 families served by Intact North.



The Giving Tree



As you may imagine, the number of individuals and families who need assistance during these difficult times is increasing. COOL Food Pantry has changed its operating procedures. COOL patrons come by appointment only to pick up already packaged food. The number of patrons has grown, and our monetary help is needed more than ever. To continue to help, you may donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org

PADS

LAKE COUNTY

Helping the Homeless Find a Way

PADS is continuing to help house individuals at local hotels with safe housing options during the pandemic. Because of this, we are continuing to support their new model by using monetary donations for PADS to purchase needed items. If you would like to help, please donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org

COVID-19 Grief Support



Willow House

Willow House provides grief support services to children, families, schools and communities coping with the death of a loved one. We understand that for those grieving during COVID-19, a sense of isolation and uncertainty can compound the already challenging feelings of grief.

Willow House offers free virtual support groups for all ages, grief consultation, education and resources. A dedicated email, griefsupport@willowhouse.org is available for families to contact us during this time for extra support. Additionally, our team is available by phone at (847) 236-9300 during our normal office hours, 9 am - 4 pm. For more information on our available services amid COVID-19, see our website at willowhouse.org

A COVID-19 vaccine is coming soon and to facilitate distribution, the Lake County Health Department has set up the ALLVAX portal to register for the vaccine. Information about registration, distribution, and appointments can be found at allvax.lakecohealth.org



Amazon Smile Update

Since joining the Amazon Smile program in 2016, Holy Cross' youth ministry have received over \$640 in donations!

Setting up automatic donations is easy. Visit smile.Amazon.com or use the Amazon app before you shop, select Holy Cross Lutheran Church as your charitable organization and 0.5% of your purchase amount will be donated.

Thank you for your continued support!

amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1151 N SAINT MARY'S RD
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575

Postmaster: Request in home by **JANUARY 1**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Libertyville, IL
Permit No. 14

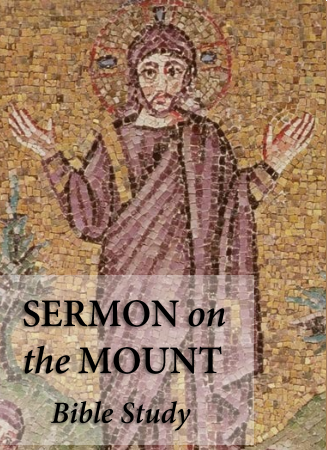


**ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

**Sunday, January 31, 2021
11 am via Zoom**

All confirmed members of
Holy Cross are encouraged
to participate.

Full details on page 2



**SERMON ON THE MOUNT
6 PART BIBLE STUDY**

TUESDAYS
JANUARY 12, 19, 26
FEBRUARY 2, 9 & 16
7 PM
VIA ZOOM

**SERMON *on*
the MOUNT**
Bible Study

SEE MORE ON PAGE 6



**Drive-In
Worship**

Join us for Drive-In
Worship on Sundays
in January at 9:30 am
in the Holy Cross
parking lot.

All welcome!

Details on page 3.



Is your preschooler ready to soar?

Registration for 2021/22
opens soon!
Take a virtual tour at
cpreschool.org
More info on page 7.

 **CrossWays Preschool**