

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

January 2019

A Different Kind of New Year's Resolution...

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE

PAGES 1 - 7

BEYOND THE
CONGREGATION

PAGES 8 - 9

YOUTH MINISTRY

PAGES 10 - 11

EARLY CHILDHOOD
MINISTRY

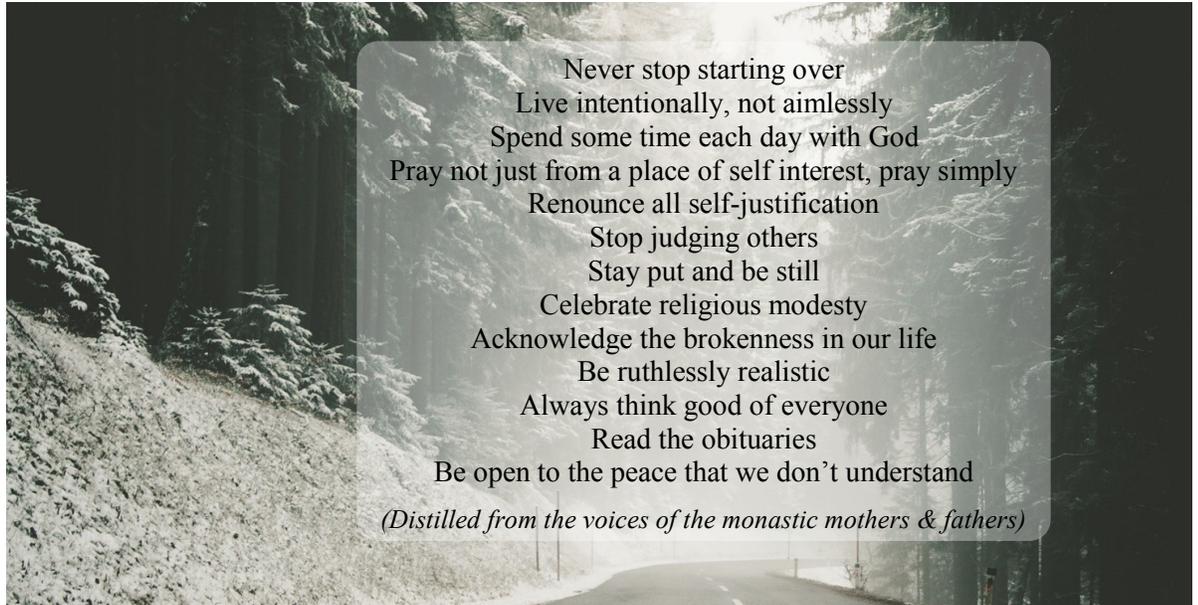
PAGE 12

RELATIONAL MINISTRY

PAGES 13 - 14

CALENDAR

PAGE 15



Never stop starting over
 Live intentionally, not aimlessly
 Spend some time each day with God
 Pray not just from a place of self interest, pray simply
 Renounce all self-justification
 Stop judging others
 Stay put and be still
 Celebrate religious modesty
 Acknowledge the brokenness in our life
 Be ruthlessly realistic
 Always think good of everyone
 Read the obituaries
 Be open to the peace that we don't understand

(Distilled from the voices of the monastic mothers & fathers)

What would it mean if we were to practice some of these monastic resolutions/insights in our life?

Experience doesn't always provide the redemptive answer we hope for to this question. Instead of relying solely on our experiences, what would happen if we were to engage them from a different perspective? What if we were to begin with our expectations? From that perspective, we discover the truth that we are not defined exclusively by where we have been or by where we are going. Sometimes, where we are and who we are is equally important.

Epiphany is the liturgical season that begins this new year and it is the time when we focus on Jesus' baptism and the first acknowledgement of his identity, and the expectations that followed. This is when we begin to recognize the significance of God coming to us in human form. As we read the Gospels, we discover that it was critical for Jesus to have an understanding about what grounded him in order for him to engage in the beginning of his new public ministry.

When we ask ourselves, "Who am I?", we may be surprised to hear some amazing Gospel answers.

You are precious and formed by God,
 You are nourished by God's love and constantly being formed and reformed,
 You are preserved by God's mercy, open to God's promises, and, expectant of the future,
 You are the human expression of the divine hope.

The monastic mothers and fathers discovered what Jesus knew. That when we speak the truth in love, we grow. That is what these monastic resolutions or insights are about. When all has been said and done, we are speaking about an interior process, an inner growth that tampers and tinkers with the most delicate parts of our machinery: the heart, the soul, and the mind. We are talking about attitudes and opportunities, a power that is not generated by our will but by God's spirit, and it is this last kind of growing, the growing in grace, which makes all of the other growth possible. It is the unexplainable gift of God in person, the gift of grace, that gives us the capacity to cope, to understand, to hope, and to resolve to live a different life.

So, let us grow up and grow together speaking the truth in this New Year.

Peace,

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS
8, 9:30 & 11 AM

FIRST SATURDAY EVENINGS
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
OCTOBER - MAY

JANUARY 5 AT 5:30 PM
WORSHIP WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27 at 10:15 am

All confirmed church members are encouraged to attend.

Worship at 8, 9:30 and 11:15 am

The agenda will include: Election of 2019 church council, 2018 ministry reports, pastoral acts, membership and financial reports plus the proposed 2019 ministry budget.

Ministry members: Kindly submit your 2018 ministry reports by Tuesday, January 2 to office@holycrosschurch.org

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

29700 N. SAINT MARY'S ROAD LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060 OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sally Hanson, Associate Pastor
Sarah Accettura, Receptionist & Office Support
Katie Bernabei, Congregational Activities
Randall Casey, Director of Music
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Roxanne (Rocky) Kupfer, Nursery Attendant
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries
Beth Malecha, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Engagement and Generosity
Mike Price, Business Director
Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Attendant
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music
Tom Zombolo, Property
Beth Zupkus, Financial Administrator

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES STAFF

- Elizabeth Moy, Director of CrossWays Preschool
Kathy Pfister, Director of Celebration! Childcare

CHURCH COUNCIL

- Katie Ormson (President), Eric Christensen (Vice President),
Jessica Brown, Barb Cannon, Andy Eidson, Lori Fedyk,
Mick Garrison, Beth Ann Koenemann, Bill Miksch,
Karl Nygard, Maria Roberts, Rich Yocius
Secretary, Lisa Dunbar
Treasurer, Mark Fedyk
Financial Secretary, Tom Miller

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

- Sunday School Coordinators:
Felicia Brandt, age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (Core Stories)
Volunteers requested, grades 1 - 5 (Deep Blue)
Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw
Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

The Cross Connection, parish newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is published monthly and is available online for viewing in full color. Articles should be submitted by the 1st of the month to office@holycrosschurch.org

Growing Musicians

with Jim Gill in Concert



Free event for families!



WHEN is the event? Sunday, January 27 from 3:45 to 6 pm.

Come and spend time together to kick off your week. A free light dinner will be served. Admission is free. Registration is required.

WHO should come to this event? Any family at Holy Cross or non-member family in the community who wants to spend quality time together making music and having fun! CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare are the sponsors of this free, family outreach series event, but you do not need to be a family from either one to attend. In fact, we hope to make new friends!

WHAT will we do? Children and their families will construct a box harp, compose a short piece of music, and then share their musical piece by playing their harp within a small group. Jim Gill, professional children's musician, will also perform an interactive concert.

WHERE will this be? The event takes place here at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Area.

WHY should I attend the 4th Annual Family Outreach Series: Growing Musicians? This is a time to slow down and spend time with your family, while enjoying creating and listening to music together.

Registration required: bit.ly/JimGillConcert

For any questions related to this event, please email Diane Gaines at pdgaines@sbcglobal.net



Bringing the Heat

by Rev. Sally Hanson



It's the season of, "I'm cold, can we turn up the heat?" Since early November, we have been in a pretty cold weather pattern. The question of turning up the heat is not one that I anticipate will go away anytime soon. But, what about our faith, how do we turn the heat up in that area of our life? This past fall, one of my kid's teams had a saying about "bringing the HEAT." It was an acronym for Heart, Effort, Attitude and Team. While it works well for a sports team, it also works well with faith.

Where are you giving your heart? Jesus calls us to love one another – we've heard this before. But love takes action. It isn't just words. What actions are you taking to show love and share your heart with those around you?

To take action and to show love for others, takes effort. In any relationship, our heart might be in it, but it's the effort that is noticed. The effort to call home, the effort to make time for coffee or the effort to write a handwritten note which reminds others you care are forms of effort. But so is shoveling a driveway, praying for others, and participating in activities that could make you grow.

Being willing to engage in conversations or activities that help us grow are best done with a positive attitude or outlook. Your frame of mind is often half the battle in being open to a new perspective. Attitude influences everything – from the effort we put in and actions we share for the sake of God's kingdom is important.

We're all in this together. That is the idea around team. As a community of faith, as humanity, we are on this earth together and we're called to work together. In this New Year, how are you being called to work with others to make the world a more loving place? How will you lift up those on your team?

Bringing HEAT into our faith enriches not only our lives, but the lives of those around us. And in this chilly time of year, we could all use a little more warmth and heat. So what are you waiting for? Bring the HEAT!

Pastor Sally

Be Still: A Moment for Mindfulness

Women's Retreat



"Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10

Date: Friday, February 22 at 6 pm
to Sunday, February 24 at 12 pm.

Location: Lutherdale Bible Camp,
Watson Retreat Center (Elkhorn, WI)

Cost: \$200 per person

Psalm 46 invites us into a place of stillness where we simply are... and to sit in this moment, being fully present. Mindfulness is an awareness of the present experience with acceptance of one's current or situation in a place of intentionality and growth. It is a place of insight and renewal as one becomes more fully aware of themselves in the presence of God.

Deb Hornell returns as our facilitator to explore mindfulness as it relates to our wellness and well-being in all aspects of our life: spiritual, personal, professional, relational, and physical. The focus of this retreat is a chance to practice being fully present in the moment, to be still and notice God in the every moment, to cultivate an internal stillness to help create and envision the life you want to lead.

The retreat gathers Friday night at Lutherdale Bible Camp as people's schedules allow. Deb will be teaching on Saturday with times of reflection, mediation, yoga, art, fun, games, and snacks mixed together. We conclude our retreat after Sunday Worship. You can expect to be back in the Libertyville area by noon on Sunday.

The remaining balance is due by January 13, 2019. Registration forms are available in the church office or on the welcome center. Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Sally at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org



MEMBERSHIP AT HOLY CROSS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Cross? To learn more about membership, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060. Individuals and families who are interested in joining Holy Cross are invited to our next New Member Breakfast and Reception.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 9 at 8:30 am
RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 1.

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Sunday, February 10 during 9:30 am worship

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Jacob Allen Filippi
Son of John and Rachel Filippi
December 2, 2018

WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Jeff & Emily Barry
Hannah & Lauren

Jim Moran & Elizabeth Bennett
Ginny & Anna

Brian & Amy Holtkamp
Cody, Jason, Kate & Riley

Paul & Nancy Snyder

FIRST SATURDAY WORSHIP

First Saturday evenings of every month during the months of September through May.

Worship at 5:30 pm with Holy Communion
These are relaxed services - please join us as you are.

January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 4

Help Undecorate the Sanctuary

It takes a village to decorate (and undecorate) the church for Christmas! Please check your calendars and sign up to help when you can.

Sunday, January 6 and Monday, January 7

12 - 5 pm

Undecorate the Sanctuary, pack up decorations

Tuesday, January 8

12 - 5 pm and 6:30 - 8 pm

Undecorate the Sanctuary, pack up decorations and heavy lifters/storage.

RSVP: bit.ly/Christmashelp18
or office@holycrosschurch.org



Caution!

'Tis the season for ice and snow! Be careful as you come and go from Holy Cross as the ever changing weather impacts the condition of the parking lot. During the day, you might find puddles, and in the evening, you might find ice. Please be careful, and on the lookout for any possibility of conditions.



Through conversation we share our thoughts about life and faith. All are welcome to join. We meet on the second Tuesday of most months from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at a restaurant in one of our surrounding communities. Individuals are responsible for their own meal charges. Invite someone to join you!

As we gather *At The Table*:

- All thoughts are welcome without judgement.
- We practice community: we are all in this together.
- God is present and ready to connect in a fresh way.
- There is no pressure to talk.
- Listening brings renewal and insight.

DATE: Tuesday, February 12

TIME: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

LOCATION: The Liberty Restaurant

419 S Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville

RSVP: bit.ly/ATT212



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Continuing the Journey Together

by Steve Oelschlager

At the outset of another year, the deepest mysteries of existence still attract our attention. What are the origins of life and all of creation? How do we perceive meaning and purpose so that our lives might be energized each day? Is there any helpful way to explain suffering and its inevitability? How long will each of us live, and what awaits us beyond this life?

We know from experience that life is paradoxical, oscillating between the extremes of joy and sorrow, celebration and tears, with significant portions of ordinary in between. We strive to find order, and the relief it brings, while the chaos of the unexpected is always lurking. Even when life is at its best, stories that can trigger fear and anxiety are only a phone screen away.

In many respects, life today is the best it's ever been in human history. Statistical trends about poverty, infant mortality, literacy, life expectancy, safety, and many other factors suggest progress is real and remarkable. On the other hand, many other grim statistics about suicide, addictions, and mental illness indicate more and more of us are struggling to flourish or know peace and wellbeing.

Our journey of faith then is about helping us to live into these mysteries and realities and ultimate concerns. Our highest aspiration as people of faith is not about being loyal soldiers for our congregation or denomination, but to experience the presence of God that gives us courage, strength, and resilience to keep on living. Jesus invites us to imitate him and follow his way of life, a way as simple – and as difficult – as loving each other and loving God. Jesus promises his way of life is the way to abundant life and the life that truly is life.

I hope that our Holy Cross Community of faith will be a blessing in your life in 2019. I hope that your spirits will be fed and uplifted as together we notice and testify to God's existence and presence with us. I hope and pray that all of us will grow in our passion for following Jesus so that we may know better lives, and that our world might be a better place for all.

MP3

**MEN of
PURPOSE
&
PRINCIPLE
PRAYER**

Date: Tuesday, January 22

Time: 6 - 8:30 pm

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Fellowship Area

Theme: "Facing Change..."

Register: bit.ly/MP3fc

The men of Holy Cross and the community are invited to an evening of fellowship, food and conversation. We encourage you to bring your appetite not only for dinner but also for a rich conversation on the theme of "Facing Change..."

Across time and culture, people have felt a desire for permanence. In reflecting upon this desire for permanence, they have imbued physical landscapes - particularly high mountains and standing stones - with meaning. Biblically, mountains embody the eternal; they represent basic and unchanging security. Nonetheless, at some point, even rocks crumble. All of us come to the experience of enormous loss.

Whatever it is that we believed would stand forever, trembles and falls. Dark chasms and precipices appear with the suddenness and drama of a volcanic eruption. It is precisely at this point that we may find ourselves standing on a different path on our life & faith journey, barefoot and covered in ashes.

This is where the millennia disappear and we are on "common ground." Biblical and historical narratives provide insight into these moments that we find ourselves in. Perhaps our rocks that crumble are not as dramatic. Yet as people of faith, where do we turn to operate from a perspective of hope and trust as we seek answers.

Come join the conversation and enjoy an evening of fellowship, live music and time around the table for a meal. This all happens in the gathering space at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Please join us starting at 6 pm in the fellowship area. We will serve dinner by 6:45 pm and will wrap up the evening by 8:30 pm. You are welcome to invite other men who are friends and/or colleagues.

Registration is optional but it will help us plan the food for the evening. Contact pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org with any questions.

The Center of One's Being

by Randy Casey

The following are two sentences from page 3 of the November 21, 2018 issue of *The Christian Century*, written by Peter W. Marty, the publisher of the magazine: "The kind of person we are at the center determines everything else about us. The choices, commitments, and decisions we make stem from who we are from the inside out."

Many of you who have just read those arresting words are fine people. I try to be a decent person, too. I am fortunate, however, in having a barometer inside of me that helps to determine just how my core is getting along. In my case, that barometer is musical. Others have their own means of measurement.

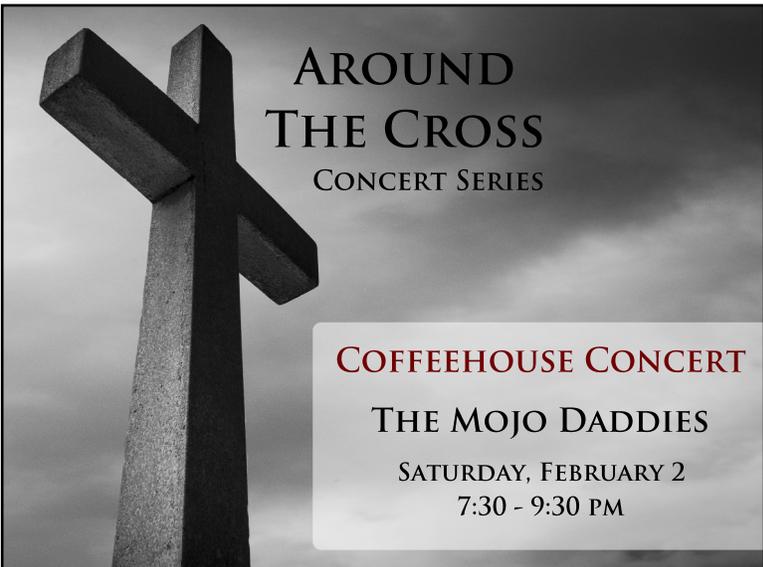
My friends, Jeremy Little, and I have discussed the idea that we did not decide to go into music as a career. "Music" picked us. Our decision essentially involved going along with having been chosen. I have just finished watching a set of videos from the Great Courses on the history of ancient Greece in which various gods are mentioned. The Greeks would have us believe that there is a god of music who tabbed those persons chosen to be its followers. I find the idea not unwelcome.

There is a Roman, the idea of whom I also find inviting. The god is named Janus, whence comes the name of the month January. Janus has two faces, not in the sense of duplicitous, but two-faced in the sense of being able to look forward and back. When I look back on my relationship with my parents, for example, I am sad that they are no longer around to see how I am faring because my musical life has never been as satisfying as it is today. (My parents practically begged me not be a music major in college, but did not stand in my way when I persisted in the idea.) In addition to working for Holy Cross, I also accompany a community chorus in Crystal Lake, and am the director and accompanist for a community chorus in Waukegan. I have worked with the Waukegan chorus for 20 years now, and have played almost that long in Crystal Lake. I also pick up freelance gigs out of nowhere. If I were not a decent human being, no matter how supposedly talented, I could not hold myself together to do all the musical things I do.

The utmost determinant of my inner self is the quality of my piano playing. As strange as that might sound, it is the truth. I take piano lessons from a fine teacher in Skokie and practice almost every day to try to come close to her exacting standards. Like I wrote about Carl Hansen a few months ago, my piano teacher never compliments me. The most she will say is that my playing of a certain piece is "better." By the way, my taking of piano is like your going to the library: you can always find a book to read, and I can always find another piece to learn, but I need a bit of help to insure that I am not just spinning my wheels.

I can honestly say that I rarely sit down at the piano when I do not feel better for having been at the instrument, even if only for a little while. My mother once commented to me that when I would get upset or angry as a boy, I would take my feelings out on the piano. Some things never change.

I fully realize that when Peter Marty was talking about one's "center," he was not discussing whether one has a given talent. More correctly, he was asking, "What are you doing with what God gave you?" As people of faith, we have the opportunity to look at ourselves and include God in our assessment. I find that way of thinking very comforting indeed.



AROUND
THE CROSS
CONCERT SERIES

COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT

THE MOJO DADDIES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2
7:30 - 9:30 PM

The Mojo Daddies, otherwise known as Mike Dikelsky and friends (Holy Cross member Mike Dikelsky and his friends), will provide the delightful entertainment for this annual benefit concert.

Light refreshments and snacks will be served as people come together in an informal setting to hear The Mojo Daddies sing and play a variety of fun music., including familiar favorites as well as several new tunes from their second album "A Long Road."

This concert is a benefit for the youth of Holy Cross Lutheran Church who will be traveling to the Two Strike Reservation in South Dakota for a mission trip. There is no admission fee, but free will donations will be accepted.



**Holy Land & Jordan
Pilgrimage Tour**

October 27 - November 8, 2019

This is the place where God became known through Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was born, lived, taught, died and rose here.

This trip will provide you with the experiences of standing where the shepherds stood when the angels sang of Christ's birth. You will visit the site where Jesus shared the principles of the Sermon on the Mount with the crowds. We will visit the places where many of the miracles and teaching moments occurred. The Garden of Gethsemane, the West Wall, Via Dolorosa, the Holy Sepulchre, the Dead Sea, and an evening in Aqaba on the Red Sea are a few of the historical places we will visit. In addition, we will spend time in the following cities: Jerusalem, Petra, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem, Amman.

Brochures of the itinerary are available at the church. Further questions may be directed to pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org

Greetings from the Ladies Night Out Committee "Everything Under the Harvest Moon"

Our October event was a wonderful success. Ladies were busy shopping with 20 plus vendors, sipping on wine, taking a chance on an array of raffles, purchasing wine labels... and of course, the delightful Silent Auction items created by our students at CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare.

Proceeds generated by this event allowed Holy Cross' Early Childhood Ministries to enhance their curriculum materials and professional development. The curriculum materials will be a variety of technology, religious materials, classroom lessons, and gross motor equipment.

Again this year, the congregation had the opportunity to support CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare by purchasing a "wish" from the large display of new educational enrichment toys and aids that are sure to delight our children.

A special treat this year was having appetizers and desserts being served to the attendees by the charming gentlemen of Holy Cross.

Thank you to the Ladies Night Out Committee: Judy Frank-Gonwa, Val Maxwell, Carrie Siebert, Rebecca Bemrich, Betsy Wells, Laura Reutzel, Heather Ryan, Nicole Radcliff and Andrea Young. We are so grateful for all of the additional volunteers.



CrossWays Preschool

2019/20 Registration

Registration begins **January 15** for current students and Holy Cross members. Registration opens to the public on **February 1**. Spots fill up quickly. Pick up a registration form at the welcome center and/or contact CrossWays Preschool Director Elizabeth Moy for more information at crossways@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4367.



"I Love to Tell the Story..."

Over the years we have received many wonderful notes from parents of CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare students. Portions of one letter are shared below.

"...Our experience at Celebration! Childcare has been nothing short of wonderful. From the beginning, every single day when we dropped our child off we were immediately instilled with a sense of confidence that he was loved and cared for – and that is all a parent can ask for.

We immediately started noticing a difference in our child, even from an early age. He came home singing songs he hadn't sung before. He suddenly knew his ABC's, shapes, and numbers. And, as time went on, he was so excited to tell us stories about his friends and what he had done that day. He was proud of his artwork, of everything he had learned – and most importantly, he was happy. He was comfortable. He was loved.

Celebration! Childcare – your staff absolutely shines. I want you to know that I would recommend Celebration! Childcare to anyone and everyone who wants their child to be loved during the day just like a family member is caring for them – because that is what it feels like. Celebration! Childcare is academics, it is joy, it is family, love, and tolerance. Thank you for caring for our child. Thank you for loving him. We will never forget it." - The Gulottas

Restaurant Fundraiser

Dine at City Barbeque in the newly opened Melody Farms in Vernon Hills on **January 15 from 10:30 am - 10 pm** and 25% of your purchase will be donated to CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. These funds will be used for the playground upkeep project. Be sure to show this flyer when ordering.

Online flyer: bit.ly/BBQJAN15

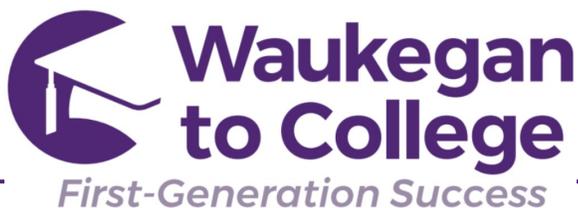
Waukegan to College (W2C) Update

Our 10th anniversary celebration in October was a joyous occasion to reflect on our success, hear from seven first generation college graduates, and look towards our future! W2C has grown by leaps and bounds during our first decade, and we are so grateful for the generous support from Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Your sponsorship of the celebration will help many more students join our ranks of first-generation college graduates.

One of our greatest joys is seeing the growth of our families – growth in skills and confidence that extend far beyond our college-bound students. We heard from one of these families at the event and witnessed the impact W2C has had on their lives. Three generations of the Gaytan family shared their incredible story led by Aurora Gaytan, the matriarch, her daughter Liliana, and her granddaughter who is also named Aurora, and is a W2C high school senior. Aurora says, “All three generations of my family have a little more pride, a little more confidence, and a little more joy because W2C is in our lives.”

Aurora and eleven other W2C seniors are currently working hard on college and scholarship applications. So far, these students have earned 22 college admissions and \$872,000 in aid.

On behalf of all the W2C families, thank you for your generous support of First-Generation Success. You are truly changing lives of Waukegan families like the Gaytans!



Scouting Sunday

On Sunday, February 10, we will celebrate scouting during the 9:30 am worship service which will include a special blessing for all involved in scouting.

If your scout is interested in participating in the worship services as a reader, usher, acolyte or greeter, please contact office@holycrosschurch.org



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Hunger to Hope Lake County MobilePack

429,840 Meals Are On Their Way!

Over the course of three days in November and December 2018, volunteers packed 1,990 boxes of food to feed 1,177 malnourished children around the world. A big thank you to all the packing volunteers, event staff, generous donors, Tom Miller and all the staff at Pet Factory!

Jesus taught, “When you saw the least of us hungry... you saw me.”



Cookie Walk Update

The 10th Annual Cookie Walk was a huge success! The Cookie Walk Committee appreciates your participation and outreach to benefit our Lakota friends on the Two Strike Indian Reservation.

Thank you to...

- all of our cookie bakers and candy makers who generously donated your time and talents to bake for this year's Cookie Walk.
- Kris DeGregor for creating her beautiful and fun gingerbread house!
- Everyone who purchased ornaments, which provided warm quilts for our Lakota friends.
- All who purchased raffle tickets.
- All who came on December 8 to join in the festivities of our Cookie Walk.

Watch for the final details in the Holy Cross February 2019 newsletter.

With sincere appreciation,
The Cookie Walk Committee



- **Peanut Butter** is the food of the month for January. Thank you to all the Sunday School children at Holy Cross who bring non-perishable food items before the Children's Message each Sunday morning.
- **Holiday Meal Boxes** As of this writing, Holy Cross members contributed **\$715** towards Holiday Meal Boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas, which is the equivalent of **36** families receiving holiday meals.
- **Volunteer at COOL** To volunteer at the food pantry or help with COOL Family Housing or other opportunities at COOL please call the Volunteer Manager at (847) 662-1230.
- **Paper and plastic grocery bags** are needed by COOL. They use these bags to give out food pantry items. Bags may be dropped off in the COOL cart next to the church office.
- **Please check expiration dates!** COOL Food Pantry will not dispense expired food to their clients.

Quilts Delivered to COOL

The Quilting Group dropped off their handmade quilts for COOL's Family Housing guest families. COOL is so thankful for this gift of warmth and love.



Pictured from left to right: Sharon Pierluissi, Nancy Joiner, Amanda Williams (COOL Housing Manager), Melanie Houser, Deb Sherrock and Felicia Brandt

Winchester House 2019 Worship Dates

The fourth Sunday of every month, from January through October, Holy Cross pastors, confirmation students and other volunteers bring a worship experience to the residents of Winchester House in Libertyville. (Just west of the intersection of Milwaukee/Route 21 and Winchester Road.) This is a great way to volunteer as a family. Please arrive at 2 pm at the entrance from the parking lot. We assist residents to and from the worship space and hold a worship service from 2:30 - 3 pm.

If you are a pianist and would be willing to accompany our hymns, or if you know a young musician who would enjoy playing pieces to enhance our worship, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org

2019 Winchester House Worship Service Dates:

January 27	June 23
February 24	July 28
March 24	August 25
April 28	September 23
May 26	October 22

PADS is a shelter ministry that operates in Lake County. Every evening beginning in October through April, there are two PADS sites operating around the county. Most of the time they operate out of a church building. The PADS guests are provided three meals, a warm place of shelter for the evening, and hospitality. These PADS nights are staffed exclusively by volunteers.

Holy Cross members will once again provide breakfast and lunch food items for guests of the PADS shelter at Shepherd of the Lakes in Grayslake on the fourth Monday of every month, October - April. Watch for the sign up board in the gathering space this month for the opportunity to donate food items by **Sunday, January 27 at noon**.

There are other opportunities to serve...

In addition to serving every month, Holy Cross members donated 75 hoodies, 11 sweatpants, and 82 pairs of socks for our Giving Tree. Thank you for your generosity!

We have also been contacted and asked to solicit additional volunteers for another PADS site hosted by Messiah Lutheran Church in Wauconda. They host their PADS guests on the second Saturday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Wendy LaPlaca at (847) 275-3892 or wlaplaca@comcast.net

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School at Holy Cross

We feature open enrollment - your child may enroll year-round.

Core Stories

Ages 3 - 5/Kindergarten



Grades 1 - 5

Sunday School Update

Sunday school resumes January 13th!

A huge THANK YOU to interim Sunday School Coordinator, Carol Wasemiller, who was willing to assist with Sunday School for the fall. We are in need of someone who would be willing to assume this role for the spring semester. This entails coordination of materials and volunteers with Pastor Sally, and presence during Sunday School. Training is available, and this position could be done as a rotation between two people if that is desired. We are still in need of teachers and assistants for this rotation. Please sign up at bit.ly/SSvolunteers18

Contact Pastor Sally for more information at (847) 367-4060 or pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org

The next rotation of Sunday School is *God Calls Samuel*.

God answered Hannah's fervent prayer for a child. In time, Hannah kept her promise to dedicate the child to God's service. Samuel began serving in God's temple at an early age when Hannah brought him to live with and learn from Eli, the priest. After growing up as a helper to Eli, Samuel was called by God to be a prophet and speak God's word to others.

As the story goes, God called Samuel's name four times before Samuel recognized that God was speaking and responded. Yet, God did not give up. Not only does God choose us: God is persistent in calling us.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 13 - Sunday School Resumes

Sunday, March 24 - No Sunday School

Sunday, March 31 - No Sunday School

Sunday, May 5 - Spring Sing

Sunday, May 12 - Field Day (Last day of Sunday School)

Sunday School Coordinators:
Ages 3-5/K: **Felicia Brandt** (847) 362-0924
Grades 1-5: **Volunteer Requested**



Milestone Ministries

Support for their faith journey...

Our faith journey occurs from birth through life eternal. Milestone Ministries serve as an important way of connecting, supporting, and equipping families and the congregation to pass on the faith, to live out the promises that are made when someone is baptized and to provide strength for their faith journey.

Fourth Grade: Ten Commandments

Saturday, February 9 from 9:30 - 11 am

The Ten Commandments are one of the things that parent(s), sponsors and the congregation promise to place in each baptized person's hands. What are the Ten Commandments really all about? How does that apply to your family or the life of a fourth grader? Join us as we explore these questions and dive deeper into scripture.

RSVP by February 4 to office@holycrosschurch.org

16 year olds*: Blessing of the Keys

Saturday, February 10 from 6:30 - 8 pm

Conversations about faith and the responsibility of driving, with youth and their parents/guardians.

Sunday, February 17 at 9:30 am worship

Special blessing of new drivers and their parents.

** and older teens who received their license in the last two years and didn't participate in this milestone previously.*

RSVP by February 5 to office@holycrosschurch.org

Baptism

For most of us, the formal beginning of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Through the waters of baptism, we are publically claimed as a Child of God and become a part of God's family.

If you have not yet been baptized, or are interested in having your child baptized, we promise to support you in this way to grow in age and wisdom through God's love. Please contact the church office for more information at (847)367-4060 or office@holycrosschurch.org

2019 High School Mission Trip to Rosebud

Date: June 22 - 29, 2019

Cost: \$500 per person

Open to current 9th –12th graders and chaperones.

Important Upcoming Dates

Sunday, January 20 at 1:00 pm - First Prep Meeting

Friday, February 1 - \$200 payment due

Saturday, February 2 - Coffeehouse Fundraiser

Friday, March 9 - Group Fundraising Dinner

“Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, ‘Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me.’” - Matthew 25:35-40

Two Strike, South Dakota is one of the poorest towns in the United States, yet the people there are filled with hope and dreams. For the last 20 years, Holy Cross has been in relationship with the folks at Two Strike, working to be the hands and feet of Christ. Here is your chance to join the mission we’ve shared for years, and serve alongside your peers at the Rosebud Indian Reservation with the Lakota people of Two Strike, South Dakota.

Confirmation

Confirmation instruction at Holy Cross is for all students who are in grades 6, 7 & 8. Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation occurs in the fall of 9th grade year.

Important Dates

Confirmation Sessions

Sunday, January 6 at 6:30 pm

Session 10 : Introduction to Spiritual Practices

Sunday, January 14 at 6:30 pm

Session 11: Baptism

Sunday, January 20

NO Confirmation (MLK Holiday)

Friday, January 25 - Saturday, January 26, 2019

Confirmation Retreat (See adjacent column)

Sessions 12, 13 & 14

Sunday, January 27 after 9:30 am worship

7th grade boys pack PADS lunches

Sunday, January 27th at 2 pm

7th grade Girls Winchester House Worship

Sunday, February 3

NO Confirmation

Upcoming Speakers

Sunday, February 10 - Icons and the Holy Cross Mosaic

Pastor Bob will lead a conversation on the spiritual practice of the use of icons to connect with God. What are icons and how are they used as a part of the Christian faith? This conversation will feature a detailed history and explanation behind the images of the Holy Cross Mosaic located in the sanctuary.

Sunday, March 10 - Faith & Sports

Come join us for a conversation with Coach Randy Kuceyeski on how faith and sports interact with each other, and how faith informs our athletics. Coach Kuz coached football in Libertyville for a number of years, and is also an active member at Holy Cross.

High School Winter Retreat: Peer Ministry Leadership Training

Friday, January 11 at 6 pm to Saturday, January 12 at 9 pm

For students in grades 9 - 12

Location: Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, WI

Cost: \$100 per person

Are you someone who friends go to with questions? Are you a leader on a team or in an organization? Do you wish you knew what to say when you wanted to strike up a conversation with someone? Then this is for you! We are all leaders in our own way and leadership skills help us to grow into who God created us to be. Registration forms are available at the welcome center. Contact Pastor Sally with any questions at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.



Confirmation Retreat

Grades 6, 7 & 8

January 25 - 26

Lutherdale Bible Camp, Elkhorn, WI

The confirmation Retreat is just around the corner! Make sure your registration is in! Health forms are due Sunday, January 13 - including a copy of your medical insurance card.

We will meet Friday, January 25. Check-in begins at 5:30 pm and departure at 6 pm. Please have dinner before you arrive. Meet in the gathering space. We will return Saturday, January 26 between 8:30 and 9 pm.

Contact Pastor Sally if you have any questions at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

Happy New Year!

We enjoyed a fantastic holiday season, full of good cheer and spending time with friends and family, and are looking forward to all the exciting events that 2019 brings us!

Believe or not, registration for the 2019/20 school year comes this month as well on January 15 for current families and Holy Cross congregation members, and February 1 for the general public. We will once again have a variety of exciting classes for children ages 2 - 5 years old. Please reach out if you are thinking of signing up your child, or have any questions.

As of this writing, we have collected almost 25 pounds of caps, and we are so thankful for your help! Our collection efforts are not over, however. Our goal is to have 100 pounds by Spring Break (end of March), and have our bench here on site by the end of the school year. It's amazing what one little cap added to another can turn into. This drive is not only removing waste from our landfills, but also helping people become aware of how much plastic they use, as well as reminding them of the early childhood ministries of Holy Cross. Thank you in advance for your continuing help in this project.

All of us at CrossWays Preschool wish you the very best in 2019.

Elizabeth Moy, CrossWays Preschool Director
crossways@holycrosschurch.org
 (847) 367-4367



Pictured above: During the advent season, the CrossWays Preschool two year old classes have been hard at work on projects. Each child has made a Nativity scene to bring home. The stable is actually an old orange juice carton and the straw is shredded paper! They have also been busy making gifts for their families. The wreath is made from scraps of construction paper made into a paper paste. The wreath will keep for many years to come. We enjoy using materials that may otherwise end up in a garbage can in our projects!

Thank you!

It is with grateful hearts that the staff and families of Celebration! Childcare would like to thank the Ladies Night Out committee and the generous member donors who participated in granting our "Wishes" list. These items will help support the daily activities portion of preschool at Celebration! Childcare and CrossWays Preschool. Due to the great generosity of our congregation, we were very fortunate to have all of our wishes granted this year.

Our Early Childhood ministries are fortunate to have such great support to enrich our daily programs.

Kathy Pfister, Celebration! Childcare Director
celebration@holycrosschurch.org
 (847) 367-6208



Our plastic cap collection project continues!

Acceptable Plastic Caps

Milk jug caps, detergent caps, hairspray caps, drink bottle caps, toothpaste cube caps, deodorant caps, flip top and spout caps (ketchup, mustard), spray paint caps, ointment tube caps, caps with recycle numbers 2, 4 or 5.

Acceptable Plastic Lids

Cottage cheese, cool whip, cream cheese and yogurt container lids, mayonnaise and peanut butter jar lids, ice cream bucket lids (under 8"), coffee can lids, butter lids, prescription bottles (labels removed).

NOT Acceptable

Metal caps, plastic bags, trigger sprayers, fast food lids, soap pumps, caps or lids with recycle numbers 1, 3, 6 or 7.



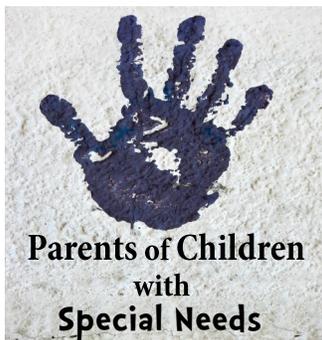
**THE FREE SPIRITS
POTLUCK AND PLANNING MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 18 AT 11 AM - 1 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA**

The Free Spirits are a group of retirees and others age 55 and more who enjoy participating in outings together.

You are invited to our annual potluck on January 18 at 11 am. Bring your calendar, ideas for events, and your favorite dish to share. Beverages are provided.

We will be planning for 2019 activities, and are in need of individuals to assist in planning monthly events. Each year, we repeat some activities and add new ones. Please bring your ideas and specific information about suggested activities. Accessibility, travel distance, and cost are factors to consider.

Questions? Contact Carol Wasemiller clinnea@yahoo.com (847) 625-0046 home (847) 651-4694 cell



**PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 20 AT 4 PM, ROOM 208**

This small group is for parents who have children with any special need (whether or not formalized by 504 or IEP). They typically meet once a month (September - June) to offer ideas, guidance or prayer. Open to all members of the community regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please contact Terry Berger (847) 680-3578 or Lisa Dunbar (847) 309-6035.

Snacks are furnished by the Lexi Kazian Foundation for the members who attend.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 11:30AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 7 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We always welcome more volunteers to help with hospitality. If you would like to help in this way, please contact office@holycrosschurch.org



**GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP
FRIDAY - JANUARY 18 FROM 6:30 - 8:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA**

We continue with our DVD series, Living the Questions 2.0. This month we will look at "The Prophetic Jesus."

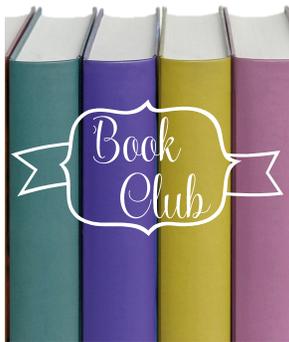
Jesus was a troublemaker. He said and did things that were upsetting to agents of the political and religious domination systems that oppressed the weak and downtrodden. In this way, Jesus stood firmly in the tradition of the prophets of Hebrew Scripture— those who offered a clear and challenging "alternative script" to the status quo.

Where in our culture do we see people offering an alternative script to our status quo? Come and join us as we engage in this lively conversation. Bring a friend and a snack to share if you wish! Please contact Pastor Sally with any questions at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org or (847)367-4060.



**PILATES
MONDAYS, JANUARY 7, 14, 21, & 28
6 - 7 PM, CELEBRATION! ATRIUM**

We will meet each Monday starting at 6 pm. Not sure if pilates is for you? Try one class for free. Questions about pricing may be directed toward the organizer, Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573.

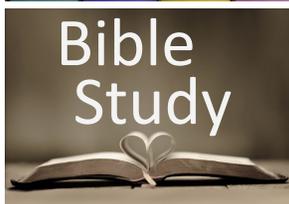


BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: HOME OF JERI POWERS, 1401 RUIDOSO CT LIBERTYVILLE

This month we will discuss *Before We Were Yours: A Novel* by Lisa Wingate. Learning that her grandmother was a victim of the corrupt Tennessee Children’s Home Society, attorney and aspiring politician, Avery Stafford, delves into her family’s past and begins to wonder if some things are best kept secret. Split between Tennessee in 1939 and South Carolina in the present day, the story centers on twelve year old Rill Foss, who lives aboard a steamboat with her parents and four younger siblings.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 8 & 22 FROM 10 AM - 11:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

Throughout the year, this Bible study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Biblical scholarship is not required. All you need to join the conversation is an open heart and any translation of the Bible.



COMMON THREADS

MONDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 1 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

This group of our congregation knits or crochets blankets and shawls. Each blanket or shawl is then dedicated at a worship service and presented to the prayer recipient. These prayer blankets offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God’s love. To request a prayer shawl for a loved one, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org.



WOMEN’S DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 FROM 9:30 - 11 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We are continuing to read and discuss Dr. Chris Thurman’s *The Lies We Believe About God: Know God for Who He Really Is*. In January, we will be looking at Chapter 5, “Good Will Hunting – The Lie: God is Mean and Vindictive.”

Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$15.



MEN’S BREAKFAST GROUP

EVERY TUESDAY MORNING FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 AM

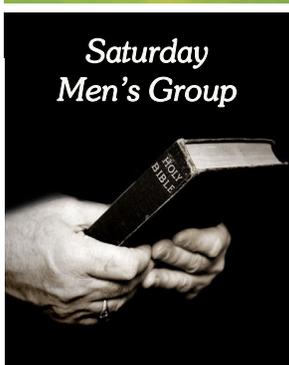
LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

This is a wonderful way to begin the day. We promise to provide you with thought-provoking and stimulating fellowship and conversation. All men are welcome to join us.



CARE OF CREATION

Save those natural corks! If you will be enjoying wine over the holidays, please save the natural corks and bring them to church. There will be a special collection box set up by the Care Of Creation kiosk. Natural cork is a sustainable product. The cork tree bark can be harvested and then will regrow, sort of like shearing a sheep. Plastic corks are not even recyclable, so if there is a choice for wine, look for the natural corks. These corks can be used for craft projects, and in some years we have shared them with the early childhood ministries. They also have value to be used commercially. We are also glad to support the plastic cap collection project from CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. *See page 12 for collection details.*



SATURDAY MEN’S GROUP

SATURDAYS - JANUARY 12 & 26 AT 7 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We will be discussing some articles of interest to be distributed prior to our Saturday morning meetings, and selecting new material for February and beyond.

Please join us. All men are welcome!



Tuesday, January 1
New Year's Day – Building Closed
Newsletter content due for February

Wednesday, January 2
CrossWays Preschool Closed
 9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 3
CrossWays Preschool Closed
 7:00 pm Handbell Choir, 402

Friday, January 4
CrossWays Preschool Closed

Saturday, January 5
 5:30 pm First Saturday Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 6
Epiphany
 8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30 am No Sunday School
 12:00 pm Christmas undecorating
 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 10

Monday, January 7
CrossWays Preschool back in session
 12:00 pm Christmas undecorating
 5:30 pm Willow House Meeting
 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

Tuesday, January 8
 6:30 am Men's Breakfast, The Liberty
 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
 12:00 pm Christmas undecorating
 4:00 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
 6:00 pm BSA Roundtable, main level
 6:30 pm Christmas décor to basement

Wednesday, January 9
 9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
 11:30 am PHW Day Program Session
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
 7:00 pm PHW Evening Program, 208
 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 10
 7:00 pm Handbell Choir, 402
 7:00 pm ECM Board Meeting, 208
 7:00 pm BSA Troop #194 Committee

Friday, January 11
 6:00 pm Peer Ministry Retreat Departs

Saturday, January 12
 7:00 am Men's Group, Fellowship
 9:00 pm Peer Ministry Retreat Returns

Sunday, January 13
Baptism of Our Lord
Women's Retreat RSVP & Payment Due
 8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship
 9:45 am Sunday School resumes
 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 11

Monday, January 14
CrossWays Preschool Registration opens to current CrossWays families and Holy Cross members
 1:00 pm Common Threads, Fellowship
 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium
 7:00 pm BSA Troop # 194, 402

Tuesday, January 15
 6:30 am Men's Breakfast at The Liberty
 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group
 10:30 am CrossWays and Celebration! Restaurant Fundraiser at City Barbeque, Vernon Hills
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 16
 9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
 9:30 am ECM Marketing Meeting
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 17
 7:00 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402
 7:00 pm Church Council

Friday, January 18
 11:00 am Free Spirits Potluck and Planning, Fellowship Area
 6:00 pm Grounded in Grace, Fellowship

Sunday, January 20
 8:00 am Worship with Holy Communion
 9:30 & 11am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
 9:45 am Sunday School
 10:30 am Confirmation 7th grade boys pack PADS lunches, kitchen
 1:00 pm Rosebud 2019 Prep Meeting
 4:00 pm Parents of Children with Special Needs, 208
 6:30 pm NO Confirmation

Monday, January 21
CrossWays Closed for MLK Day
RSVP Due for Growing Musicians with Jim Gill on January 27
 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

7:00 pm BSA Troop #194, 402

Tuesday, January 22
 6:30 am Men's Breakfast at The Liberty
 10:00 am Adult Bible Study
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 23
 9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
 12:00 pm Feed My Starving Children pack
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 24
Friday, January 25
 6:30 pm Confirmation Retreat Departs

Saturday, January 26
 7:00 am Men's Group, Fellowship
 9:00 am Boy Scouts, 207, 208, 401 & 402
 8:30 pm Confirmation Retreat Returns

Sunday, January 27
PADS Donations Due Today, Kitchen
 8, 9:30 & 11:15 am Worship
 9:45 am Sunday School
 10:15 am **Annual Congregational Meeting**
 2:30 pm Winchester House Worship
 3:45 pm **Growing Musicians with Jim Gill in Concert**
 6:30 pm NO Confirmation

Monday, January 28
 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium
 7:00 pm BSA Troop #194, 402

Tuesday, January 29
 6:30 am Men's Breakfast at The Liberty
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, January 30
 9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
 7:00 pm Holy Cross Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 31



Newsletter Assembly - Please Join Us!

Assist with preparing the February newsletter for mailing. Fellowship included. **Tuesday, January 29 at 9:30 am**

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
 29700 N. SAINT MARYS ROAD
 LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575

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



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If you would like to receive a paper copy of this monthly newsletter, The Cross Connection, mailed to your residence or place of business please contact the church office.

Phone: (847) 367-4060

Email: office@holycrosschurch.org

You may also view the current newsletter online at:
HolyCrossChurch.org

Growing Musicians
 with Jim Gill in Concert
 Sunday, January 27 at 3:45 pm
 Free! All families invited!
 Register: bit.ly/JimGillConcert

Page 2

MP3

**MEN of
 PURPOSE
 PRINCIPLE
 PRAYER**

Date: Tuesday, January 22
Time: 6 - 8:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Area
Theme: "Facing Change..."
Register: bit.ly/MP3fc

See page 4 for more information.

Be Still: A Moment for Mindfulness

Women's Retreat

Friday, February 22 - Sunday, February 24
 Lutherdale Bible Camp
 Watson Retreat Center (Elkhorn, WI)

Details on page 3

CURRENT EVENTS	
January 2019	
5	First Saturday Evening Worship
7/8	Packing up Christmas décor
11/12	Peer Ministry Retreat
15	City BBQ Fundraiser for CP/CC
22	MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle & Prayer
25/26	Confirmation Retreat
27	Annual Congregational Meeting
27	Growing Musicians with Jim Gill
February 2019	
2	First Saturday Worship
2	Around the Cross Concert Series: Coffeehouse Concert - The Mojo Daddies
9	Milestone Ministry: Ten Commandments
10	Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Keys
12	At The Table, The Liberty
22/24	Women's Retreat