

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

September 2022

## Faith Formation...

by Pastor Bob Davis

"When you reach the end of your life do you want to be one of the people who are glad they did, or one of the people who wish they had?"\*

How would you answer that question? Recently, I was asked that question by my spiritual director. They caught me off guard with the question. I didn't have an immediate response. I think that was their intent. I have been thinking and I believe I know how I will respond. Personally, I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.

What does that mean? I try to put effort and thought into living each day with purpose. I am grateful for the individuals who I encounter each day. I approach each day as an adventure where I curate a spirit of trust and being open to those unexpected moments of life. I try to be intentional in choosing goals and values that inform a personal life mission. I can't imagine my life without the gift of God's grace. It is grace that gives me hope that it is never too late.

Additionally, I try to be aware of how faith, religion and spirituality shape the path forward. For me, each of these is distinct, different and not interchangeable. The challenge is my desire for clarity about how this impacts the way I choose to live my life. My faith is in a "God that is so busy loving me" as Greg Boyles writes, "that God doesn't have time to be disappointed in me." Religion provides me with a context that provides community with other people of faith as we both accompany and care for one another. My spirituality provides structure through practices that help me navigate through life and be aware of the sacred/holy in everyday/ordinary moments.

Honestly, I appreciate that the journey of life is not about the status quo or a commitment to stay the same. It is not about being right or pretending that we know it all. It's about learning and being formed and growing and the movement from where we are to where God is inviting us. You will see the phrase "faith formation" more and more in this newsletter and throughout the coming year. I hope you will join in the "faith formation" opportunities that we are offering so that we don't just "go" through life, rather, I pray that together we "grow" through life.

Peace,

\*Quote by Dan Zadra

## The First 100 Days

by Pastor Chris Neptun

It seems hard to believe I will have served as your pastor for 100 days by early this month! In one discussion, the call committee asked the question, "What will you do in your first 100 days?" My answer was, "Build relationships."

I was an intern at Holy Cross 10 years ago and have stayed connected with many of you. Still, 10 years is a long time. Many of you joined Holy Cross in those 10 years. I am grateful to have met many of you and to reconnect with those of you whom I already know. Thank you for your time and hospitality.

Reflecting on my time so far, my first 100 days have gone very well. Still, the work is not done yet! I look forward to meeting many of you and staying connected for years to come. Conversations, time together, praying and sharing where we have experienced God in our lives are the building blocks of a community of faith. This is how we, "Provide strength for the faith journey." Together, God works with and through us, to build and sustain trust with God and one another.

Connecting with families with young children, students, and young adults has been a challenge. They, more so than others, face challenges to remain connected. Holy Cross is a congregation that supports children, youth, and young adults. It's part of our DNA and who we are. This area most needs the efforts, attention, and resources of the congregation to connect with young families, students, and young adults where they are. I don't have THE answers but know building trust, listening to them, and meeting their spoken needs is a good start.

Isaiah 40 ends with these verses. "Even young people get tired, then stumble and fall. But those who trust the Lord will find new strength. They will be strong like eagles, soaring upward on wings; they will walk and run without getting tired." (CEV) My hope is to help them find the strength God has for our journey together.

Peace is with you,

### CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PAGES 1 - 5, 10, 12 - 13

### RELATIONAL MINISTRY PAGES 6 - 9

### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY PAGE 10 - 11

### YOUTH MINISTRY PAGES 12 - 13

### BEYOND THE CONGREGATION PAGE 14

### CALENDAR PAGE 15

### SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

#### FIRST SATURDAY EVENING

SEPTEMBER 3 AT 5:30 PM  
SANCTUARY

#### SUNDAYS

SEPTEMBER 4, 18, 25

8 & 10 AM - SANCTUARY &  
LIVESTREAM

#### SEPTEMBER 11

8 AM - SANCTUARY &  
LIVESTREAM

10 AM - DRIVE-IN

## Fall Worship Schedule

Our fall worship schedule resumes on Saturday, September 3 with worship on the first Saturday evening of every month and on Sundays at 8 and 10 am. Holy Communion is offered on first Saturdays, first and third Sundays and on festival Sundays. Livestream worship options are offered on Sundays with a recorded worship video available within 24 hours to view on demand at [HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons)

Please join us for fellowship in the gathering space between worship services and following the 10 am worship.

## September

### Saturday, September 3

5:30 pm First Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

### Sunday, September 4

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

### Sunday, September 11

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, DRIVE-IN

11 am Rally Day Kickoff Carnival & Tailgate Cookout

### Sunday, September 18

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Faith Formation

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

### Sunday, September 25

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Faith Formation

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream



**HOLY CROSS**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Co-Senior Pastor  
Rev. Christopher Neptun, Co-Senior Pastor  
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator  
Janet Carr, Congregational Activities  
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians  
Beth Fashimpaur, Handbell Choir Director  
Deaconess Katie Freund, Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries  
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator  
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries  
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Operational Ministries  
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications  
Manny Rivera, Property  
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Technical Arts  
Tom Zombolo, Property

### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Samantha (Sam) Cooper, Director  
Roxanne (Rocky) Kupfer, Assistant Director  
Tania Zombolo, Assistant Director

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Andy Eidson (*President*), Harold Sargent (*Vice President*),  
Karla Boucek, Darin Chartier, Nicole Drake, Ralph Freye,  
Mick Garrison, Gail Kelly, Bill Miksch, Jeannine Phillips,  
Amy Sekili, John Villani  
*Secretary*, Terry Berger  
*Treasurer*, Lori Fedyk  
*Financial Secretary*, Tom Miller

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

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 at [HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters). Articles should be submitted by the 1st of the month to Janet Carr at [janet@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:janet@holycrosschurch.org)



# Faith Formation

CHILDREN YOUTH ADULT

## Growing In Faith

Children ages 3 through 5th grade

Starting Sunday, September 18 at 9:05 - 9:50 am

Faith Formation/Sunday School beginning in the Sanctuary with songs, a quick lesson for the day, and a prayer before splitting up into three age groups (3 - 5 year olds, K - 2nd grade, and 3rd - 5th grade) for the day's activities in the Celebration! Childcare west wing. *See details and the full schedule on page 11.*

## Confirmation

Youth in 6th - 8th grade

Starting Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 - 8 pm

We gather in the Sanctuary as a large group and end with small group discussion. *See the full schedule on page 11.*

## Visual Faith Process

Post Confirmation Adults

Starting Sunday, September 18 at 9:10 - 9:45 am, Room 208

Conversational faith study with Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob. *View more details about the weekly themes and the full schedule on page 7.*

## PASTORAL ACTS

### FUNERALS

Rae Shepherd

July 29, 2022

Steve Oimoen

August 19, 2022

Diane Petlak

August 27, 2022

### WEDDING

Eleanor Ward and Ryan Anselmo

August 20, 2022



## Worship With Our Youngest Members

Essential hard-wired connections now allow us to show Sunday worship services in real-time on the large screen TV in the fellowship area. If you need to step out of the Sanctuary for any reason, our intention is that you can continue to be connected to that experience through viewing in the fellowship area. We have also provided red plastic bins filled with soft toys for any families needing additional distraction for small children. We hope this helps to provide worship continuity even in the midst of other needs.



## Church for the ACTIVE Body of Christ

by Deaconess Katie Freund

Do some of your family members have a “*hard time sitting still for church*”? First and foremost—I MUST say—we all have days where we have a hard time sitting still for church!

We want you and your family to join us for worship, no exceptions. “Good behavior” (whatever that means) is never a requirement for joining us in the Sanctuary.

But I have heard from multiple families who are concerned about transitioning their kids back to worshipping inside the Sanctuary after two years of either online or drive-in worship. To help with those concerns, we're trying something new. What if worship was a kid friendly game?

Now that the TV in the gathering space is set up for streaming worship in real time, we've put together interactive worship guides that give tasks to play and do throughout the worship service. We're offering these as little tools to make Sunday mornings a welcoming space for everyone.



## Gaining Some Perspective

by Deaconess Katie Freund

Recently a colleague shared a series of blog posts with me from the Family Service Center titled “Parenting is Hard”... and yeah, sometimes it really can be!

We've worked hard to focus on social emotional health in our family... my spouse and I can be pretty crunchy sometimes. But no matter how hard I try to be a great mom, I keep finding myself falling short of the high expectations I set for myself. I never seem to “arrive” at the finish line, and my relationship with my kids is never “perfected.”

Lately I've been teaching my three-year-old that sometimes momma needs to practice being patient too. Then yesterday when someone cut me off on our morning commute, I had to brake suddenly and the diaper bag for our baby went flying. This meant that the inside pocket was soaking wet with an ounce and a half of breast milk from a tipped over bottle by the time we arrived at daycare. I was grumpy.

Pulling into the parking lot, I could see my three-year-old awkwardly looking around, avoiding eye contact 'cause she knew... momma was grumpy. So I took a deep breath, opened her car door to unbuckle her car seat and told her, “You know, I think I'm mad right now.”

The very first thing she needed to hear was that I wasn't mad at her, and she did nothing wrong. Taking another deep breath, and feeling a little bit less grumpy already, I told her the truth, “I'm mad because the baby's milk spilled, and now he doesn't have as much milk to eat today, and there's a big mess to clean up.” She shrugged that off without a second thought “Oh, well that's okay. We can get him more and we can clean messes up. It's okay Momma.”

What is it that gets us wrapped up in our own minds? How do we lose perspective so easily? Instead of trying so hard to power through and get everything right, what does it take for us to admit what we're feeling and accept the present moment for what it is? These are lessons we need to be taught and retaught throughout our life. This applies to our careers and our personal lives, to how we approach communities and God, to how we view ourselves.

So, this week, I invite you to reflect on what gives you perspective in your own life.



## **Installation of Reverend Christopher Neptun**

*by Harold Sargent*

**Installation service for Reverend Christopher Neptun as Senior Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 9 at 10 am with Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA presiding.**

Background: Yes, Pastor Chris has been in his new role at Holy Cross since June 1. However, due to Bishop Curry's schedule, October 9 was the first Sunday that the installation service could be conducted. The installation will take place during the 10 am worship service with Bishop Curry presiding and presenting the message. Following the service, lunch will be served in the fellowship area and on the church patio (weather permitting). Please plan to join us on that special day as we celebrate with Pastor Chris and his family.



### ***A Path Forward Pastoral Transition Update***

Reverend Christopher Neptun officially began his new pastoral role at Holy Cross on June 1, 2022. According to the transition plan, Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob are co-pastoring initially. This permits Pastor Chris the time for one-on-one interactions with various members of the congregation, to ascertain what they value about Holy Cross and what they desire for the future, and to gain a sense of what is essential for Holy Cross going forward. Pastor Bob continues in a full-time role for the first nine months. Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob are sharing pastoral care and leadership responsibilities during this time.

A "transition team" has been identified to work with Pastor Chris, Pastor Bob, church staff and the congregation through the first year. It is comprised of members from the call committee, staff support team, church council and general membership.

They are:

Jen Christensen - Chair  
Jeannine Phillips  
Dave Klein  
Sarah Accettura  
Susan Beck  
Sarah Grayer  
Tim Jackson-Skelton  
Gary Johnston

At the end of this transition period (currently set for March 1, 2023), Pastor Bob will be away for three months of sabbatical leave. During the sabbatical, there will be ongoing conversations about the nature of a part-time presence for Pastor Bob. After the sabbatical period (approximately June 1), Pastor Bob will return in an agreed upon part-time role. This may take the form of annual contracts between Holy Cross and Pastor Bob where the role is adjusted each year as appropriate.

A full recap of the transition process to date can be found on the church website at the following link or by visiting the church homepage and selecting "Pastoral Transition" under "Resources" [HolyCrossChurch.org/transition](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/transition)



Holy Cross enjoys the fine arts of music, drama, media and visuals. We recognize the ways they enhance our communal gatherings. The Around The Cross Concert Series has been suspended since March 2020 due to the pandemic. We have missed the opportunities to come together and celebrate the gifts of a variety of artists. Holy Cross will be offering a new concert season beginning in October. We are finalizing the schedule of five or six performances. The season will be a celebration of various genres of music and style.

We will launch the concert series with Sophie Webber on Saturday, October 22 at 7 pm with a reception to follow. Sophie is an internationally acclaimed cello soloist, chamber musician, and educator of whom a glowing review and picture appeared in the June, 2018 issue of Gramophone magazine. Although born and educated in England, where she studied at the Trinity College of Music in London, she obtained advanced degrees in cello performance from Indiana University.

In addition to Sophie, we will enjoy Sue and Mike Blair in a coffeehouse setting on November 18. Dale Tippet Jr. and musicians from Holy Cross will offer a Christmas music party on December 10. The Chicagoland Voices community choir will present a concert on February 4, 2023. We are finalizing dates with Paul Vander Weele for an organ recital date in January 2023 and we have extended an invitation to the Red Rose Children's Choir for March 2023.

Watch for a concert brochure that will be forthcoming.

### ***The Global Leadership Summit Returns to Holy Cross***



Last month Holy Cross resumed hosting the Global Leadership Summit in person after a two-year interruption due to the pandemic. We were pleased to have 35 people in attendance from a variety of community organizations and companies as a first-step in rebuilding participation.

If you are interested in reading through some of the ideas presented, you can do that by looking at published session notes here: [globalleadership.org/leading-yourself/](http://globalleadership.org/leading-yourself/)

**Additionally, registration for the 2023 Global Leadership Summit to be held August 3 - 4, 2023 is now open at [bit.ly/GLSatHCLC](http://bit.ly/GLSatHCLC) at the discounted rate of \$139 until March 31, 2023 using the code: 23PHSHOST**



## Music Ministry Update

by Dale Tippett Jr.

Now that summer is winding down, we're all coming home from vacations and getting ready for our back-to-school rituals, I'd like to invite you all to sing with the choir and praise band for special music for the fall and winter seasons!

We will be adding some special arrangements that combine contemporary and traditional music for more exciting and engaging preludes which will be great for adding new energy to Sunday mornings, as well as working up some great choir anthems to feature in the main body of weekly worship.

As usual, I won't be holding anyone to long-term commitments. If you'd just like to try singing with us to see what it's like, or you just want to sing at Christmastime, that's wonderful and you're more than welcome!

One of my favorite stories from the past year is how our friend Dan Choe loved singing with us, but his work schedule wouldn't allow for him to be here on Sundays. He was, however, able to come during the week for rehearsals, so he asked if he could just sing with us at rehearsals. That, I think, speaks to how much fun and camaraderie we share with each other at our rehearsals, so if you'd like to get on the email list for choir get-togethers, please email me at [dale@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:dale@holycrosschurch.org) and we'll make sure you know when we have a music party planned!

If you are interested in a more traditional choir experience, we will be looking to dig into the old music library and have a group perform some of those pieces. Let me know by email at [dale@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:dale@holycrosschurch.org) if you would like to participate!



## Handbell Choir Invitation

by Beth Fashimpauer

We welcome all to join the Holy Cross Handbell Choir. If you can read music, you are in! Rehearsals are in the church basement on most Thursdays at 7 pm. We are looking to get started just after Labor Day, so please contact Beth Fashimpauer at [elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com) for more details.



**Journey** faith, discipleship, generosity

## Using Money to Take a Stand

by Steve Oelschlager

Excerpt from *The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life* by Lynn Twist.

“Whether you are aware of it or not, you make an impact each day with your choices about how you live and how you allocate your resources. If ‘money talks’ it is with our voice. Each financial choice you make is a powerful statement of who you are and what you care about. When you take a stand and have your money reflect that, it strengthens your sense of self.

You don't have to change careers, revolutionize your business, or pack up your family and move away from anything or to do anything to take a stand. You express your stand in the way you earn money, choosing work consistent with your values. You express your stand in the way you use money to provide food, clothing, shelter, or education for your family. It can be in the money you use to support others in your community or beyond, through food depositories, or shelters for battered women, troubled children, or homeless people. It can be in the money you use to empower your own creativity and self-expression, or otherwise nurture yourself through classes, books, or music. It can be in the money you pay for the products you buy, supporting the companies that produce them. It may be money you contribute to local, national, and global causes that inspire you, and the opportunity you offer others to do the same. If you are an employer, it can be the money you invest in the resources to make your workplace an expression of integrity, where employees and management have what they need to express their excellence.

We each have the power to arrange life so that the stand we take with our money and our life with money is a right-now, every-day, every-week expression of our core values, not a someday, next-year, or when-I-retire or when-I-have-enough expression of our core values. Every moment of every day there are chances to participate in expressing your individuality and creativity, in contributing to your vision for yourself, your family, your community, city, or world. When we bring this consciousness to our choices about money and use our resources—money, time, or talents—to take a stand for what we believe in, we come alive. We are flooded with a sense of purpose even in the smallest action, and a feeling of power and energy opens up in our life.”



## Women's Retreat

**Dates:** Friday, October 21 at 4 pm - Saturday, October 22 at 4 pm  
**Location:** The Abbey Resort, 269 Fontana Blvd, Fontana, Wisconsin  
**Cost:** ***New pricing structure!***  
 \$200 for a private room  
 \$100 for a shared room (2 people per room)  
*Scholarships available - contact Beth Ann Koenemann*  
**RSVP by:** September 12 at [HolyCrossChurch.org/womensretreat](https://holycrosschurch.org/womensretreat)

Women over the age of 21 are invited to escape the daily grind and join us at The Abbey Resort in Lake Geneva where you will experience the calming effects of the lake and picturesque fall views of the harbor.

The September 12 deadline to register is fast approaching! We have a wonderful group of women already signed up and we want you to join us too!

Pricing clarification: \$200 is to have a single room all to yourself or \$100 to share a room with someone. All rooms are furnished with two queen beds. If you know who you want to room with, list their name (and they should list your name) on the registration form. Don't know who to room with? We will be happy to help you find a roommate, just check that box on your registration form or feel free to invite a friend. This pricing includes the cost of the room and three delicious meals (dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday).

Our theme this year is "Something Beautiful" led by Deaconess Katie and there's no better place to experience beauty in nature than the picturesque fall views of Lake Geneva. You can register online by using the QR code below or by filling out the paper registration form found in the Women's Retreat brochure, located at [HolyCrossChurch.org/womensretreat](https://holycrosschurch.org/womensretreat). Paper copies are also available in the narthex. Paper registrations and non-online payments can be turned into the church office marked to the attention of Women's Retreat or Beth Ann Koenemann. Checks should be made out to Holy Cross Lutheran Church with "Women's Retreat" in the memo area. Scholarships are also available, please contact Beth Ann at [bethann@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:bethann@holycrosschurch.org) for details.

We are so excited about the program we have planned for you, so don't miss this great opportunity to connect and relax with other beautiful women. Please join us!

We look forward to our experience together!

[holycrosschurch.org/womensretreat](https://holycrosschurch.org/womensretreat)

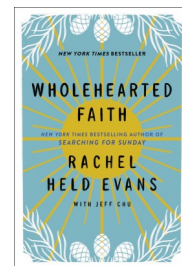


## Women's Discussion Group

by Pastor Chris Neptun

The Women's Discussion Group will resume meeting in September with discussion of the book *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans.

The meetings will be held twice a month on select Tuesday mornings from 9:30 - 11 am on the patio (weather permitting) or in the Fellowship Area. Refreshments will be provided. All women are welcome to join.



About *Wholehearted Faith* from the publisher: "This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness as well as those who have been hurt by the Church but can't seem to let go of the story of Jesus. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging. An unforgettable, moving, and intimate book."

The schedule for 2022/23 is as follows:

September 13, 2022 – Chapter 1: *On the Days When I Believe*

September 27, 2022 – Chapter 2: *My Wicked Little Heart*

October 11, 2022 – Chapter 3: *Where Stone Becomes Flesh*

October 25, 2022 – Chapter 4: *The Liberation of the Know-It-All*

November 8, 2022 – Chapter 5: *Thick Skin, Tender Heart*

November 22, 2022 – Chapter 6: *Johnathan Edwards Is Not My Homeboy*

January 10, 2023 – Chapter 7: *Beginning Again With Love*

January 24, 2023 – Chapter 8: *From Death to Life*

February 14, 2023 – Chapter 9: *The Steady Work of Living Water*

February 28, 2023 – Chapter 10: *Many Voices, Many Masks*

March 14, 2023 – Chapter 11: *Wilderness*

March 28, 2023 – Chapter 12: *God has Made a Home with Us*

April 11, 2023 – Chapter 13: *Loving Our Enemies*

April 25, 2023 – Chapter 14: *Dwelling in Sabbath*

Please contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 or [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) to arrange to pick up a copy of the book. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org)



# Faith Formation

## ADULT

### Visual Faith Process

**When:** Sundays between worship services at 9:10 to 9:45 am

*See full schedule below*

**Who:** Adults and young adults post confirmation

**Where:** Conference room 208 in the CrossWays Preschool education wing

#### What you should know...

This is a conversational model led by Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob for any post confirmation people of faith. We know there is creativity in uncovering the power of images for the formation of faith. We will be using content that provides access and insights for people who want to follow Jesus today. As practitioners of the Christian faith, we believe this is an opportunity to disciple one another towards a vibrant faith.

#### Choices...

Did you know that looking at pictures, images, and photographs connects with the emotional center of your brain? That is where we actually “see.” So, processing pictures helps people make immediate internal and emotional connections to their own experiences. We don’t bring the same life experiences to formation and discipleship. We will provide material that will allow each person the opportunity to explore a variety of overarching themes, targeted topics, visual image choices, and thoughtful questions.

#### Topics and Texts...

Visual Faith Process uses Scripture as the basis for topic-explorations that generate natural, vigorous conversations about what it means to follow Jesus today.

#### Scope and sequence of themes

No advance preparation is required. Take home resources will be available.

### Visual Faith Process Schedule

#### The Habits of Jesus

September 18: Salt and Light (*Matthew 5:13-16*)

September 25: Revenge Reverse (*Matthew 5:38-42*)

October 2: Ask, Search, Knock (*Matthew 7:7-12*)

October 9: Facing Threats (*Matthew 8:23-27*)

October 16: Not Peace, But Trouble (*Matthew 10:34-39*)

October 23: The Cost of Engagement (*John 3:4,5*)

#### Thriving in Everyday Life

October 30: Plenty & Need (*Philippians 4:12-13*)

November 6: I Am Nothing Without You (*John 15:5*)

November 13: Thriving in The Desert (*Jeremiah 17:7-8*)

November 20: Family Rules (*Luke 2:41-51*)

November 27: *No Session*

#### The Truth About Joy

December 4: What It Means to Be Blessed (*Luke 11:27-28*)

December 11: Where Joy Is Found (*Psalms 16:11*)

December 18: Joy in The Journey (*James 1:2-4*)

December 25: *No Session*

January 1, 2023: *No Session*



### God Helps (*Psalms 34:4-6*)

#### 1 CHOOSE AN IMAGE

What is it like for you to ask for help? Pick an image that shows what that feels like for you.

#### 2 READ THE SCRIPTURE

*I asked the Lord for help, and he saved me from all my fears. Keep your eyes on the Lord! You will shine like the sun and never blush with shame. I was a nobody, but prayed, and the Lord saved me from all my troubles.* - Psalm 34:4-6


#### 3 REFLECT

- How is asking God for help like or unlike the picture you chose?
- What does it really mean to “keep your eyes on the Lord?”
- Think about what helps you to maintain your focus on Jesus—what image shows what that looks like for you, and why?
- What’s something, suggested by the picture you chose, that could help you live out a commitment to “keeping your eyes on the Lord?”





**BOOK CLUB**  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
7 PM VIA ZOOM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417)

*The Holy Cross Book Club, open to anyone who is interested in reading and discussing books, routinely meets the fourth Thursday of every month.*

In September we will discuss *The Book of Lost Names* by Kristen Harmel. Eva Traube Abrams, a semi-retired librarian in Florida, is shelving books one morning when her eyes lock on a photograph in a magazine lying open nearby. She freezes; it's an image of a book she hasn't seen in sixty-five years. The book in the photograph, an eighteenth-century religious text thought to have been taken from France in the waning days of the war, is one of the most fascinating cases. Now housed in Berlin's Zentral-und Landesbibliothek library, it appears to contain some sort of code, but researchers don't know where it came from—or what the code means. Only Eva holds the answer—but will she have the strength to revisit old memories and help reunite those lost during the war?

Our discussion host will be Heidi Dinter. If you have any questions, please email Melanie Houser at [housermd@comcast.net](mailto:housermd@comcast.net)

## PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 & 28

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTURY PARK, VERNON HILLS/HOLY CROSS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

9 AM - 12 PM

LOCATION: SPRING GROVE FISH HATCHERY, 2314 HATCHERY ROAD, SPRING GROVE

COST: \$5.00 PER CAR TO ENTER THE PARK

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



## QUILTING GROUP

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21 & 28

9 AM - 12 PM

IN-PERSON, ROOM 404

The Quilting Group gathers in-person on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in their Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

Contact Deb Sherrock at [debs695@aol.com](mailto:debs695@aol.com) or (630) 267-7802 with any questions.



## SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 3 & 17

7 AM

IN-PERSON (ROOM 208) OR VIA ZOOM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517](https://holycrosschurch.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. Join us as we continue to take in ideas and inspiration from a variety of topics as a way to launch our conversation. All welcome.

Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org) or Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)



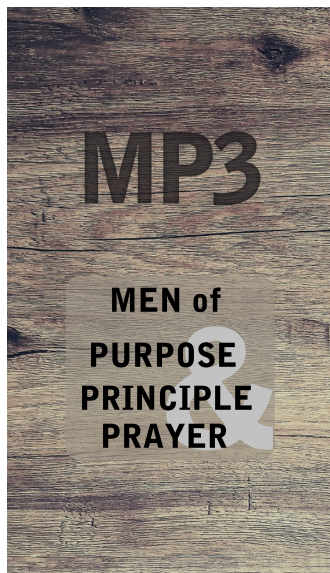
## COMMON THREADS

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 1 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

Fall is coming, so let's get the Common Threads group back together again! Starting in October, we will meet in the fellowship area on the second Monday of each month from 1 - 3 pm to knit, crochet and visit. No prior crafting experience necessary to learn how to make a prayer square.

Each blanket or shawl created is dedicated at a worship service and then presented to the prayer recipient. These pieces offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. To request a prayer blanket or shawl for a loved one, please contact the church office at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org)

For questions, please contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.



**MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**  
 6 - 8:30 PM  
 IN-PERSON, FELLOWSHIP AREA  
 THEME: SEEKING ALIVENESS

The third of our four session video curriculum on *Seeking Aliveness* will be held in September. We will continue our journey with renowned author and emergent Christian leader Brian McLaren as we seek out this new path for our faith. If you have not already received one, copies of McLaren's book "*We Make the Road by Walking: a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation*" are available as a resource and gift for everyone. Drawing on the themes from his book we are offering up some fresh insights for how we go about composing a life of faith. Men (21+) are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, music, and conversation. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org)

**To help us plan for food, please RSVP at [bit.ly/MP3SEPT13](https://bit.ly/MP3SEPT13)**



Save the date: The fourth and final session on *Seeking Aliveness* will be held on Tuesday, October 18.



**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**  
**TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27**  
 7 - 8 AM  
 LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

This is a wonderful way to begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org)



**GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP**  
**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**  
 6:30 - 8 PM  
 IN-PERSON AT NIGHTSHADE AND DARK'S PANDEMONIUM BREWING  
 216 W. CLAYTON STREET, WAUKEGAN (AROUND THE CORNER FROM THE GENESEE THEATER)

*Grounded in Grace is a social opportunity for women of faith to connect together in fellowship.*

Join us if you can for fellowship and fun. Questions? Contact Terry Berger at [terryberger.08@gmail.com](mailto:terryberger.08@gmail.com) or (224) 775-1479.



**ANTIRACISM ROUNDTABLE & WORK GROUP**

The Antiracism Roundtable will host a booth at Rally Day and will start meeting in person this fall. If you are interested in helping to plan this group's meetings and activities, please email Carol Dikelsky at [carol@dikelsky.org](mailto:carol@dikelsky.org)



**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**  
**TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 13 & 27**  
 9:30 AM, PATIO OR FELLOWSHIP AREA

The discussion topics for 2022/23 will be taken from the book *Wholehearted Faith* by Rachel Held Evans. Please see page 6 for additional information and dates. All women welcome.

Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.



**PILATES**  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AND MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 12, 19 & 26**  
 6 PM  
 IN-PERSON, CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

To join this group, please contact Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573. Pilates meets in-person in the west wing.





# CrossWays Preschool



# Celebration! Childcare

by Samantha Cooper  
Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

## Hurray for Back to School

CrossWays Preschool is beginning its 2022/23 school year this month! We are so excited to start this fresh adventure. Our teachers will begin the year by getting to know their students, teaching classroom routines and rules, and learning the basics of school etiquette. CrossWays Preschool will be hosting an Open House event on Thursday, September 1. Open House is offered prior to school beginning to give our families and students a chance to meet the teachers, visit the classroom, and learn about the program and ask any questions they may have before the first day of school!

The first few weeks of school can be hard for new students who are unfamiliar with leaving mom and dad. Tears may be a normal part of the transition and will get better with time and consistency. Our staff bring warmth and comfort to our new friends by easing them into the classroom and allowing them to explore the new space in their own way. The schedule during the first few weeks of school allows for this transitional period before students begin to settle into the daily routine.

We have a few available spots left in our two, three and four year old classrooms for this school year. If you or someone you know is looking to have their child start in preschool, have them reach out to our program! We would be happy to schedule a tour and guide families to find a great fit for their child's needs.

### CrossWays Preschool Important Dates

September 1: Open House  
September 5: Labor Day (no school)  
September 6: First day of Enrichment Classes  
September 7: First day of Preschool Classes  
October 1: Fallin' Into Fun - Fundraising Event



## PADS Housewarming Kits

Service Project hosted by CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare to benefit PADS of Lake County

For the month of September, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare will be collecting household items to help individuals and families who have been experiencing a housing crisis to stock their new homes with necessary items. They may not have the funds to furnish or supply their house with basic needs. Items such as kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, personal items, and cleaning supplies are needed. We will package the items in laundry baskets before donating to PADS.

We will be collecting items by age groups to avoid having too many of one item. If you would like to donate, please bring in an item from the category that your child's age fits into. Congregation members are welcome to participate by donating any item(s) on the wish list. Donations can be dropped off at the CrossWays Preschool or Celebration! Childcare entrances during school hours or on Sundays in the collection bin located in the narthex near the blue wall.

[crossways@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:crossways@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-4367  
[cpreschool.org](http://cpreschool.org)



CrossWays  
Preschool

## September Welcomings

Fall is in the air and our students are adjusting to new classrooms, routines, and friends. It has been a few weeks since our summer camp ended and students moved to new classrooms. Transitions can be challenging for some students and we allow a few weeks to get into a new routine with new expectations. We also have a number of new families who have joined us for this school year. We are excited about our newest additions and are looking forward to getting to know them better as they continue their journey with our program.

To help families understand what we do here at Celebration! Childcare, we are offering a Curriculum Night on Wednesday, September 7 from 6 - 7 pm. Curriculum Night allows families to stay after hours to learn more about the curriculum their students are learning as well as understand what goes on day to day. Teachers will be available to answer any questions parents may have about the classroom.

Returning this fall are our Elective classes! We will once again be offering a gym class and music class to families who would like their child to participate in these optional learning opportunities. We would love to have a third elective choice for families to choose from! If you know of a program/person who offers classes or would like to use their skills to offer an enrichment class to students, please reach out to Samantha Cooper at [sam@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:sam@holycrosschurch.org)

### Celebration! Childcare Important Dates

September 5: Labor Day (no school)  
September 7: Curriculum Night  
October 1: Fallin' Into Fun - Fundraising Event

#### Infants: Kitchen Items

Dishes, glasses, mugs, silverware, pots and pans, cooking utensils, knives for food prep, can opener, cutting board, kitchen towels, food storage containers, Ziploc bags, oven mitts, etc.



#### Toddlers: Miscellaneous Items

Light bulbs, calendar, pens, note pads, fan, rubber gloves, batteries, first aid kit, lint brush/roller, night light, etc.



#### Two Year Olds: Bedroom Items

Full-size bedding, table lamp, blankets, mattress protector, alarm clock, hangers, etc.



#### Three Year Olds: Cleaning Supplies

All-purpose spray, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet brush, sponges, dish soap and dishwasher detergent, trash can and bags, paper towels, laundry detergent and fabric softener sheets, broom and dust pan, bucket and mop, etc.



#### Four Year Olds: Personal Items

Tissues, toilet paper, bar soap, shampoo and conditioner, toothbrush and toothpaste, disposable razors, shave gel or cream, body lotion, hand lotion, deodorant, nail clippers, comb or brush, etc.



#### Five Year Olds: Bathroom Items

Hair dryer, bath towels, hand towels, wash cloths, shower curtain and hooks, shower liner, non-slip mat for shower/tub, bath mat/rug, etc.



Celebration!  
Childcare

[celebration@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:celebration@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-6208  
[cchildcare.org](http://cchildcare.org)



CrossWays Preschool &  
Celebration! Childcare  
presents

# Fallin' Into Fun!

**Date: Saturday, October 1**

**Time: 12 - 4 pm**

**Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Family Fun  
For all ages!  
Held rain or  
shine.

## Games and Activities for the Kids

Purchase an unlimited wristband for \$8 and enjoy face painting, games galore, a 30 ft inflatable obstacle course and a visit from the Libertyville Fire Department for tours.

## Small Shops and Vendors for an Amazing Shopping Experience

A wide variety of products will be available for sale from several area vendors including jewelry, home decor, homemade treats, children's items and more.

## Exciting Silent Auction Raffles

Including tickets to the Blackhawks, wine baskets, baskets for babies, children's toys & games and an overnight stay and 2 theater tickets at The Marriott Theater in Lincolnshire

## Yummy Food and Beverages

Grilled hot dogs and brats with sides and desserts available for purchase

## Personalized Wine Labels

Perfect for gift giving to family, friends, and co-workers. Wine included! Watch for opportunities to pre-order your selections starting September 18

Entry donations are encouraged AND provide  
an opportunity for a drawing for a fabulous  
basket of goodies!

For more information,  
visit [cchildcare.org/events](http://cchildcare.org/events)



Proceeds from this fundraising event will be used for curriculum and professional development.

## Bake Sale Donations



At our Fallin' Into Fun fundraiser, we will be hosting our very own Bake Sale! We are looking for bakers who are interested in donating a baked good item for the event. Any baked dessert item, such as cookies, pies, and brownies, will be accepted. If you are interested in donating an item for the Bake Sale table, please sign up online by Friday, September 23 at the following link: [bit.ly/bakedgoodies](http://bit.ly/bakedgoodies)

Please deliver donations to the Holy Cross church office or to Celebration! Childcare on Friday, September 30 by 3 pm. Contact Samantha Cooper at [sam@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:sam@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions. Thank you for your support!

# Faith Formation

CHILDREN YOUTH

## "Growing In Faith"

by Deaconess Katie Freund

This year we're growing our children's faith formation program! Children aged 3 through 5th grade, please join us starting September 18 in the Sanctuary as we begin each 45-minute session all together with prayer and songs. We will then move to the west wing (Celebration! Childcare) where we will split up into three age groups (3 - 5 year olds, K - 2nd grade, and 3rd - 5th grade) for age appropriate activities. To make this happen we're looking for adult volunteers as well as a helping hand from any interested high school and confirmation students. Sign up by contacting [deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org)

### Growing In Faith Fall Class Schedule

**Drop off:** 9:05 am in the Sanctuary

**Pick up:** 9:50 am in the west wing

**September 18:** Creation (Genesis 1:1-2:4a)

**September 25:** Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9)

**October 2:** Jacob Wrestles (Genesis 32:22-31)

*October 9: No class*

**October 16:** Praise God (Psalm 8)

**October 23:** Movie day - Prince of Egypt (9 am - 11 am)

**October 30:** Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20)

**November 6:** Naomi & Ruth (Ruth 1:1-2)

**November 13:** David & Goliath (1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-50)

**November 20:** Elijah & the Widow (1 Kings 17:8-16)

*November 27: Thanksgiving break*

**December 4:** Jonah & the Big Fish (Jonah 1-4)

**December 11:** A Child Called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:10-17)

**December 18:** Christmas Pageant (during 10 am worship)

*December 25 - January 1: Winter break*

## Rally Day

We have been holding you in prayer that the end of summer has been low stress and the transition into fall will be joyous. To help kick off this new school year we are throwing a carnival! This isn't a fundraiser, all the games are free to play and hosted "trunk or treat" style in the parking lot. This is a way for the congregation of Holy Cross to support our children, youth, and family ministries. This is also an excuse to put Pastor Bob in a dunk tank one last time and Pastor Chris in for the first time!

The Rally Day Kickoff Carnival and Tailgate Cookout on September 11 will start off around 11 am immediately following the 10 am worship service. Kids, aged 3 through 5th grade, meet on the lawn in front of the church for a quick welcome. Students will get to make their name tags for the new year and parents will be able to get all the information they need for this year's programming. And then it's straight to food, games, and fun!

Interested in hosting one of our carnival booths? Great! Sign-up sheets and directions are on the Holy Cross website at [HolyCrossChurch.org/rallyday](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/rallyday)



## CONFIRMATION

### 6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

**Orientation for parents and students will be on Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 pm.** Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade confirmation students will be introduced to their classes and taught about acolyting. Parents will be given information for the year and we'll organize small group leaders. Confirmation students are welcome to attend the Rally Day Kickoff Carnival and Tailgate Cookout.

### Class schedule (6:30 - 8 pm):

September 18, 25, October 16, 23, 30, November 6, 13, 20, January 8, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26, March 5, 12

### 9th Grade Confirmation

For our 9th grade confirmands preparing for confirmation this October, we will have two Saturday, small group sessions for our 9th grade confirmands:

September 10, 8 - 10 am (with breakfast)

September 17, 6 - 8 pm (with dinner)

### Reformation Sunday and Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, October 30 at 10 am Worship

We will celebrate with the young people who have completed their Confirmation coursework, had their faith interviews, and prayerfully decided to affirm the faith of their baptisms.

## Crossroads High School Youth Group

by Pastor Chris Neptun



Hey High School Students! Join Crossroads on Sunday, September 18 from 4 - 6 pm at Whirlyball in Vernon Hills. Meet at Whirlyball at 3:45 pm, we've got the court until 5:30 pm. Dinner from 5:30 - 6 pm. Feel free to invite some friends! Please RSVP to help us reserve our spots. Our focus for the fall is building connections.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, Becky or Nikki  
Pastor Chris [pastorchrish@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchrish@holycrosschurch.org)  
Becky Sawle (708) 291-0488 (text)  
Nikki Spencer [nikolspencer@gmail.com](mailto:nikolspencer@gmail.com)



### WhirlyBall Bash

**Date:** Sunday, September 18

**Time:** 3:45 - 6 pm

**Location:** WhirlyBall

285 Center Dr, Vernon Hills

**Cost:** Free

Please RSVP by September 12  
[HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads)

If you can shoot a basket while driving a bumper car, you can WhirlyBall! Sure to have lots of laughs! Dinner afterward.



### What's Up Next? Save the date for Richardson's Adventure Farm

**Date:** Sunday, October 23

**Time:** 5:30 - 9:30 pm

## Milestone Ministries

*Our faith journey occurs from birth through life eternal. Along the way, there are important events, rituals and milestones that mark the passage of time through our lives. Through Milestone Ministries we celebrate and mark these important events and times in the lives of children, youth and adults. Each milestone becomes an opportunity to proclaim that God is with us. Milestone Ministries serve as an important way of connecting, supporting, and equipping families and the congregation to share the Christian faith, to live out the promises that are made when someone is baptized and to provide strength for their faith journey.*

### Childhood Milestones

*Childhood Milestones are designed for parent(s) and sponsors to participate with their children.*

#### Baptism

**By appointment with a pastor**

For most of us the formal beginning of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Through the waters of baptism, we are publicly claimed as a Child of God and become a part of God's family. The congregation, parent(s) and sponsors of the individual promise to support this person on their faith journey as they grow in age and wisdom through God's love.

#### Commissioning and Blessing of Teachers

**Sunday, September 18, 2022 at 10 am worship**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at ECM chapel**

A time is set apart during worship to lift up and bless all those called to live out their faith by serving as a teacher and mentor for others. We honor and lift up the service of teachers, coordinators, helpers, shepherds, substitutes, directors and staff in our Sunday School, Confirmation, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare programs.

#### First Communion: Second Grade and up

**Workshop: Saturday, September 24, 2022, 9:30 - 11 am**

**RSVP by September 19 [HolyCrossChurch.org/milestoneministries](https://www.holycrosschurch.org/milestoneministries) or Saturday, April 1, 2023, 9:30 - 11 am**

In this milestone, we learn about the mystery and gift that is Holy Communion. Class includes making bread, learning about the Passover, the events surrounding Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper, what happens in Holy Communion and the general "how-tos" of receiving Holy Communion. Two sessions are offered each year with the fall class celebrating First Communion on World Communion Sunday (first Sunday of October) and the spring class celebrating First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

**Celebration: Sunday, October 2, 2022 (World Communion Sunday) at 10 am worship or Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

#### Worship Workshop: First Grade

**Sunday, October 16 at 9 am and during 10 am worship**

This worship milestone is a time for parents and children to explore our worship space, to find meaning behind what we do in worship and a time to ask questions about all they see in worship. We finish our instruction with providing simple workbooks for families to go through together during worship. We bet the adults learn something new too!

#### Bible Basics and Presentation of Bibles: Third Grade and up

**Sunday, November 13, 2022 at 9 am with Presentation of Bibles during 10 am worship**

At baptism, parent(s), sponsors and the congregation promise to place the Holy Scriptures into the hands of each baptized person. At Holy Cross, we do this in third grade with a class for parents and children to learn together. We cover how to use a Bible, how it is organized, and share favorite Bible verses. This is immediately followed by our worship service where the congregation gives a Bible to each child.

#### Ten Commandments: Fourth Grade

**Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 9:30 - 10:30 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. But what does that actually mean? 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.

#### Live Your Faith: Fifth Grade

**Saturday, February 11, 2023 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**

We're told to follow Jesus, but how? What do you do? Kids and their adults will explore these questions together with focus on the Bible passage from Matthew 25:35-40 before gathering and preparing for a service project.

#### Toddler Playdate: 2 years old and under

**Saturday, February 25, 2023 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**

Our "easiest" milestone! We offer families with children age 2 and under a chance to connect to each other and offer up resources for raising a child that knows they are loved by God. We know the first words of faith in a child's life are lived out in the joyful praise in play.

#### Playful Prayerful: Kindergarten

**Saturday, April 23, 2023 from 9:30 - 10:30 am**

Prayer is our connection to God and an open line of communication. This milestone offers an opportunity for families to talk about prayer and to learn about integrating prayer into our daily lives.

For any questions related to Milestone Ministries, please contact Deaconess Katie Freund at [deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org)

To learn more about Milestone Ministries visit [HolyCrossChurch.org/milestoneministries](https://www.holycrosschurch.org/milestoneministries)



## Middle and High School Milestones

### Confirmation Orientation and Intro to Acolyting: Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 6:30 - 8pm

All incoming sixth to eighth grade Confirmation students and parents participate in an introduction night based around relationship building, Confirmation life and acolyte training.

### Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism: Sunday, October 30, 2022 during 10 am worship

Ninth grade students who have completed the confirmation program are invited to publicly affirm their baptism. In addition to the preparation that occurs in the Confirmation program, each student writes a faith statement and discusses it with our ministry team. On Reformation Sunday, students make public affirmation of their baptism, proclaiming the baptismal promises that their parents/sponsors previously made on their behalf and claiming their faith life as their own.

### High School Graduation Recognition: Sunday, June 4, 2023 during 10 am worship

Graduation from high school is an important milestone and time of transition for students and families. We celebrate this milestone in worship with a prayer and blessing of those who graduated and their families.





## The Great Lakes

by Leo Karris

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of their (his) hand?” - *Isaiah 40:12* (NRSV)

My hope in writing this article every month is to get us thinking about our local environment with the idea that, as the poet Mary Oliver writes, “attention is the beginning of devotion,” and then we save what we love. Oliver was warning us against looking without noticing. It is also important for us to “notice” our regional environment. To remember that we humans and the natural environment are interdependent, and that we notice what is happening upstream and how what we do impacts environments and creatures (human and non-human) downstream.

The Great Lakes region is one of the largest and important freshwater ecosystems in the world and is suffering poorer water quality, habitat degradation, and biodiversity loss. The Great Lakes region is one of the world’s largest surface water systems, spanning 750 miles from west to east. The Lakes hold about 84% of North America’s surface freshwater and about 21% of the world’s supply of freshwater by volume. The Great Lakes are a precious water source providing drinking water for over 35 million people living in the region. According to the Rochester Institute of Technology, there is 22 million pounds of plastic that enter the Great Lakes waters every year. There are other pollutants that enter the Lakes from industrial operations, raw sewage discharge from sewer overflows, and stormwater runoff from the region.<sup>1</sup> All of which impacts the health of the Lakes’ ecosystems. For more on work to restore and protect the Great Lakes see [greatlakes.org](http://greatlakes.org)

There are over 500 references to water in Scripture.<sup>2</sup> Water is life. The next time you take a drink of water, take a moment to be thankful for clean drinking water. Think about the source of that water, its abundance, and all the non-human creatures that depend on it as well. Are we doing our best to protect this precious gift of water?

Please send me an email with any reflections or questions at [leokarris@gmail.com](mailto:leokarris@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup>Information and Data Source: [earth.org](http://earth.org)

<sup>2</sup>Spirituality of Water, *Nature: Our First Way of Knowing God*, Beth Norcross

## Backpack Drive Update



A huge thank you to all who contributed to the Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) Backpack Drive! Thanks to your generosity we were able to amass 112 backpacks and provide the funds to purchase \$25 gift cards toward the purchase of school supplies for each pack. On Sunday, August 7, each backpack was blessed with a backpack tag wishing the student recipient God's peace. LSSI representatives picked up the backpacks on Tuesday, August 9 and will provide them to students in need in Chicago for the 2022/23 school year. Thank you for helping to provide support for the educational journey for those in need!

The mission of COOL Ministries is to give comprehensive assistance to families in need, by reducing hunger and homelessness while encouraging personal growth and self-sufficiency. The number of patrons has grown, and our monetary help is needed more than ever. Support COOL Ministries by donating online at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](http://donate.holycrosschurch.org)



## PADS Ministry Support

by Peg Chartier

The Holy Cross PADS ministry is hoping to expand our volunteer pool. If you have ever wanted to serve the homeless, let us know your interest here: [bit.ly/PADShost](http://bit.ly/PADShost)



Thank you to all who have already expressed your desire to serve. We hope to provide more information soon.

Monetary donations for PADS may be made online at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](http://donate.holycrosschurch.org)

## PADS Housewarming Kits

For the month of September, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare will be hosting a service project to benefit PADS clients moving into stable housing. Congregation members are welcome to participate by donating any items on the wish list. Items include kitchen supplies, bathroom supplies, personal items and cleaning supplies. See page 10 for more details. A donation collection bin will be located in the narthex near the blue wall.



## 14th Annual Willow House Walk & 5K Run to Remember

Sunday, September 11

Independence Grove Forest Preserve  
16400 West Buckley Road, Libertyville

7:30 am - Registration

8:30 am - 5K Run

9:30 am - Memorial Walk

This event was designed to allow family members to dedicate a morning to memorialize their loved one(s), share stories, and meet others that truly understand the emotions and challenges that one may face after the death of a loved one, while raising essential funds to continue Willow House programs. To learn more or to register or donate, go to: [willowhouse.org/walk2022/](http://willowhouse.org/walk2022/)

*Willow House is the only independent organization in Illinois that provides support services to children, teens and families who are grieving the death of a loved one. All services are provided at no charge.*

# September Calendar

## Thursday, September 1

**CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare Service Project for the month of September: PADS Housewarming Kits**

## Saturday, September 3

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208  
5:30 pm First Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion

## Sunday, September 4

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream  
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

## Monday, September 5

**Labor Day**  
**Church Office & Celebration! Childcare closed**

## Tuesday, September 6

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402  
6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

## Wednesday, September 7

9 am Quilting Group, 404  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402  
6 pm Celebration! Childcare Curriculum Night

## Saturday, September 10

8 am Confirmand breakfast session, Fellowship Area

## Sunday, September 11

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream  
10 am Worship, Drive-In  
11 am **Rally Day Kickoff Carnival & Tailgate Cookout**  
6:30 pm Confirmation Orientation, Fellowship Area

## Monday, September 12

**RSVP due for Women's Retreat**  
6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium  
6:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area

## Tuesday, September 13

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant  
9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, Patio or Fellowship Area  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402  
6 pm MP3, Fellowship Area

## Wednesday, September 14

9 am Quilting Group, 404  
11:30 am PHW, Century Park, VH  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402  
8 pm Church Council meeting, 208

## Saturday, September 17

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208  
9 am PHW, Spring Grove Fish Hatchery, Spring Grove  
6 pm Confirmand dinner session, Fellowship Area

## Sunday, September 18

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream  
9 am Faith Formation  
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream  
3:45 pm Crossroads, WhirlyBall Bash, Vernon Hills  
6:30 pm Confirmation, Sanctuary

## Monday, September 19

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium  
7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

## Tuesday, September 20

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

## Wednesday, September 21

9 am Quilting Group, 404  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402  
11:30 am PHW, Century Park, VH

## Thursday, September 22

7 pm Book Club, via Zoom

## Saturday, September 24

9:30 am Milestone Ministries: First Communion Prep, Fellowship Area

## Sunday, September 25

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream  
9 am Faith Formation  
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream  
6:30 pm Confirmation, Sanctuary

## Monday, September 26

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium  
7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

## Tuesday, September 27

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant  
9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, Patio or Fellowship Area  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

## Wednesday, September 28

**RSVP due for Fallin' Into Fun**  
9 am Quilting Group, 404  
11:30 am PHW, Century Park, VH  
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

## Altar Flowers



Purchase flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings in memory of a loved one or to celebrate with joy a birthday, anniversary, baptism, wedding or other event. For convenience, **altar flower order options are offered online where you now have the opportunity to select your desired date (by the 25th of the month prior)** and craft a dedication which will appear in the bulletin on your chosen day. The price for an arrangement including delivery is \$50 per bouquet. You are welcome and encouraged to take the flowers home to enjoy following the 10 am service on the day you donate. (We ask that the vases be returned during the following week or on the next Sunday so that we can continually rotate them back to the florist.) It is our hope that the altar flowers will be a visible reminder in our lives and in our worship setting of the beauty, the joy and the love that God has given to each of us. **To order, visit [bit.ly/orderaltarflowers](http://bit.ly/orderaltarflowers)**



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

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



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## September Worship Schedule

**First Saturday Evening Worship**  
September 3 at 5:50 pm - Sanctuary

### Sundays

**September 4, 18, 25**

**8 & 10 am** - Sanctuary & livestream

**September 11**

**8 am** - Sanctuary & livestream

**10 am** - Drive-In

**11 am** - Rally Day Kickoff Carnival  
& Tailgate Cookout

View the fall worship schedule on page 2

## Faith Formation

CHILDREN YOUTH ADULT

### Growing In Faith

Children ages 3 through 5th grade

Starting Sunday, September 18 at 9:05 - 9:50 am

See details and the full schedule on page 11.

### Confirmation

Youth in 6th - 8th grade

Starting Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 - 8 pm

See the full schedule on page 11.

### Visual Faith Process

Post Confirmation Adults

Starting Sunday, September 18 at 9:10 - 9:45 am

View more details on page 7.



**Rally Day Kickoff Carnival  
& Tailgate Cookout**  
Sunday, September 11 at 11 am

Kick off the new school year with  
a free carnival! All welcome!  
See page 12.

