

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

March 2021

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VIRTUAL

SUNDAYS

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/
SERMONS

MIDWEEK LENT

MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24

AT 7 PM

HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/
LENT

DRIVE-IN

SUNDAYS

MARCH 7, 14, 21, 28

9:30 AM

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

It's Called Maturity...

We seem to forget a fundamental truth these days... learning to live in relationship with difference is called maturity. This is not a new insight. The Bible offers us a helpful perspective on the subject. St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians believes that living into a spiritual maturity requires making plenty of room for all of God's children and their different views. It is part of God's vision for the whole human family that we learn to live together in love and charity, with all of our differences, holding onto our integrities, and yet being able to be in relationship with one another as children of God, made in God's image and likeness while celebrating the variety of our thoughts.

There is no denying that we find ourselves living in a tender spiritual moment in history. There is a tension between feeling our need for re-grounding and healing on both a personal and a communal level. We are living in a reality that calls for social repair and unity that is viewed with suspicion and an understandable wariness. Recent years have been bruising all around.

I have people ask what will bring healing to the situations that we find ourselves in and create transformational moments in the way we treat each other. Jesus used a particular approach to go around the defenses that people often put in the way of breaking through disagreements about really important and significant matters. He would tell a parable. Often in the telling of a parable Jesus would assist people to engage in conversation without suggesting that every point of disagreement necessarily needs to be weaponized.

I remember a quote attributed to Booker T. Washington... "Never let any person drag you so low as to hate them." And, Dr. King once said, "We will either learn to live together as sisters and brothers, or we will perish together as fools." Both of these thoughts stand upon the truth that Jesus of Nazareth believed in the kind of love that actually can change personal life and social life. I think it is interesting that when one speaks of love, there is this sense that we are talking about something soft. But in fact, what we know about the kind of love that Jesus is encouraging us to practice is that it may be one of the most difficult things of all. It turns out that loving one another is about learning how to disagree and still stay in relationship.

We have more in common than what we may initially consider. What if we reimagine the purpose of our conversations? What if we actually took the time to come together, and not with the purpose of debating the merits of a particular issue? What if we invited each other to engage the issue not from trying to convince the other, but, rather, by telling each other the story of your life that brought you to the conclusion that you happen to hold? This approach shifts everything. It creates common ground, because everyone has a story. Whenever someone reveals the story of their life, we come to appreciate that ground that they are standing on as holy ground. The same holy ground that informs our beliefs and ideas.

I believe that the scriptures call us to both hold on to our convictions while not ignoring our differences. We may be tempted to lose sight of the fact that we are not to pretend but be honest and authentic with one another. Scripture reminds us to practice kindness and active love even towards those individuals who disagree with us completely. The prophet Micah (Old Testament) reveals to us the idea that justice without mercy and justice without love often turns into revenge. Revenge is not the way God intends for us to honor our relationships. This type of behavior is not the transformation that we long for and does not reflect the vision of what God dreams for all of us.

I believe we all want to be better people. Being a better person requires effort and living into something we call maturity.

Peace,

Pastor Bob





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Sarah Grayer, Director of High School Youth Ministry
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator
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Karl Nygard, Sonny Randall, Amy Sekili, Jim Smalley,
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Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli
Sunday School: Amy Becker-Perez

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

Midweek Lent

Traveling the Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus Centered Life

You're invited to join with other people of faith during Lent 2021 to explore and discover insights into seven spiritual practices: Turn-Learn-Play-Worship-Bless-Go-Rest.

Our midweek Lenten worship services consist of scripture, prayer, music, an inspirational video and a message via Zoom sessions and are approximately 30-35 minutes in length. Following each midweek Lenten service there is an optional opportunity to participate in an informal conversation group. Holy Cross promotes the idea that while our faith is personal, it is not private. We offer a variety of opportunities for discernment and reflection that builds off of the hope that greater clarity is achieved through group conversation and sharing. If you desire to participate in the optional small group discussion following the midweek worship service there will be break out groups assigned for approximately 30 minutes. These groups will discuss the theme that was presented during the midweek Lenten worship service.

Below is the remainder of the schedule with each evening's theme. Additional support material is available on the following page: holycrosschurch.org/lent

Midweek Lenten Worship

Worship at 7 pm via Zoom

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/99183247694

Wednesday, March 3 - REST

Wednesday, March 10 - WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 17 - TURN

Wednesday, March 24 - PRAY

Recordings of the worship services will be available following each Zoom session at
HolyCrossChurch.org/lent

REST

Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
— John 14:27

From the beginning of creation, God has established the sacred pattern of going and returning, labor and rest. Especially today, God invites us to dedicate time for restoration and wholeness - within our bodies, minds, and souls, and within our communities and institutions. By resting we place our trust in God, the primary actor who brings all things to their fullness.

WORSHIP

Gather in community to thank, praise, and dwell with God

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him
— Luke 24:30-31a

When we worship, we gather with others before God. We hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, give thanks, confess, and offer the brokenness of the world to God. As we break bread, our eyes are opened to the presence of Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we are made one body, the body of Christ sent forth to live the Way of Love.

TURN

Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus

As Jesus was walking along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.
— Mark 2:14

Like the disciples, we are called by Jesus to follow the Way of Love. With God's help, we can turn from the powers of sin, hatred, fear, injustice, and

oppression toward the way of truth, love, hope, justice, and freedom. In turning, we reorient our lives to Jesus Christ, falling in love again, again, and again.

PRAY

Dwell intentionally with God each day

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." – Luke 11:1

Jesus teaches us to come before God with humble hearts, boldly offering our thanksgivings and concerns to God or simply listening for God's voice in our lives and in the world. Whether in thought, word or deed, individually or corporately, when we pray we invite and dwell in God's loving presence.

GO

Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." – John 20:21

As Jesus went to the highways and byways, he sends us beyond our circles and comfort, to witness to the love, justice, and truth of God with our lips and with our lives. We go to listen with humility and to join God in healing a hurting world. We go to become Beloved Community, a people reconciled in love with God and one another.

LEARN

Reflect daily on Scripture, especially on Jesus' life and teachings

"Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them." – John 14:23

By reading and reflecting on Scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus, we draw near to God and God's word dwells in us. When we open our minds and hearts to Scripture, we learn to see God's story and God's activity in everyday life.



Holy Week

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY
March 28
 Drive-In Worship at 9:30 am
 Worship video at [HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](https://holycrosschurch.org/sermons)

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 1
 Drive-In Worship at 7 pm
 Worship video at [HolyCrossChurch.org/lent](https://holycrosschurch.org/lent)
 Theme: GO

GOOD FRIDAY
April 2
 Drive-In Worship at 7 pm
 Worship video at [HolyCrossChurch.org/lent](https://holycrosschurch.org/lent)
 Theme: LEARN

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP
April 4
 Drive-In Worship at 6 am at Holy Cross

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 4
 Drive-In Worship at 8 & 10 am
 Worship video at [HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](https://holycrosschurch.org/sermons)



Drive-In Worship

Dates: Sundays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28
Time: 9:30 am
Radio Frequency: FM 87.9

Everyone is welcome to join us in the Holy Cross parking lot for worship with Holy Communion and live music in a safe and socially distant manner. If you need to leave your vehicle, a mask is required. Please check our website for each day's support material and updates at: holycrosschurch.org/sermons. Pre-recorded worship videos that offer the same messaging as the drive-in worship services will continue every Sunday. View on demand at holycrosschurch.org/sermons

April Worship Schedule Update

If COVID-19 mitigation status allows, we plan to begin offering in-person worship in the sanctuary beginning on **Sunday, April 11**. The worship schedule will be as follows:

In-Person Worship at 8 am

Drive-In Worship at 10 am (please note time change)

Virtual Worship on demand (pre-recorded video)

Risk mitigation protocols will be in place and advance registration will be required for all in-person worship services. More details about in-person worship will be shared in the April newsletter.

"A Path Forward"

by Pastor Bob Davis

On January 31 we held our annual meeting virtually. We had a wonderful turnout considering the circumstances of these pandemic times. We conducted the necessary business that we needed to accomplish. Holy Cross' leadership works throughout the year to provide information and transparency that makes it possible for everyone to be engaged in the ministries of the congregation.



On a personal note, at the annual meeting I shared some transitional news about my role at Holy Cross. In 2021 I will celebrate 41 years of ordained ministry and service to the Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is my privilege and honor to have served 30 of those years at Holy Cross. In 2020 I initiated a conversation with our Staff Support team and the Church Council about continuing to be thoughtful and attentive to the staffing needs of Holy Cross. My hope is to position our congregation in a way that provides for continuity and stability moving forward. We have come to an initial agreement that over the next 24 months we would begin a journey that results in the transition of my role from full time to part time. Our current pastoral vacancy will take on a new focus as we begin the search for an individual who would serve as a co-pastor for a period of time and then assume senior pastor responsibilities. I am excited and grateful for this moment and opportunity to continue to add value to the ministry of Holy Cross and its path forward.

You play a critical role in discerning 'a path forward.' 2020 was the 40th anniversary of Holy Cross. The congregation officially organized in April 1980. Throughout these 40 years Holy Cross has grown into our vision of "providing strength for the faith journey" by being relevant and imaginative in our various ministries. Our generative culture as a congregation has set us on a strategic path that relies on us being honest about the opportunities and challenges facing us as people of faith. As always, we value your thoughts and input on what is essential to the health of our life together.

We are facilitating opportunities for conversations to take place through virtual 'focus groups' through March 15. If needed we will add additional dates. We are providing another opportunity to participate in an online survey beginning March 1. See details about both of these opportunities in the next column. Please be involved in these opportunities as your voice matters. Be aware that these are time sensitive opportunities.

Along with a list of frequently asked questions and answers, there will be more information forthcoming during 2021 as we progress through the various phases of the transition as outlined on the church's website at HolyCrossChurch.org/transition



As Holy Cross navigates the pastoral changes ahead, your feedback and input are essential. Please register in advance to join us for continued conversation, Q&A, and information sharing at one of the following dates and times:

Thursday, March 11 at 7 pm
Monday, March 15 at 7 pm

Register at: HolyCrossChurch.org/transition

Each Zoom focus group is limited to 15 Zoom connections. We will set up more sessions as needed. Questions? Please contact Sonny Randall at mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com



We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an online survey that will help our church leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church as well as prepare for "A Path Forward" Pastoral Transition.

Beginning March 1, we are asking you to complete the survey and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. The purpose of the assessment is to:

- Measure the level of satisfaction and energy of the congregation.
- Identify the critical success factors that have supported the mission and vision of Holy Cross.
- Pinpoint the strengths of the Holy Cross culture.
- Gauge the adaptability of the congregation during this time of change.
- Uncover potential resource within the congregation.
- Prepare for a search for our next pastor.

Take the online survey at HolyCrossChurch.org/transition or at surveymonkey.com/r/HOLYCROSSLCLIL

If you need a paper copy, please contact the church office, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Our Path Forward together is dependent on your participation. If you have questions, please contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

PASTORAL ACTS



FUNERALS

Stephen D. Oimoen
February 10, 2021

A Subjective Look at Bach

by Randy Casey

Prior to the pandemic I had a **BACHFEST** planned for Sunday, March 21, 2021 because the great man's birthday was falling yet again on a Sunday. Alas, this column will now have to suffice as our current celebration, the world situation notwithstanding. Thus, I shall now dare to offer a rather subjective listing of the six greatest works of J. S. Bach, not in any particular order.

Passacaglia & Fugue in C Minor - This is not only Bach's greatest piece for organ, it is the greatest piece of organ music ever written by anyone. A passacaglia is a type of theme and variations. Bach opens his passacaglia with a simple, yet rich, 8-bar theme, proceeds to compose 20 variations on his subject, and then follows it with a double fugue. There are ebbs and flows throughout the entire work. Toward the end of the fugue, however, occurs a cadence that must have sounded almost earth-shattering to his 18th century listeners. This moment is still effective today.

Chaconne in D Minor - This piece is actually part of a larger work called a partita, or suite of movements, and is the final movement of Bach's second of six partitas for solo violin. This is another theme and variations monument, but this time with 64 variations. "In these works Bach demonstrated his ability to create the illusion of a full harmonic and contrapuntal texture by means of multiple stops and single melodic lines which outline or suggest an interplay of independent voices." (Grout, *A History of Western Music*, page 391) Stop and think about it: A theme followed by 64 variations for solo violin.

Cello Suite #6 - Bach wrote six suites for cello, each with six movements, and they are quite simply the "Bible" of cello literature. They are technically challenging and were for a long time thought to be unplayable. However, Pablo Casals learned them, opening the door for every worthy player since to try to follow suit. I cannot intelligently select one over the others, but Holy Cross resident cellist Barb Cannon tells me that #6 is the one she prefers.

Passion According to St. Matthew - The St. Matthew Passion received its first performance at St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, on Good Friday of 1727 and is simply unmatched in all of music history in its presentation of the Passion story. It demonstrates a pantheon of moods in its mixture of recitatives, arias, and choruses as in an opera. Indeed, the work is musical drama of the highest order and one is hard pressed to name a choral work of any age to equal it. Listening to the opening chorus alone is a moving experience.

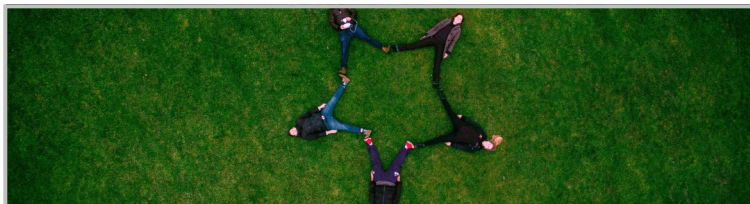
Brandenburg Concertos - The six Brandenburg Concertos are chamber music at its finest. Each one has its own combination of instruments presented in a most distinctive manner. I cannot name a favorite because they are all wonderful. However, the second concerto offers an opportunity for a solo violinist, a solo oboist, and a solo trumpeter to demonstrate fully their craft. The fifth one is said to be the first keyboard concerto ever written. They are called the "Brandenburgs" because Bach dedicated them to the margrave of Brandenburg, who paid Bach nothing for the pieces, while Bach immortalized the man's name forever.

Goldberg Variations - More properly known as the "Aria with 30 Variations," this work is actually Book IV of what Bach termed *Clavierübung*, or keyboard exercise. The aria is presented as the opening and closing section with the 30 movements in between. An unsubstantiated story claims that Bach composed this piece on behalf of a Russian count who said he was having trouble sleeping. So Bach wrote this piece to be played by the count's resident harpsichordist, whose name was Goldberg, to play when the count was going to bed. The nobleman rewarded Bach with a goblet filled

with 100 gold coins.

I selected six pieces because Bach somewhat regularly composed pieces in groups of six. However, other works that someone else could have easily included in their own list would be the B-Minor Mass, the St. John Passion, and the solo cantata *Ich habe genug*.

Although Bach himself never stepped foot outside of Germany, his music has traversed borders worldwide. He composed, by the way, sitting at a desk with a goose quill and an inkwell. There also may have been a few of the 20 children he fathered underfoot. I like to just stand on the chancel steps in St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, and look upon his burial place between where I am standing and the altar. I won't say that I feel His presence, but I will say that I leave wanting to be a better musician for dwelling a while where the great man trod.



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Morality and Why We Need It

by Steve Oelschlager

Jonathan Sacks was an author, philosopher, and former Chief Rabbi of the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, he passed away in November of last year, but a few months prior, he gifted the world with one last book, *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times*. Holy Cross will be using this book from Sacks for group conversation in April and May (stay tuned for details.)

Here is an excerpt: "Likewise, divisive politics, inequitable economics, the loss of openness in universities, and the growth of depression and drug abuse are the result of what I call cultural climate change. They are the long-term consequences of the unprecedented experiment embarked on throughout the West a half-century ago: the move from "We" to "I."

All countries and cultures have three basic institutions. There is the *economy*, which is about the creation and distribution of wealth. There is the *state*, which is about the legitimization and distribution of power. And there is the *moral system*, which is the voice of society within the self; the "We" within the "I"; the common good that limits and directs our pursuit of private gain. It is the voice that says No to the individual "Me" for the sake of the collective "Us." Some call it conscience. Freud called it the superego. Others speak of it as custom and tradition. Yet others call it natural law. Many people in the West speak of it as the will and word of God.

Whatever its source, morality is what allows us to get on with one another, without endless recourse to economics or politics. There are times when we seek to get other people to do something we want or need them to do. We can pay them to do so: that is economics. We can force them to do so: that is politics. Or we can persuade them to do so because they and we are part of the same framework of virtues and values, rules and responsibilities, codes and customs, conventions and constraints: that is morality."

We look forward to setting the table for this important conversation and hope that you can join.



BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, MARCH 23 AT 7 PM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92072689933

This month we will discuss *Heartland, A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh. Combining memoir with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, *Heartland* is an uncompromising look at class, identity, and the particular perils of having less in a country known for its excess. Our discussion host for the evening is Susan Williamson. If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAYS AT 7 AM

 zoom.us/j/301891517

This group is for men of faith to come together throughout the year to share their faith and thoughts about challenging topics. All welcome. In March, we will discuss some one-off topics before starting Jonathan Sacks' book *Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times* in April. Questions? Please contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org



MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER

MONDAY, MARCH 15 AT 7 PM

TOPIC: THE INTEGRITY QUESTION

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/99105891211

Andy Stanley has published a new book entitled "*Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets.*" the premise of which is that our decisions determine the direction and quality of our life. Our decisions create the story of our life. The book is divided into five questions, and these questions will provide us with the themes for the 2021 MP3 series. The first topic is The Integrity Question: Am I being honest with myself, really? Decision: I will not lie to myself even if the truth makes me uncomfortable.

Men (21+) please join us for fellowship and conversation. Please check our website closer to the event date for any updates at holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings

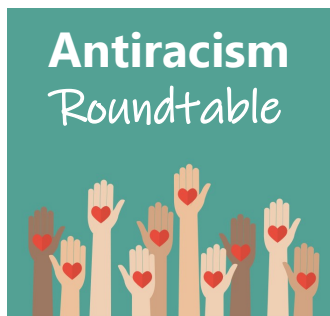


GROUNDED IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP

FRIDAY, MARCH 5 AT 6:30 PM VIA ZOOM/IN-PERSON (RSVP REQUIRED)

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97269565972

Grounded in Grace is an opportunity for women of faith to gather together in fun, fellowship, and learning. This spring we will continue the discussions started during the midweek Lenten services regarding Bishop Michael Curry and his book "*Love is The Way.*" For our March conversation, we will discuss the concepts of LEARN and PRAY. How they are related and how they are different, and how do we make time in our busy lives for both. For in-person attendance, COVID-19 risk mitigation protocols will be in place and RSVP will be required through Church Community Builder or by using this link: bit.ly/MarchGIG Questions? Contact Terry Berger at terryberger.08@gmail.com



ANTIRACISM ROUNDTABLE & WORK GROUP

SUNDAY, MARCH 21 AT 11 AM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93144150662

As follow-up to last fall's book discussions of *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to Whitest Denomination in the US* (by Pastor Lenny Duncan) and *Dialogues on Race* (Augsburg Fortress), all are invited to participate in this new relational group, led by Holy Cross member Carol Dikelsky. The Antiracism Roundtable & Work Group will meet monthly via Zoom to continue exploring antiracism themes and resources and to find ways to apply what we learn, unlearn, or relearn to our faith journeys. See page 10 of the newsletter for more details.



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAY, MARCH 2 AT 9:30 AM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98149048970

The group will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month for the first six months of 2021 via Zoom. This provides a time for individuals to check in with one another and provide support, prayer and conversation. The hope is to bring clarity as each person composes a life of faith. For March and possibly April we will continue to use the book "*Love Is the Way*" by Bishop Michael Curry. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

by Sam Cooper

Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

St. Patrick's Day Fun and More!

CrossWays Preschool students are enjoying having new friends in their classrooms for the second half of the year. In the four year old classroom, the children have been studying clothing. There have been discussions about different types of clothing as well as seasonal clothing. The two/three year old classroom has been taking a deep dive into Arctic Adventures. The students have been learning about different arctic animals, arctic transportation, and the people who live there.

With St. Patrick's Day coming up this month, the teachers will be bringing a little leprechaun fun to the classrooms. The children will have a blast making leprechaun traps and learn about the luck of the Irish!

Open enrollment is still in progress for the 2021/22 school year starting this fall. If you, or someone you know, is interested in preschool care, please reach out to Samantha Cooper at sam@holycrosschurch.org

We will begin preparations for CrossWays Preschool summer camp this month! We are looking forward to a fun summer program this year after not being able to run the program in 2020.

Celebration! Childcare students are hard at work learning, playing, and growing! Each classroom has been working on independent skills as well as how to work together with peers. It is so rewarding for our teachers to see the students develop the skills they have been working on. St. Patrick's Day is right around the corner and our teachers have some fun, in class activities planned. Leprechaun crafts, hunts, and traps will be in the making soon!

Last month, we had our first restaurant fundraiser since the pandemic began. The event took place at Chipotle in Lake Bluff. Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser that raised \$335.36 to support the Early Childhood Ministry at Holy Cross. We are so grateful for the support of the church, staff, and family members who help where they can to keep our program so successful.

Our office staff is in the process of planning our summer camp itinerary. We hope to have a great turnout and be able to do more activities than last year. We are working on fun weekly themes, in-house activities, and engaging crafts and lesson plans for the students. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.



In February, we rolled out a new childcare software app to make communication, payment, and check-in faster and more convenient. The online system allows parents to view photos, see live updates on their children through the app, and communicate directly with the classroom. We started with the online payment and check-in features last month. So far, implementation has been going really well and we will continue to add in new classroom features and training for our staff.

Donation Drive

Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter, Deerfield



For the month of March, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare students will be collecting donation items as part of a service project. Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter takes in orphaned, abandoned, abused or neglected cats and dogs and cares for them until they can be placed into adoptive homes where they can enjoy the lives they deserve. Collection bins are located at the entrances to CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare for donation during school hours or during Drive-In Worship at Holy Cross.

CrossWays Preschool:
M-F from 9 - 11:30 am
Celebration! Childcare:
M-F from 6:30 am - 6 pm
Drive-In Worship:
Sundays, 9:30 - 10:30 am



Needed Items:



- **Newspaper** (They go through 100 a day!)
- **Blankets/towels/comforters** (new/used)
- **Dog bones, chew bones, treats, balls/Cat trees, toys, beds, treats**
- **Sturdy dog and cat combs and brushes**
- **Human baby food** (Meat based only, for sick cats)
- **Cat litter, baking soda** (To control cat litter odor)
- Paper towels, trash bags (industrial), dish soap (Dawn or Joy), Mr. Clean, bleach, toilet brushes (for scrubbing surfaces throughout the shelter), laundry soap and dryer sheets.
- **Orthopedic beds** with pillows (for older/sick animals)
- **Pet Food** (They buy food with nutritional content specific to animal needs)
 - Pedigree (dry), Mighty Dog (canned dog food), Beneful Prepared, Cesars
 - ProPlan (dry kitten food)
 - Friskie's and Sheba (canned cat food) and Fancy Feast

See a full list of needed items at: orphansofthestorm.org/donate/wishlist

Thank you for your generosity!

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



CrossWays
Preschool



Celebration!
Childcare

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ages 3 - 5th Grade
All welcome to participate

Join us on Sunday mornings via Zoom as we continue to Celebrate the Wonder of God's love as revealed in Jesus' life teaching moments.

Each week, Carrie and Jamey Mack bless us with a musical gathering followed by an instructional video. Our time together concludes with conversation, interactions and activities with Mrs. Mack and our youth and adult helpers. Starting this month we are excited to be joined by Ms. Amy in our Sunday School videos!

We would love for you to join us online when Sunday School is scheduled. Each session runs approximately 30 minutes. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org

Upcoming Sunday School Sessions via Zoom at 8:30 am

March 7 - Jesus Washes Feet, Session 1

March 14 - Jesus Enters Jerusalem, Session 4

March 21 & 28 - No Sunday School (Spring Break)

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/99278276804



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



Hello! I'm Amy Becker-Perez, member of Holy Cross since 2013 and mom to two young kids. I have been attending virtual Sunday School with my son this year and have enjoyed the songs and lessons Mrs. Mack leads as well as the video content that are all a part of Sunday School. I'm glad to assist Mrs. Mack in some of what goes into making Sunday School happen, and will soon make my video debut as "Ms. Amy" introducing the lessons each week. I hope you can join us as we have fun and learn about Jesus!



CONFIRMATION

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

Beginning in February the Confirmation students began using the mid-week Lenten theme material "Traveling the Way of Love: Practices for a Jesus centered life." We will continue to explore the seven spiritual practices during the months of March and April as we finish off the year. The material will include worship moments with scripture, prayer, music and video stories that flesh out these seven spiritual practices. The hope is that as the confirmation students, several of our relational groups and the general congregation puts some efforts into these practices that there will be opportunity for conversation within the confirmation families that would include the whole family.


For more details about these seven practices please see pages 2 and 3 of the newsletter.

Class Schedule:

Large Group: Sunday, March 7 at 6:30 pm
Themes: Worship, Turn

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/96022070680

Small Group: Sunday, March 14 at 6:30 pm

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/96766814660

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

March Confirmation Electives:

Please RSVP for these electives at least one week in advance. Log in to your account on Church Community Builder to RSVP.

Tuesday, March 9 from 7 - 8 pm: Exodus and Middle School

Tuesday, March 16 from 7 - 8 pm: Jesus' Prayer from Matthew's Perspective

Sunday, March 21 from 7 - 8 pm: Prayer Jars

Update: Since the January confirmation retreat was canceled, three of the 10 available large group sessions were scheduled as part of the retreat. If you were planning to use these toward the yearly confirmation expectation of seven large group sessions, here are several options to replace them:

- Attend and complete a reflection for an additional scheduled elective.
- Plan and complete a self-directed elective.
- Attend and complete a reflection for an Easter season worship service (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday).
- Attend and complete a reflection for a midweek Lenten session related to the *Love is the Way* series mentioned above (watch the newsletter and confirmation updates for details.)
- Participate in and reflect on a conversation with a friend or family member about one of the spiritual practices from the *Love is the Way* series.

Confirmation DVD Lending Library

The following common elective DVDs are available:

Different Drummers, Facing The Giants, Luther (2003) movie, Soul Surfer

Contact the church office to make arrangements for pick up.

Crossroads High School Youth Group

for 9-12 Grade Youth

The Crossroads Purpose & Vision

Our Purpose:

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

Our Mission:

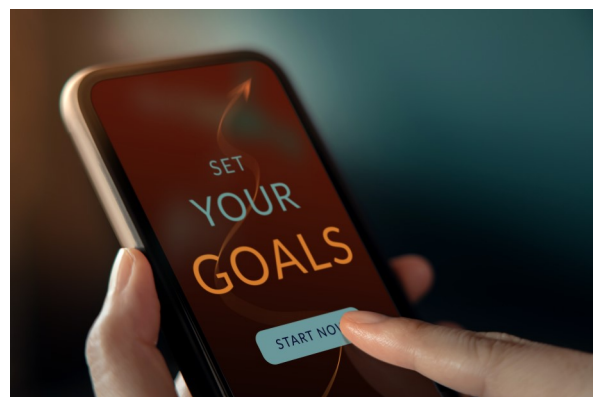
To build a foundation for life-long faith formation that is grounded in God the Trinity, connected to peers, supported by parents, and nurtured by congregational members.



Connecting & Thriving!

The Crossroads High School Youth Group both respects the COVID-19 restrictions and still finds ways to connect by having regular Zoom meetings for the youth, as well as in-person activities as able that always include the parents.

We've been talking a lot about GOALS recently, and Crossroads is getting behind everyone in the youth group to achieve a big goal they've set for themselves this year. Our youth have come up with some pretty awesome goals, and we'll be there to help them strategize, support, cheer them on, and celebrate their wins in all different ways.



We have now kicked off our first "Quick Chats with Sarah" get-togethers, informal mini-Zooms to catch up with a few teenagers at a time. These are easy and relaxed chats about whatever is on their minds and going on in their worlds, and we'll have them about once a month.



FYI: Living a Better Story

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

What's going on next?

In March we'll be getting together for more Crossroads Youth Nights, as well as a great afternoon snow tubing at Wilmot! Please visit holycrosschurch.org/crossroads or contact Sarah Grayer directly for information on upcoming events.



Hi, I'm Sarah Grayer. I'm the Director of High School Youth & Family Ministry. When I was a teenager my youth group was huge in helping me develop my faith. Because of that, I am now passionate about developing great ministry opportunities with high school youth and their parents. In addition to serving on the

church ministry staff in this part-time role, I also work full-time with a wealth management & financial planning group and enjoy married life with my wonderful husband Justin. In my spare time I do a bunch of yoga, reading, and have lots of outdoor fun time with our Australian Shepherd Chloe.

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

The Parent Connection

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

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

For more visit holycrosschurch.org/parentconnection

What's going on next?

Parent Connection is held every second Tuesday at 7 pm

Zoom Link: holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94739927926
pwd=V3B0T1FSQXhXdm11bzVJeVNzU0xoZz09

Meeting ID: 947 3992 7926

Passcode: 739431



Antiracism Roundtable & Work Group

As follow-up to last fall's book discussions of *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to Whitest Denomination in the US* (by Pastor Lenny Duncan) and *Dialogues on Race* (Augsburg Fortress), all are invited to participate in this new relational group, led by Holy Cross member Carol Dikelsky. The Antiracism Roundtable & Work Group will meet monthly via Zoom to continue exploring antiracism themes and resources and to find ways to apply what we learn, unlearn, or relearn to our faith journeys. The group may also organize activities that put concepts into action.

Sessions will begin with an antiracism activity related to the discussion theme. Themes for the first four sessions are listed below. Additional themes will be developed based upon group focus and input.

All are invited to attend when you can and come as you are, with an open heart for listening to and praying with each other, as we confront a variety of topics that may take us out of our comfort zones and lead us to make new connections to our faith.

Antiracism Roundtable & Work Group

Dates: Sundays, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 13

Time: 11 am - 12:15 pm

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93144150662

March 21 - Welcome and organizing meeting

April 18 - Cultural competence and inclusive language

May 16 - Peaceful protests and the anniversary of pivotal 2020 events

June 13 - Juneteenth: A History



Mission Endowment Scholarship Fund

- Applications Due April 30 -

Through the Holy Cross Mission Endowment Fund, Holy Cross provides scholarships to assist and encourage post high school education for its members. These scholarships may be used at an accredited college, university or vocational technical school. Requirements are that you be an active member of Holy Cross and that you submit an application form including a thoughtful faith statement.

Applications are available online at
HolyCrossChurch.org/resources

2021 SUMMIT REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

 **THE GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**
Thursday-Friday, August 5-6, 2021

Early Bird Registration for The Global Leadership Summit

You Have Influence... And Your Leadership Health Matters

Holy Cross is committed to hosting The Global Leadership Summit (GLS) again in 2021 on **August 5 - 6, 2021** and we would like you to join us. Whether you're a business leader, CEO, pastor, teacher, nurse, student, artist, soldier, parent, doctor, volunteer, entrepreneur, or simply finding your place, *you have influence*. Every day you impact those around you through your influence—for better or worse, in both big and small ways. During a season that may have depleted your energy, stunted your growth or left you in the dark, it's time to rediscover a new hope for your future in order to amplify the positive difference you can make.

What is the turning point for positive change? Your capacity to thrive and help rejuvenate the best in those around you, both personally and professionally, is dependent on your leadership health.

Your leadership matters. When you invest in developing your leadership skills, you also give back to everyone around you. You strengthen your relationships, build trust on your team, innovate toward a better future and face challenges head-on with fresh perspective—not only do you thrive, but your family thrives, your business thrives, your church thrives and your community thrives.

To be a part of the GLS experience at a discounted host site rate, register online at:

bit.ly/GLS2021atHC

Priority code: HSFAMILY

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars from 2020 have until March 31, 2021 to direct them. Don't miss this opportunity to recommend that Thrivent Financial provide outreach funding to Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Please check your account as Choice Dollars need to be directed annually.

There are two easy options for directing Choice Dollars:

- Online at thrivent.com/thriventchoice
- Call (800) 847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt

Questions? Please contact a representative from the Member Connection Center at (800) 847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" or email fraternal@thrivent.com. For faster service, have your member ID or contract number available.

For more information on the Thrivent Choice Dollars program, please visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice

thrivent[®]



The Plastics Problem

by Marge Stueckemann

Do you faithfully separate the hard plastic bottles such as for water or laundry detergent and put them in the recycling container? Good for you! Materials scientists are working on ways to make it easier and more cost effective to recycle all plastics, even Styrofoam, but there are many obstacles. The plastics we use today were meant for a one-time use with no real thought of how they could be reused. Last year CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare had a recycling project to use the caps and lids from household plastics, and the resulting furniture was a true success story of recycling! However, we weren't really concerned about the color of the benches or table, and that rather dark shade is what you get from recycling the kind of plastic in caps, no problem for the use of outdoor furniture, but maybe not too appealing for some other use.

The goal of scientists today is to design a future where any plastic that ends up in the recycling bin can have a second and third life as a new product. One of the problems, though, is that many plastic products are really a combination of different materials, and each segment needs its own method to recover. The process developed by George Huber of the University of Wisconsin, Madison, uses a series of liquid solvents to dissolve individual plastic components of the product. If more solvents can be found to dissolve more types of plastics, there is the real potential to reduce plastic in the landfills.

Hopefully, though, ultimately we will develop plastics that are designed to be broken down and reassembled into new, needed items, right from the beginning.

22nd Annual COOL Plant & Flower Sale

After a snowy, cold winter, we are looking forward to the COOL Plant & Flower Sale in the spring! This sale is a wonderful opportunity to purchase annual plants for your home and yard while supporting COOL Ministries at the same time. The plants are delivered directly from the greenhouse the morning of the pick-up, and the sale provides financial support to the COOL Food Pantry and Transitional Housing programs, which have been extremely busy serving hungry and homeless families throughout the pandemic.

Pick up an order form during a drive-in worship service, at the church office during office hours, or download from our website at HolyCrossChurch.org/resources

Orders are due to Holy Cross on Monday, March 29 (checks payable to COOL Ministries.) Plants will be available for pick up at Bethel Lutheran Church, 5110 Grand Ave, Gurnee on Saturday, May 8 between 12 noon and 2:30 pm. The plant pick up will occur outside in the Bethel parking lot, following COVID-19 safety guidelines. Want to volunteer or have questions? Contact Karla Boucek, Patty Moyer, Jeri Powers, or Diane Rammelsberg at plantsale@coolministries.org

Flowers make great gifts for Mother's Day!



Your Contributions at Work!

In calendar year 2020, Holy Cross donated over \$19,600 to COOL Ministries, as well as 775 pounds of food and items for veterans. In late November, the Holy Cross quilting group donated 10 quilts to be given to families in their Transitional Housing Program, and in December, the virtual Giving Tree provided 75 gifts for families in that program.

We recently received a thank you from Mindy Lindholm, the Executive Director of COOL Ministries, in which she stated that with our help, COOL was able to provide food for 43,456 individuals in Fiscal Year 2020. That amounts to food for about 524,760 balanced meals. They also assisted 13 homeless families to become self-sufficient through COOL family housing. That program provided transitional housing and a new beginning to a total of 14 adults and 32 children last year. They also serve between 50 to 125 veterans each month with toiletries and extras through their Veteran's Program.

Mindy also shared with us that she visited one of the housing families' units for a quick repair right after Christmas and the kids ran out and told her that they had the "best Christmas ever." They showed her some of their new toys and the joy in their eyes was a miracle to see. Their mother could not say thank you enough and repeated how blessed she felt. This picture shows the happy, smiling faces of just one of the families that benefited from the Giving Tree program last Christmas!



Mindy said, "I hope your congregation feels the joy that they help to spread. Also, I wanted to say that thanks to your donations and those of the community COOL has been able to remain open and serving the community each and every day throughout this entire pandemic (nearly a year now) and we are so proud and grateful of the fact that when the community needed it most, COOL was able to answer the call for help and we could not have done so without the support of Holy Cross. COOL is seeing more new faces than ever before and thanks to the donations from Holy Cross we were able to serve over 38,000 pounds of food last month alone."

Your contributions to COOL enable them to help the hungry and homeless men, women, and children of Lake County and are most gratefully received and appreciated! To continue to help, you may donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org

Learn more about the history and ministries of COOL including their Family Housing Program, Food Pantry, and Veterans Assistance at coolministries.org



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575

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

Non-Profit Org.
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Libertyville, IL
Permit No. 14



See pages 2-3



Lent

TRAVELING the Way of LOVE

Midweek Lenten Worship
7 pm via Zoom

Wednesday, March 3
REST

Wednesday, March 10
WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 17
TURN

Wednesday, March 24
PRAY

Antiracism Roundtable & Work Group



Sunday, March 21 at 11 am
via Zoom

Details on page 10

A PATH FORWARD Your feedback is needed. See page 4.



Holy Week

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY
March 28
Drive-In Worship at 9:30 am
Worship video at HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons

MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 1
Drive-In Worship at 7 pm
Worship video at HolyCrossChurch.org/lent
Theme: GO

GOOD FRIDAY
April 2
Drive-In Worship at 7 pm
Worship video at HolyCrossChurch.org/lent
Theme: LEARN

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP
April 4
Drive-In Worship at 6 am at Holy Cross

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 4
Drive-In Worship at 8 & 10 am
Worship video at HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons