

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

September 2021

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PAGES 1-5, 10

RELATIONAL MINISTRY

PAGE 6

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

PAGE 7

YOUTH MINISTRY

PAGES 8 - 9

BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

PAGE 11

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19, 26

IN-PERSON

SANCTUARY AT 8 AM

**Pre-registration no
longer required**

DRIVE-IN

PARKING LOT AT 10 AM

Radio Frequency: FM 87.9

VIRTUAL

View online on demand at
[HolyCrossChurch.org/
sermons](https://HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons)

What Children Can Teach Us...

From the moment that a child comes into our lives, we know that it's our responsibility to guide and teach them. The idea that "it takes a village" to nurture a child means that family, friends and other adults who they encounter all play a different role in their teachable moments. As newly formed little humans, they have a lot to discover and learn. And as adults, we are their tour guides who help them figure out this world. We show them sights they haven't seen; we take them to places they've never been. We teach them right from wrong, how to dress themselves, and why touching something hot is a bad idea. On a daily basis, we impart knowledge, provide wisdom, offer information, and love them. And just like little sponges, they soak it up and in. They learn to walk and to talk, and to not lick the bottom of their shoes. But, as their teachers, we are so busy rearing, educating, and helping them to navigate the world that we often don't realize that *they* are teaching *us*.



So, what do they teach us? They teach us:

- **To Ask Questions And Be Curious:** It's important as an adult to remember that being inquisitive is how we learn. And there is always more to learn.
- **To Experience Joy:** Children appreciate the simple pleasures because they don't have unrealistic expectations. They understand that joy can be found anywhere. As adults, we must remember to keep seeking the simple pleasures.
- **To Be Open:** They don't see faults or flaws; they see the potential for a new friend and an opportunity to connect with another human being.
- **To Live In The Moment:** Children never stop playing because they must meet some self-imposed deadline. Instead, little ones stay in the moment and it makes life more enjoyable and they learn how to regulate emotions which has the potential of transforming each moment. It is like seeing the world new each day and not being stuck with only one way of understanding.
- **To Be Passionate:** When a child discovers a new activity, they embrace it with love and excitement. They put their whole selves into the endeavor. As adults, we need to remember to not temper our passion but rather embrace it—it's how greatness is achieved.
- **To Not Limit Ourselves:** Children believe they can be anything because they don't limit themselves. It's not their perceived flaws and shortcomings that dictate their dreams but rather their interests and passions. So, the next time you think you can't, remember that you can.
- **To Be Fearless:** Children jump, climb, and tumble. They taste, try, and run headlong into new experiences. It's a good reminder to adults that being bold and daring makes for the best memories and a much more interesting life.

Jesus offered this perspective in Mark 10:15: *"Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."* Jesus was blessed with insight into what God had hoped for in creating each of us. So, the next time we are rushing to finish a chore, or trudging from one stop to another, remember to take notice, slow down and find wonder in the small things. Most importantly, take a moment to learn the valuable lessons our children may teach *us*.

If we embrace the reality that we are all children of God, regardless of our age, then teaching and learning never ends. To that end, in September, Sunday mornings at Holy Cross will provide us with the opportunity to learn from one another. We will provide time on Sunday mornings for each of us to become better equipped at experiencing and sharing our faith. We hope you consider joining us for an amazing time of becoming better equipped as we discover together what God is up to.

Peace,

Pastor Bob

Fall

Sunday Worship Schedule through October

In-person Sanctuary Worship at 8 am

Pre-registration no longer required.

Sunday School starts September 26 from 9 - 9:45 am.

See page 3 for details.

Drive-In Worship at 10 am

FM 87.9

Virtual Worship

Pre-recorded video available on demand at

HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTOR AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Beth Fashimpaur, Handbell Choir Director
Deaconess Katie Freund, Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries
Sarah Grayer, Director of High School Youth Ministry
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

Harold Sargent (*President*), Andy Eidson (*Vice President*),
Darin Chartier, Nicole Drake, Mick Garrison, Gail Kelly,
Bill Miksch, Karl Nygard, Sonny Randall, Amy Sekili,
John Villani, Martha Watt
Secretary, Terry Berger
Treasurer, Lori Fedyk
Financial Secretary, Tom Miller

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw
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

All worship options feature the same sermon message each week.

Following our call to care for our neighbor and to love one another, the Church Council embraces compliance with the updated mask guidance for all K-12 and childcare facilities. Realizing that our facility houses both preschool and childcare and that our congregation is composed of families of all ages, we believe it is prudent at this time to help slow the spread of the Delta variant and to prevent further needless illness and death.

Everyone present within our building for worship, meetings, education, employment or hospitality gatherings needs to be wearing a facial covering regardless of vaccination status. Social distancing expectations will continue throughout the building.

Both the CDC and IDPH have issued the same protocols and recommendations and we have been following their guidance throughout the Covid pandemic. It is our hope that this effort will help to care for those who are immunocompromised, ineligible for vaccination, or at risk from an asymptomatic carrier.

The drive-in worship service is held outdoors and masks are not required. If a mask is your choice we respect that decision. You may remain in your vehicle or bring a lawn chair and enjoy the outdoors. We are utilizing liturgy and hymnody as part of this service. When Holy Communion is offered we will continue with the individual communion kits. Holy Communion is being offered on the first and third Sundays of each month. Offerings may be made in person, through traditional mail delivery, or online at the church's website.

Please continue to watch our website HolyCrossChurch.org for the most current information and any changes to the schedule or protocols.

Let each of you look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4

Reimagining "Sunday Morning at Holy Cross"

We are all anxious to return to experiences and expressions of life that we have missed since March 2020. We have been willing to try different approaches while still honoring certain traditions and practices. As we hopefully move beyond Covid-19, we are discussing what life after the pandemic might look like. We are "reimagining" worship options and new approaches to faith formation/education other than the traditional Sunday School format. We hope you will plan on joining us as we reimagine Sunday mornings at Holy Cross. As we have done for the past 18 months, we will follow CDC IDPH guidelines regarding safety protocols in all worship formats and gatherings.

Reimagining "Worship"

While we continue our current worship schedule for the time being, beginning in October, we will be adding a drive-in worship service on the first Saturday of each month starting at 5 pm.

Reimagining "Fellowship"

At this time we are unable to resume our regular fellowship coffee hours on Sunday mornings as we had hoped, however, we invite you to join us for one of our outdoor fellowship events on Sundays, September 12 and 26. See page 2 for details.

Please continue to follow the church's monthly Cross Connection newsletter, emails, Sunday bulletins and our website at HolyCrossChurch.org for updates and details as it become available.



FELLOWSHIP

While our traditional coffee hours on Sunday mornings remain suspended, please join us for the following fellowship opportunities to be held outdoors. All welcome!

Waffle Breakfast

Sunday, September 12 at 8:45 and 10:45 am

Please join us for made to order waffles served with syrup, fresh berries, and whipped cream after both worship services.

Kringles!

Sunday, September 26 at 8:45 and 10:45 am

Please join us for fellowship and Kringle pastries after both worship services.



Welcome, Deaconess Katie Freund!

Holy Cross is thrilled to welcome Deaconess Katie Freund as our Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries. Katie will start full-time on September 1, 2021 with her focus on planting and nourishing life-giving seeds of faith in our kids (Pre-K - 5th grade and confirmation ages). Katie will lead, coordinate, and partner with parents, children, families, inspired adults, and congregational leaders to reimagine and re-energize this vital ministry. Here is a note from Deaconess Katie:

Greetings dear siblings in Christ,

I'm Deaconess Katie Freund and I am so excited to be joining the ministry team at Holy Cross Lutheran Church!

I am coming to you from the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, and I am both surprised and looking forward to returning to the Midwest. Born and raised in Milwaukee, I attended undergrad at Valparaiso University. This is where I joined the Deaconess community, and graduated with a degree in international service. After graduating I spent some time as a deaconess in a LCMS church before discerning a call to seminary. I then went to Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago for my MDiv where I met my spouse, Patrick. We have a two-year-old daughter named Magdalena who does a splendid job of keeping us on our toes.

We're an eclectic family of two dogs from rescue shelters and an adopted barn kitten. On our bookshelves you'll find everything from theology and religious texts to comic books to the Firefox series. There's always plenty of music and new projects in our home. My latest hobby is hand spinning wool with a drop spindle, but I've been a lifelong amateur seamstress.

Since meeting with the hiring committee from Holy Cross I am hopeful that God will continue to create new life and lead us down unknown paths. During my first moments of introduction with the Holy Cross team, I was immediately encouraged by the spirit of understanding and relationship that permeated every conversation. The chance to be a part of a strong team is a huge blessing, and to be able to focus on how we as a church can best minister to our youngest members is a great opportunity. It is clear that there is a fertile ground for growth in children's ministry here, and I am thrilled to be a part of that.

As I write this in August we are knee deep in all of the hectic joy of moving, and I am very much looking forward to getting to know you and your community. I am filled with gratitude for this chance to serve God's children alongside you.

The Lord bless you! Deaconess Katie

Sunday School In the Sun for Everyone

Starting Sunday, September 26 at 9 am



The concept of Sunday School may stir many different thoughts and reactions. You may recall one particular Sunday School teacher who you enjoyed and connected in a way that your faith was enriched. For others, the memories may not be as positive. The purpose of the Sunday School experience is hopefully about us discovering a deeper relationship with God our creator and Jesus who embodies a message of unconditional love and grace in our lives. How is this supposed to work? It is our hope that this faith formation journey is more than just the conveyance of information about God and Jesus. Our hope is that people of all ages, when given the opportunity, would be willing to engage in sharing their insights and faith moments.

To that end, Holy Cross is embarking on a path of creating space and place for such faith formation moments to be shared by people of all ages. Both children and adults become each other's teachers and students. Together we discover what it means to experience a more intimate and personal relationship with the sacred and holy in our life.

Sunday School in the Sun for Everyone will begin on Sunday, September 26 at 9 am and finish no later than 9:45 am. We'll meet outdoors for September and October under pop-up structures. No need to register in advance. Each week will involve, a Bible moment, music, varied activities (art & games), and time for conversation and sharing. If you attend 8 am in-person worship please plan on staying. If you attend the 10 am drive-in worship please plan on arriving earlier. This 'faith formation' opportunity will work only with the involvement of children (all ages), parents and Holy Cross members (all ages) who are willing to explore and grow in their own understanding of what it means to be a child of God in the 21st century. Our dream is that this will become one of those multigenerational moments that we look back on and realize the blessing that it is for our children and for us all.



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Leading in Times Like This

by Steve Oelschlager

Have you ever noticed all the references in the Gospels to Jesus praying or going off to pray? The number of them suggests that it was a frequent occurrence in Jesus' life and something the Gospel writers thought was essential for us to know. One particular passage was when Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane before his crucifixion. At that moment, Jesus prayed with such intensity and seriousness that he was sweating drops of blood.

I think it is healthy for us to realize that Jesus' prayer practices were not motivated by a need to appear pious, about addressing duties and expectations, but by the reality of his life. The critical takeaway of these accounts is that even for Jesus, and likewise for us, life is hard, exhausting, especially when trying to make a difference.

In Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive Through the Dangers of Leading, Ron Heifetz writes this about Jesus and ourselves:

"We all reach our limits. At times, Jesus may have been overwhelmed, too. He got tired. He retreated. He tried occasionally to set limits on the people he chose to heal. In response to reaching your own limits you have a choice. You could say respectfully to yourself, "You know, I can't take anymore of this today. I can't witness any more today. Time to turn on an old movie, look back at some family pictures, take time off, and reacquaint myself with the sweetness of life, because that sweetness exists all the time, too." Or, you can allow your heart to close: by numbing yourself, developing a thick callus, or losing your innocence altogether."

Last month at the Global Leadership Summit, this same challenge, to not be overcome by the burdens of leading in times like this, was front and center. First, Craig Groeschel coined the word "PUC," pain, uncertainty, and chaos, and how that is causing fatigue, anxiety, and depression as we deal with our reality and trying to lead through it. Later, Rich Wilkerson talked about "the grind" of everyday life and leadership, while Dr. Henry Cloud highlighted the current mental health crisis and being aware of our own needs.

Whether you are leading in your family, in your workplace, as a volunteer, or whatever the context is, I invite you to notice the burden and the price of making a difference. At Holy Cross, I hope that we can all support and inspire each other, engage in prayer and other practices that renew our spirits, and find what we need to keep doing good.

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Allie Patricia Hall

daughter of Michael and Linda Hall

August 29, 2021

WEDDING

Rebecca Bystol and Michael Clavey

August 1, 2021



MEMBERSHIP

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Cross? To learn more about membership, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.

Individuals and families who are interested in joining Holy Cross are invited to our next New Member Breakfast and Reception.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST

Saturday, October 9 at 8:30 am

RSVP to the church office by Monday, October 4

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

Sunday, October 10 during 10 am Drive-In Worship



Antiracism Roundtable & Workgroup

by Carol Dikelsky

Please join us for ongoing discussions of how the work of antiracism and inclusion intersects with our Christian faith and how we can apply what we've learned within the community of Holy Cross and beyond. In the upcoming months, we will welcome guest speakers, view and discuss films and select resources to read individually and as a group. Each month we pray with each other—for those wounded by racism and prejudice as well as for the strength to examine our own biases, privileges, experiences, words, and actions. By listening to each other, we gain new and renewed perspectives. We plan to add our voices and energy to represent Holy Cross in support of Lake County United, a community organizing group that seeks ways to improve the quality of life of Lake County residents. If you'd like to learn more about this group, visit lakecountyunited.org

Please reach out to me at carol@dikelsky.org with any questions.

Dates: Sundays, Sept 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19

Time: 11 am - 12:15 pm



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93144150662



The

DIFFICULT WORDS of JESUS

**Tuesdays, Sept 14 & 28, Oct 12 & 26,
Nov 9 & 23 at 7 pm via Zoom**

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/85911417343

During this new six session learning opportunity, Holy Cross will examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with material from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Jesus provided his disciples teachings for how to follow Torah, God's word; he told them parables to help them discern questions of ethics and of human nature; he offered them beatitudes for comfort and encouragement. But sometimes Jesus spoke words that followers then and now have found difficult. He instructs disciples to hate members of their own families (Luke 14:26), to act as if they were slaves (Matthew 20:27), and to sell their belongings and give to the poor (Luke 18:22). He restricts his mission (Matthew 10:6); he speaks of damnation (Matthew 8:12); he calls Jews the devil's children (John 8:44).

In *The Difficult Words of Jesus*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how these difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

There will be three different opportunities to participate in these discussions: During Tuesday nights (Zoom only), the Saturday Morning Men's Group (in-person or online), or the Women's Discussion Group (in-person). See page 6 for meeting dates.

During our discussions, we will refer to Dr. Levine's book, *The Difficult Words of Jesus*. Copies of the book are available to pick up at Holy Cross in the gathering space near the "Inspiration & Curiosities" bookshelf on Sundays between worship services from 8:45 - 9:55 am or contact the church office for alternate pick up arrangements at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.

Our discussions will also include viewing of videos of Dr. Levine presenting each of the topics. You can access the videos for free by creating an account at AmplifyMedia.com using the following congregational code:

Video link: bit.ly/AMaccess
Access code: CWPFB5



Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

MP3


**MEN of
PURPOSE
PRINCIPLE
PRAYER**

Date: Tuesday, September 21

Time: 6:30 pm In-person including dinner

RSVP: bit.ly/MP3SEPT

or 7 pm virtually via Zoom

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92830435447

Topic: The Maturity Question

Andy Stanley has published a new book entitled "Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets" the premise being that our decisions determine the direction and quality of our life. Our choices create the story of our life. The book raises five questions, and these questions will provide us with the themes for the 2021 MP3 series.

Our topic for September is **The Maturity Question**: What is the wise thing to do?

Decision: I will take the past, present and future in consideration.

Stanley writes: "Every decision you make becomes part of the story of your life. Every relational, financial, and professional decision and the outcomes of those decisions become permanent parts of your story. We've all lived long enough to have a few chapters we wish we could erase. No doubt you have a few stories you wish you could rewrite. We all do. We call it regret. But chances are, the decisions that led to your greatest regrets could have been avoided if you had paused to ask yourself, "What story do I want to tell?" From here on out, write a story worth telling. Write a story you're proud to tell. If you're in the middle of making a decision right now, stop and ask yourself: Of the available options, which one do I want as a permanent part of the story of my life?"

Men (21+) please RSVP to join us in-person for fellowship and conversation and dinner. No RSVP needed for virtual attendance.

Save the date for the final MP3 event in the 2021 series. As we move to the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will continue to experiment with in-person and virtual options.

Tuesday, October 26 at 6:30 pm

The Relationship Question: What does love require of me?

Decision: I will decide with the interests of others in mind.

**BOOK CLUB**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 (MOVING FROM TUESDAY TO THURSDAY)

7 PM VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

This month we will discuss *Call Me American: A Memoir* by Abdi Nor Iftin. Abdi Nor Iftin first fell in love with America from afar. As a child, he learned English by listening to American pop artists like Michael Jackson and watching films starring action heroes like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Our discussion hosts for the evening will be Jeri Powers and Susan Williamson. The September meeting will be virtual only via Zoom. If you have any questions, please email Melanie Houser at housermd@comcast.net

**SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP**

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 4 & 18

7 AM IN-PERSON (FELLOWSHIP AREA) OR VIA ZOOM

 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. All welcome. During September and October, we will examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with the help of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. See page 5 for details. Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

**GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

6:30 PM IN-PERSON, FELLOWSHIP AREA

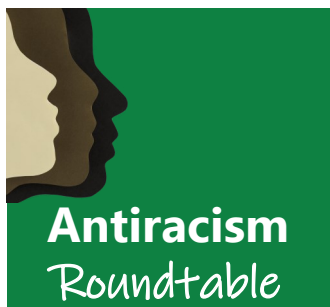
Grounded in Grace will focus on fellowship and connection this year, starting off with an evening of "Left, Right, Center." If you haven't played this before, it is a fun and simple game that is played with dice and quarters. (Please bring 4 quarters to play the game.) It is a perfect game for conversation and laughter. You are welcome to bring a beverage or snack to share. All women welcome. Questions? Contact Terry Berger at terryberger.08@gmail.com or (224) 775-1479.

**WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP**

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 & 28


9:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We are planning to meet in-person either on the patio (weather permitting) or in the fellowship area. We hope you will be able to join us. During September and October, we will examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with the help of Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. See page 5 for more details. Refreshments will be provided. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org

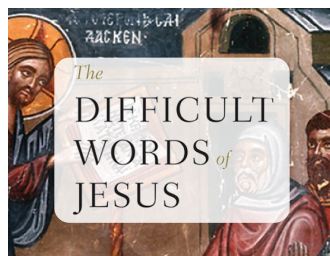
**ANTIRACISM ROUNDTABLE & WORK GROUP**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

11 AM VIA ZOOM

 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 relational group, led by Holy Cross member Carol Dikelsky. See page 4 for more details and additional dates.

**THE DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS**

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 14 & 28

7 PM VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/85911417343

During this new learning opportunity, we will examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with material from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at the Vanderbilt Divinity School. See more details on page 5. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

**PILATES**

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 13, 20 & 27

6 PM, IN-PERSON, CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

by Samantha Cooper
Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

2021/22 Fall School Year Return

Welcome back to a new school year at CrossWays Preschool! We are so excited to see new faces as well as some familiar ones. This includes both students and staff. This year, we are able to have all three classrooms up and running. We are looking forward to some normalcy that we did not have last year. Our Godly Play curriculum will be returning as well as Chapel. Students have missed gathering in the sanctuary for a bible story and songs. Parents are also able to drop off and pick up their students in the building again. Our parents returning to the building will allow for optimal communication with face-to-face interactions with the teachers. During the first month of school, our teachers and students work on getting to know each other and getting comfortable with the classroom routine.

Important Dates

Thursday, September 2: Open House

Monday, September 6 (Labor Day): No School

Tuesday, September 7: First Day of Enrichment Classes

Wednesday, September 8: First day of Preschool Classes

Enrollment Opportunities

CrossWays Preschool has availability for new friends in our Bumblebee (age 2), Caterpillar (age 3), and Ladybug (age 4) classrooms. We have an exciting curriculum and activities planned for our students daily! Contact us to learn more and schedule a tour!

Welcome September!

September is a month of welcomings! We say goodbye to a fun-filled summer, and hello to a fresh new school year! We begin to see the change in weather and welcome new families. Celebration! Childcare will be hosting their Open House for families at the end of the month to give both new and current families a look into our program's daily activities and schedules.

Also making a return to this year's activities are our electives. In previous years, students could sign up for in-house classes such as gym, dance, and even Spanish. This fall, parents can sign their child up for "Creative Kids" art class and/or "Amazing Athletes" Educational Sports Program. Both electives will begin in October.

Important Dates

Monday, September 6 (Labor Day): No School

Thursday, September 23: Open House Night

Coming in October!

We are in the beginning stages of planning a second movie night for our CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare families! We held our first movie night last spring with lots of success. We are looking forward to another fun, family event!

Pre-Order Fundraiser

A portion of the event sales will be donated to CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare. Place your pre-order online by Tuesday, September 28 at 3 pm.

Order online at

foodtruck.pub/?id=5461



Options:

- Traditional Glazed Dozen
- Stan's Special Dozen
- Stan's Greatest Hits Dozen
- Glutenless Half Dozen
- Vegan Half Dozen

Pick up your pre-order on
Thursday, September 30 from 3 - 6 pm
at CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

Thank you for your support!

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



CrossWays
Preschool



Celebration!
Childcare

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

Sunday School

In the Sun for Everyone

Starting Sunday, September 26 at 9 am

See page 3 for more details.

Wonder-full

by Amy Becker-Perez

One of the curriculums used in our Early Childhood Ministries here at Holy Cross is something called Godly Play where stories from Scripture are told using simple toys and the leaders wonder with the students about what it was like to be in the story or why it happened the way it did.

Wonder is an important part of faith. We wonder about big questions and learn something from the simple act of asking as well as any answers that we might actually discover. We experience wonder—or awe—in the face of God’s grandeur, God’s creation, and then we get to witness or be part of something amazing.

As adults who interact with kids, we know that they have hard questions. Questions that are difficult to answer in age-appropriate words... or really, with words at all. We don’t have all the answers—but we can wonder and explore with our kids.

Here are some ideas about how to cultivate wonder:

- When you’re reading a story—whether it’s from Scripture or your child’s favorite book—stop and wonder about what a character might be feeling or why a character did what they did.
- Take in some of God’s amazing creation with your children. See a sunset (or, if you’re like my family, perhaps a sunrise), look out over Lake Michigan, notice the details of sunflowers or study the life cycle of a cicada or a butterfly. Get out a magnifying glass, binoculars or a telescope (I believe some libraries have telescopes to check out!). Be sure to thank God for God’s amazing creation! Perhaps you can even wonder about how we can participate with God in caring for that creation.
- Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know”. Model curiosity. Sometimes you can find answers to things you don’t know, but some questions may not have easy answers. At those times, rely on things we trust about God. We trust that God loves us. We trust that God forgives us and will abide by God’s promises of new life. We trust that God is working in the world.
- I have not done this—so take it with a grain of salt—but I have thought about keeping a note in my phone with a list of questions my kids ask. They often ask the questions as they are supposed to be going to sleep at night. While I sometimes take the time to answer then, I often say we’ll talk about it later and then neither of us remembers. Perhaps a prompt to look at questions at breakfast the next morning or when we’re driving to our next activity might work.

Finally, as we seek to help kids grow in a life of faith, we may also experience questions and growth. Holy Cross has many opportunities for faith formation—some that will soon be available for us to experience with our kids. Keep an eye out for ways to engage in wonder and awe with the kids in your life!



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation ministry will resume in-person on Sunday, October 3, 6:30 - 8 pm. Confirmation is offered to 6 - 8 grade youth. Confirmation sessions will be comprised of a large group learning moment, worship and music experience and small relational groups for sharing and conversation. There will be activities and snacks as appropriate.

9th Grade Confirmation

The three years of confirmation culminates with the “Affirmation of Baptism” worship service. **We will celebrate with our 9th grade confirmands on Reformation Sunday, October 31 at the 10 am worship service.** There are two final pieces to this faith journey: evening sessions and a retreat experience.

There will be two Sunday evening sessions of Sunday, September 12 and 19. These two sessions will provide time for dinner conversation and activities that will offer a deeper dive into the next transition in the confirmands’ faith journey.

The all day retreat will be held on Saturday, September 25 at Lutherdale Bible Camp near Elkhorn, WI. We will depart from Holy Cross at 8 am and return by 5 pm. There will be outdoor challenge course activities weather permitting, lunch and worship moments throughout the day. More details available at HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation

Milestone Ministries

Support for the faith journey...

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

First Communion

Workshop: Saturday, October 2, 9 - 11:30 am in the Fellowship Area

First Communion Celebration: Sunday, October 3 at 10 am worship

This class is for anyone who is currently in second grade or above who would like to explore the significance of this sacrament of the table. The “milestone ministry experience” includes participation by a parent with their child. We watch a video, talk about the significance of certain meals and foods associated with family traditions, make a loaf of bread, explore a Seder plate, take a tour of the altar area in the sanctuary, and, taste and practice the wine and bread of Holy Communion. First Communion class culminates in First Communion on October 3 during 10 am worship.

RSVP required by September 29 at: bit.ly/FirstCommunion21

There will be an additional First Communion Milestone held in March 2022. Date TBD.

Bible Bootcamp

Saturday, October 23, 9 - 11:30 am in the Fellowship Area

Young people in third grade or above will receive a Bible on Sunday, October 24 during worship. This Bible is a student study Bible. On Saturday, October 23 we walk through the Old & New Testaments to begin to frame all the wonderful pieces that are part of the written resource. **RSVP required by October 20 at bit.ly/BibleBootcamp21**

Crossroads High School Youth Group

for 9 - 12 Grade Youth



The Crossroads Youth Group Vision & Values

Our Vision:

Crossroads is a flourishing and vibrant High School Youth Group where the students are well connected to each other, the rest of the church community, and to God, and where each person feels at home, is shaping their personal truths, has a growing sense of fulfillment, and is living out their values.

Our Values:

- Honest & sincere conversations
- Service to others
- Fun, adventure & new experiences
- Learning
- Parent involvement

Connecting & Thriving!

In July we had a great volunteer day at Feed My Starving Children. The youth made quick work of it, and our group along with the others there that session packed over 17,900 meals that went to Haiti. Amazing!

We also got together with the youth group at the United Methodist Church of Libertyville for "Water Wars". What a fun night for all the water games, and how wonderful it was for UMC to host us!

Lastly, we wrapped up our Faithful Families parent series. Thanks to all who joined in, I hope you enjoyed the conversations!



Every three years the ELCA puts on the National Youth Gathering. It is an incredible experience, to be on everyone's faith journey! Those entering 8th-12th grades this fall are eligible as youth participants, and we'd LOVE for other college-age young adults as well as parents to make the journey to Minneapolis with us as leaders, to make for a richer experience for everyone!

The Fuller Youth Institute: Living a Better Story

Holy Cross was chosen to participate with 13 other churches in the wider Chicagoland area in the Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) two-year cohort called "Living a Better Story". The FYI is a research trailblazer and great thought leader related to all things youth and family ministry. The Holy Cross team consists of 3 adults and 2 youth, who meet along with these other churches to learn and share best practices, and develop and apply new and more meaningful approaches to ministry in our own church community. We are excited to introduce some amazing new elements to our ministry this year!

What's coming up?

Please visit our Crossroads Youth webpage at HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads for the latest information on upcoming events.



Hi, I'm Sarah! 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 family life with my wonderful husband, Justin, and baby girl, Olivia. In my spare time I like to do yoga, read, and play outside with our Australian Shepherd, Chloe.

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



"I Love to Tell the Story..."

by Judy Frank-Gonwa

For many of us, September marks the beginning of a new cycle—back to school! Our preschool, **CrossWays Preschool**, welcomes students to begin a "new year" with their teachers and friends. And, even though **Celebration! Childcare** is a year round program, we still have that "Welcome Back" feeling in September. Our wonderful staff is happily ready for another year of love and learning.

There is another group of wonderful individuals associated with our Early Childhood Ministries (ECM) programs at Holy Cross and I would like to tell you about them. These people, many of whom are parents of children attending our programs, are members of the ECM Board and the ECM Marketing Committee.

Several years ago the Early Childhood Ministries Board was created to advise, discuss, reflect, and encourage conversations about our early childhood programs. The board is made up of a President, Vice President, the ECM Director, church members, and parent representatives.

The parent representatives are volunteers from our programs who serve as a liaison between the other parents in our programs and our Board. Our parent reps help facilitate discussions, questions, and add their input to events and topics revolving around early childhood. Two members of the ECM Board also serve on the church Council and keep the Council informed about the ECM programs.

We are thrilled that most of the current Board members have agreed to return for another year of service. But we do need to say good-bye and thank you to Katie Ormson who served as Vice President of the Board for two years and to Melinda Donelan, one of our parent reps, who served last year. Thank you, both!

We welcome new Board members Matt Sargent, Diana Mercado, and Kira Holguin! Matt, who served on the Board a few years ago, will assume the role of Vice President. Diana and Kira will serve as parent reps. We are very happy to have you!

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the returning Board members who include:

Samantha Cooper, Director	Karl Nygard, Council rep
Andy Eidson, Council rep	Taryn Placko, parent rep
Judy Frank-Gonwa, President	Melissa Rakestraw, parent rep
Meredith Metzler, parent rep	Steve Ward, parent rep

Our ECM Marketing Committee members include:

Samantha Cooper, member	Val Maxwell, member
Judy Frank-Gonwa, member	Ellie Rautenbach, member
Rikki Jennings, new member	Matt Sargent, chair

Blessings to all who serve and support our ECM programs!



CrossWays Preschool
cpreschool.org



Celebration! Childcare
cchildcare.org

Music Ministry Updates

The Staff Support team and the Church Council are in the process of updating related position descriptions for our music positions involving organ, choir and director of music responsibilities. Once this part of the process is completed, we will be posting the positions and entertain applications.

In the meantime, there are two interim updates that we want to share with you.

Invitation to Singers from Dale Tippet Jr.

Now that we are entering into the fall and everyone is returning from their summer travels, it's a great opportunity for us to start getting together to sing! I would like to invite you to come learn a few simple choir anthems, choruses and even some hymns right out of the hymnal for us to share as special music on Sunday mornings. If you've never sung in a choir before or if you're a seasoned veteran, this will be a fun and easy season of joyful music and fellowship! If you or someone you know might be interested in participating, please email me at dale@holycrosschurch.org and we'll keep you updated and invite you to upcoming rehearsals.

Welcome Interim Organist Paul Vander Weele

We are excited to welcome Paul Vander Weele as our new interim organist. Paul brings over 40 years of experience in congregational worship settings, professional recording opportunities and a variety of performance experiences throughout the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Paul has an undergraduate degree in organ and church music and advanced degrees in organ performance. Paul will be scheduled to be with us on a variety of Sundays and services beginning in September and into the fall months. Please welcome him as the opportunity presents itself.

Support the Youth Ministry through AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service. It just uses the money saved on advertising to help fund donations to charitable organizations.

Setting up automatic donations is easy. Visit smile.amazon.com or use the Amazon app before you shop and select Holy Cross Lutheran Church as your charitable organization. If using a browser, bookmark smile.amazon.com to create a shortcut to quickly return to AmazonSmile every time you shop at Amazon and 0.5% of your purchase amount will be donated. This is an easy and wonderful way that you can support Holy Cross' youth ministry.

Thank you for your continued support!



amazonsmile

Call for Volunteers



Willow House provides support to children, teens, and their parents coping with grief and the death of their person—mom, dad, sister, brother, spouse, or child.

Once a year, Willow House offers comprehensive training for individuals to join their team and become a volunteer facilitator for Children and Teens Support Groups. In-person facilitator training will be held at their Bannockburn, IL office on the following dates, and VOLUNTEERS MUST ATTEND ALL TRAINING SESSIONS:

Saturday, September 18 from 9 am to 4 pm
Wednesday, September 22 from 6 pm to 9 pm
Saturday, September 25 from 9 am to 4 pm

The training includes:

- An experiential and instructive, guiding framework for understanding the grief and loss experience of children, teens, and families
- Reviews of educational information and research regarding children and grief
- Instruction on how to be an effective peer support group facilitator

Volunteer Facilitators are asked to make a commitment to co-facilitate at least one group monthly for one year (September - May).

To apply, please visit willowhouse.org/volunteer

For additional information about Willow House or becoming a Volunteer Facilitator, please contact the Program Director at info@willowhouse.org or (847) 236-9300



9/11 Memorial Ceremony

Saturday, September 11 at 10 am
Cook Park, Libertyville

This event is open to the public and begins with a silent parade at **10 am on Saturday, September 11**, that may be viewed along Milwaukee Ave, from the train station to Cook Park. This anniversary observation will be held in Cook Park following the parade. Mayor Donna Johnson, Captain Jason Williamson, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Great Lakes and other representatives from the community both clergy and civil servants, will offer remarks. There will be a bell ceremony for the victims including a rendition of "Amazing Grace" and a closing performance by the Midlothian Pipe Band.

All are welcome to come together in grief, in healing, and in hopefulness to honor those who were lost, those heroes who answered the call to service and to all who live with the legacy that remains. *It is recommended that anyone wanting to attend should congregate at Cook Park.*

Volunteers Needed Saturday, September 17



Cool Ministries is looking for volunteers to help rotate stock and organize the warehouse on Saturday, September 17, 2021. Many hands are needed, and the work will involve lifting. Closed-toed shoes are required. Work begins at 9 am. Cool Ministries warehouse is located at 800 W. Glen Flora Avenue, in Waukegan. For questions or to RSVP please contact Leo Karris at 847-340-8393 or leockarris@gmail.com

In addition, the need for assistance to individuals and families is ongoing and growing. As the number of patrons has grown, the need for monetary help has also grown.

To continue to help, you may donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org



Backpacks for LSSI

Since we were not able to purchase backpacks and school supplies in bulk or pack backpacks in-person this year due to the pandemic, Holy Cross contributed \$1,000 to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) to be utilized for backpacks and school supplies for the elementary and middle school students they serve.

Compassion Closet Ministry at Advocate Condell Medical Center

We were recently contacted by the Senior Chaplain for Mission and Spiritual Care at Advocate Condell in Libertyville about their compassion closet ministry. Since on many occasions patients' clothing gets soiled or torn during treatments, they have no immediate way of getting other clothes prior to their discharge. As a result, Advocate Condell has established a compassion closet to provide basic, new clothing at no cost. This effort is dependent on donations from the local communities. Holy Cross has supported this ministry by donating 24 pairs of new tee shirts and sweatpants.



Save the Date:

Celebration of First Generation Success

Saturday, October 16

5 - 8 pm

Help celebrate 12 years of guiding first-generation college bound students from Waukegan on the pathway to college graduation at this annual fundraising reception and auction at the Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, Illinois. Auction items would be greatly appreciated. There is a 25% discount on all tickets purchased prior to September 15. Tickets may be purchased online at W2C2021.givesmart.com

For more information about this organization, go to waukegantocollege.org

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Fall Sunday Worship Schedule
through October

In-person Sanctuary Worship at 8 am
Pre-registration no longer required.

Drive-In Worship at 10 am
FM 87.9

Virtual Worship
Pre-recorded video available on demand at
[HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](https://www.holycrosschurch.org/sermons)
Details on page 2.

Sunday School
In the Sun for Everyone

Starting Sunday, September 26 at 9 am
See page 3 for more details.

The **DIFFICULT WORDS of JESUS**

New! Six session learning opportunity via Zoom starts Tuesday, September 14 at 7 pm.
More information on page 5.

 **FELLOWSHIP**

Waffle Breakfast
Sunday, September 12 at 8:45 and 10:45 am

Kringles!
Sunday, September 26 at 8:45 and 10:45 am
See page 3.

 **MEMBERSHIP**

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST
Saturday, October 9 at 8:30 am
RSVP to the church office by Monday, October 4

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION
Sunday, October 10 during 10 am Drive-In Worship
See page 4.