

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

March 2020

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

FIRST SATURDAY
EVENINGS
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
OCTOBER - MAY

MARCH 7 AT 5:30 PM WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Human and beloved...

In our world, we want to know things. We want Google always at our fingertips to tell us everything about anything, and we want social media to instantly tell us everything else—like what our friends had for dinner and how mom's cruise is going. As humans, we've always had a hunger and thirst for knowledge—well, every since Eden that is. And, as technology has advanced through the millennia, we want more and more knowledge within our grasp at all times.

And, for faithful Christians that's no different with our relationship to God. We want to know things about God. We want to know how to relate to God. We want to know how this story, or this proverb, or this anecdote applies to our life. Tangibly. Really.

And, why wait? We'd like to know right now, please. But, a relationship with God isn't so easy. God isn't composed of a series of facts, easily digestible and readily relatable.

God is a mystery. God's Presence is enveloped in mystery. In fact, coming into God's Presence isn't like downloading a set of search results. Sometimes, it may result in confusion and less clarity. But, there, in the midst of the confusion, is the presence of God who has come to be with us.



The familiar Lenten image of Jesus being forty days in the wilderness was a time for him to figure out who he was and how he would compose his life. The gospels tell us that Jesus didn't choose to enter the wilderness. The Spirit led him there. But here's the important piece to remember: Jesus chose to stay until the work of the wilderness was over. We don't always choose to enter wilderness, either. We don't volunteer for pain, loss, danger, or terror. But the wilderness happens. Whether it comes to us in the guise of a hospital waiting room, a thorny relationship, a troubled child, a sudden death, or a crippling panic attack—the wilderness appears, unbidden and unwelcome, at our doorsteps. It insists on itself.

As Christians, we need to learn how to sit and practice patience, perseverance and prayer. The season of Lent affords us the opportunity to practice and explore what it means to be comfortable not always knowing. The gospels make it clear, that the people who ask Jesus their versions of the "why?" questions already have an answer in mind. They don't approach Jesus with a blank slate; they show up hoping to confirm what they already believe. That is, they come expecting Jesus to verify their deeply held assumption.

To sit patiently with desire—to become its student—and *still* embrace my identity as God's beloved, is hard. It's very, very hard. But this is the invitation. We can be loved and hungry at the same time. We can hope and hurt at the same time. Most of all, we can trust that when God nourishes us, it won't be magic. It won't be manipulative and disrespectful. It won't necessarily be the food we'd choose for ourselves, but it will feed us, nevertheless.

What does this mean for us as we begin our Lenten journeys this year? Remember, Lent is not a time to do penance for being human. It's a time to embrace all that it means to be human. Human and hungry. Human and vulnerable. Human and beloved. May God grant us a holy and meaningful Lent.

Peace,

Gader Bob

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.



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Sunday School Coordinators:

Felicia Brandt, age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (Core Stories) Patty Moyer & Teri Chadd, grades I - 5 (Deep Blue) Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw

Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

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

midweek lent

This year for our midweek Lenten worship services we will focus on the "Serenity Prayer," attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr. We may have been drawn to this prayer at different moments in our life.

Perhaps it is when we are at a loss for words. It may be an option other than the Lord's Prayer. Or, we may defer to this prayer at times when we are tempted to believe that the idea of serenity and peace seems far away.

If we had to boil the serenity prayer down to one word, it would be *perspective*. The serenity prayer works at teaching us how to see what's really going on in a particular moment of our life.

Please join us for worship on the Wednesdays of Lent. Our liturgy will be Holden Evening Prayer and the services are approximately 30 minutes in length.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Wednesday, March 4, 7:30 - 8 pm "Serenity"

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 - 8 pm "Acceptance"

Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 - 8 pm "Courage"

Wednesday, March 25, 7:30 - 8 pm "Change"

Wednesday, April 1, 7:30 - 8 pm "Wisdom"



Every Wednesday before our Midweek Lenten worship service, we will gather for fellowship and share a meal. These are intended to be relaxed and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another.

Soup Suppers will be offered on the following Wednesdays at 6:30 pm: March 4 - March 11 - March 18 - March 25 - April 1

We invite five attendees each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread, salads, fruit or desserts and/or help clean up after the soup supper. Beverages and table service will be provided.

A sign up sheet is available in the gathering space on the blue wall or you can sign up online at bit.ly/LENTSS20

Please join us!

L'enten Daily Devotional Visual Faith Practice

The 40 days of Lent provide us with the opportunity to alter the daily rhythm of life. During the Lenten season, we would like to invite you to change things up by adding a daily practice. We are calling it a Lenten "Visual Faith Practice." It will consist of an image, a scripture passage and reflection questions. Each day there will be a different image, scripture, and question provided. Our hope is that these daily devotions will provide you with a few moments each day to deepen and enrich your spiritual life. In viewing these images, the following questions offer a guide to reflecting on the images and scripture. How would you describe this image to another person? What aspect of this image most grabs your attention? What story does this image tell? What emotions surface as you consider this image?

The daily devotional is located on the church's website on the following page: HolyCrossChurch.org/lenten-devotional

It started on Ash Wednesday and is updated daily with new content. In addition, there will be a Lenten "Visual Faith Practice" available on the large screen in the gathering space each Sunday for shared conversation during fellowship times. We will also incorporate the Lenten "Visual Faith Practice" into our midweek Lenten experience.

March 1 - Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11



Question: What sustains you when you are tempted?

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

April 5 at 8, 9:30, & 11 am With procession of palms

and Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 9

Midday Worship at 11:30 am

Followed by lunch (provided)

Evening Worship at 7:30 pm

Holy Communion (with First Communion)

GOOD FRIDAY

April 10 at 7:30 pm

ECUMENICAL EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP

April 12 at 6 am

North Bay Pavilion at Independence Grove

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

April 12 at 8, 9:30 & 11 am

The celebration of the Resurrection

of Jesus with Holy Communion

Children's Message at 9:30 am

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Worship

Sunday, April 12 at 6 am

North Bay Pavilion at Independence Grove Forest Preserve

> 16400 Buckley Rd Libertyville, IL 60048

Gates open at 5:30 am. No admission fee.

EASTER BREAKFAST YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Sunday, April 12 from 8:30 - 11:30 am

As is our tradition, the middle and high school youth and their families will host a light Easter breakfast between worship services. Your free will donations will support the fundraising efforts of the youth traveling on a mission trip to Chattanooga, TN this summer.





Tell Me More About That...

by Rev. Sally Hanson

I was recently having a conversation with someone passionate about politics. They were adamant in their views so much so that they struggled to see that there could be any other perspective. As they passionately laid out their political stances on a number of topics, I began to wonder what it was that was causing this person to draw a line in the sand and take a stand on one side versus the other. When they were finished and ready for others to give accolades to their well thought out opinions, I simply asked, "tell me more about that..."

The person was taken aback and I repeated the question. They asked what I meant by that. I asked them elaborate by telling me the story of how they had come to their opinions and what experiences brought these conclusions. The person thought for a while and began to tell stories related to each of the passionate viewpoints. As I listened, the underlying emotion and theme that could be found in each of the stories was a sense of fear.

Many years ago, there was a popular TV show called *Fear Factor*. The premise was to have contestants face a number of different fears that included tasks and challenges. Some of these challenges were about heights, speed, drops and jumping between moving vehicles. Other included things like eating disgusting food and being placed in an aquarium of tarantulas for a set amount of time. The closing line of the show once the winner was announced was, "Clearly, fear was not a factor for you!"

I wonder what it would be like to approach tough conversations - whether personal, political or faith conversation - in the same way, meaning when do we include a faith factor rather than a fear factor? The faith factor is a preventative factor to fear. The faith factor is a grounding in the love and promises of God that sustains us even when we are afraid. Studies have shown that those who participate regularly in a faith community are:

- more open to healthy conversations with diverse viewpoints.
- participation has a positive impact on their health as a way of reducing stress and anxiety with the predictability of worship.
- participation connects them with a caring community that bring social and crisis support.
- promotes a prayer life or meditation that can also affect the nervous system and ease fear.

The faith factor is also a key component to those who have hit rock bottom and need a point of hope and something steady to cling to while their world is turned upside down like those directly and indirectly affected by isolation, addiction, mental illness, grief, loneliness and pain. Faith is not only a preventative factor but it is also a factor of endurance and hope.

Where is the fear factor or faith factor playing a role in your life? What does it look like in your life and how is it at work?

During this season of Lent, we come to a season that inspires reflection and interior work within ourselves. Perhaps embracing the faith factor is the key to unlocking some of those hidden places inside you. Those places you have kept guarded so the world wouldn't see the fears within you. Or those places you've ignore or forget those things in our life that may have caused you pain.

As you discover and discern what your faith factor looks like, I pray you find the hope and endurance that faith and trust in Jesus Christ brings to you and yours. Hopefully, "Faith is a factor for you!"

Blessings,

Pastor Sally



Date: Monday, March 16

Time: 6 - 8:30 pm

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Gathering Space

Theme: Intimacy... fully alive

RSVP by Friday, March 13 at bit.ly/MP3316

Men (21+) of Holy Cross and the community are invited to fellowship, food, live music and conversation. We encourage you to bring your appetite not only for dinner, but also for rich discussions with lasting impact on the series topic of "Our Journey from Scarcity to Abundant Living."

If *intimacy* is a blessing, how do we move into it? "While they were talking... Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see.'" - Luke 24:36b-48

This Gospel story is about many different themes. One possibility is that of intimacy. We are invited to bring all of ourselves: we are invited to bring our disbelief, disappointment and anger, when something in life goes dreadfully askew and it doesn't feel like God is there. We are invited to bring our joy when we are caught up in something larger than ourselves. We are reminded that joy and disbelief, wonder and knowledge, courage and fear, confidence and insecurity - these are not polar opposites but part of our lived experience. Faith isn't about embracing only one side of the equation like joy, courage, confidence, and belief. Faith takes root in the tension of joy and disbelief. Faith gives us the desire to love when we don't know what will happen next, and the courage to enter the struggle of being known.

We make a grave mistake if we separate Jesus' words from his actions. We diminish him - and ultimately diminish ourselves - if we try to interpret his teachings through any filter other than the filter of his own life and ministry.

Which is to say, Jesus acts. He doesn't simply *speak* blessing. He lives it. He embodies it. He incarnates it. Through his words, his hands, his feet, his life, he brings about the very blessings he promises. Insisting that pain in and of itself is neither holy nor redemptive in the Christian story, Jesus works to bring healing, abundance, liberation, and joy to everyone who crosses his path. This is the vocation we are called to. The work of intimacy - the work of sharing the blessings we enjoy - is not the work of a fuzzy, distant someday. It is the work - and the joy - of the here and now. Something powerful happens when we offer and receive intimacy as an intentional spiritual practice.



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Feeding Our Hungry Hearts

by Steve Oelschlager

When it comes to physical hunger, we all have routines and strategies for supplying our bodies with needed calories. From getting groceries, packing lunches, making meals, and eating out, most of us in the developed world do quite well satisfying our appetites for food.

I wonder if "everybody has a hungry heart," how we go about satisfying that kind of existential hunger, for ourselves and our world? How do we understand that feeling that something is missing, not right, that there is disconnection from what we need, moments of emptiness to life? And, given our framework for making sense of those feelings, where do we turn for the nourishment and sustenance that will feed us?

Unfortunately, our world is quick to serve up what amounts to junk food for the soul, alluring options that provide short-lived relief without long-term satisfaction. More stuff, more success, more pleasure, more building up of our egos, it all feels good until soon it doesn't and we need more. Is it any wonder that statistics measuring our well-being suggest that we are both satiated yet holistically starving to death?

I'm grateful for my faith and what Jesus has to say about hungry hearts, including his suggestion that following him is the pathway to hungering and thirsting no more. Jesus' wisdom point us in a different direction than the junk food for the soul served up by the conventional wisdom of our world. Jesus lays out a package of values for us to live by: love, hospitality, compassion, generosity, empathy, care, concern, service to the other, inclusion, forgiveness, to name a few. It seems to me Jesus has a better story about how to satisfy hungry hearts, and it involves shifting our focus to something bigger than ourselves. That, Jesus says, is the way, the truth, and the life.

Hopefully, our community at Holy Cross can keep all of us inspired to take Jesus at his word and follow it.





Early Bird Registration

Attend the Global Leadership Summit at our Holy Cross Satellite location on **August 6 - 7, 2020** to enhance and inspire your leadership potential. God created all of us on purpose, with a purpose, to make a difference in the world, and this summit helps you to find your purpose. To be a part of this experience, register at *bit.ly/GLSHCLC*

Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars by March 31

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have available Choice Dollars from 2019 have until March 31, 2020 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 every year.

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*



Mission Endowment Scholarship Fund

- Applications Due March 31 -

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 in the church office or online at *bit.ly/MEFscholarship*



Please contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 or *office@holycrosschurch.org* with any questions.

The Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1999 and it provides resources to enhance the ministry of Holy Cross, apart from the general operations of the congregation. These resources, divided equally three ways, are allocated annually in the following areas: music ministry opportunities within the congregation; ministry opportunities beyond the congregation/pastoral discretionary fund; and in scholarship support for members of Holy Cross.

And More on J.S. Bach

by Randy Casey

In today's mail, I received an unsolicited magazine, the name of which is *The Week*, and under its title are the words, "The Best of the U.S. and International Media." two pictures of familiar politicians are on the magazine's cover and the subject of most of the articles is somewhat predictable. However, this periodical did offer me one big surprise.

On page 32 and 33 of *The Week* for January 17, 2020 is an article entitled "Learning to accept your decline." On the second page is a picture, although not the only "official" one, of Johann Sebastian Bach and a passage discussing his later years. The author, Arthur Brooks, reminds his readers that the classical era of music was taking over from the Baroque era before Bach's death in 1750, and the person leading the way to the new style was one of Bach's own sons, Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach. Brooks suggests that the elder Bach did not let this depress him, but continued to refine his craft in his own distinctive way until the very end of his life. Brooks writes, "Whatever your metaphysical convictions, refreshment of the soul can be the aim of your work, like Bach's" (page 33). I take from this article that both musically and personally J.S. Bach is ever relevant.

On Sunday, April 26th, Anca Apetean and I are opening our two -piano program with a piece by J.S. Bach, even though not one work he composed was written for piano. He encountered the very early version of the piano when he visited Carl Philipp Emmanuel in Berlin in the 1749s, but Bach's keyboard works were actually composed for organ and harpsichord concertos, with Anca playing the solo part and yours truly playing the orchestral reduction. The many of us who play Bach on the piano do so because we like to think he would totally approve of our doing so.

In 2021, the great man's birthday, March 21, falls once again on a Sunday, and just as we did the last two times this happened, we are having a BACHFEST to celebrate the occasion. I won't give the whole program away just yet, but suffice it to say that we will be offering a handful of pieces for treble voices from some of his cantatas as presented by the ladies in the Holy Cross Choir. And we are also including a harpsichord concerto by Carl Philipp Emmanuel on the program. I enjoyed hearing this work at the BACHFEST in Leipzig last summer in the Nikolaikirche and look forward to playing it for you. I have a very fine Roland digital harpsichord that I use every time we present a Bach cantata. At the moment I am undecided as to whether I will be, relatively speaking, a purist and play the harpsichord for this concerto, or play the piano.

It may amuse you to know that on what instrument to play Bach is a rather controversial issue in the world of "classical music." And not just whether to play him on either the harpsichord or piano. Transcriptions for various instruments of his music abound. For example, I would dare to say that Bach can be heard on the classical guitar more than once a week on WFMT, the classical music station in Chicago. And I would venture to say that my friend Ken Marx even plays Bach on his accordion. No matter the vehicle, a musician who wants to be taken seriously at some point has an encounter with the music of J.S. Bach.

Should the music of J.S. Bach mean little or nothing to you, I would just hope that someday you will open your heart to the

possibility of being uplifted by the sound. On page 43 of the New Year 2020 issue of BBC Music are these words, "The purely sonic result of Bach's music touches the listener deeply in the most mysterious ways." The same issue called Bach "the greatest composer of all time" (page 43).

Perhaps it is not so mysterious after all to find a reference to Bach in a contemporary media/news magazine. His music is timeless and is just as effective today as when it was composed, perhaps even more so because various media make it so readily available.

The word "Bach" in German actually means "brook" or "creek." There is no better time than right now to let the music of J.S. Bach come streaming your way.



2020 Holy Cross Church Council

2020 Holy Cross Church Council members and Holy Cross Officers were installed during worship services on Sunday, February 2.

Sonny Randall, President

Katie Ormson, Vice President
Andy Eidson
Mick Garrison
Sarah Grayer
Bill Miksch
Karl Nygard
Amy Sekili
Jim Smalley
John Villani
Rich Yocius

Terry Berger, *Secretary* Eric Ormson, *Treasurer* Lori Fedyk, *Financial Secretary*

A special thank you to Tom Miller, Beth Ann Koenemann, Lisa Dunbar, and Maria Roberts for their service on council.

Ministry Moments

Since May 2019, and until May 2020, our council members will be giving ministry moment shout-outs during worship, and they will also be printed in the newsletter. These moments will focus on ministries at Holy Cross that illustrate how our congregational core values are evident throughout the ministry of our congregation.

"Shaping Young Minds"

by John Villani, Council member

Our early childhood ministries encompasses two programs, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. Did you know that between these two programs we have around 200 children between the ages of 6 weeks to 6 years old in our faith-based daycare/preschool programs? Did you also know that as a result of these vibrant programs Holy Cross employs 48 full and part-time staff to run, teach, and support these ministries? These paid positions come with competitive salaries as well as health and other benefits. I can tell you I had no idea that so many people look to Holy Cross as a source for their family's income.

These are certainly wonderful accomplishments that are cause for celebration in recognition of yet another vibrant ministry within Holy Cross.

But I would like to share how deeply personal these ministries can be. In 2008, my wife Nancy and I had a major life change moving from New York to Libertyville following a change in Nancy's career. As an engineer, I can tell you change is not something that comes easy to me and this was a major life challenge. Among them was getting our two very small children, Sarah who was four, and CJ who was three, situated into a new daycare center. We found Celebration! Childcare and while a faith-based daycare was desirable, honestly, the logistics of the location made it an easy decision among the other decisions we were making, and we didn't think too much about it. So with Nancy and the kids moving here in March and myself traveling back and forth to New York while looking for a new job, 2008 wore on and we slowly started looking for a new church to settle into.

Like some of you, I could say my religious up bringing has been a wandering journey. I was raised Roman Catholic, and then joined an Episcopal church as an adult. When we arrived in Libertyville, we went church shopping all over again. After a not so enjoyable Sunday morning in 2008, Nancy and I were driving home discussing our thoughts and the struggles of finding a new spiritual home for the family, when a small voice from one of the car seats asked, "Why can't we just go to my church?" It was CJ asking.

As an aside—I have had the wonderful opportunity to help and teach small groups with the confirmation program here at Holy Cross for the past several years and one of the common questions teenagers ask is "Why has God stopped talking to us?" My response is always, "Are you listening?"

When CJ asked us that question, Nancy and I looked at each other in bewilderment. Like the phrase "out of the mouths of babes," we both heard God in CJ's voice that day. In asking Sarah and CJ, they told us that Pastor Bob would lead chapel and talk in the sanctuary every week. I'm not sure what they talked about or discussed, but as a parent I can say it worked!

Graduating from Celebration! Childcare, Sarah and CJ are now teenagers at LHS, both having been confirmed here at Holy Cross and they now participate in the new 5G High School Youth Group. One recent highlight in our life was having Sarah meet up with ECM director Kathy Pfister at this year's cookie walk drop-off and CJ meeting up with Mrs. Lisa, his Red room teacher, at this year's Global Leadership Summit. It was great to see both of my kids and the teachers' embrace in fond memories.

I truly believe that faith is a journey that can be greatly impacted by the opportunities we allow ourselves to experience and grow into. I know that the Villani family has greatly benefited from the spiritual foundation Holy Cross' Early Childhood Ministries has made on Sarah, CJ, Nancy, and myself.

Growing Artists

Family Outreach Series Event Recap

by Diane Gaines, Event Chairperson

The 5th Annual Family Outreach Series was a great success! On a snowy afternoon, we had nine families for a total of 28 people come out to participate in our Growing Artists series. Local artist, Beth McKenna, provided pictures of collage art. She showed the families how author Eric Carle uses collage art for his illustrations in his book. The children all recognized his books, and it was a great way to connect art and literacy. Families then worked together to use magazines, wrapping paper, and donated book covers to create their own family masterpieces! It was wonderful to see how different and beautiful each project was. Beth was also generous in giving families additional mat boards to use that evening or take home to create additional pieces of art. Everyone was truly engaged as a family—the purpose of our event!

Thank you to CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare for allowing us to continue to provide this community outreach.







Easter Flowers

to decorate the Sanctuary



Quantity	Flower Type	Cost	Total
	Lilies	\$11	
	Daffodils	\$11	
	Azaleas	\$17	
	Hydrangea	\$21	
	Kalanchoe	\$11	
	Tulips	\$11	
	Mums	\$11	
	Rieger Begonia	\$11	

Order Total: Name:

Phone:

Donations will be listed in Easter bulletin as follows:

Given by

In **celebration** of

or

In **memory** of

Please attach payment to this order form **no later than Sunday, March 22, 2020.** (Checks payable to Holy Cross with "Easter Flowers" in memo line.)

Flowers will be available for pick-up after the 11 am worship service on Easter Sunday.



Worship Participants

If you would like to participate in worship as an usher, greeter, reader, communion assistant, assisting minister, acolyte (grades 6 - 8) or assistant acolyte (grades 3 - 5) on Easter Sunday, please sign up online at *bit.ly/WP4920* or in the narthex on the blue wall.

Easter Treat Bags

As a special way to serve others, our Sunday School classes will be preparing Easter Treat Bags for COOL Ministries to give out with the annual Easter Bagskets. To help us with this service project, we are looking for donations of several **Easter Holiday and spring theme based items:** pencils, stickers, puzzle books, empty plastic Easter eggs, individually wrapped candies, and small toys. A collection box will be located in the narthex. Please return items by **Sunday, March 29.**

Easter Bagskets

Holy Cross is participating in the COOL Ministries Easter Bagskets project again this year. This is both a fun and meaningful project that helps to bless the Easter tables of the less fortunate in Lake County. Paper grocery bags will be available March 22 in the church gathering space with shopping lists attached. (Or use any paper grocery bag, the shopping list is available at bit.ly/bagskets) Filled bags should be **returned by Sunday, April 5.**

Canned Hams

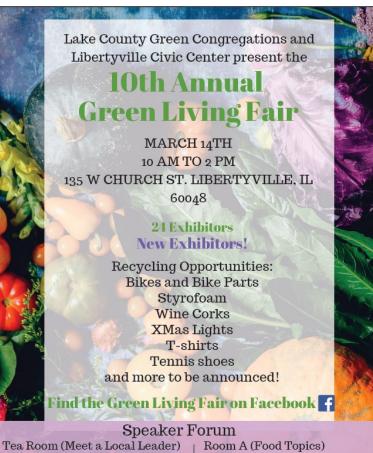
Additionally, we will be collecting donations to help purchase canned hams. Please make checks out to Holy Cross with "COOL hams" in the memo by Sunday, April 5. (Suggested donation of \$10/ham.)

Easter Breakfast

The middle and high school youth of Holy Cross and their families will host a light Easter Breakfast from 8:30 to 11:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 12. Free-will donations will go towards the fundraising efforts of the youth traveling to Chattanooga, TN this

Donations of food, time, and other supplies from the entire congregation would help! Please visit bit.ly/EASTERB or the sign-up board near the sanctuary to see where your help would be appreciated.

Thank you for all your support!



Mary Edly-Allen John Wasik Jennifer Clark Ann Main Lake County Sheriff's Office Ion Miller Wind Form

Jen Miller, Wind Farms SWALCO Fresh Cafe Libertyville Sustainability Commission



willowhouse.org/the-benefit-of-laughter/



- Canned tuna is the non-perishable food item of the month in March. Please place your contribution in the COOL collection cart outside the church office or in baskets during the children's message.
- Veterans Assistance Boxes Each month, COOL also assists 75-100 veterans who need extra month. COOL is looking for donations of the following toiletries to help with this: razors, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, body soap/wash, toothpaste/mouthwash/ shave cream, denture cleaner, cleaning supplies, deodorant, lotion, depends (both men's and women's), washcloths/shower loofa and shampoo.
- Please check expiration dates! COOL Food Pantry will not dispense expired food to their clients.

COOL Ministries Plant & Flower Sale

By Diane Rammelsberg



It feels like it's been a mix of

spring and winter, but it's time to start planning for the actual spring! This sale is a wonderful opportunity to purchase annual plants for your home, and support 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 for homeless and hungry families in our area.

Look for a COOL Plant Sale table staffed with friendly Holy Cross gardeners in the gathering space in March or online at *holycrosschurch.org/resources*

Orders will be due to Holy Cross on **Monday**, **March 30** and plants will be available for pick up at Bethel Lutheran Church in Gurnee on **Saturday**, **May 9** between 11 am and 2 pm. *Make checks payable to COOL Ministries*.



Holy Cross members will once again provide breakfast and lunch food items for guests of the PADS shelter at Shepherd of the Lakes in Grayslake on the fourth Monday of every month. Watch for the sign up board in the gathering space this month for the opportunity to donate food items by **Sunday, March 22 at noon.**

We need your help packing this month on March 22 at 10:30 am! Our Confirmation students are on spring break, and all additional hands are welcome. Please contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 or *office@holycrosschurch.org* if you would like to help.

SUNDAY +

Sunday School at Holy Cross

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





Ages 3 - 5/Kindergarten

ndergarten

Encouragement Rocks

We are continuing Rotation 4 in Sunday School, and learning about the story of Zacchaeus and Jesus. Since we are not always able to do all of the fun activities from our Deep Blue curriculum, we wanted to share one with you here so you can do it at home!

Mission Project (from our Deep Blue curriculum)
Zacchaeus was transformed by Jesus' love. By going to
Zacchaeus's house, Jesus told him that he loved him. In Jesus'
time, going to someone's home was an act of approval.

How do we communicate that we are friends or approve of someone today?

Zacchaeus was humbled and excited by Jesus' gift of friendship. He was so excited, he decided to give away his resources to those who needed his resources. He helped communicate love to others through his actions. You can also do that through hidden messages to people.

What you'll need is the following: paint or markers, paper towels, rocks, and water. Take a rock, and write a message of love on it with either the paint or markers. Some examples include "God loves you" or "You are loved." Decorate the rock as well!

Once the rocks are decorated, please put them somewhere that someone might be able to see it and receive their very own message of love, just like Zacchaeus did.

Upcoming Sunday School Dates

March 1, 8 & 15 Rotation 4

March 22 & 29 No Sunday School (Spring Break)

April 5 Easter Treat Bags - Service Project

Please see page 8 for needed items.

May 3 Spring Sing

May 12 Field Day

Sunday School Volunteer Schedule: bit.ly/SSschedule1920

Sunday School Coordinators: Ages 3-5/K: Felicia Brandt (847) 362-0924 Grades 1-5: Patty Moyer (847) 502-3196 Teri Chadd (570) 594-3387



Support for their faith journey..

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

Fourth Grade: Ten Commandments Saturday, March 14 from 9:30 - 10:30 am

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

RSVP by Monday, March 9 to office@holycrosschurch.org

Second Grade: First Communion

First Communion Prep: Saturday, April 4 from 9:30 - 10:30 am

First Communion: Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 pm

In this milestone, we learn about the mystery and gift that is Holy Communion. Class includes making break, learning about the Passover, the events surrounding Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper, what happens in Holy Communion, and the general "how-to's" of receiving Holy Communion.

Two sessions are offered each year, with the fall class celebrating First Communion on World Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of October) and the spring class celebrates First Communion at the Maundy Thursday service, which is April 9 this year.

RSVP by Monday, March 30 to office@holycrosschurch.org

Kindergarten: The Lord's Prayer Saturday, April 18 from 9:30 - 10:30 am

Prayer is our connection to God and an open line of communication. This milestone offers an opportunity for children and parents to talk about prayer, to learn how to pray, and begin exploring the Lord's Prayer as the basis of future prayers and worship participation.

RSVP by Monday, April 13 to office@holycrosschurch.org



CONFIRMATION

Upcoming Confirmation Dates

All sessions are from 6:30 - 8 pm and start in the sanctuary, unless otherwise indicated.

March 1	Session 18
March 8	Session 19
March 15	Session 20
March 22	PADS Pack - All hands on deck! Winchester House (8th gr girls)
April 26	PADS Pack (6th grade girls) Winchester House (7th grade boys)

Ministry Opportunities

Winchester House - Each year, we ask Confirmation students and their families to assist with worship at Winchester House at least once. As we look into spring and summer, we invite you to join any of the upcoming services. Please arrive by 2 pm to assist residents in getting to worship, and then returning them to their rooms after.

PADS Pack - We pack lunches for those who utilize the PADS shelters for those who struggle with homelessness in our community. We ask that students and their families assist with the assembly of sandwiches and the snack bags that are given to the folks at PADS. This happens the fourth Sunday of the month at 10:45 am in the kitchen. Please join us for the last two packs of the year!

Confirmation Retreat Update

Thank you to all who helped to drive, chaperone, and plan the 2020 Confirmation Retreat. It was a wonderful time to spend together building relationships and learning more about prayer, our personal prayer life, and connecting with God in all of our daily coming and going as well as diving into the Lord's Prayer.

A highlight was each student sharing their faith with their peers by telling the group how they had seen God in their time on the retreat and a new way to pray. Did you know that you can pray while you play? Or while riding a bike? Or planning in the garden? All of these are ways to pray and open communication between you and God!



Serve at Worship March 8 from 8:45 to 11:15 am

Calling all Peer Ministers! We will put our skills into practice by being the coffee host on March 8. We will be using the cookie machine! Plan to be here to help greet and serve. Please RSVP to Pastor Sally at *PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org* by March 1.

Training Meeting April 5 from 12:30 pm to 3 pm

We'll begin by sharing a meal and catching up with one another about how we have been utilizing our Peer Ministry skills since the last training. Who have you WHEAT-ed? We will dive into another training lesson as we continue to build our tool box of being a Peer Minister in our

community.





GOD - GAMES - GIGS - GRUB - GRACE

Sunday, March 15 6:30 to 8 pm Fellowship Area

Beginning on Sunday, March 15 (and in combination with the 5G High School Youth Group event) we will be introducing "The Parent Connection," a facilitated conversation "just for parents" of high school teenagers. Please see full details and link to RSVP at HolyCrossChurch.org/5g-hsyg

High School Mission Trip



Ages: Grades 8 - 12 Location: Chattanooga, TN Dates: July 11 - 18, 2020



A mission trip meeting for all participants will be held on **Sunday, March 8 from 12:30 to 2 pm** in room 402. This is an opportunity to continue to grow relationships with one another and learn more about those whom we will be serving alongside with in Tennessee. This preparation time will include activities to help participants get to know each other, learning about Chattanooga and its people, and the ministry partners of Youthworks in Chattanooga.

Thank you to everyone who helped at or attended our two music concert fundraisers in February!

Our next fundraising opportunity is the Easter Breakfast, held on Sunday, April 12 from 8:30 - 11:30 am. Donations of food, time, and other supplies will be needed. Please see the sign-up board near the sanctuary or visit bit.ly/EASTERB to sign up. This event will be sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial.



CrossWays Preschool

Celebration! Childcare

Looking Ahead to Spring and Beyond

The children who attend CrossWays Preschool have been busy! In addition to celebrating Valentine's Day, going on field trips, and hosting Men's Day, they collected six shopping bags full of items for troops serving overseas! Through Operation Support our Troops, those items are in the process of being distributed to the brave men and women protecting our freedom all across the world. Many thanks go to the students and families for their generous hearts!

This past February, the children of CrossWays Preschool enjoyed our second museum room experience of the school year. This time, we focused on the theme of Creation. We had a variety of different stations set up where the children could experience particular parts of the scripture. The children really enjoyed this extended dramatic play experience!

CrossWays Preschool teachers are looking forward to sitting down with parents during our spring conferences and sharing all that the children are learning and how much they have grown. The very next week, we are closed for spring break!

Registration for the 2020/21 school year has been open for some time now. We have had a great response, and many classes are full. We are thankful for our loyal families who continue to attend and look forward to the 2020/21 school year.

Interim Leadership Team

While the search for a new Director of Celebration! Childcare and CrossWays Preschool continues, we are utilizing the model of an interim leadership team that will provide the leadership, support, and continuity needed during this time of transition. Fortunately, within our staff, we have competent and caring teachers and assistants who will continue to share their expertise with our students on a daily basis. And, to assure that the program continues smoothly, we have asked four of our staff members to join the interim leadership team to serve as leaders and mentors.

The members are:

CrossWays Preschool

Jennie Schlitt Tania Zombolo **Celebration!** Childcare

Roxanne Kupfer Samantha Cooper

These team members will provide support to the program for which they are most familiar but will also collaborate with the other team members around management and procedural matters. The team will meet on a weekly basis and will utilize the guidance of Pastor Bob, Pastor Sally, and Judy Frank-Gonwa.

Seasons are Changing

The groundhog didn't see his shadow, and so spring is on its way! With the coming of spring, we are preparing for Celebration! Childcare's full day summer camp program for children up to age 12. Camp calendars are available at the Celebration! Childcare front desk or view online at *cchildcare.org/forms*

Our summer camp program includes many of our favorite specials that have been with us for years. The outdoor classroom and garden, the climbing wall, pony ride days, Kevin Kelly the magician, trackless train days, ice cream cart days, mini golf course days, and bowling on the Celebration! lanes are just a few of our summer activities that the children will participate in.

Summer camp weeks are offered on a flexible schedule. If you have any summer camp questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.





is hiring summer Teaching Assistants and Substitutes

Hours: 11 am - 6 pm, Monday - Friday

Candidates must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma and meet DCFS qualified requirements. Compensation ranging from \$13.50 to \$15 depending on experience.

To apply, call (847) 367-6208 or email your resume to *celebration@holycrosschurch.org*









The Free Spirits Thursday, March 19 at 11 am, Fellowship Area

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

On Thursday, March 19, we will be watching *Green Book*, last year's Best Picture Award winner at the Academy Awards.

Bring your favorite lunch or movie snack to share while we watch this movie on the new screen in the fellowship area.

Questions? Contact Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com or at (847)362-0924.



MP3: MEN OF PRINCIPLE, PURPOSE & PRAYER MONDAY, MARCH 16 FROM 6 - 8:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA RSVP: BIT.LY/MP3316

The men (21+) of Holy Cross and the community are invited to enjoy evenings of fellowship, food, live music, and conversation. You are encouraged to bring your appetite not only for dinner, but also for rich discussions with lasting impact. See page 4 for more details on this month's event. View the full 2020 series brochure at *bit.ly/MP32020*



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: MARCH 11 AT 11:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA EVENING SESSION: MARCH 11 AT 7 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

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



GROUNDED IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP FRIDAY, MARCH 6 FROM 6:30 - 8:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

Grounded in Grace is an opportunity for women of faith to gather together in fun, fellowship, and learning. Come and join! Bring a snack or a beverage to share, and don't forget a friend and your curiosity!

We continue with our DVD series *Painting the Stars: Science, Religion, and an Evolving Faith.* This session is titled *Imagining a Future*. An excerpt from the lesson tells more about this particular session: "To Live in an evolutionary spirit means to engage with full ambition and without reserve in the structure of the present, and yet to let it go and flow into a new structure when the right time has come." - Erich Janstsch

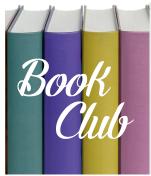
The very purpose of an evolutionary church is to name this sacred and natural impulse to manifest a new future, individually, and collectively, as the call of the cosmic Christ—and then, as a contemporary spiritual practice, consciously step into this "blessed unrest," and unhesitatingly surrender to its urgent imperative for a new creation. Church becomes a domain of creative emergence, in which we hold ourselves accountable to the new thing God is doing in us. We organize and animate our life together around the question, "What is the blessed future that needs us in order to change?" The spirit of the cosmic Christ, who pervades the universe with an alluring love, will inspire this distinctive future.



PILATES MONDAYS, MARCH 6, 13, 20, & 27

6 - 7 PM. CELEBRATION! ATRIUM

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



BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 AT 7 PM

HOME OF MARGIE THUMMEL, 3707 CANTON CIR, MUNDELEIN

This month we will discuss *The Distant Hours* by Kate Morton. A long lost letter arrives in the post and Edie Burchill finds herself on a journey to Milderhurst Castle, a great but moldering old house, where the Blythe spinsters live and where her mother was billeted 50 years before as a child during WWII. The elder Blythe sisters are twins and have spent most of their lives looking after the third and youngest sister, Juniper, who hasn't been the same since her fiancé jilted her 1941. Inside the decaying castle, Edie begins to unravel her mother's past. But there are other secrets hidden in the stones of Milderhurst, and Edie is about to learn more than she expected.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 & 24 FROM 10 - 11:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

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



COMMON THREADS

MONDAY, MARCH 9 AT 1 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

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



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAYS, MARCH 3 & 17 FROM 9:30 - 11 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We are currently discussing and reflecting on Peter Enns' book *How the Bible Actually Works*. The format is to discuss the concepts of the given chapter and how this relates to our faith experiences and interactions with the Bible in our lives, our community, and the world. Many often choose to bring a snack to share, but it is simply an invitation. We're discussing Section 8: Seriously Updating the Ancient Faith on March 3, and 10: Treasures Old and New on March 17.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

TUESDAYS, MARCH 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 AM

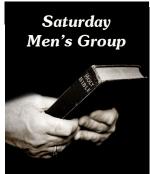
LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

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



CARE OF CREATION

Focused on caring for God's wonderful creation, our goal is to inspire our congregation by providing information on environmental issues. We share pertinent articles on the 3-sided kiosk in the gathering space and on Sunday mornings throughout the year. Through our email list, we share environmental news with each other. If you would like to subscribe to our email list, please email *CreationCare@holycrosschurch.org* with "subscribe" in the subject line. Please see page 8 for information about the upcoming Lake County Green Living Fair.



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

Saturday, March 7 & 21 from 7 to 8:30 am, Fellowship Area

Please join us for conversation and fellowship as we discuss the book *Stillness is the Key* by Ryan Holiday. Holiday draws on a wide range of history's greatest thinkers, from Confucius to Seneca, Marcus Aurelius to Christian monks, to show us what stillness is and how it might be achieved.



Sunday, March 1 April newsletter content due

8, 9:30, & 11 am Worship with Holy

Communion Sunday School 9:45 am

12:00 pm Women's Retreat returns Red Rose staff meeting, 404 2:00 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 18

Monday, March 2

6:00 pm Willow House meeting 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

Tuesday, March 3

6:30 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 am Quilting & More Group, 404 3:30 pm Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 6:30 pm Midweek Soup Supper 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 5

12:00 pm Interim ECM Leadership Team, 208

7:00 pm Handbell choir rehearsal, 402

Friday, March 6

Grounded in Grace, fellowship 6:30 pm area

Saturday, March 7

BSA Trainers EDGE, 402 & 6:30 am

kitchen

7:00 am Saturday Men's Discussion,

fellowship area

First Saturday Worship with 5:30 pm

Holy Communion

Sunday, March 8 **Daylight Saving Time Ends**

8:00 am Worship

9:30 & 11 am **Contemporary Worship**

Sunday School 9:45 am

12:00 pm Council Retreat, fellowship area 12:30 pm HS Mission Trip meeting, 402 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 19

Monday, March 9

1:00 pm Common Threads, fellowship area

Pilates, Celebration! atrium 6:00 pm 7:00 pm BSA Troop 194, 402

Tuesday, March 10

6:30 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 10:00 am Adult Bible Study, fellowship

3:30 pm Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 am Ouilting & More Group, 404 11:30 am PHW Day Session, fellowship 3:30 pm Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 6:30 pm Midweek Soup Supper

7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:00 pm PHW Evening Session, fellowship area

7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir, sanctuary

Thursday, March 12

11:00 am Interim ECM Leadership

Team, 208

7:00 pm BSA 194 Committee, 207 7:00 pm Handbell choir rehearsal, 402

Friday, March 13

Saturday, March 14

9:30 am Milestone Ministry: Ten Commandments (4th grade)

Sunday, March 15

8, 9:30, & 11 am Worship with Holy

Communion Sunday School

9:45 am 5G High School Youth Group 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 20

Monday, March 16

6:00 pm MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle

& Prayer

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium 7:00 pm BSA Troop 194, 402

Tuesday, March 17

Men's Breakfast Group, 6:30 am The Liberty Restaurant Women's Discussion Group, 9:30 am fellowship area Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm

7:00 pm Church council, fellowship area

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 am Quilting & More Group, 404 3:30 pm Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 6:30 pm Midweek Soup Supper 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 19

11:00 am Free Spirits, fellowship area 6:30 pm CPR Training, Celebration! atrium

7:00 pm Handbell choir rehearsal, 402

Friday, March 20

Saturday, March 21

7:00 am Saturday Men's Discussion, fellowship area

Sunday, March 22

PADS donations due by noon Easter flower orders due

8:00 am Worship

9:30 & 11 am Contemporary Worship 10:30 am PADS pack, all, kitchen

11:00 am Wilk Baptism

12:00 pm Wilk Baptism reception, fellowship area

2:30 pm Winchester House worship

Monday, March 23

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium 7:00 pm BSA Troop 194, 402

Tuesday, March 24

6:30 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

10:00 am Adult Bible Study, fellowship

7:00 pm Book Club, home of Margie

Thummel

Wednesday, March 25

Quilting & More Group, 404 9:00 am 6:30 pm Midweek Soup Supper 7:30 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, March 26

Newsletter assembly, fellowship 9:30 am

Interim ECM Leadership Team, 12:00 pm

7:00 pm Handbell choir rehearsal, 402

Friday, March 27

Saturday, March 28

Sunday, March 29

Easter treat bags donations due

8, 9:30 & 11 am Worship

Monday, March 30

COOL Plant & Flower orders due 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

7:00 pm BSA Troop 194, 402

Tuesday, March 31 **Mission Endowment Scholarship**

Applications Due

Men's Breakfast Group, 6:30 am

The Liberty Restaurant

Red Rose choirs, 402 & 404 3:30 pm



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 29700 N. SAINT MARYS ROAD

LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 –1575

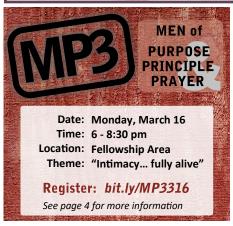
Postmaster: Request in home by MARCH 1

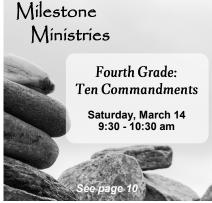
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CURRENT EVENTS

March 2020

- 4, 11, 18, 25 Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Midweek Lenten Worship
- 7 First Saturday Worship
- 14 Milestone Ministry: Ten Commandments (4th grade)
- 15 5G High School Youth Group
- 16 MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle, & Prayer

April 2020

- 1 Midweek Lenten Soup Supper & Midweek Lenten Worship
- 4 Milestone Ministry: First Communion Prep (2nd grade)
- 4 First Saturday Worship
- 5 Palm/Passion Sunday
- 9 Maundy Thursday Midday 11:30 am Evening Worship 7:30 pm Milestone Ministry: First Communion (2nd grade)
- 10 Good Friday Worship 7:30 pm
- 12 Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Worship 6 am (Independence Grove) Easter Breakfast 8:30 am Easter Worship 8, 9:30 & 11 am
- 18 Milestone Ministry: The Lord's Prayer (Kindergarten)