

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

October 2021

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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RELATIONAL MINISTRY

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BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST SATURDAY EVENING DRIVE-IN

OCTOBER 2 AT 5 PM
PARKING LOT

Radio Frequency: FM 87.9

SUNDAYS

OCT 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

IN-PERSON

SANCTUARY AT 8 AM

DRIVE-IN

PARKING LOT AT 10 AM

Radio Frequency: FM 87.9

VIRTUAL

*View online on demand at
HolyCrossChurch.org/
sermons*

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

Restoration and Rest...

There is a TED talk by Dr. Sandra Dalton-Smith who suggests that rest and sleep are not the same. In fact, she believes that when we equate the two we actually contribute to the rest deficit that impacts the quality of life. Sleep is only one of seven kinds of rest that we require. She identifies seven different kinds of rest that we need: mental, spiritual, emotional, social, sensory, creative and physical. According to her, when we aren't attentive to these various kinds of rest we lose out on the true benefit of rest which is restoration. Sleep alone does not address the culture of chronic exhaustion, overwhelming fatigue or lack of passion for anything that creeps into our lives. We need to develop rest strategies to quiet/calm our minds, slow down, unplug, reawaken our creativity, refuel our imagination and restore our focus on something greater than just ourselves.

I think Jesus understood this need for restoration and rest. In my mind I tend to envision a brisk and efficient Jesus—full of purpose but short on time—striding from village to synagogue to hilltop to seaside, a whirlwind of miracles, parables, and life-changing conversations swirling around him before his time on earth runs out. But then there are moments in the gospels when we encounter a Jesus who recognizes, honors, and tends to his own tiredness.

There are moments in the Gospels when it is clear that Jesus recognizes that the people around him need restoration and rest. They're tired, overstimulated, underfed, and in significant need of solitude. "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile," he says to his disciples as the crowds throng around them at the edge of the Sea of Galilee. "Come away with me," is how another translation puts it, and I hear both tenderness and longing in those words. Jesus wants to provide a time of rest and restoration for his friends and for himself. Of course, this lesson isn't new; it runs through Scripture from its earliest pages. In Genesis, God rested on the seventh day, and called the Sabbath holy. Honoring this is no small feat in our 21st century lives, where every hour of every day is measured in profits gained or advantages lost. We forget to remember that God rested and that Jesus rested. The Sabbath is the only thing in the creation account that God called holy. We would do well to pay attention.

We have the tendency to focus on the big moments in Jesus' ministry and life. However, what insights do we glean from the Gospel accounts when we pay attention to the transition verses which often precede or follow the ministry events of Jesus' life. Passages like Luke 5:16 "But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Or Mark 11:12 "The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry." Or Matthew 8:24 "Jesus was sleeping." Or Mark 7:24 "He didn't want anyone to know which house he was staying in."

In these transition verses, we see essential glimpses of Jesus' *human* life. His need to withdraw, his desire for solitary prayer, his physical hunger, his sleepiness, his inclination to hide. These glimpses take nothing away from Jesus' divinity; they enhance it, making it richer and all the more mysterious. They remind us that the doctrine of the Incarnation truly is Christianity's best gift to the world. God—the God of the whole universe—hungers, sleeps, eats, rests, withdraws, and grieves. In all of these mundane but crucial ways, our God clearly understands us. We encounter Jesus as a teacher who notices his disciples' exhaustion, and responds with tenderness. We find a Savior who probes below the surfaces of our frantic, "productive" lives, and pinpoints the hungers our work-obsessed culture won't allow us to name: the hunger for space, reflection, solitude, and rest.

Peace,

Pastor Bob



Fall

Worship Schedule

First Saturday

Drive-In Worship on October 2 at 5 pm
FM 87.9

Sundays

In-person Sanctuary Worship at 8 am

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
Janet Carr, Congregational Activities
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Beth Fashimpaur, Handbell Choir Director
Deaconess Katie Freund, Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Operational Ministries
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications
Manny Rivera, Property
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Technical Arts
Tom Zombolo, Property

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

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Darin Chartier, Nicole Drake, Mick Garrison, Gail Kelly,
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John Villani, Martha Watt
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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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

A day of unity for the global Christian church

Sunday, October 3

In-person Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion at 8 am

Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am*

Milestone Ministries

**We celebrate this day with First Communion recipients (Grades 2 and 3 and above)*

REFORMATION SUNDAY

Celebrating Reformation. Wear the color **red**.

Sunday, October 31

In-person Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion at 8 am

Drive-In Worship with Holy Communion at 10 am*

Milestone Ministries

**Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation (Grade 9)*



FELLOWSHIP

While our traditional coffee hours on Sunday mornings remain suspended, please join us for the following fellowship opportunities to be held outdoors. In case of inclement weather, we will move to the fellowship area. All welcome!



Sunday, October 10 at 8:45 & 10:45 am

Fall is a wonderful time of the year. God's creation comes alive with colored leaves and the bounty of the harvest. Apples are a symbol of this time of the year. There are many different traditions associated with the fall. Visiting the pumpkin patch, walking a corn maze or going on a hayride. Holy Cross will provide the apples from the orchard, fresh apple cider, apple pie, apple cider donuts and a beautiful fall Sunday morning for everyone to enjoy. Come and join in the fellowship after both the 8 am worship and the 10 am drive-in worship experiences.



Sunday, October 24 at 10:45 am

Bratwurst cooked to perfection on a grill. Hot German potato salad and sauerkraut baked with apples/brown sugar and pumpkin squares or brownies for dessert to finish off the menu for this tailgate fellowship. (Hotdogs will be available for those who do not enjoy brats and chips for those who do not enjoy sauerkraut.) The food is important but the real value of this event is the time we spend with each other. Talking and caring for one another is a much needed commodity these days. Please join us immediately after the 10 am drive-in worship in the parking lot.



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

Sunday School in the Sun for Everyone



by Deaconess Katie Freund

Hopefully you have noticed that we have been promoting Sunday School in the Sun for everyone and all ages. While our Sunday School might look a little different this year, it still has the exact same goal—to guide God's children towards a rich relationship with the God who loves them.

Have you ever come across the phrase “intergenerational”? It's not just a great word to play on the scrabble board, it gets to the heart of what community looks like in the Christian life. Our lives are so very compartmentalized; small children go to daycare, youth are separated by age into schools, adults are at work, and our elders are either navigating retirement with their peers or going through major life transitions alone. How often do we get to all be together in the same space and focused on being together? Our church community's greatest resource isn't our building or budget, it's not even our staff or our programming. Our greatest resource is you.

We can tell our children that God loves them until we are blue in the face, but it is so much more powerful for them to get to spend time with members of the congregation who are living examples of God's love. That is why we truly hope that our members of all ages will show up (on Sundays from 9 - 9:45 am) to participate in activities and music and whatever else we can dream up. No need to sign up, just come and bring the adventurous love of God with you.

Families with all ages, couples, or individuals welcome!

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Gianna Melodie Peciulis

daughter of David Peciulis & Olena Shpachenko
September 26, 2021

WEDDING

Rebecca Fischer & Pax Alvarez

September 3, 2021

FUNERAL

Deborah Bruhn

August 30, 2021

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Oscar Blomgren

September 17, 2021

Deloris Danner & Eric Danner

September 18, 2021



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

When, Where, How, and What We Worship

by Steve Oelschlager

Inside and beyond the church, our response to Covid has fostered creativity leading to beneficial new options. For example, at Holy Cross, we can now view a traditional worship experience on video whenever we want and wherever an internet connection is available. We also have developed a safe and meaningful way to worship in our parking lot.

While all this flexibility is helpful, the most crucial questions are not when, where, or how when it comes to worship. Instead, the larger, more critical question is who, or what, we will worship. Jesus knew this and invited us to put energy into “the kingdom of God” as life’s everyday focus and priority. Jesus promised this as the pathway to abundant life and the life that truly is life.

I like the way David Foster Wallace articulated our challenge around worship in a commencement address. He said:

“In the day-to-day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is *what* to worship. And an outstanding reason for choosing some sort of god or spiritual-type thing to worship—be it J.C. or Allah, be it Yahweh or the Wiccan mother-goddess or the Four Noble Truths or some infrangible set of ethical principles—is that pretty much anything else you worship will eat you alive. If you worship money and things—if they are where you tap real meaning in life—then you will never have enough. Never feel you have enough. It’s the truth. Worship your own body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly, and when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally plant you... Worship power—you will feel weak and afraid, and you will need ever more power over others to keep the fear at bay. Worship your intellect, being seen as smart—you will end up feeling stupid, a fraud, always on the verge of being found out.”

Passing on our faith is about helping new generations to understand that what we worship matters and that Jesus points us to the way, the truth, and the life. Starting in October, Holy Cross will be experimenting with a different kind of worship experience for our youth (8th grade and up) and parents that we hope will be a new way of engaging everyone. Details are still emerging and will be communicated directly via email to our youth and their parents. Stay tuned.

Antiracism Roundtable & Workgroup

by Carol Dikelsky

In August, our group welcomed a guest speaker who is working toward a master’s degree in social work. She described that part of her program requires each person to examine carefully their rationale for desiring a career in this area. To do so requires a close self-examination of your personal “why” and your background of “how” you arrived at and want to continue on a journey of showing compassion for others as a career path.

The concept of that self-examination resonated with me and others in the group that day. With our guest speaker’s guidance, we examined some of what makes up our own individual identities. There are so many aspects to identity—for example, how old we are, our gender, where we live or have lived in the past, our race and ancestry, what type of education we received, and more. And identity is also connected to what types of discrimination we have experienced over the course of our lives—for example, sexism, ageism, racism, ableism, classism, discrimination, and more.

This powerful exercise caused me to step back from my day-to-day life and reflect on “how” I got to where I am today, and to see the connections or disconnections with what I can acknowledge that others have experienced in their lives. To do so, I tried to open my mind to be brave and humble and to recognize that the “why” in my life—even with my own specific privileges and challenges—is not the same as even someone else in my own family. We are all individuals, after all.

To call out just a few, some of us may have had debilitating mental illness touch our lives or someone close to us, others may have had a devastating medical diagnosis or condition change the course of our or our family’s lives. Some have experienced racism and others are judged by their occupation or where they live.

When we have hard conversations with others, when we internalize an offhanded but soul-crushing comment, or when we have personal moments of frustration, the differences we’ve experienced in our past often can continue to separate us. We might say or think, “You/they just don’t know what it’s like for me.” While that may be true, when we reflect on our own individuality, we can also remember the unity of God’s message—God is love and God’s love is for all of us—and that means ALL of us. With this message sealed in our hearts, we can try to move forward in our own lives by demonstrating compassion for each other and sharing the love and grace God freely gives to each one of us.

Participating in thought-provoking exercises like the one we shared in August is one of the reasons why I am so passionate about sharing with others what I’ve learned by opening up to antiracism ideas and concepts.

Please consider joining us at our monthly sessions. You are welcome to attend anytime! Please reach out to me at carol@dikelsky.org with any questions.

Dates: Sundays, October 17, November 21, December 19

Time: 11 am - 12:15 pm



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93144150662



The

DIFFICULT WORDS of JESUS

During this new six session learning opportunity that started in September, Holy Cross is examining 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 are 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 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 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: CWPFB8



*** Please note the date change for the second October session due to a scheduling conflict.** Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

MP3

**MEN of
PURPOSE
PRINCIPLE
&
PRAYER**

Date: Tuesday, October 26

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Patio/Fellowship area

RSVP: bit.ly/MP3OCT

Topic: The Relationship 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 October is **The Maturity Question:** What does love require of me?

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

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?"

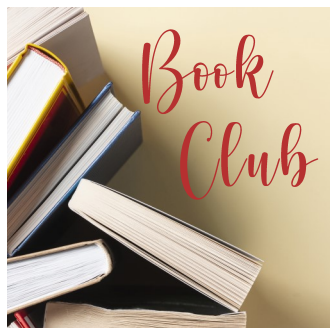
Men (21+) join us in-person for fellowship, conversation, and dinner. Please RSVP to help us plan for dinner.

Fall Generosity

We want to thank all of you for being a part of the Holy Cross community. Everything that happens at Holy Cross is made possible by people like you who support our ministries through their contributions of leadership, participation, and finances. All the ways our ministries make a difference—from children to seniors, within and beyond—ultimately are a reflection of your generosity and how you see meaning and purpose transcend your self-concern. It is a remarkable thing in our world today. Thank you!

As we enter the fall months, we ask that you would continue to remember how important your support is. Our online electronic giving system is convenient to automate your giving at the level and frequency of your choosing. Create a profile by visiting donate.holycrosschurch.org or manage your giving via smartphone by using the Holy Cross app (downloadable through the Apple or Google app store.)

If you haven't reflected on your giving recently, we encourage you to take a fresh look and thoughtfully consider the spiritual opportunity to grow in your giving. We look forward to seeing you in the months ahead as we support and care for each other, strive to follow Jesus, and make the world a better place.



BOOK CLUB
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28
7 PM VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

This month we will discuss the mystery *All the Devils Are Here* by Louise Penny. On their first night in Paris, the Gamaches gather as a family for a bistro dinner with Armand's godfather, the billionaire Stephen Horowitz. Walking home together after the meal, they watch in horror as Stephen is knocked down and critically injured in what Gamache knows is no accident. Our discussion host for the evening will be Melanie Houser. If you have any questions, please email Melanie at housermd@comcast.net



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP
SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 16 & 30
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 October, we will continue to 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



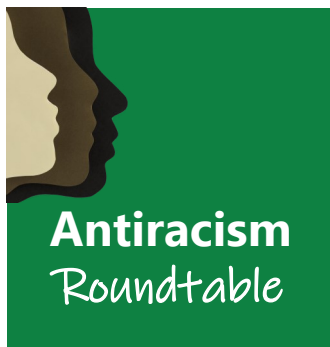
GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8
6:30 PM IN-PERSON, FELLOWSHIP AREA

Grounded in Grace will meet in the fellowship area on Friday, October 8 at 6:30 pm for fun and fellowship. In addition to snacks and conversation, we will explore the meditative practice of Zentangle. All women welcome. Questions? Contact Terry Berger at terryberger.08@gmail.com or (224) 775-1479.



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 12 & 26
9:30 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

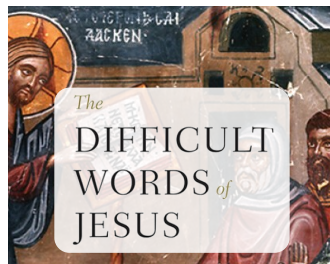
We are planning to meet in-person either on the patio (weather permitting) or in the fellowship area. We hope you will be able to join us. During October, we will continue to examine the most difficult teachings of Jesus with the help of material from Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, a professor at the Vanderbilt 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, OCTOBER 17
11 AM - 12:15 PM VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93144150662

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. 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. We welcome guest speakers, discuss films and resources that we have read individually and as a group. You are welcome to attend anytime. See page 4 for additional meeting dates.



THE DIFFICULT WORDS OF JESUS
TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 12 & 19*, NOVEMBER 9 & 23
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.

* Please note date change for the second session in October. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org



PILATES
MONDAYS, OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 & 25
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

Fall Festivities

October marks a busy time for our preschoolers! They have had a month of school to adjust to new routines and faces. By now, students are in full learning mode. We are working on letter and name recognition, developing and challenging our fine motor skills, and continuing to work on social-emotional growth. Each classroom is touching on a different theme with different developmental milestones. Teachers are observing students to determine their abilities. We will be having our fall parent/teacher conferences in November. CrossWays Preschool also began an elective class this school year! The music class was offered at the beginning of the school year and began mid-September. It is a new addition and we are hoping it continues to be a hit! Ms. Caryn brings music and fun to our preschoolers on Friday mornings.



Enrollment Continues

We are continuing to enroll new students to each of our CrossWays Preschool classrooms. Both our traditional classes and enrichment classes have availability for students. We are also offering our Lunch Bunch extended day option to students on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Important Dates

CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

Month of October: COOL Food Pantry donations
October 1: Virtual book reading with Brittany Plumeri
October 8: Drive-in Movie Night at 7 pm
October 27 & 28: Fall photos
October 29: Halloween party (Trick or Trunk!)

OCT
1 - 31

Food Drive



Collection bins are located at the entrance doors to both CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. Please check expiration dates. Thank you for your generous support!

- Rice (1lb package)
- Pasta (1lb package)
- Cereal (dry or oatmeal)
- Canned soup
- Canned vegetables (16 oz corn or green beans)
- Tomato/spaghetti sauce
- Canned fruit (16 oz)
- Powdered milk
- Peanut butter
- Baked Beans (16 oz)
- Pinto beans (1lb bag)
- Canned meats (ravioli, stew or Spam)
- Canned tuna
- Side dishes (macaroni & cheese, stuffing or instant potatoes)
- Extras (cookies, crackers, popcorn, muffins, ketchup etc.)



Autumn Brings Excitement to Celebration!

Celebration! Childcare students are excited about the fall season and all it brings! October is going to be a busy month full of electives, community, and special events. We are happy to see our classrooms full of students and returning to pre-Covid enrollment numbers. Curriculum Night was a success. Our families enjoyed coming back for the evening event to see what our program does during the day. Each classroom is working on different levels of skills and developmental milestones. From fine motor skills to practicing sharing and turn taking, our teachers cover each domain of learning.

Our elective classes begin this month! We are excited to see our students participating in gym, art, and/or music class. The music class began a few weeks earlier and has been a great new addition! We are excited to see how well our two other electives go through the month of October.

TRICK OR TRUNK!

We are excited to announce we will be adapting our Halloween party this year to a new layout. In past years, the students trick or treated throughout the building. To bring in some fresh fun, our students will be trick or trunking! We will be asking our parents and staff to volunteer and decorate their vehicles for the event. Students will trick or treat to each decorated car in our Holy Cross parking lot with their class and teachers. Students will continue the celebration in their classroom with a festive party.



Stan's Donuts Fundraiser Update

Our families, staff, and the congregation enjoyed pre-ordering donuts for our dine and donate event in September! We had quite the turnout! Thank you to everyone who participated in our fundraiser. We are looking forward to seeing how much we were able to raise for our programs!



DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT



Free!
Reservations required
bit.ly/movienightOCT

Date: Friday, October 8
Time: 7 pm (lot opens 6:30 pm)
Movie Title: How to Train Your Dragon 2
Radio Frequency: FM 87.9
Location: Holy Cross Parking Lot

Free snack packs for kids!




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

Pray All-Way

by Amy Becker-Perez



Earlier this year my 4-year-old said he wanted to ask God something—so we prayed together. I started by saying, “Hi God, thank you for today. We have a question.” I then prompted my son to pray his question, asked if he had anything else to say, and then closed the prayer. A very short silence passed before my son expressed his great frustration that God wasn’t answering him.

After the frustration my son felt, I think I need to figure out some different ways to explain what prayer is other than “a conversation with God”—although it is that. And, I’ve thought I should try to find some other ways to practice and experiment with prayer with my kids.

Some possible methods to practice prayer I’ve found are:

- Sing a prayer. If you have access to an ELW, look up songs done by the Taizé community such as ELW #751 “Oh Lord Hear My Prayer.” Or, perhaps you might be able to draw from some Bible Camp favorites like “I Love You Lord.” (I found some version of both of these on YouTube.)
- The 5-finger prayer. Each finger leads us to pray for a different category of people. The thumb—those closest to us. The pointer finger—those who teach us. The middle finger—those who lead or govern us. The ring finger—those who need help. The pinky—ourselves.
- Use our bodies to pray. There are a number of ideas in this article about how to use our bodies to pray: anglicanprayer.org/index.php/2017/04/14/involving-the-body-in-prayer/ Perhaps, similar to the 5-finger prayer, you can pray for different things with different postures. Perhaps you put actions to the Lord’s Prayer.
- Light a candle. For a while after getting the Holy Week at Home kits last Spring, one of my kids kept lighting the battery-operated candle when we read from his children’s Bible. Lighting that candle signaled it was time to read the Bible. The same can be true for prayer—and indeed is a common practice.
- Pray using the Psalms. Use segments of favorite psalms to pray together. Each night, my grandparents ended dinner with a devotion and prayer that ended with “Oh give thanks unto the Lord for he is good and his mercy endures forever.” (Psalm 106) Many psalms contain praises, laments, declarations of trust and hopes. Some good ones to begin with might be Psalms 46, 92 and 121.
- Make a prayer jar. Help your kids write the names or draw pictures of people or situations for which they might want to pray on slips of paper. As you put them in, pray for them. Keep the jar someplace accessible and encourage your entire household to take a paper out to pray for that person or situation from time to time.

I am positive there are other creative ways to help explore prayer with kids. And, I’m also positive that as I explore prayer with them, my prayer life will deepen too.

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. Learn more about Milestone Ministries at HolyCrossChurch.org/milestoneministries

First Communion (Second Grade)

Workshop: Saturday, October 2

9 - 11:30 am, Fellowship area

First Communion Celebration: Sunday, October 3

10 am drive-in 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 (Third Grade)

Saturday, October 23

9 - 11:30 am, 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

Baptism

By appointment only

For most of us the formal beginning of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Through the waters of baptism, we are publically claimed as a Child of God and become a part of God’s family. The congregation, parent(s) and sponsors of the individual promise to support this person on their faith journey as they grow in age and wisdom through God’s love. Please contact the church office to schedule a baptism at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.



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.

Affirmation of Baptism

Confirmation Dress Rehearsal & Pictures

Saturday, October 30 at 8:30 am in the Sanctuary

Individual pictures will be taken as well as a rehearsal of the confirmation service. Please arrive promptly. Bring \$10 for your individual pictures. Dress clothes are expected—ladies in dresses or pants, gentlemen in shirt and tie.

**We will celebrate our 9th grade confirmands on
REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 31 AT 10 AM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP**

The following young people will have completed their Confirmation coursework, had their faith interviews, and prayerfully decided to affirm the faith of their baptisms.

Alexander Stephen Brown
Kitra Sue Chulindra
Joshua Ryan Drake
Nathan Thomas Ford
Anna Elise George
Tyler James Knudten
Molly Lynn Lyon
Elise Lee Nowicki

Henry Michael Sanborn
Natalie Claire Schlitt
Addison Moirae Spencer
Sydney Harper Tahvonen
Julia Ann Taylor
Lauren Camille Wanna
Siena Zombolo

Crossroads High School Youth Group

9 - 12 Grade Youth

Our Vision:

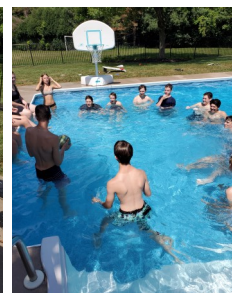
Crossroads is a flourishing and vibrant High School Youth Group where the students are well connected to each other, the rest of the church community, and to God, and where each person feels at home, is shaping their personal truths, has a growing sense of fulfillment, and is living out their values.

Connecting & Thriving!

In August Crossroads had an awesome pool party! We played lots of water games, (parents included!) and finished it out with an overview of what to expect with the ELCA National Youth Gathering next summer. Everything is in motion for an unforgettable trip next summer.

Our Values:

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



The ELCA National Youth Gathering is an enormous convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for high-school youth, with over 30,000 youth congregating! It's a 5-day event held every three years, each time in a different city. The summer of 2022, it will be in Minneapolis, July 24 - 28! The theme this year is "Boundless", based on Ephesians 3:19 *"I want you to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is."*

For more information or to register, visit HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads
Questions? Contact Sonny Randall at mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com

A Message from Sarah Grayer

Serving as the Director of the High School Youth Ministry has truly been one of the best experiences I've had the pleasure to have, and I'm saddened to be stepping down from it. We have seasons of life where we're able to, or perhaps should, put more energy and effort into an endeavor, and it can be hard to let go when a season comes to a close sooner than you think it will. With the arrival of our baby girl in May, and having fully returned to my workplace, I'm drawn to spend as much time as I can nurturing her and simply taking pleasure in who she is each day. Regardless of my wish to continue to show up as my best self for the youth group, I've prayerfully found that the best path forward is to let others focus their own unique and incredible energies on the group now instead, beginning in the start of October.

Working with other leaders, parents, and high school youth has opened my eyes to what it can really mean to be in community, or communion, with others, and it has been such a blessing to be a part of this ministry. I've had my own cup filled over and over again by being around the special light that is in all of our youth, and my own faith has also been made all the brighter for it.

The Crossroads High School Youth Group is in the best of hands with other Holy Cross leaders and parents excited about supporting teenagers' faith in fun ways, and deepening the feeling of being at home in the church family, and our family is thankful for our ongoing membership at Holy Cross. Thank you for allowing me the most wonderful of opportunities.



Choir

by Dale Tippett, Jr.

On behalf of the choir, I'm here to let you know that we'd love to have you join us in singing! The wonderful thing about this iteration of the choir is that we have a lot of new faces and we're really enjoying the opportunity to have some fellowship and get to know each other better. 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're interested in participating, please email me at dale@holycrosschurch.org and we'll keep you updated and invite you to upcoming rehearsals.

Every week I send out an email with rehearsal details and an attached pdf of this week's music, so you always have a chance to look at it ahead of time. As long as the weather permits, we are rehearsing on the patio so there's always space for distancing. On Sundays we will be singing outside at the 10 am drive-in worship services. If you want to sing but can't make it on Tuesdays, please reach out, and we can work something out for you too. See you Sunday!

Handbell Choir

by Beth Fashimpaur

We welcome all to Handbell Choir. If you can read music, you can play! Rehearsals are on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month at 7 pm in the multipurpose room (402 in the basement). If you are interested in joining, contact Beth (Malecha) Fashimpaur at elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com

A New Home for a Steinway Piano

We enjoy a variety of musical styles at Holy Cross. Each one enriches our worship and fellowship experiences. We are fortunate to have the addition of a new sanctuary piano that has been gifted to Holy Cross.

It is a 1926 Steinway Model A3 long with a classic black satin finish. The instrument was purchased from Mr. John Koelle who is a Steinway piano restorer. Mr. Koelle has been restoring Steinway pianos for over 40 years and was responsible for Randy Casey's piano restoration and has maintained that piano for many years. We started a conversation with him about acquiring a new instrument for the church. He quickly informed us of a very rare opportunity. He is very familiar with this particular 1926 Steinway since he completely restored it from the floor up over 12 years ago. It was placed in a home in the north shore suburbs. It recently was reacquired by John because the previous owners were downsizing. We made arrangements for several pianists to play the instrument and learned a great deal in the process. John mentioned that in the 40 years he has been in the business he has only been involved with 8 of this particular model. It has the same action of a Steinway Model B but with a slightly smaller footprint. The 1920's was the premier decade for Steinway pianos due to the construction methods and materials utilized. We are delighted to have such a remarkable instrument grace our music ministries at Holy Cross for generations to come. Thank you to those who made this possible.



Nature Here or There

by Leo Karris

When you think about nature, what first pops into your mind? A national park? A forest preserve? Somewhere else, but not "here"?

In the video series, *Nature: Our First Way of Knowing God*, Beth Norcross encourages us to think locally and to engage our own backyards to experience the wonders of our human and non-human world. We don't have to leave "here" to go and find nature somewhere else. We can mix in and be in relationship with nature in our own yards. It's about entering nature to not only find (or be reminded of) the wonders nature offers but to also reconnect with the world that sustains us. To remember and give thanks for the natural world and all the non-human creatures that provide all that we need to survive and flourish.

Here are some tips to help you engage with nature in your own backyard. Begin by having a close look at and listening to what is happening in your yard. Listen for bird songs. Can you identify the bird? Make sure you thank the bird for sharing its song with you. What plants are growing? What insects do you see? Do you notice birds, bees and butterflies visiting your yard on a regular basis? Are you surprised by any of what you discover? Do you know the names of the plants and insects living in that space? What creatures (human and non-human) does your yard feed? Do you see or feel the presence of God and the Spirit?

*"But ask the animals, and they will teach you;
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;
and the fish of the sea will declare to you.*

*Who among all these does not know
that the hand of the Lord has done this?
In his hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being."*

- Job 12:7-10 NRSV

Please send me an email with any reflections or questions at leockarris@gmail.com

There are several apps available to help identify plants and trees just by simply taking a photo. I use PictureThis - Plant Identifier (last I checked there was still a free version of it).



Virtual Celebration of First Generation Success

Saturday, October 16

7 - 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 auction. Participation will be online only this year at W2C2021.givesmart.com

For more information about this organization, visit waukegantocollege.org

Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, LDR stays to provide ongoing assistance to those in need.

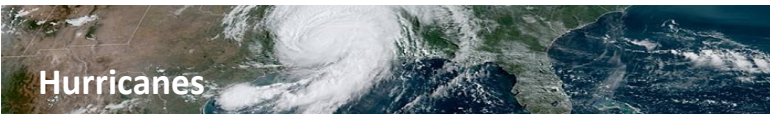
LDR collaborates with other disaster response organizations and religious entities in the United States and around the world. This enables the greatest stewardship of resources and maximum impact of response. They are a welcome partner because they respect the perspectives and strengths of others.



Wildfires

The Situation: The 2021 wildfire season is devastating the western United States. A prolonged drought and extreme heat waves are causing wildfires to spread rapidly, which makes them difficult to contain. California is currently the hardest-hit state. Tens of thousands of people are under evacuation orders, and hundreds of buildings have been destroyed.

The Response: LDR is working with synods and social ministry organizations in California and other western states to develop a coordinated response to the wildfires. Immediate needs may include food and other necessities, as well as emotional and spiritual care for those who have been traumatized.



Hurricanes

The Situation: Hurricane Ida made landfall near New Orleans on August 29—exactly 16 years after Hurricane Katrina. As a strong Category 4 storm, Hurricane Ida's 150 mph winds, torrential rain and strong storm surge caused widespread flooding and wind damage in southeastern Louisiana and coastal Mississippi. Strong winds knocked out power lines and electrical substations, leaving more than 1 million people without power, including the entirety of New Orleans.

The impact of Ida is yet to be fully assessed, but with a hurricane of this scale, rebuilding will be costly and take years. Immediate needs will include basic necessities and temporary housing.

The Response: Long after the headlines change, LDR will continue to accompany communities on the journey of rebuilding their homes and lives.

What you can do: Please pray for the affected communities. May God's healing presence give them peace and hope in their time of need. Pray that God will deliver comfort to those who mourn and strength to those working diligently to care for affected communities.

Give: Make a general donation to Lutheran Disaster Response so they can respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. elca.org/disaster

Connect: To learn more about the ELCA's disaster response visit elca.org/disaster

Restocking the Food Pantry Shelves



Our Early Childhood Ministry programs will support COOL Ministries during the month of October by collecting shelf stable food items. If you would like to contribute to their efforts, a bin will be available just inside the main church entrance to accept donations on Sunday mornings. Please see page 7 for a suggested list of needed items. Alternatively, you may donate online via our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org



PADS is continuing to help house individuals at local hotels with safe housing options during the pandemic. Because of this, we are continuing to support their new model by using monetary donations for PADS to purchase needed items. If you would like to help, please donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org

Lutheran Campus Ministry Dinner

**Wednesday, November 3
at 6 pm**



**LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT NORTHWESTERN**

Several Holy Cross members are planning to host a dinner on Wednesday, November 3 in Evanston for the college students who attend the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern (if permitted by COVID guidelines). Would you like to join us? We will meet at Holy Cross at 4 pm, carpool (or drive separately) to the Lutheran Center at 2204 Orrington Ave, Evanston, and serve dinner at 6 pm for LCMNU's Wednesday night supper worship.

These dinners are a fun time of fellowship for both the students and Holy Cross members! If you are interested in providing part of the dinner or helping to serve, please contact Patty Moyer at patty@concertedsystems.com or (847) 502-3196.

Boy Scout Troop #194

Pumpkin Sale

Sunday, October 17

**Holy Cross parking lot
after 8 & 10 am worship**



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575
Postmaster: Request in home by **OCTOBER 1**

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Fall
Worship Schedule

First Saturday Evening
Drive-In Worship on October 2 at 5 pm
FM 87.9

Sundays
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
Details on page 2.

Sunday School
in the Sun for Everyone

Sundays at 9 am!

Families with all ages, couples,
or individuals welcome!

More information on page 3.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
Sunday, October 3

Apple Fest

Sunday, October 10 at 8:45 & 10:45 am *See page 3*

Oktoberfest

Sunday, October 24 at 10:45 am *See page 3*

REFORMATION SUNDAY
Sunday, October 31