



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

September 2020

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
PAGES 1-5

VIRTUAL EVENTS
AND GATHERINGS
PAGES 6-7

YOUTH MINISTRY
PAGES 8-9

BEYOND THE
CONGREGATION
PAGE 10

EARLY CHILDHOOD
MINISTRY
PAGE 11

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

VIRTUAL

SUNDAYS
SEPTEMBER 6, 13, 20 & 27
HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/
SERMONS

DRIVE-IN

SUNDAYS
SEPTEMBER 13, 20 & 27
9:30 AM

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

Lying, thinking
Last night
How to find my soul a home
Where water is not thirsty
And bread loaf is not stone
I came up with one thing
And I don't believe I'm wrong
That nobody,
But nobody
Can make it out here alone.

Alone, all alone
Nobody, but nobody
Can make it out here alone.

- Excerpt from the poem "Alone" by Maya Angelou (1928 - 2014)

Uncomfortable Truth...

Living the Christian life in social isolation, disconnected from others, is a contradiction in terms. I believe that our Christian faith is personal but not private. Without a doubt, our Christian faith needs to be rooted in our life moments. However, our Christian faith is diminished when we exclude our neighbor in the conversation of faith. I appreciate Maya Angelou's sentiment that "nobody, but nobody can make it out here alone." As we continue to navigate through the season of Pentecost and these uncertain times, the scriptures of the Pentecost season remind us weekly what it means to compose a life of faith... together.

When you consider Jesus' life, public ministry, death and even his resurrection, it is always about the relationships and our sense that we are not alone. Jesus' appearance to Peter—like all of the post-resurrection appearances the Gospels record—speaks volumes about God's priorities. In the days following the resurrection, Jesus doesn't waste a moment on revenge or retribution. He doesn't storm Pilate's house, or avenge himself on Rome, or punish the soldiers whose hands drove nails into his. Instead, he spends his remaining time on earth feeding, restoring, and strengthening his friends. He calls Mary Magdalene by name as she cries. He offers his wounds to the skeptical Thomas. He grills bread and fish for his hungry disciples.

In other words, Jesus focuses on relationship. On reconciliation. On love. He spends the last days before his ascension delivering people of faith from fear, despair, self-hatred, and paralysis. He wastes no time on triumphalism or smugness. Even at the height of his power, he chooses humility. He chooses to linger on a lonely beach till dawn, waiting for his hungry followers to realize how much they need him. He chooses to feed and tend his sheep.

I hope we notice that Jesus never ignored or dismissed the brokenness, imperfection, dishonor, and scandal of life. It appears that the realities and the messiness of the human situation create the perfect backdrop for Jesus' beautiful works of restoration, healing, hope, and second chances. There is much to ponder in the alternative narrative of the Gospel and much to consider about the surprising ways of God. Who brings salvation into the world via a young woman whose story was not believed? Via a well-meaning man who had to let go of righteousness in order to follow God? Via a cultural system obsessed with male honor and female purity? Via the flimsiness of dreams? Via a helpless baby?

No wonder that the angel Gabriel's first words to Mary and Joseph were, "Do not be afraid." No wonder that the narrative of fear and scarcity is a theme that Jesus challenged with a narrative of grace and abundance. Jesus offers us a bruised normal that is honest and authentic and invites us to enter into God's messy story. We still need to hear the uncomfortable truth... *Do not be afraid*. Do not be afraid when God's work in your life looks alarmingly different than you thought it would. Do not be afraid when God upends your cherished assumptions about righteousness. Do not be afraid when God asks you to stand alongside the scandalous, the defiled, the suspected, and the shamed. Do not be afraid when God asks you to love something or someone more than your sense of security and comfort. Do not be afraid of the precarious, the fragile, the vulnerable, and the impossible.

Do not be afraid of the messiness. The messiness is the place where God reminds us that we are never alone.

Peace,

Pastor Bob



Drive-In Worship

Dates: Sundays, September 13, 20 & 27

Time: 9:30 am

Everyone is welcome to join us in the parking lot for worship with Holy Communion and live music in a safe and socially distant manner. You may choose to remain in your vehicle or bring a lawn chair to sit in your designated parking space. Adjust your radio to FM 87.9. Please check our website at holycrosschurch.org/sermons for each day's support material. As always with any outdoor event, the weather is a determining factor.

We will continue to offer a recorded Sunday morning worship video on our website, even on Drive-In Worship Sundays.



1151 N. SAINT MARY'S ROAD
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060
OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG
HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor
Rev. Sally Hanson, Associate Pastor
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator
Randall Casey, Director of Music
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians
Sarah Grayer, Director of High School Youth Ministry
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries
Beth Malecha, Handbell Choir Director
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Engagement and Generosity
Mike Price, Business Director
Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Attendant
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications
Manny Rivera, Property
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Director of Worship Technical Arts
Tom Zombolo, Property
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Sam Cooper, Director
Roxanne (Rocky) Kupfer, Assistant Director

CHURCH COUNCIL

Sonny Randall (*President*), Katie Ormson (*Vice President*),
Andy Eidson, Mick Garrison, Bill Miksch, Karl Nygard,
Amy Sekili, Jim Smalley, John Villani, Rich Yocius
Secretary, Terry Berger
Treasurer, Eric Ormson
Financial Secretary, Lori Fedyk

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Sunday School Coordinators:
Felicia Brandt, age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (*Core Stories*)
Patty Moyer & Teri Chadd, grades 1 - 5 (*Deep Blue*)
Altar Care: Julie Lueziw
Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

Update on The Cross Connection Newsletter

Holy Cross produces The Cross Connection monthly, the purpose of which is to effectively communicate ministry opportunities and to invite people of faith to become engaged. We also provide inspirational pieces that share the Gospel narrative of grace and abundance. Over fifty hours of staff time goes into the curation of content, layout design, publication, and mailing.

Unfortunately, we have become aware that there are significant changes that are affecting the delivery of our newsletter that we have no control over. The US Postal Service has received new directives that result in a situation where mail delivery is slower. We want you to be aware of this new development, and that we are making adjustments to attempt to compensate for the new delivery time. However, we are not assured that our efforts will result in a more timely delivery.

Since the material is time sensitive, we want to remind everyone that there is a digital copy available of each month's newsletter on our website. Please use this option until you receive your monthly newsletter in the mail. From the home page menu, select "Resources" then "Newsletters" or use this direct link: holycrosschurch.org/newsletters

Weekend Visual Faith Practice

Our Weekend Visual Faith Practice will continue in September. As before, a new image along with scripture and a reflection question to enhance a spiritual life will be offered every weekend on our website at HolyCrossChurch.org/wvfp



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

SCRIPTURE: EZEKIEL 33: 1-6

WHERE DO WE FIND THE COURAGE TO SPEAK GOD'S WORDS
OF TRUTH?

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 Visual Devotional Video

Short Films for Discovery and Transformation. New video posted every Wednesday in September.

Holy Cross' vision statement is "providing strength for the faith journey" because we believe our faith is a work in progress throughout our lives. This Midweek Visual Devotional Video resource is offered with the hope that as people of faith, we continue to experience the abundance and freedom of God's love and grace.

The word "liturgy" is defined through its Greek word "leitourgia," which is a word that describes "the work of the people" that happens through worship, ritual, service, and prayer. Liturgy is often associated with traditional church Sunday worship with its seasonal and annual three-year calendar rhythm. It is part of the connective tissue that helps people all over the world join as the "one body that is the church."

This devotional resource is comprised of short videos that behave as visual poetry, prayer, and blessing. They are offered as interpretive and contemplative pieces with the hope that a real connection grows between our daily life and a sense of the sacred and holy. By availing yourself of this weekly offering we hope your imagination is activated, and you are inspired to dream and co-create with God.

Due to the "terms of agreement for usage" with the video resources, we are able to provide this only through a password protected platform. To view each of the Midweek Visual Devotional Videos, please use the following link on/after the dates listed below:

HolyCrossChurch.org/midweek-devotional
Password: kindness



Wednesday, September 2 - God is Here... Your Will Be Done

Reflection question: What does it mean to be awake to God's will in our life?

Wednesday, September 9 - We Bow Before the One

Reflection question: When do we experience the fullness of God's love in our life?

Wednesday, September 16 - Christ Be with Me

Reflection question: What are the moments each day that you experience the presence of Christ?

Wednesday, September 23 - Complete Joy

Reflection question: What does it mean for us to be of the same mind when it comes to humility, love, and service?

Wednesday, September 30 - Be Still

Reflection question: Why is it so difficult for us to be still and to experience God in the stillness?

Vocation or Vacation?

by Rev. Sally Hanson

Vocation or vacation, Lent vs. lent... these are often used theological words that become a part of our vocabulary, and if they are mixed up with everyday words, can create a moment of humor.

Vocation is in fact, not a vacation. It's work. Your vocation is that place where your gifts and talents intersect with your daily lived out faith. For many their vocation is their selected career path as an educator, working in finance, delivering the mail, or helping to wash cars. For others, their vocation is a calling to be a parent or to not have children, but to be a mentor or be a part of another relationship of significance or influence. We each have a job to do, a hobby, or a passion that brings us a spark of excitement or a sense of accomplishment when we complete a task. No matter your vocation, there is honor in it.

Martin Luther sums it up by saying, "Every occupation has its own honor before God. Ordinary work is a divine vocation or calling. In our daily work, no matter how important or mundane, we serve God by serving the neighbor and we also participate in God's on-going providence for the human race."

Everyone's vocation is honorable, divine and needed. When each of us serve our neighbor in our daily life, we are also serving God. So take a moment and think, how have I served my neighbor today? This week? This month?

How might you be able to live into your vocation at home, in the community, at Holy Cross and in the world? There are a number of opportunities to share your gifts this fall at Holy Cross and beyond. In fact, within our new Confirmation system, we are looking for mentors or grandparents of the congregation who would be willing to have one-on-one conversations with our young people about their vocation, life experience, and the role of faith. We are also looking for people who might be willing to share their hobby or passion along with their faith in a small group learning session with a handful of youth who are interested in the same topic. Whether you fish, knit, sing, golf, or garden, we would love to have you share your gifts with our community.

If working with youth or young people is not your thing, I encourage you to identify your "thing" and consider putting your faith into action by sharing about your vocation or calling to be a person of faith in today's world. We need to keep hearing each others' stories as this helps us continue to shape our own, especially as it pertains to your vocation and calling as children of God.

Blessings,

Pastor Sally





Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Noticing Reality, and Responding

by Steve Oelschlager

I was the last of four children in my family, the second boy, making me “even Steven.” The next oldest from me was my brother Tom, who was challenged by learning disabilities, and more significantly, a whole range of emotional issues that plagued him to the end. Tom was institutionalized at various points in his life and never could get on his feet as a productive and fulfilled member of society. He passed away unexpectedly in his sleep in his mid-40s.

Whatever I am ultimately able to do in my life, what comes of choices I make, the hard work I invest in, it isn’t lost on me that relative to my brother, I had advantages from day one that he never enjoyed. From the beginning, I was endowed with gifts he didn’t know, and those benefits gave me a head start in life that he didn’t have. I don’t feel guilty or ashamed of who I am or how this played out. Instead, I think of Jesus’ words my grandmother used to tell me as a child, “to whom much is given, much is expected.”

If we pause to think about the difference between agency and fate, what we make happen with what we have been given, and what happens to us that is out of our control, we can recognize that we too have been given much. If we are born in the United States, if we arrive healthy with innate talents and intelligence, and if we have loving and competent parenting, relative to others, we have already won the lottery of life right from the start. That this is our only reality makes it easy to forget or not notice. I can comfortably live my life not dwelling on my fortune relative to my brother, but the reality is always there.

Over the years, it has occurred to me that I have benefited in another way. To be a white male Christian in a culture that has favored these things has given me another advantage that many do not enjoy. My race and gender happened to me without my involvement as it has now happened to my son Andrew. I don’t feel guilty or ashamed for either of us, but I still hear those words from my grandmother, “to whom much is given, much is expected.” It makes me think about responsibility, level playing fields, and those left behind. It reminds me of my brother Tom, and all my other brothers and sisters in life.

As stewards and followers of Jesus, I invite us to think anew about our world’s realities, the gifts we have, and the opportunities to make the world a better place for all people. This month Holy Cross will be setting the table for several thoughtful, yet challenging, conversations about racism (see page 6 - 7). I hope you will be able to participate and think about how the advantages you have enjoyed in life uniquely position you to make a difference.

Manage Your Electronic Giving Online or Via Smartphone

To continue your financial support of the ministries of Holy Cross, we encourage you to move your giving to online giving through our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org or on the Give Plus app. The app is compatible with Apple or Android smartphones. For those of you who have created an online account already through our website, your same username and password will work with the Give+ app as well. Advantages of the app include:

- Quickly and easily donate using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- Make one time donations or set up recurring giving to multiple funds
- Choose to create an account or donate as a guest
- Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/fingerprint, PIN or password

Use the following links to download and install the Give+ app.

Apple: bit.ly/GIVEPLUSappstore

Android: bit.ly/GIVEPLUSgoogleplay

Then locate Holy Cross as your congregation (zip code 60048) and continue from there. If you have any questions or problems, contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

New Church Management Software

During the summer, Holy Cross has been migrating to new "church management software" called Church Community Builder. The system will help us maintain contact information, groups, events, volunteers, calendars, donations, and in general, help to better connect people with the church and each other. Much of this software works behind the scenes, but there will be aspects you will notice through the website and communications. Please watch in the months ahead for more information, or contact Steve Oelschlager if you have any questions.



Donate through AmazonSmile

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

Setting up automatic donations is easy. Visit smile.amazon.com before you shop and select Holy Cross Lutheran Church as your charitable organization. Bookmark smile.amazon.com to create a shortcut to quickly return to AmazonSmile from your computer or mobile browser every time you shop at Amazon and 0.5% of your purchase amount will be donated.

This is an easy and wonderful way that you can support Holy Cross’ ministry and work in our community during these trying times.

Amazon Charity Lists is an additional donation option offered by Amazon, however, Holy Cross does not currently participate in Charity Lists.

smile.amazon.com

A Life Well Lived

by Randy Casey



MEN of PURPOSE PRINCIPLE PRAYER

Date: Monday, October 19

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Topic: Hope ... Walking the Way



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92610537947

Hope is such a powerful concept - it's a key theme in the Christian faith experience. But what does hope look like in practice? What does it feel like and sound like? What does it do?

Hope is about the long haul. Hope is robust and muscular and ferocious and long-suffering. Hope never gets so cynical that it can't be surprised. Hope finds and names God in the world's most desolate places. Hope kneels on hard ground and yearns without shame. Hope ponders and meditates and ruminates. Hope gets in apathy's face and says, "No. Not good enough. Try again." Hope sits in the darkness—out-waiting torture, humiliation, crucifixion, and death—until finally a loving and grace filled God shows up and calls us by name.

We can live with this faith and hope—not because of our own worthiness, not because we claim a pre-ordained privilege or a connection to a religious tradition, not because we are good religious people, and, not because we are so strong and resilient. Rather, because of what God is able to do for us and through us, what God is able to do for you and through you. We discover the gift of hope in those moments when we realize we are known and still loved. Hope is powerful and life-giving.

We look forward to fellowship and conversation on Monday, October 19 beginning at 6:30 pm. Please save the date, and check our website for any updates at holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings

Mr. William C. Teague of Shreveport, Louisiana died this past July at the age of 97. He was my organ teacher at Centenary College of Louisiana where I earned my Bachelor of Music degree in Organ Performance. Bill Teague was also the organist/choirmaster at St. Mark's Episcopal Church of Shreveport for 39 years. If Miss Perry laid the foundation for my career, then Bill began the process of erecting its framework. Perhaps appropriately, this work was done at church as much as at school.

When Bill accepted me as one of his organ students at Centenary, Miss Perry told me that at the end of my freshman year he would ask me to be his assistant at his church. I discounted her contention totally, primarily because she had no knowledge of the other students and because she and Bill had never met. (They had heard of each other, however, because they had mutual acquaintances in Dallas where they both had attended SMU for a time.) When Bill did indeed ask me to be his assistant, Miss Perry never let me forget that she had predicted he would do so.

One significant result of my time at St. Mark's Church was that I learned how to manage a big organ. The instrument there is literally one of the finest organs in the world. Organ prodigy Nathan Laube has played it and can confirm my assertion. It has 105 ranks and four manuals and is simply a stunning instrument. There is nothing in Chicago that compares with it. The organ in Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where I got my master's degree, is comparable in size, but not really in quality.

In hindsight, I realize that I run a choir rehearsal like Bill did, i.e. fast and covering a lot of literature. One did not interrupt Bill during a rehearsal. I was actually in the St. Mark's choir for four years and learned much choral literature, for example, the Vaughan Williams *Hodie* that the choir has sung at Holy Cross. Of the many anthems I learned for the first time at St. Mark's was the Lutheran staple "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" by Paul Manz. And of course, I must not forget that I was introduced to the Benjamin Britten "Noye's Fludde" under Bill's direction. Long after I am dead and gone, there will be people who remember our doing "Noye's Fludde" at Holy Cross. Bill also had the St. Mark's Choir sing two major works per season, a practice I have set in place here, too.

Miss Perry shaped my approach to learning, encouraged my sight-reading ability early on, introduced me to the organ, and taught me the liturgical year and the concept of a real service and service playing. Apparently, she believed that "everything else," such as music history and theory, would come along in due course. Bill Teague was an early part of this "everything else." So, for example, as a collegiate organ student I played my first major organ works of Bach under Bill's direction, several of which I have played at Holy Cross on special occasions. I have also learned significant French organ works by composers such as Franck, Durufle, and Messiaen while working with Bill.

I would not want one to think that I appreciated at the time all that I learned from Bill Teague. I did not. He had a very colorful personality, and was sometimes more than I could handle. Nevertheless, we were in occasional contact through the years and recently talked on the phone once or twice annually. He was a big fan of my newsletter column and enjoyed keeping up with what I was doing at Holy Cross.

Many people look back on their times with Mr. William C. Teague as having been marvelous. My time with him was more productive than marvelous. He was not perfect, so on a scale of 1 to 100, I would have to give him a 97.

Virtual Opportunities for Relational and Small Group Ministries

The majority of our in-person gatherings for small group and relational ministries remain canceled or are being held online. We encourage you to continue to be in contact with the members of your different groups or to explore new groups. It is important to still have community in these times. If you are in need of contact information for someone in your group, please feel free to reach out to the church office staff at office@holycrosschurch.org or at (847) 367-4060.

Some groups are offering virtual meetings via Zoom, by phone or in Facebook groups. New participants are always welcome! Please see below or check the Virtual Events and Gatherings page on our website for updates, meeting dates and times and the links to connect to the meetings at holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings

Questions about Zoom? Contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

 Meets online

Announcing Even More Learning Opportunities

Holy Cross is at work to bring more learning your way through shared classes with other congregations. This means we may have members from other congregations joining us for our courses and groups just as we might participate in their events. With Zoom and virtual connections, all sorts of new possibilities exist. Watch our print and digital communications for more information.

REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS ABOUT *DEAR CHURCH: A LOVE LETTER FROM A BLACK PREACHER TO THE WHITEST DENOMINATION IN THE U.S.*
SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 13, 20, 27 & OCTOBER 4 AT 11 AM


 via Zoom. Register here: bit.ly/DearChurch091320

Join a guided reading group facilitated by Holy Cross member Carol Dikelsky for conversations about the themes explored in Lenny Duncan's book, *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* Duncan is a black, queer ELCA pastor who is a nationally recognized writer, speaker, preacher, thinker, and agitator who has centered most of his theological work in the task of dismantling white supremacy in the Christian community. During four Sunday morning Zoom sessions, we'll prayerfully unpack this thought-provoking book, review related media and resources, and explore calls to action.

September 13	Introduction to the book and background about the author
September 20	Part 1: Dismantling White Supremacy is the Way of the Cross
September 27	Part 2: Grace is an Ever-Widening Circle
October 4	Part 3: The Church Can Lead the Way

Participant books will be available to pick up at the church office. Before the first session, please read the book's introduction. To request a book, please complete this form: bit.ly/bookDEARCHURCH

MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19 FROM 6:30 - 8:30 PM
TOPIC: HOPE ... WALKING THE WAY

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92610537947

See page 5 for more information about this event.

WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 AT 9:30 AM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97238891441

Everyone needs an opportunity to connect... even without a book to discuss. Each session, Pastor Sally will pose a question or topic of the date for discussion or display a short video for reflection as a group. The September session will focus around reconnecting with one another and exploring hope. Hope is contagious. How are you cultivating hope this season?

We will be meeting the first Tuesday of each month.



**DIALOGUES ON: RACE**

TUESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29, OCTOBER 20 & 27, AND NOVEMBER 3 & 10 AT 7 PM

 **via Zoom. Please register: bit.ly/dialoguesRACE**

At Holy Cross, we recognize that discussions about racism are difficult topics that require safe and respectful moments to have thoughtful conversations as people of faith. This series will utilize a discussion book published by Sparkhouse, and each week we will discuss a weekly topic, watch a video featuring a leading voice, and share our thoughts and ideas with each other. Each session will end with a check in and prayer. Our goals and hopes are that you build lasting relationships as you share your thoughts with one another, and engage in respectful conversation about local and worldwide issues. We hope that you feel like this is a place where you can have difficult conversations, hearing others' thoughts, and ultimately turning conflict into community.

Participant books will be available for pick up at the church office. To request a book, please fill out this form: bit.ly/bookRACE

**BOOK CLUB**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 AT 7 PM

 **holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/91424390241**

This month, the book club is discussing *Waterland* by Graham Swift. Set in the bleak Fen Country of East Anglia, and spanning some 240 years in the lives of its haunted narrator and his ancestors, *Waterland* is a book that takes in eels and incest, ale-making and madness, the heartless sweep of history and a family romance as tormented as any in Greek tragedy. If you have any questions, email Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com

**Saturday Men's Group****SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP**

SATURDAYS AT 7 AM

 **zoom.us/j/301891517**

This group is for men of faith to come together throughout the year to share their faith and thoughts about topics that are challenging. All welcome. We are using the material Dialogues On: Race to engage in respectful and challenging conversations about racism. Participant books will be available for pick up at the church office. Request a book here: bit.ly/bookRACE Questions? Contact steve@holycrosschurch.org

**COLLEGE STUDENTS STUDY BREAK**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 (TIME TBD)

 **holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97264327783**

College students, please gather via Zoom on the second Monday of every month to catch up with friends (and the pastors!) We hope this will be a time for students to breathe, support each other as they navigate online classes and campus closures, and think about what faith looks like right now. We hope you can join us to reconnect and take a study break! Contact Hannah Oelschlager at (847) 502-5006 or Sam Randall (408) 614-4981 with any questions.

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 AT 6:30 PM

 **zoom.us/j/284195825**

In Marcus Borg's *Beyond Belief*, a DVD series surrounding the thoughts and work of Lutheran pastor, theologian, speaker, and writer Marcus Borg, we are invited to engage in thinking alongside Borg who spent his adult life contemplating who Jesus is, and what faith is all about. This all resulted in insightful perspectives and more than a few challenges to how many of us learned the faith. Come share your experiences and unpack some of the thinking that you've always known to be true and how your experiences have been the same or different than others. Questions? Please contact Pastor Sally at PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org

Please watch for communication regarding whether or not this event will be virtual or in person.

PILATES

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, & 28

 **via Zoom**

To join this group, please contact Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ages 3 - 5th Grade

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



Celebrate Wonder

by Rev. Sally Hanson

I wonder what Sunday School will look like this year... I wonder what school will look like.. I wonder if I'll be able to do all the fall things I love... I wonder if Christmas will look the same as it always does...

Here at Holy Cross, we celebrate wonder. This fall we group with the Deep Blue kids program we have been utilizing these last few years, as they grow into their virtual curriculum Celebrate Wonder. Celebrate Wonder offers online Sunday School and will be available most Sunday mornings via Zoom. These meetings are open to all students age 3 through 5th grade, and will be hosted by Mrs. Mack and other adult or youth helpers.

Each session will begin with conversation and peer engagement facilitated by Mrs. Mack, followed by music with Mrs. Mack. After this part of the session, a video will be shared featuring the Bible story of the day, videos of the story, and a teacher teaching the lesson. The session will conclude with Mrs. Mack bringing the children together for final comments and prayer. We anticipate these virtual sessions lasting 30 to 40 minutes.

If you miss a virtual session, the teaching video will be available for the next week on the Holy Cross Sunday School Google Classroom. A link to the Google Classroom was shared with parents over the summer and will be shared again with all current Sunday School families before the first Sunday School Zoom session in September.

Members with children that turned 3 by September 20 will also receive an email invitation.



Upcoming Sunday School Days via Zoom

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/99278276804

Sunday School Kicks Off! - September 20, 8:30 to 9:15 am
Session 2 - September 27, 8:30 to 9:15 am



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.

Milestone Ministries Update

The heart of ministry is relationships and relationship building. Our Milestone Ministries program highlights points of transition that are marked in life within a community, where we are able to celebrate and learn together.

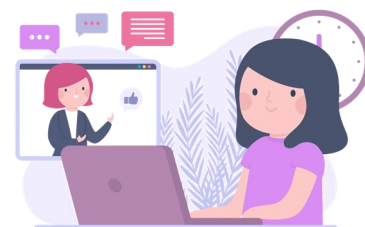
Due to COVID-19, a few of our Milestone Ministries had to be postponed. We spent time this past summer discussing the possibility of make-up sessions, and how our Milestone Ministry program would work in the upcoming school year. Many of our Milestones happen during worship, or are about worship, and in this time of virtual services, it becomes more difficult to create a meaningful experience.

Because of this, and because we are still not able to meet in person the way we wish we could, our Milestone classes and experiences are "on hold" until it is safe to return to the kind of in-person gatherings that would create the experience we wish for these gatherings.

Please watch for more information each month as there are certain Milestones we feel can still be as effective virtually as they would be in person. We will do our best to offer those Milestones.

Sunday School Takes A Village

How can you help? We need youth and adults that are willing to record some of the teaching portions of the Sunday School lessons to be played for students. We also need youth and adults who are willing to engage with students in the Zoom sessions to build relationships with the children and support Mrs. Mack with participation and/or offer technical support.



If you are interested in being a part of this experience, please contact Pastor Sally at PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org or sign up online at bit.ly/SSvolunteer20



CONFIRMATION

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

We are kicking off the month of September virtually for both our large and small group meetings. A packet was emailed to all students with fillable registration paperwork and detailed information about the upcoming Confirmation year. Please complete this paperwork as soon as possible and return it to office@holycrosschurch.org

If you did not receive the email, please contact Pastor Sally at PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org

Fall Schedule:

Large Group: September 13, October 4, November 1

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94379688512

Small Group: September 20, October 18, November 8

9th Grade Confirmation

The 9th Grade Retreat has been relocated to Holy Cross on **Saturday, September 26 at 9:30 am**. Confirmands will be asked to fulfill this retreat and the lessons that are a part of it that day. If students are unable to attend but still wish to be confirmed, please contact Pastor Sally at PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org to set up a make-up plan to cover the missed material.

Most confirmands have completed their faith statement and faith conversation. If you have not done so, please make arrangements with Pastor Sally to complete this. Your conversation may be done with either pastor. All Confirmation registration and fees are now past due. Please get them to the office as soon as possible. If you have questions, please contact the office at office@holycrosschurch.org

Because of COVID-19, we are currently exploring options for how we will be confirming our 9th graders. Please stay tuned for more information.

Small Group Leaders

Are you interested in becoming a small group leader to walk alongside our young people? Or teach a 45-60 minute elective based on your passions or hobbies and faith? We would love to have you share your faith with our young people!

Contact PastorSally@holycrosschurch.org for more information or with questions or sign up at bit.ly/Cvolunteer20



High School Youth Group

Crossroads Youth Night

Sunday, September 6 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

In person - church parking lot

Crossroads Youth Night

Sunday, September 20 from 6:30 - 7:30 pm

 via Zoom: holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/6481626713

In person meetings are weather permitting. Please check for emails from Sarah Grayer for updates closer to the meetings. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Grayer at SarahGrayer@holycrosschurch.org

Youth Trip 2021



Planning Meeting

Saturday, September 5 at 11 am

In person - church parking lot

First official planning meeting. We're outlining options for review based on your input, for a great Crossroads Youth Trip in summer of 2021.

COVID-19 Grief Support

Willow House provides grief support services to children, families, schools and communities coping with the death of a loved one. We understand that for those grieving during COVID-19, a sense of isolation and uncertainty can compound the already challenging feelings of grief.



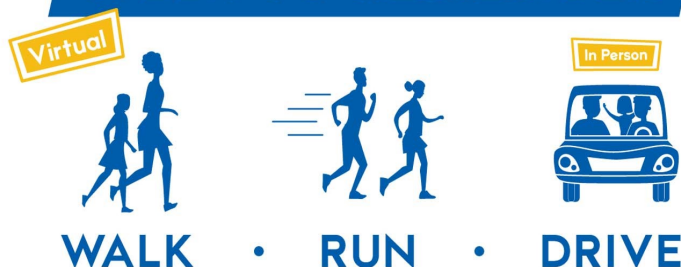
Additionally, our team is available by phone at (847) 236-9300 during our normal office hours, 9 am - 4 pm.

Willow House has been offering summer programs via Zoom, and you can find out more information about those programs below.

If you know of any children, teens, parents, and families that can benefit from Willow House's free services, please let them know where they can contact Willow House. Families can begin the process for registering for any of the programs below by registering online, calling (847) 236-9300 or emailing info@willowhouse.org



WEEK TO REMEMBER



9.21.2020 - 9.27.2020

Willow House's Week to Remember Walk, Run, Drive

You are invited to Walk, Run, and Drive in memory of a loved one.

Willow House is excited to host its 12th Annual Walk and 5K Run to Remember, with a slight twist! This year's event will include a week-long family-friendly virtual Walk and Run, followed by an in-person Drive to Remember on September 27, 2020.

Plus—keep an eye out for virtual activities for all ages during the Week to Remember from September 21 - 27, 2020!

You can register or donate at weektoremember.org

As you may imagine, the number of individuals and families who need assistance during these difficult times is increasing. COOL Food Pantry has changed its operating procedures. COOL patrons come by appointment only to pick up already packaged food. The number of patrons has grown, and our monetary help is needed more than ever.



To continue to help, you may donate online on 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 needs by using monetary donations for PADS to buy the needed items. If you would like to help, please donate online on our website at donate.holycrosschurch.org

We will use these donations to shop for the needed items, and then bring them to our PADS site. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Chartier, Pat Chianelli, or the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org for additional information.



Think Local
by David Husemoller

It's hard to believe that fall is almost here. Schools are back in session, albeit in ways different than what we are used to. 2020 has been a year full of disruptions that require us to pivot and evaluate our choices. The pandemic and social unrest are not too different from the ecological changes taking place around, but maybe less obvious.

With the past 150 years of development in Lake County, we have changed the ecosystems by introducing alien and invasive plant species. Birds and butterflies depend on the tree, shrub, and perennial plant species that have adapted and lived with for millennia. We each can do something to make a difference for wildlife and the fall is a great time to do it.

If you are considering planting new trees or shrubs, look for native tree and shrub species. These plants can make a huge difference for beneficial insects that birds feed on. For example, an English Oak tree is capable of hosting only a handful of insect species, and not really the most beneficial ones. But an American Oak, like the Burr oaks we have behind the parsonage can host literally 100s of insect species that provide valuable food for birds.

We hope you consider planting species that support our local Lake County ecosystems. Look to the Lake County Forest Preserves website at lcfpd.org for more information about what species work great and where you can find them in our forest preserves!



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

Returning to School!

CrossWays Preschool is back in session! Our first day back was Monday, August 24. Because of low enrollment, we did postpone our two year old program, but we do have a combined two year old and three year old classroom along with our four year old classroom.

All of our students, staff, and families are glad to be back! Everyone is adjusting to our new procedures that we have put into place as a result of the pandemic. We have staggered start and end times for classrooms for easier drop off, and have very specific times we can use the playground.

Our students are very excited to be back and seeing their friends again, and our staff is overjoyed to have the students back in the classroom. Everyone is thrilled to be back in a school routine again. CrossWays Preschool will not be in session on Monday, September 7 in observation of Labor Day.

Plastic Cap Collection Project Update

Thank you so much for your donations to our plastic cap drive! We paused our program due to COVID-19 in March, and have been evaluating the possibilities of restarting it. However, due to the uncertainty of this pandemic, we have decided to postpone this indefinitely. We are limiting who and what is coming into CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare, and at this time, it is easiest to stop accepting all these donations.

If you have saved up caps, there are programs you can find online that are accepting donations, or we encourage you to check with your local recycling center to see if they accept #5 caps, which many do now.



Remote Learning Care

Full day care for school age children and monitoring during remote learning. Lunch and 2 snacks included. Access to socialization and outdoor activities.

Fee

3 days per week: \$220

4 days per week: \$288

5 days per week: \$300

Details at cchildcare.org



In Celebration Of A Wonderful Summer

Summer Camp at Celebration! Childcare has come to an end, and our school year is officially beginning!

To celebrate the end of summer, our students and staff had a pizza party. Each classroom read *Pete the Cat's Perfect Pizza Party* and enjoyed yummy cheese pizza. All of our Celebration! Childcare staff have returned to their positions after suspending operations in March. We are extremely grateful and blessed to have almost all of our families return as well as some new enrollments. Our classrooms are almost at full capacity.

We want to thank our Eagle Scout, Brandon LaCrosse for the project he completed for us. Thanks to him, the Celebration! Childcare students have a beautiful musical instrument to play with in the atrium.

A Thank You From Brandon...

I would like to thank everyone who donated to my Eagle Scout project, a musical instrument for Celebration! Childcare. The instrument is complete, and I hope the children enjoy playing with it.

- Brandon LaCrosse, Troop 194



Celebration! Childcare
is hiring
**Afternoon Teachers, a
School Nurse and
an Assistant Director**

Teacher candidates must be at least 18 years of age with a high school diploma and meet DCFS qualified requirements. Compensation starts at \$13.50 - \$15 per hour depending on experience.

We are looking for a registered nurse to monitor and check our infant classroom once a month.

The Assistant Director position for CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare is a part time, afternoon position. View complete job description at: holycrosschurch.org/jobs

To apply to any of the openings, contact Director, Samantha Cooper at (847) 367-6208 or email your resume to celebration@holycrosschurch.org

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



**CrossWays
Preschool**



**Celebration!
Childcare**

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

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1151 N SAINT MARY'S RD
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575
Postmaster: Request in home by **SEPTEMBER 1**

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Libertyville, IL
Permit No. 14



Virtual Events and Gatherings

We may be distant, but we are still meeting online! See pages 6 - 7 for information about various small groups and discussion series opportunities for you to join and participate in. See page 8 - 9 for youth ministry events.

All links to virtual events and meetings are also posted on our website at
HolyCrossChurch.org/virtualmeetings

Sunday Virtual Worship Schedule

View online at
HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons
on September 6, 13, 20 & 27



Reflections and Discussions
about *Dear Church*

4 Session series starts
Sunday, September 13
at 11 am via Zoom

Details on page 6.



Dialogues On: Race

7 Session series starts
Tuesday, September 15
at 7 pm via Zoom.

See page 7 for more details.



Sunday School Kicks Off!

Sunday, September 20
at 8:30 am via Zoom

See page 8.