



CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
Pages 1 - 4

RELATIONAL MINISTRY
Pages 5 - 7

YOUTH MINISTRY
Pages 8—9

BEYOND THE
CONGREGATION
Page 10

CALENDAR
Page 11

OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST
SATURDAY EVENING
October 7 at 5:30 pm
Sanctuary

SUNDAYS
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
8 & 10 am
Sanctuary & Livestream

Continuing the Work of Compassion and Service: Answering the Call

by Pastor Chris Neptun

In the spirit of unity and compassion, we are reminded of Jesus' words from Luke 4:18-19, where he shared his mission in the synagogue in Nazareth. As the body of Christ, we are entrusted with continuing this mission, working tirelessly to proclaim good news, set the oppressed free, and feed the hungry. The journey is ongoing, but we can make a difference through the faith and dedication of Christ at work in our midst.



Witnessing God's Work Through Our Hands

God's work is often witnessed through the actions of those who step forward to serve the less fortunate. Throughout history, the church has been a beacon of hope, and Holy Cross has played a significant role in this legacy. We have achieved remarkable milestones, serving as instruments of God's grace.

For years, our partnership with Feed My Starving Children has allowed us to organize and host Mobile Packs, resulting in hundreds of thousands of meals for those in need. Yet, the work did not stop there. In 2013, we took a bold step by encouraging Feed My Starving Children to establish a permanent packing site in Libertyville, creating an enduring impact that continues to feed countless children worldwide.

Celebrating Milestones and Moving Forward

We pause to celebrate these accomplishments, recognizing the generosity and dedication of our Holy Cross family. It's crucial to give thanks for what God has done through us. But it's equally vital to remember that there is always more to be done.

Only 47% of volunteer slots at the Libertyville packing site have been filled in recent months. Many are still waiting to experience the grace of a God who provides daily bread. We are called to meet these needs. The invitation is extended to you to register for a shift and make a tangible impact. Register for a shift at: fmsc.org/get-involved/volunteer



Historically we have sponsored a monthly pack but at this time do not have a volunteer to lead this effort. Should this be something of interest to you, please contact me to reestablish this ministry.

New Beginnings and Partnership with PADS

Our journey of compassion takes new turns as we adapt to the ever-changing needs of our community. We recently learned that PADS has secured new funding to house guests in local hotels. This significant development will ensure that PADS guests have stable accommodations, reducing the need to move from church to church each night of the week.

We have a proud history of partnering with PADS, offering shelter, sack lunches, dinners, toiletries, and more through our collaboration with Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Grayslake. While this new funding is a step in the right direction, others still require shelter and support. PADS will need us to partner in different ways. Please see page 10 for additional ways to support PADS ministry.

Answering the Call: Where to Next?

So, where is God leading us? Where is Jesus guiding our path? The answers are found in the needs of our community and the call to serve. People are waiting for the Gospel. Others are hungry, and some seek shelter and solace. Holy Cross, we are called to answer that need and are equipped with the love and compassion to do so.

As we move forward, let us remember the words of Jesus and the legacy of service we inherit. There is more to celebrate, lives to touch, and hope to share. Together, as one body of Christ, let's continue to be the hands and feet of our Savior, answering the call with open hearts and arms.

In Christ's love,

Fall Worship

FIRST SATURDAY EVENING
October 7 at 5:30 pm - Sanctuary

SUNDAYS
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
8 & 10 am - Sanctuary & Livestream

Holy Communion is offered on first Saturdays, first and third Sundays and on festival Sundays. Livestream worship options are offered on Sundays with a recorded worship video available within 24 hours to view on demand at HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons

Sunday, October 1: World Communion Sunday

A day of unity for the global Christian church.

Milestone Ministries: We celebrate this day with First Communion recipients at the 10 am worship service.

Sunday, October 8: Fellowship Coffee Hour

Please join us for fellowship, beverages, and refreshments at 9 am between worship services.

Sunday, October 29: Reformation Sunday

Celebrating Reformation: Wear the color **red** to church.

Milestone Ministries: Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation at 10 am worship. We will celebrate with the following young people who have completed their Confirmation coursework, had their faith interviews, and prayerfully decided to affirm the faith of their baptisms.



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

(847) 367 - 4060

OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christopher P. Neptun, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Pastor Emeritus
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator
Edwin Andrade, Director of Youth and Family Ministry
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
Darrin Rose, Choir Director
Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Technical Arts
Paul Vander Weele, Organist

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Samantha (Sam) Cooper-Tuttle, Director
Roxanne (Rocky) Lamont, Assistant Director
Tania Zombolo, Assistant Director

CHURCH COUNCIL

Andy Eidson (*President*), Darin Chartier (*Vice President*),
Karla Boucek, Wendy Brewer, Nicole Drake, Ralph Freye,
Karen Karris, Gail Kelly, Jeannine Phillips, Harold Sargent,
Joe Taylor, John Villani
Secretary, Kathy Pritts
Treasurer, Lori Fedyk
Financial Secretary, Ryan Young

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw
Worship Volunteers: Therese Delli Paoli

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

Lauren Barry
Reese Bensman
Zachary Brueck
Brody Cordes
Isaac Dio
Ethan Drover
Ella Evans
Jack Ford
Maxwell Forkner
Carson George
Madelyn Greer
Anne Gutowski
Jacob Haan
Nicholas Haan
Faith Hasbrouck
Casey Lovejoy
Maxwell Miller

Nicholas Miller
Sawyer Miller
Bella Moraw
Miles Sanborn
Carter Schlitt
Molly Schlitt
Bo Schmidt
Kayla Schmidt
Colten Siebert
Nora Siebert
Henry Tahvonen
Cameron Taylor
Elizabeth Thomey
Nicholas Thomey
Lana Turner
Jack Wells
Audrie White

2022 Audit Update

The Holy Cross Audit Committee completed its independent internal audit for the financial year 2022. The audit scope included a review of the congregation's revenue and expenditure processes and related financial controls, as well as an examination of deposits, donations, giving statements, expenses, payroll, general ledger records and more. The Audit Committee concluded that appropriate controls governing the financial operations process appear to be in place and operating as intended, and that the 2022 books and records of the congregation appear to be materially accurate in all respects. In addition, Holy Cross' financial systems and platforms were found to be modern and transparent. The Audit Committee is grateful for the work of Tom Miller and Beth Ann Koenemann for their attention to detail and professionalism on behalf of our congregation.

Please get in touch with an Audit Committee member or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Ryan, Tim Skelton, and Chuck Boucek

Special Congregational Meeting to Approve Updated Constitution

Sunday, November 5 at 9:30 am

by Andy Eidson, Church Council President

As announced at the January 2023 annual meeting, Holy Cross embarked on a process to update our current constitution which dates from year 2000 and bring it into compliance with the current ELCA model constitution for congregations.

A special congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, November 5 at 9:30 am to seek approval of the updated constitution. A majority of those present must vote in favor to approve the document. At the January 2024 annual meeting, we will be seeking “ratification” of the document, which requires at least a two-thirds majority.

In order to afford members the opportunity to review and comment on the document prior to November 5, the proposed updated constitution is now available on the church website at holycrosschurch.org/constitution



The document consists of 20 chapters and 32 pages. Additional information about the content of the document, including the sections that contain required wording from the ELCA, is available there.

Should you have any questions, you can submit those questions to the email address provided on the website, or you can attend one of the informational meetings hosted by Church Council members between services on Sundays, October 15, 22 and 29.

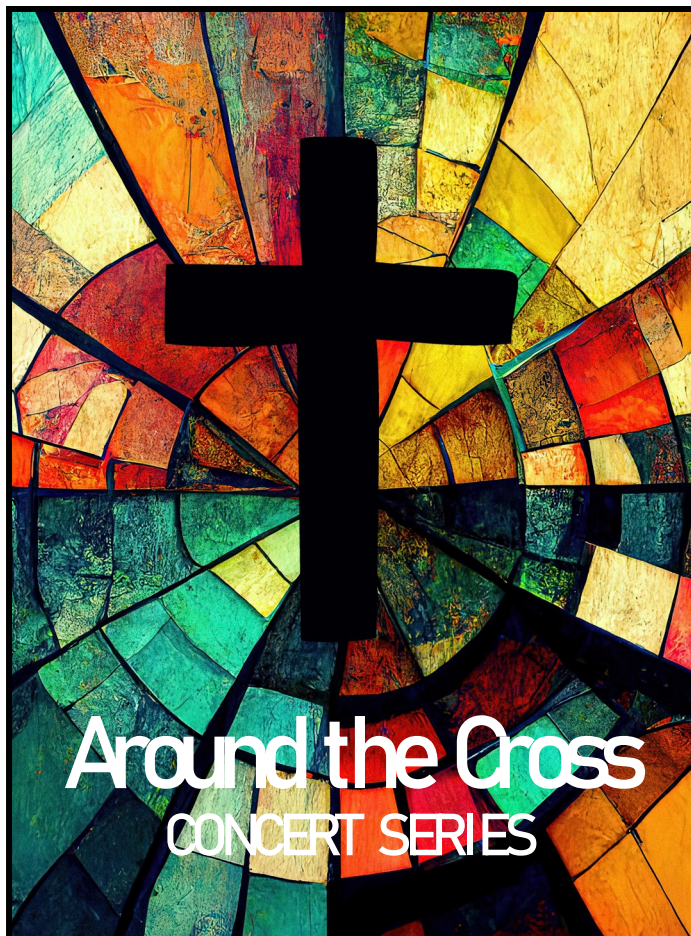
Early Childhood Ministry Chapel

by Deaconess Katie Freund



We’re excited to now be offering chapel every Wednesday for our students enrolled at CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare!

Throughout the school year we integrate both Bible stories as well as storybook lessons that focus on social emotional learning. That can sound like a fancy catchphrase, but the reality is these lessons focus on how we live out our Christian faith through life skills. These stories come from our own ELCA publishing house and cover topics like making new friends and telling the truth. The story Bible we use comes from the *Frolic* line “First Bible”, and is wonderfully written for reading to small children.



Mark your calendars to save the dates for the following events in the Around the Cross Concert Series for 2023/24. Free admission.

Beer & Hymns

Date: Saturday, October 28

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Lutherans love a good hymn sing. Luther loved his beer and hymns! Join us for a cold one and a chorus or two! Root beer and other beverages will be available as well.

Mike & Rob of the Mojo Daddies

Date: Saturday, November 11

Time: 7 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Rob Twardock and Mike Dikelsky with special guests will play an all originals show featuring music from their “A Long Road” album.

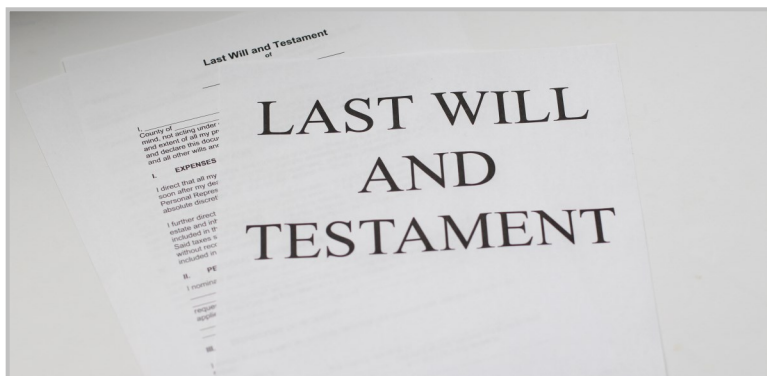
Christmas Party Hop

Date: Saturday, December 9

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Dale Tippett, Jr. and musicians from Holy Cross will offer a Christmas music party. Join us for an evening of classic holiday favorites and refreshments!



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Your Estate Plan: An Opportunity to Stand in Solidarity with Everything You Hold Dear

by Steve Oelschlager

Do you have an estate plan in place?

Have you considered including Holy Cross as a beneficiary?

Have you notified Holy Cross of your legacy gift?

October 16 - 22 is National Estate Planning Awareness Week (NEPAW) and is a timely reminder to care for all we hold dear. As a faith community committed to celebrating God's love for all creation, please consider extending this commitment beyond your lifetime.

When you create your estate plan, you participate in an act of solidarity that has a lasting impact. By making your plans, you can care for your loved ones, steward the resources God has blessed you with, and sustain the ministries close to your heart.

To assist you in this vital task, Holy Cross partners with FreeWill, a free online estate planning tool. This easy-to-use platform guides you through each step of the process and even offers the opportunity to commit a portion of your estate to God's ministry through Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Creating your estate plan is not just an item to check off your to-do list; it's an act of faith and solidarity. By aligning your resources with your values, you ensure a legacy of faith, love, and compassion.

If you have any questions about FreeWill or planned giving with Holy Cross Lutheran Church, please don't hesitate to contact either Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org or Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

You can also visit our online giving page at holycrosschurch.org/giving to see the many options available, including our partnership with FreeWill.



Please know that FreeWill is 100% free to use regardless of your decision to include a legacy gift to Holy Cross.

May God bless you with peace and discernment as you make your plans.

PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERAL

Lillian Arnoldsen
September 2, 2023

BAPTISM

Luna Lazuli Najera
daughter of Aramis and Anna Najera
September 3, 2023

WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Edwin Andrade and Colleen Beck

Corey and Heather Johnston

Gordon Oakes

Joe Young

15th Annual Cookie Walk is Back!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 2



We look forward to your baking excellence by pulling out our family favorite cookie recipes, baking and donating them for sale.

We look forward to sharing this special time of year with you as we raise money to benefit the Rosebud Lakota Community in Mission, South Dakota.

Stay tuned for more details in upcoming newsletters.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

30TH ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST 8-9, 2024

The Global Leadership Summit

Holy Cross hosted the Global Leadership Summit last month, bringing together about 25 people, including Holy Cross members and local leaders, to focus on improving leadership. The event provided fresh perspectives, inspiring stories, and innovative insights to help individuals and their teams thrive. Speakers included former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the CEO of Intel Corporation, the creator, director, and co-writer of *The Chosen*, and other notable church and industry leaders, authors, and academics. To learn more about the speakers and their work, see: globalleadership.org/guide

Holy Cross is committed to hosting the event again on August 8 - 9, 2024. You can register at this link bit.ly/GLS24 for \$139, using the code HOSTGLS24

Please get in touch with Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org if you have any questions.





Lutheran School of
Theology at Chicago

Learning Opportunity: “Faith, Work, and Economics”

The Lutheran School of Theology is offering no-cost spring and fall theological education programs via Zoom designed to enhance lay theological education, enrich parish learning programs, and foster a stronger relationship between the seminary and its constituent congregations.

The first four-part series entitled “Faith, Work, and Economics” begins in October 2023 and will be led by Rev. Wayne N. Miller, Bishop Emeritus. You may choose between Sunday sessions starting October 8 or Wednesday sessions starting October 11. Discover the interplay between faith and work, and gain insights into living a fulfilling life.

The 2024 programs will include:

“Theological Intersectionality for the 21st Century Church,” a four-part series beginning Sunday, January 7 or Wednesday, January 11

“Liturgy and the Natural World,” a four-part series beginning Sunday, April 7 or Wednesday, April 10

To learn more or to register, go to the following link:
lstc.edu/event/lstc-learning-communities-faith-work-and-economics/



For questions, please contact Lane Lewis at
lane.t.lewis@gmail.com



LUTHERAN
CAMPUS MINISTRY
AT NORTHWESTERN

Lutheran Campus Ministry Dinner

Wednesday, November 1
Carpool at 4 pm
Serve dinner at 6 pm

Holy Cross members will be heading back to Evanston on Wednesday, November 1 to host a dinner for the college students who attend the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern. All are welcome to attend or contribute a treat for the students.

We will meet at Holy Cross at 4 pm, carpool (or drive separately) to Evanston, and serve dinner at 6 pm for LCMNU’s Wednesday night supper worship. Come and get to know the students! It is fun to talk with them about their activities and join them for a short worship service during the meal.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Patty Moyer at patty@concertedsystems.com or (847)502-3196.

Women’s Ministry News

by Beth Ann Koenemann



Women’s Retreat



Dates: Friday, October 20 at 4 pm to
Saturday, October 21 at 4 pm

Location: Hope Conference Center
Lutherdale, N7891 N US Hwy 12, Elkhorn, WI

Online Brochure: HolyCrossChurch.org/lift



On October 20-21 we will be surrounded by the tranquil, picturesque setting of Lutherdale, in Elkhorn, WI, in the beautiful new Hope Conference Center. Lutherdale is a place for rejuvenation, learning, and fellowship—we will be doing all three in our time together. In order to have an uplifting, enjoyable and positive retreat experience, we have shifted our focus slightly to include a different film and have delayed the viewing of “Women Talking” to a later date. We will keep the theme of Women Talking because we will examine what makes relationships between women so special and how finding our place in a loving community can also help us find our own voice.

If you have never been to Lutherdale, it has 52 wooded acres with magnificent views of Lauderdale Lake which will be absolutely gorgeous with all of the fall colors! Just being there will bring a calm that is hard to duplicate anywhere else. If you would like a sneak peak of Lutherdale, check out these pictures of our accommodations on their website: lutherdale.org/facilities

The LIFT Group is looking forward to the Women Talking themed retreat. The deadline to register has passed. If you have not already registered, please contact Beth Ann Koenemann at bethann@holycrosschurch.org or by calling (847) 997-9937 for availability information if you would like to come.





MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 AT 7 - 8 AM

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

Begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship, and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14 & 28 AT 7 - 8:30 AM

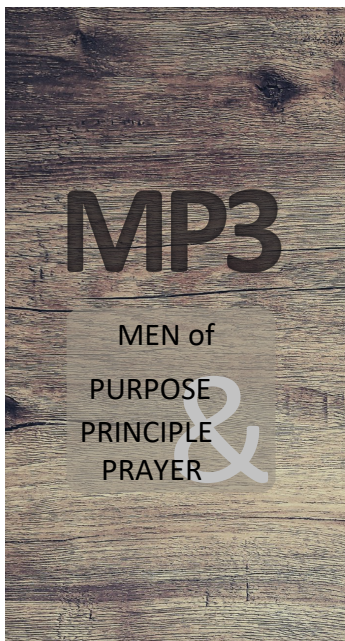
LOCATION: IN-PERSON (ROOM 208) OR VIA ZOOM



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517

The Saturday Men's Group will continue discussion of *Faith After Doubt* by Brian McLaren. If you have not yet done so, please pick up a copy from the church office. In this book, McLaren proposes a four-stage model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

6 - 8:30 PM

IN-PERSON, FELLOWSHIP AREA

THEME: SACRED MOMENTS

COST: FREE

To help us plan for food, please RSVP at bit.ly/MP311723

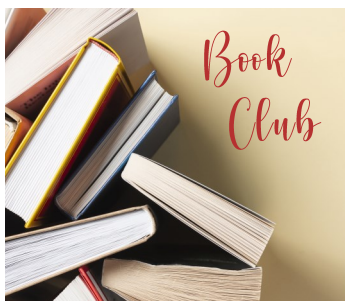


Men of Purpose, Principle & Prayer is one of our men's ministries at Holy Cross. We meet on select Tuesday evenings for fellowship, food and conversation. The evenings begin with fellowship at 6 pm and conclude by 8:30 pm.

The theme for this MP3 season is "*sacred moments*". In Celtic spirituality there is the concept of 'thin places' where the everyday/ordinary moments intersect with the sacred/holy. We will explore this notion and how it actually presents itself in our life and faith journeys. The third session of the series is being held in November. In this session we will cover "C" for ceremony/milestone moments/rites/traditions. 2024 dates for the continuation of this series finishing with **R** for relational, **E** for emptiness and **D** for deeper will be announced later.

Men (21+) are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, music, and conversation.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 7 PM

VIA ZOOM



holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

What is on your "I want to read list?" The Book Club would like to know! This month we will be looking at our favorite genres—everything from biographies to romance—both fiction and non-fiction. Join us for a lively discussion of authors and topics. Everybody is welcome to contribute. Feel free to send us topics of interest, favorite authors or titles to add to our discussion. Just email Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com



STRENGTH & CORE

MONDAYS, OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 AT 6 PM

LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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



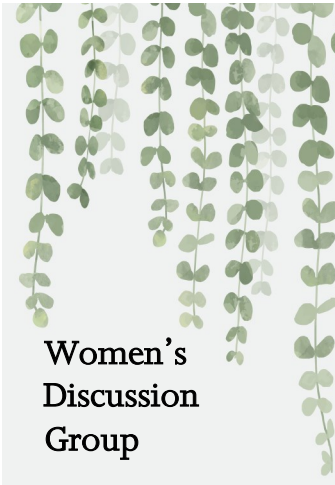
HOLY CROSS CHOIR

REHEARSALS: TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: SANCTUARY

SING DURING WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS, OCTOBER 8 (8 & 10 AM), OCTOBER 15 (8 AM), OCTOBER 29 (10 AM)

We welcome singers of all ages to join the choir. For more information about joining, and to be added to the choir email list, contact Choir Director, Darrin Rose at darrin@holycrosschurch.org



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
TUESDAYS, OCTOBER 10 & 24 AT 9:30 AM
LOCATION: ROOM 208

The Women's Discussion Group at Holy Cross meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month

The discussion topics for 2023 will be taken from two books by Anna Carter Florence, *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, and her current book project, *'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet*, being released on October 3. Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Dr. Florence served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Copies of the books are available on the welcome center in the Fellowship Area. All women welcome. Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org with any questions.



GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP

Grounded in Grace is a social opportunity for women of faith to connect together in fellowship.

Grounded in Grace will not meet in October due to the Women's Retreat.

Contact Terry Berger at terryberger.08@gmail.com with questions or to be added to the Grounded in Grace Messenger group.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 7 PM TO 9 PM
LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



QUILTING GROUP

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 4, 11, 18 & 25 AT 9 AM - 12 PM
LOCATION: ROOM 404

We gather on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in the Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

Questions? Contact Deb Sherrock at debs695@aol.com or (630) 267-7802.



COMMON THREADS

NO MEETING IN OCTOBER; NEXT MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 AT 1 PM

We meet on the second Monday of most months in the Fellowship Area to knit, crochet and visit. No prior crafting experience necessary. Each blanket or shawl created is dedicated at a worship service and then presented to the prayer recipient. These pieces offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. Request a prayer blanket or shawl for a loved one by contacting the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org

Questions? Contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.



HANDBELL CHOIR

REHEARSALS: THURSDAYS, OCTOBER 5, 12 & 19 AT 7 PM
LOCATION: BASEMENT

PERFORM DURING WORSHIP: SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5 AT 8 & 10 AM

We welcome all to join the Holy Cross Handbell Choir. If you can read music, you are in! Rehearsals are in the church basement on the first three Thursdays of each month.

Questions? Contact Beth Fashimpaur at elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com

Sunday School

Join the **JOURNEY!**

by Deaconess Katie Freund



We're on our journey through the history of God's people! Check in at 9:45 am in the Celebration! Childcare Atrium for children ages 3 - 5th grade.

October 1: This month opens with *Abram's Call*, new games and old help us learn about following God's call.

October 8: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

October 15: We'll play the giggle game and blessing ball after hearing about *Abraham and Sarah's Visitors*.

October 22: We'll have a movie to learn the story of *Joseph in Egypt*. *Please arrive promptly as the movie will begin at 9:45 am sharp. Children will NOT return to the worship service. Please pick up your child(ren) in the Celebration! Childcare basement.*

October 29: Reformation Sunday. Basket crafts and a river rescue relay will bring the story of baby *Moses* to life.

If you haven't registered your child(ren) aged 3 - 5th grade for Sunday School, please use this link: bit.ly/sundayschool2324



Adults are still needed to Shepherd. Sign up at this link: bit.ly/shepherdsF23



Rally Day Recap

This year's Sunday School program kicked off with a yard party on Sunday, September 10. We had 25 children play games and sing songs on the patio. We learned the story of the parting of the Red Sea. Certified therapy dog Ripley joined in the fun too. The kids later rejoined their families in the Sanctuary for a singalong to the special Rally Day hymn "Pharaoh, Pharaoh".



CONFIRMATION

by Deaconess Katie Freund

The fall session for 2023/24 Confirmation is underway.

Sessions 3 - 6: Sundays, October 1, 8, 15 & 22 from 5 - 8 pm, dinner provided.

Confirmands who have successfully completed instruction will affirm their baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 29, at the 10 am worship service.

Mandatory Confirmation Dress Rehearsal & Pictures Saturday, October 28 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.

Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday Sunday, October 29 at 10 am worship

We will celebrate with confirmands who have completed their Confirmation coursework, had their faith interviews, and prayerfully decided to affirm the faith of their baptisms. See page 2 for the names of our participating confirmands.

Milestone Ministries

Our faith journey occurs from birth through life eternal. Along the way, there are important events, rituals and milestones that mark the passage of time through our lives. Through Milestone Ministries we celebrate and mark these important events and times in the lives of children, youth and adults. Each milestone becomes an opportunity to proclaim that God is with us.

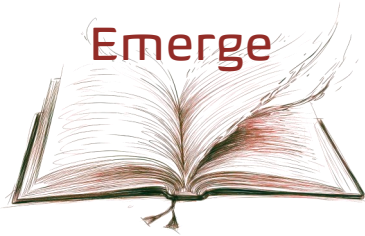
Confirmation: Affirmation of Baptism

Fall Session Rehearsal: Saturday, October 28 at 8:30 am
 Fall Affirmation of Baptism: Sunday, October 29 at 10 am
 See above for more details.

Bible Basics and Presentation of Bibles: Third Grade & up Workshop: Saturday, November 11 at 9 am

Presentation of Bibles: Sunday, November 12 at 10 am worship
 At baptism, parent(s), sponsors and the congregation promise to place the Holy Scriptures into the hands of each baptized person. At Holy Cross, we do this in third grade with a class for parents and children to learn together. We cover how to use a Bible, how it is organized, and share favorite Bible verses.

Contact Deaconess Katie at deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org with any questions. Learn more about Milestone Ministries at HolyCrossChurch.org/milestoneministries



Middle School Youth Group

Fueling Curiosity, Nurturing Faith *by Edwin Andrade*

Hey Emerge! You may have noticed the new name. Upon first arriving at Holy Cross, I noticed that the Middle School group didn't have a name, whereas the High School group did hence the new name.

The idea behind Emerge came from my own personal faith journey, when I was in middle school, I began reading and learning about the Bible. The stories sparked my imagination. Curiosity took hold of me, and faith began to grow and take shape in my life. Faith was something that found me very early on and the same still holds true. Faith isn't reserved for adults; it can find anyone. We see it in the Bible in the story of Samuel, where God speaks to him at a young age and the same still holds true for us today. God is still speaking.

Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in October. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

INVITE: Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend!
NURTURE: These are faith-formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.
SERVE: We'll roll up our sleeves for a service project (think like Feed My Starving Children).

- Wednesday, October 4, 4 - 5:30 pm - **Nurture Event**
- Faith Formation
- Saturday, October 14, 10 am - 12 pm - **Serve Event**
- Roadside cleanup at Holy Cross (St. Mary's Road)
- Sunday, October 22, 10 - 11 am - **Nurture Event**
- Faith Formation
- Sunday, October 29, 4 - 6 pm - **Invite Event**
- Invite a friend to Holy Cross for a movie night!

As always, we'll share some snacks, and check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event!

Questions? Email Edwin at edwin@holycrosschurch.org
 View more information at HolyCrossChurch.org/emerge



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

by Edwin Andrade

Hey Crossroads! Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in October. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

INVITE: Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend!
NURTURE: These are faith formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.
SERVE: We'll roll up our sleeves for a service project (think like Feed My Starving Children).

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

- Sunday, October 1, 4 - 5:30 pm - **Nurture Event**
- Faith Formation
- Sunday, October 15, 4 - 9 pm - **Invite Event**
- Invite a friend to Richardson Adventure Farm
Corn Maze in Fox Lake.
- October 22, 4 - 5:30 pm - **Nurture Event**
- Faith Formation
- Saturday, October 28, 10 am - 12 pm - **Serve Event**
- Fleece Prayer Blankets at Holy Cross

As always, we'll share some snacks, check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event!

Event details will be shared by email prior to each event.

Questions? Email Edwin at edwin@holycrosschurch.org

For more information about the Crossroads High School Youth Group, visit HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads

Join us at the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering Next Summer!

We are thrilled to announce an upcoming Youth Gathering next summer in 2024 and we invite you to join us for an interest meeting to learn more about this exciting event! Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana for youth currently in grades 8 - 12. A timeless city with a unique way of life, New Orleans is a journey and a celebration. Steeped in European traditions and Caribbean influences, the Big Easy calls curious minds to sweet sounds and savory aromas fueled by three hundred years of history. As the birthplace of jazz, the home to Creole cuisine and its unmatched southern hospitality.

If you have any immediate questions or require further information, please feel free to reach out to Edwin Andrade at edwin@holycrosschurch.org or (520) 370-9572. We genuinely look forward to your participation and the opportunity to connect with you during our interest meeting.



Interest Meeting

Date: Sunday, October 8
Time: 11 am
 (following worship)
Location: Room 208



Sacred Land and Sandhill Cranes

by Leo Karris

Hey Holy Cross congregation, did you know that we have the privilege of standing and worshipping on eleven acres of sacred ground that includes a seven-acre plot of land of wildflowers, oak trees, hickory trees, marshy grassland, and a pair of sand hill cranes! This sacred land sits in Holy Cross' own "backyard" and is inviting you to walk it and explore. It makes up the southern half of the property, past the parsonage and is where you can also find the fire pit. There are ecological regeneration activities occurring including the removal of buckthorn* last fall and a May planting of 15 native shrubs to replace the hedgerow that had been created by the buckthorn. The native shrubs include black currant, false indigo, wahoo (native burning bush), button bush and nine-bark. The shrubs were picked based on the medium to wet soil condition present in the field and their support of the bird, bee, and butterfly populations.

More about restoration vision and dreams later, let's get back to the sandhill cranes. They stand between 3.5 and 4 feet tall with wing spans of up to seven feet, have gray feathers and there is a noticeable "red cap" on their heads. They are sometimes mistaken for a heron or egret. The crane is one of the oldest bird species and was near extinction about 100 years ago. Although their populations have bounced back, their numbers are impacted due to loss of habitat which includes wetlands and marsh areas. The most interesting trait of the crane is it's call of "garooo-a-a-a." Watch and listen for them in the Holy Cross field (and even the parking lot). They will be leaving shortly as fall migration season starts mid-September. ^ Please email me your thoughts and questions at leockarris@gmail.com

*Buckthorn is an invasive species needing to be removed and replaced with native trees and shrubs. See Lake County Forest Preserve website for important information at lcfpd.org/what-we-do/conservation/invasivespecies/



A pair of Sandhill cranes near the Holy Cross stormwater pond

^Source is Illinois Department of Natural Resources, dnr.illinois.gov

A special thanks to Openlands for helping with restoration ideas. openlands.org

Willow House



Willow House's free Family Peer Grief Support Groups are held monthly at Holy Cross. These groups serve 3 - 28 year olds [and their guardian(s)] who have lost a parent or sibling. **An intake is required before attending a group.** Willow House is available for consultation, as well as to offer additional resources depending on the individual/family's needs. For more information about Willow House, visit willowhouse.org, email info@willowhouse.org or call (847) 236-9300.

COOL Ministries

by Jill McKeon



Food Stock and the Golf Outing were very successful this year! Thank you to all who contributed in one way or another. The totals were over \$38,000 for Food Stock and over \$17,000 for the golf outing! Those numbers are amazing and have helped keep the pantry in the black for the year. However, on the other side of the coin, the pantry has continued to see record numbers this year. By the end of July, the pantry served more than 40,000 people. That is currently over 7,000 more people already this year than last year. The need is real. Individual donations are down this year. Please consider donating either monetarily or extra food items you may have in your pantry. **Items needed include non-perishable shelf-stable canned fruit, vegetables, soup, mac and cheese, pasta, rice and peanut butter.** Donation carts are located next to the Holy Cross office, near the entrance to the Holy Cross Kitchen. Please check expiration dates before donating.

You may donate online by visiting donate.holycrosschurch.org or by scanning the code to the right. Thank you for all the support you continue to give COOL Ministries.



Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Jill McKeon, (847) 331-7908, jill.mckeon@att.net

Good News!

by Peg Chartier

Eric Foote, the Director of the Board for PADS of Lake County informed host churches that he has received DOUBLE the typical funding for the year, thus enabling PADS of Lake County to house ALL guests in hotels like they were able to do during the pandemic. What an incredible blessing!

What does that make our role at Holy Cross look like? That will be an unfolding adventure for all of us. Supplies will be needed; we may be asked to provide meals and other forms of support. Please stay tuned as I will be working with Eric to make sure he knows that Holy Cross is ready and willing to help as this new model is rolled out and needs are figured out in the months to come.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support. You can scan the QR code to express your interest to serve or donate to this important ministry.



Boy Scout Troop #194

Pumpkin & Bake Sale

Sunday, October 22

9 am - 11:30 am

Parking lot and fellowship area





October

Sunday, October 1

- 8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
 9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium
 10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
 4 pm Crossroads High School Youth Group, Fellowship Area
 5 pm Confirmation, Fellowship Area

Monday, October 2

- 6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium
 6:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area

Tuesday, October 3

- 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 4

- 9 am Quilting Group, 404
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 4 pm Emerge Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Area

Thursday, October 5

- 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Saturday, October 7

- 5:30 pm First Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Sunday, October 8

- 8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
 9 am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area
 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
 11 am Youth Gathering Interest Meeting, 208
 5 pm Confirmation, Fellowship Area

Monday, October 9

- 5:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area
 6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium
 7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, October 10

- 7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, 208
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 11

- 9 am Quilting Group, 404
 11:30 am PHW Day Session, Fellowship Area
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 4 pm Middle School Youth Group, Nurture event, Faith Formation, Fellowship Area
 7 pm Church Council, 208
 7 pm PHW Evening Session, Fellowship Area

Thursday, October 12

- 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Saturday, October 14

- 7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208
 10 am Emerge Middle School Youth Group, Parking lot

Sunday, October 15

- 8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
 9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium
 10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

- 4 pm Crossroads High School Youth Group, Richardson Adventure Farm, Fox Lake
 5 pm Confirmation, Fellowship Area

Monday, October 16

- 6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium
 7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, October 17

- 7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 18

- 9 am Quilting Group, 404
 9 am Young Life Capernaum, Gathering Space
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

Thursday, October 19

- 7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Friday, October 20

- 4 pm Women's Retreat - Lutherdale

Saturday, October 21

- Women's Retreat - Lutherdale

Sunday, October 22

- 8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
 9 am Scouts Pumpkin Sale and Bake Sale, Fellowship Area
 9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium
 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
 10 am Emerge Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Area
 4 pm Crossroads High School Youth Group, Fellowship Area
 5 pm Confirmation, Fellowship Area

Monday, October 23

- 6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium
 7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, October 24

- 7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, 208
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, October 25

- 9 am Quilting Group, 404
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

Thursday, October 26

- 7 pm Book Club, Zoom

Saturday, October 28

- 7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208
 10 am Crossroads High School Youth Group, Fellowship Area

Sunday, October 29**Reformation Sunday - Wear the color red**

- 8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
 9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium
 10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
 Milestone Ministry: Affirmation of Baptism
 4 pm Emerge Middle School Youth Group, Fellowship Area

Monday, October 30

- 6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

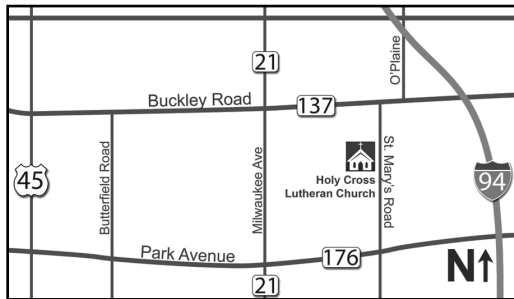
Tuesday, October 31

- 7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
1151 N SAINT MARY'S RD
LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Libertyville, IL
Permit No. 14



Women's Retreat

Dates: Friday, Oct 20 at 4 pm to Saturday, Oct 21 at 4 pm
Location: Hope Conference Center, Lutherdale, WI
Details on page 5.



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
9 AM

Please join us for fellowship, and beverages and refreshments between worship services. All welcome!

See page 2.

Pumpkin & Bake Sale

Sunday, October 22
9 am - 11:30 am
Boy Scout Troop #194



Beer & Hymns

Date: Saturday, October 28

Time: 7:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Free admission

Around the Cross Concert Series returns for the 2023/24 season, kicking off the first concert with Beer & Hymns. Lutherans love a good hymn sing. Luther loved his beer and hymns! Join us for a cold beverage (non-alcoholic beverages available) and a chorus or two!

See page 3 for additional concert dates.