

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

August 2022

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AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS

5:30 PM

AUGUST 6 - PATIO

AUGUST 13 - SANCTUARY

AUGUST 20 - PATIO

AUGUST 27 - SANCTUARY

SUNDAYS

AUGUST 7, 21

8 & 10 AM - SANCTUARY &
LIVESTREAM

AUGUST 14, 28

8 AM - SANCTUARY &
LIVESTREAM

10 AM - DRIVE-IN

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America*

Growing Up

by Pastor Bob Davis

Growing up... my world seemed pretty simple. Being religious meant being a Christian. I didn't know any Muslims, Hindus, or Buddhists. I didn't really even know anything about them. About as exotic as any of my friends got was being a Mormon or being Jewish. Today things are different, even if we don't always notice it. Mosques, synagogues, and temples are everywhere.

Just go two miles north on O'Plaine Road and you'll see a mosque and a Greek Orthodox church on opposite sides of the road. There is a Hindu temple on Peterson Road past Route 83. There is a Serbian Orthodox church and cemetery on Route 21 north of Libertyville. In Vernon Hills there is a reformed Jewish synagogue, and a Mennonite community that participate in the ecumenical Easter sunrise service at Independence Grove. We have a Baha'i temple in Evanston and a Buddhist presence in Lake County. Scattered throughout Lake County you'll find Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Evangelical, Presbyterian, Methodist, non-denominational, Mormon, Jehovah's Witnesses and many other faith traditions. This is just a glimpse of the religious world we experience as we drive around Lake County.

It is common to hear people say, "I'm not religious, but I am spiritual." People who speak of themselves in such a manner tend to be theologically eclectic and often stay clear of the kinds of religious communities I just mentioned. They're concerned that such entities, whether big or small, Christian or not, might put boundaries on their ability to pick and choose what they believe and practice. With all of this religious diversity, from the institutional to the non-institutional, what does it mean to be a person of faith? Or perhaps better, what does it mean to be a follower of Jesus in today's world?

I enjoy a variety of interfaith relationships. One thing I have noticed is that there is common ground when we consider that faith traditions lead to compassion toward others, no matter who they are. Themes of gratitude, peace, justice, humility, mercy, forgiveness and love permeate the different faith traditions. No one faith tradition has all the answers to the complexities of this world when it comes to concerns and questions about the environment, war, sexuality, immigration, abortion, and gun violence. As a person of faith who lives in the Christian tradition I am encouraged to listen to the voices of others and try to be ready to hear God's voice in unexpected ways. It is not easy being a Christian in the 21st century where we face complicated matters, but God's grace allows us to take risks and be instruments of peace.

Peace,

Being Released

by Pastor Chris Neptun

People often ask me, "How did you go from accounting to becoming a Pastor?" I respond by sharing my call story. It took a while for me to answer my calling to ministry. I resisted it. I sometimes wonder why it took so long.

No experience or time spent was wasted as I came to understand and answer the call to ministry. It was part of a process. My mind needed to be changed. I needed to be released from ideas that I held about what a meaningful life looked like and how to attain that. I thought it meant working hard to get a great job and make a lot of money. This would make my family happy. For many people this is a way of living a full and meaningful life. I found it was not life-giving for me. To answer my calling, I needed to be released from certain beliefs. Connecting with people, helping them to connect with one another and Jesus is what makes me come alive. God wants every person to know we matter.

In the weeks ahead, we'll hear stories in worship of Jesus' ministry. He would connect with people. They would be released by him as he healed, listened, and taught. Jesus teaches how freeing sharing can be instead of worrying if there will be enough for us. Jesus frees us from feeling we did something wrong when life isn't going well. He frees us from thinking God's Word can only mean one thing locking us into a rigid way of life. He releases us from comparing ourselves to others and reveals God's goodness as we experience one another's unique beauty.

Just as I went through a process that took time and effort, I was released from a way of thinking. Jesus was with me in this and continues working to set all creation free. In what ways might you need to be set free?

Peace is with you,

Summer Worship Schedule

Holy Cross continues to provide a variety of worship, fellowship and educational (faith formation) opportunities this summer.

Worship plays a vital role in our community life together. Please refer to the schedule to determine when the services will be offered in the sanctuary, as a drive-in, or on the patio. Livestream worship options are offered on Sundays with recorded worship available on demand within 24 hours.

Please join us for fellowship events where we can come together for conversation and food. The church will provide the food unless otherwise specified. Held rain or shine.



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HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

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Rev. Christopher Neptun, Co-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

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Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

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

August

Saturday, August 6

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, PATIO

Sunday, August 7

8 am Worship and Mission Endowment Scholarship Presentation, Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Cupcake party

10 am Worship and Mission Endowment Scholarship Presentation, Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sanctuary & livestream

11 am Cupcake party

Saturday, August 13

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 14

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, DRIVE-IN

11 am Taco Sunday Fellowship Tailgate

Saturday, August 20

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, PATIO

Sunday, August 21

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Saturday, August 27

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 28

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, DRIVE-IN

11 am Fellowship Tailgate

September

Saturday, September 3

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, September 4

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Sunday, September 11

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, DRIVE-IN

11 am Rally Day Kickoff Carnival & Tailgate Cookout



CUPCAKE PARTY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

9 & 11 AM

To honor our Mission Endowment Scholarship recipients, please join us for fellowship and cupcakes following both worship services at 9 and 11 am.



TACO SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP TAILGATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

11 AM

Please join us for a fellowship tailgate in the parking lot following the 10 am drive-in worship service. We'll provide the tacos. Feel free to bring chairs and lawn games, if you'd like to share.



FELLOWSHIP TAILGATE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

11 AM

Please join us for a fellowship tailgate in the parking lot following the 10 am drive-in worship service. We'll provide grilled brats and corn on the cob. Feel free to bring chairs and lawn games, if you'd like to share.



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Thursday-Friday, August 4-5, 2022

Last Chance To Register

We're excited to introduce you to 12+ featured faculty at this year's Global Leadership Summit. Go on a journey of rich learning and gain new ideas and a fresh perspective from leading experts spanning a wide range of fields and backgrounds. Leadership faculty include:

- Ron Howard, Academy Award-winning Filmmaker
- Jon Acuff, NY Times Best-Selling Author
- Stephanie Chung, Fomer President of JetSuite
- Deb Liu, President & CEO, Ancestry
- Bob Iger, Former CEO & Executive Chairman of The Walt Disney Company
- Vanessa Van Edwards, Founder & Lead Behavior Investigator, Science of People

With a wealth of rich leadership insight and encouragement, you'll leave this year's event with key takeaways that can help you realize your vision. Voice your vision to...

- Engage in meaningful and healing conflict resolution.
- Strengthen your personal and professional relationships.
- Empower others across generational divides.
- Realize opportunity even in the face of hardship.
- Recognize courageous influence even beyond a title.

Do you have your tickets yet? Attend the Global Leadership Summit at our Holy Cross Satellite location to enhance and inspire your leadership potential.

Register at: bit.ly/GLSatHCLC

Priority code: GLS22TEAM



A Check-In with Deaconess Katie

by Deaconess Katie Freund

We're in the last few weeks of summer! It's time to squeeze out any last drop of freedom before we're once more whisked away with another school year. But the reality for many families is we're simply overwhelmed and overbooked no matter what season it is. The world is chock full of people and organizations asking (or demanding) our attention. Our time and energy have become the most coveted currency.

So, let's not play that game right now. Take half a second to think about where you are right now, and then breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.

I'm not going to ask anything of you. You know our church is here when you need us. No membership, attendance, or subscriptions required.

My hope for you is that, if nothing else, while reading this you will be able to take a deep breath and savor God's presence. Because God is present, right here in whatever moment you are in. Whether you're standing in the kitchen, just came home from one place or just about to leave to someplace else. Whether it's late at night or early in the morning, whether the kids are asleep or watching tv, whether you're killing time while waiting to pick up the kids from practice or it's a lazy afternoon; God is here.

Our job is to provide a fertile ground for your family's faith. We aren't "church" apart from you. We aren't a location you go to in order to find God, nor are we an event planner that books a meeting with God on your behalf. We are church together, and God is where you are. So go with God. We are here to fill your cup as needed.

New Community Mental Health Support Hotline

Individuals experiencing emotional distress or suicidal crisis can access the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline via a new 988 dialing code. This service operates 24/7 in English and Spanish and provides free and confidential support.

988
SUICIDE
& CRISIS
LIFELINE

When people call, text, or chat 988, they will be connected to trained counselors who will listen, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. Numerous studies have shown that callers feel less suicidal, less depressed, less overwhelmed, and more hopeful after speaking with a Lifeline counselor.

Additional resources are available online at 988lifeline.org including help for veterans, disaster survivors, maternal mental health, LGBTQ+, attempt survivors, loss survivors, emotional wellbeing during COVID-19, and more.

SAVE THE DATE

Installation of Rev. Christopher Neptun
Sunday, October 9 at 10 am

Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA will join us to preach at both worship services, with the installation being held at 10 am.

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Landon Leo Placko

son of Douglas & Taryn Placko

July 10, 2022

WEDDING

Carol Meyer and Daniel Wessel

July 10, 2022

FUNERAL

Barbara Cannon

July 16, 2022

Audit Update

Our intention to have an audit report for 2021 available by June 1, as stated in the annual report, has not been realized because of internal time constraints and uncertainty regarding the scope of the review. While we constantly go over our accounting and financial practices, our aim remains full transparency and operating according to organizational best practices. Our new hope is to complete the review by the end of October. We are grateful for the trust and support of our membership here at Holy Cross as we thoughtfully steward your gifts. Please get in touch with Steve Oelschlager if you have any questions.

The following groups are on hiatus until September 2022:

- WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP
- ANTIRACISM ROUNDTABLE & WORK GROUP
- GROUNDED IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

7 PM IN PERSON (HOME OF NANCY JOINER, 1318 VINEYARD LANE, LIBERTYVILLE) OR VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

The Holy Cross Book Club, open to anyone who is interested in reading and discussing books, routinely meets the fourth Thursday of every month.

In August we will discuss **Long Bright River** by Liz Moore. Two sisters travel the same streets, though their lives couldn't be more different. Then, one of them goes missing. Alternating its present-day mystery with the story of the sisters' childhood and adolescence, **Long Bright River** is at once heart-pounding and heart-wrenching: a gripping suspense novel that is also a moving story of sisters, addiction, and the formidable ties that persist between place, family, and fate.

Our discussion host will be Nancy Joiner. If you have any questions, please email Melanie Houser at housermd@comcast.net

View the list of our 2022 Book Club selections at holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings

PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 10 & 24

11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTURY PARK, VERNON HILLS/HOLY CROSS

SATURDAYS, AUGUST 13 & 27

9 AM - 12 PM

LOCATION: SPRING GROVE FISH HATCHERY, 2314 HATCHERY ROAD, SPRING GROVE

COST: \$5.00 PER CAR TO ENTER THE PARK

Please note schedule change: Evening Sessions moved to Saturday mornings. 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, AUGUST 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

9 AM - 12 PM

IN-PERSON, ROOM 404

The Quilting Group gathers in-person on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in their Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

Contact Deb Sherrock at debs695@aol.com or (630) 267-7802 with any questions.

SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAYS, AUGUST 6 & 20

7 AM

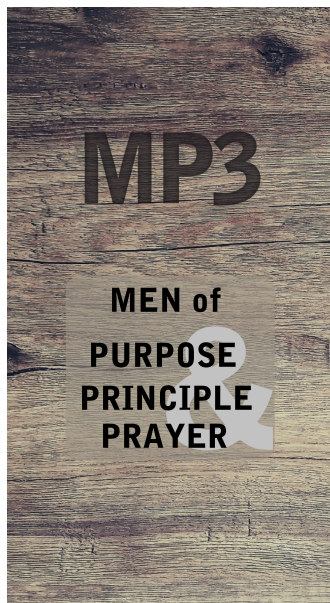
IN-PERSON (ROOM 208) OR VIA ZOOM

 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. Join us as we continue to take in ideas and inspiration from a variety of topics as a way to launch our conversation. All welcome.

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





MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
 6 - 8:30 PM
 IN-PERSON, FELLOWSHIP AREA
 THEME: SEEKING ALIVENESS

The third of our four session video curriculum on *Seeking Aliveness* will be held in September. We will continue our journey with renowned author and emergent Christian leader Brian McLaren as we seek out this new path for our faith. If you have not already received one, copies of McLaren's book "*We Make the Road by Walking: a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation and activation*" are available as a resource and gift for everyone. Drawing on the themes from his book we are offering up some fresh insights for how we go about composing a life of faith. Men (21+) are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, music, and conversation. Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org

To help us plan for food, please RSVP at bit.ly/MP3SEPT13

Save the date: The fourth and final session on *Seeking Aliveness* will be held on Tuesday, October 18.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP
TUESDAYS, AUGUST 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30
 7 - 8 AM
 LOCATION: THE LIBERTY RESTAURANT, 419 S. MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

This is a wonderful way to begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org



PILATES
MONDAYS, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
 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.



Women's Retreat

Women over the age of 21 are invited to escape the daily grind and join us at The Abbey Resort in Lake Geneva where you will experience the calming effects of the lake and picturesque fall views of the harbor. On October 21-22, we will be exploring our theme of "Something Beautiful" in oneself, others, and in creation, led by Deaconess Katie. This retreat will be sure to inspire and create positive memories for all who attend!

Not sure if you will know anyone? Never fear, we will be there with you every step of the way or feel free to invite a friend—all are welcome! We have three delicious meals with a lakeside view planned. You will have the opportunity to participate in campfire devotions complete with s'mores and/or lakeside morning prayer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Ann Koenemann at bethann@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 997-9937 or Deaconess Katie at deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org

We look forward to our experience together!

Date: Friday, October 21 at 4 pm - Saturday, October 22 at 4 pm
 Location: The Abbey Resort, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
 Cost: \$200 per participant (Partial scholarships available)
 RSVP by: September 12



For more information and to register, visit holycrosschurch.org/womensretreat



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

by Samantha Cooper
Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

Our Final Summer Camp Session

August has arrived and marks our final session of Little Sprouts Summer Camp. This month is only a 3-week session, compared to the 4-week sessions of June and July. Students will kick off the session with our very exciting Vacation Bible School (VBS) Week. The theme is Food Truck Party. Of course, it wouldn't be complete without a visit from Kona Ice! Each day, students will have a themed bible topic, daily craft, and special snack. Deaconess Katie will be meeting with our students each morning for a group prayer and discussion. Following VBS week, we will have Teddy Bear Adventures and Community Workers as our final themes. For the last day of camp, we will be having ice cream!

2022/23 School Year

We will begin gearing up for a fresh, new school year! Our teachers will have two weeks in between summer camp ending and the school year starting which will be after Labor Day. With continued low enrollment for our two-year-old program, the decision has been made to combine the two's and three's again this year into one classroom.

CrossWays Preschool will be having an Open House event prior to the first day of school for incoming families. Open House is designed to provide information to new families, meet the staff, and welcome their students to their classroom. We are looking forward to meeting our new families and welcoming back familiar faces.

CrossWays Preschool Important Dates

August 18: Last day of Little Sprouts Summer Camp
September 1: Open House
September 6: First day of Enrichment
September 7: First day of Preschool

Fallin' Into Fun Event

CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare are pleased to announce our first "Fallin' Into Fun" fundraiser. This family friendly, community event will be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Saturday, October 1 from 12 - 4 pm. Admission is free, however donations at the door will be accepted. Those who donate will be eligible for our door raffle prize! We will have food, games, vendors, and more! Proceeds from the event will go towards supporting and enriching our children and staff of CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. All are welcome! Be on the lookout for more information closer to the date.

Summer Blues

We are heading into the last few weeks of our Summer Camp! It has been an amazing season full of sun, play, and memories. Although we are sad to see summer camp ending, we are looking forward to the August activities. The first week of summer will be our Vacation Bible School week. Kona Ice will be visiting and children will have a special tie dye day! In the coming weeks, we will also have an Animal Quest show and a visit from the local Fire Department. The final special outfit days will be Pajama Day and Career Day.

School Age children will be returning to elementary school in the final weeks of August. We have a lot of students who will be starting their first year in Kindergarten! We wish them the best of luck and can't wait to hear about their experiences in elementary school. In addition, we have many Celebration! Childcare students who will be returning to the program from taking the summer off. We are excited to see them again as well as a handful of new students beginning in our program!

As much as we will miss summer, we are also looking forward to a new school year. Many of the students will be transitioning to a new classroom. Prior to the pandemic, students moving to a new room would have the opportunity to visit their next classroom the week before they officially start. We have not been doing a transition week due to exposure risks but will be starting it back up for the upcoming fall move. The transition is beneficial to students and teachers to have time to acclimate to new faces and make the adjustment to a new space easier.

Celebration! will have a Curriculum Night for parents on Wednesday, September 7. Curriculum Night is a great opportunity for families to meet with teachers outside of class time and learn more about our curriculum and daily schedules.

Celebration! Childcare Important Date

August 19: Last day of Summer Camp
August 22: 2022/23 School Year begins
September 5: Labor Day (no school)
September 7: Curriculum Night



**CHIPOTLE FUNDRAISER FOR
CROSSWAYS
PRESCHOOL/CELEBRATION
CHILDCARE**

33% OF EVENT SALES GET DONATED TO THE CAUSE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10TH | 4-8PM
139 N MILWAUKEE AVE, LIBERTYVILLE, IL, 60048

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICKUP USING CODE **XPLBRR3**
OR SHOW THIS FLYER IN RESTAURANT

Digital flyer: bit.ly/chipotle22



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



**CrossWays
Preschool**



**Celebration!
Childcare**

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

Faith Formation

by Deaconess Katie Freund



This summer we used Sunday mornings as an excuse to make a mess! From paints to toothpaste to science experiments, we made art and tried new things in our “messy church” series. Each week we also took a moment to add new prayers to our “Prayer Wall” and watched it grow all season. Thank you to all that joined us. We’ll see you in September when we kick off our next year of faith formation!

The newest additions to our children's library have arrived and are available in the gathering space. Come take a look!

Mark your calendars now for Rally Day. In the past, this has been simply a day to sign up for the start of Sunday school (Faith Formation) and confirmation... which doesn't sound very fun. Why not have a church yard carnival too? We'll have a kickoff carnival with food and games. I even heard a rumor about a dunk tank, who knows, anything can happen!



Sunday, September 11
8 am Worship in the Sanctuary
10 am Drive-in worship in the parking lot
11 am Rally Day Kickoff Carnival & Cookout tailgate in the parking lot. (Carnival games such as cake walk, dunk tank, bean bag toss, balloon pop, fish pond etc.) The cookout meal will be provided. We will invite members to join in the carnival fun by hosting a booth from their trunk with a carnival style game.

Blessings as you soak up the end of summer heat and look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 7 at 8 & 10 am worship

As students head back to school, we invite you and the students in your life to join us in worship for the Blessing of the Backpacks Milestone Ministry. Students, bring your school backpack to worship and receive a special blessing and backpack tag that reminds you of the love of Jesus and the care of your church family. We will also attach backpack tags to backpacks donated to LSSI.



No RSVP needed. See more information about Milestone Ministries at HolyCrossChurch.org/milestoneministries



CONFIRMATION

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

Orientation for parents and students will be on Sunday, September 11 at 6:30 pm. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade confirmation students will be introduced to their classes and taught about acolyting. Parents will be given information for the year and we'll organize small group leaders.

Fall class schedule (6:30 - 8 pm):

September 18, 25
 October 2, 16, 23, 30
 November 6, 13, 20

Spring class schedule (6:30 - 8 pm):

January 8, 22, 29
 February 5, 12, 19, 26
 March 5, 12

9th Grade Confirmation

For our 9th grade confirmands preparing for confirmation this October, please remember that we are currently having one-on-one faith conversations to wrap up your child's confirmation education. Scheduling is available online at: holycrosschurch.org/confirmation

In September we will have two Saturday, small group sessions for our 9th grade confirmands:

September 10, 8-10am (with breakfast)
 September 17, 6-8pm (with dinner)

Reformation Sunday and Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, October 30 at 10 am Worship

We will celebrate with the young people who have completed their Confirmation coursework, had their faith interviews, and prayerfully decided to affirm the faith of their baptisms.

Backpack Drive



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is looking to support students as they return to school and you can help! Consider purchasing a new, 17" size backpack (any color or style suitable for elementary through high school) and bringing it to church by Sunday, August 7. You can also support the cause by making a financial donation online. Financial contributions will be used to help fund \$25 gift cards for supplies that will accompany each donated backpack and to purchase additional backpacks. (This year, the congregation will not be asked to collect supplies or to assemble any of the backpacks.) All backpack and monetary donations are due by Sunday, August 7 so that they can be delivered to LSSI before the start of school.

Donate online: donate.holycrosschurch.org





Crossroads High School Youth Group Cookout, Campfire & Brainstorming

by Pastor Chris Neptun

Young adults going into high school and those already there, block your calendar, grab some friends, and plan to come hear what's in store for Crossroads this year!

One area of Holy Cross that I'd like to focus on is YOU, our High School students. I want to work with you to shape and form a church experience that you would like, that you can relate to, that you want to come to! I'd like to give you the tools and the opportunities to grow in faith that make sense to you. Here's the thing though, I can't do it for you... but would like to shape a space and time with you that is for you.

As young adults, you lead and make decisions with your experiences at school, in sports, clubs and other activities already. I'd like to partner with you to shape your church experience as well. I would love the chance to Re-Construct Crossroads with you.

First, I want to invite you to come to the Cookout, Campfire and Brainstorming session on Sunday, August 21. We'll grill out, have some lawn games, make s'mores and take time to talk about the events and experiences you would like to take part in. I want to hear what your hopes are. Maybe you don't know or have any ideas right now. That's okay, I have some thoughts and ideas that you may like (or not) and I'll share those.

It's been quite some time since you have been able to gather for Crossroads. Let's face it, COVID, the cancelling of the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, busy schedules, and even the truth for some that you just don't see yourself as part of a church youth group have made it tough for Crossroads to thrive. My hope is that it can change and we can grow and journey together.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, Steve or Becky
Pastor Chris pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org
Steve Oelschlager steve@holycrosschurch.org
Becky Sawle (708) 291-0488 (text)

Summer Picnic on the Holy Cross Patio

Date: Sunday, August 21

Time: 4 - 6:30 pm

Cost: Free



We'll cook burgers on the grill, play volleyball, cornhole and have wacky relay races. Note: Parents are welcome to join us for dinner and to hang out but are not required to stay.

RSVP: [HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads](https://holycrosschurch.org/crossroads)
Please RSVP by August 15 to help us plan for food.

What's Up Next? Save the date for WhirlyBall Bash & Pizza

Date: Sunday, September 18

Time: 3:45 - 6 pm

Theology, Buildings, and Mulch

by Steve Oelschlager

Ideas matter! As we try to understand our world, our lives, and God, that is to say, everything, the concepts, theories, and explanations we use make a big difference. Logically, good ideas are always better than bad or inferior ideas. Our attempts over time to refine and improve our theology reflect that our ideas matter.

Regarding religious buildings and structures, we see the same kind of evolution in thinking we experience in the rest of life. For example, at some point, the Israelites of the Old Testament believed God resided in the Temple in Jerusalem, which caused them to view the temple as sacred and everything outside the temple as profane. Later in Christianity, people thought God dwelled in heaven, so church buildings used tall spires and steeples to connect believers on earth with God in the sky. If our understanding today is that God is part of all creation, both inside and outside the church, here on earth and in heaven, what might the implications be for how we view and use our church buildings and grounds?

Holy Cross is blessed to have incredible facilities for ministry. Whenever we gather here, those opportunities and events give us a chance to be inspired and supported so that we can be sent back into the world to be a force for good. When lifelong learning happens in our space, faith is nurtured and formed for all ages to help navigate life's challenges. When we use our buildings for ministries like our preschool and childcare, Boy Scouts, Willow House, and Project Healing Waters, Red Rose Children's Choir, we are of service to the community, and we invest in the common good. All that to say, our building and grounds at Holy Cross are strategic assets heavily used for ministry every week.

You may have noticed that we have been making various improvements as we try to maintain and optimize our space. The photos printed here highlight some of those modifications. We continue to take seriously the stewarding of our building and grounds with the gifts you provide to support our ministries. We are grateful for all the people who have helped make these upgrades possible through their labors and financial support.

We hope your lives are blessed by the time you spend at Holy Cross through the ideas, inspiration, faith, and relationships formed in our space. If you have any questions about our physical presence for ministry, please let me know at steve@holycrosschurch.org



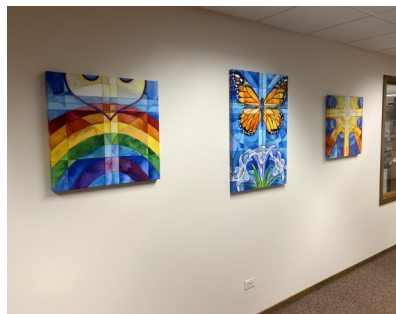
You may notice several projects as you come onto the grounds at Holy Cross. Our parking lot is freshly seal-coated as part of a three-year cycle, and we fixed a few potholes too. We recently planted new trees and bushes around the grounds and, back in the spring, spread fresh mulch on the beds and inside the playground.



Our new video ministry added with the onset of Covid allows us to live stream worship services and other events in the sanctuary. To make that possible, we installed three cameras in the back of the sanctuary and moved and expanded our AV room to house all the new technology. In addition, we added a wooden background behind the band area and new trees by the altar for extra visual interest.



In the Gathering Space and hallway outside the office, we added some new artwork with added energy, color, and symbolism. Further down the hall in Rooms 207 and 208, we installed smart TVs on the wall for presentations and Zoom meetings and set up new bookcases along the back walls. Room 207 has comfortable seating, books, and resources for children and families. Room 208 has a conference table and chairs, books, and resources for adults.



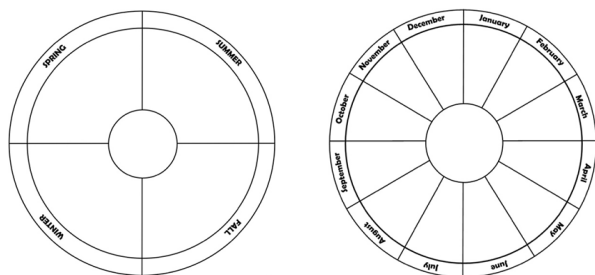


Purple and Yellow

by Leo Karris

Ever wonder about the combinations and colors of flowers you see in nature? In August, a combination of flowers that will emerge late in the month and then into the Fall will be goldenrods and asters. With this emergence will be beautiful colors of purple and yellow (gold). Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and author of *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teaching of Plants*, talks about these two specific colors and why the flowers grow together. Science tells us that the color combination, which are opposites on the color wheel, creates a “striking contrast” for both the human eye as well as the eyes of bees. This combination gets the bees’ attention so more pollination will occur. We see other colors in nature, but if you have a good look, you will see yellow and purple continually throughout the seasons.

A fun exercise to help appreciate the colors of our natural world is to create a phenology wheel. A phenology wheel is a tool that helps to capture visually what is happening over time in nature. I have included two examples. Materials needed include colored pencils, markers, or crayons. The idea is to color in the spaces on the wheel based on what you observe in the appropriate month or season. You can even write in the names of the plants along with birds or pollinators that visit the plants as well. It is a fun way to “see” the landscape and helps us to focus in on what is growing in our yards, neighborhoods, and forest preserves/open lands. It can also be used to help plan a wildflower garden to create an environment where there is color throughout the seasons. To learn more about phenology wheels see earthpartnership.wisc.edu/phenology-wheels-download



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

The mission of COOL Ministries is to give comprehensive assistance to families in need, by reducing hunger and homelessness while encouraging personal growth and self-sufficiency.

The number of patrons has grown, and our monetary help is needed more than ever. Support COOL Ministries by donating online at donate.holycrosschurch.org



PADS Ministry Support Needed

by Peg Chartier

The Holy Cross PADS ministry is hoping to expand our volunteer pool. If you have ever wanted to serve the homeless, let us know your interest here: bit.ly/PADShost



We will be reaching out by the end of the month to organize a conversation to plan for Holy Cross’s larger presence in the PADS ministry. Thank you to all who have already expressed your desire to serve. Monetary donations for PADS may be made online at donate.holycrosschurch.org



Lutherdale Fest



QUILT AUCTION

Saturday, August 13
9 am - 3 pm
N7891 US Hwy 12
Elkhorn, WI 53121

This year marks the 36th year of the Lutherdale Fest Quilt Auction, Lutherdale’s largest annual fundraiser. Lutherdale has a policy that no child will ever be turned away from summer camp for financial reasons. The quilt auction makes it possible for youth to attend summer camp and experience God’s love in a powerful way at Lutherdale.

The live auction will begin at 10 am. Enjoy the beauty, workmanship, and creativity of the 300+ quilts in this year’s auction with your friends, neighbors, and families. The quilt auction will showcase quilts of all sizes from quilters across the country. Browse and bid on silent auction items, shop in the gift gallery, and find great deals on fabric and craft supplies. Enjoy a delicious lunchtime menu to be served near the auction area.

A Quilt Preview will be available on Friday, August 12, as well as a Wisconsin fish fry for inside and outside dining or carryout. Meal tickets are available at the door for \$18 for adults and \$10 for youth 10 years old and under. View the quilts donated for 2022 or for more details about the event, visit lutherdale.org/quilt-auction



14th Annual Willow House Walk & 5K Run to Remember

Sunday, September 11

Independence Grove Forest Preserve
16400 West Buckley Road, Libertyville

7:30 am - Registration

8:30 am - 5K Run

9:30 am - Memorial Walk

10:30 am - Closing Ceremony

This event was designed to allow family members to dedicate a morning to memorialize their loved one(s), share stories, and meet others that truly understand the emotions and challenges that one may face after the death of a loved one, while raising essential funds to continue Willow House programs. To learn more or to register or donate, go to: willowhouse.org/walk2022/

Willow House is the only independent organization in Illinois that provides support services to children, teens and families who are grieving the death of a loved one. All services are provided at no charge.

August Calendar

Monday, August 1

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

Tuesday, August 2

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 3

9 am Quilting Group, 404

Thursday, August 4

9 am Global Leadership Summit, Fellowship Area

Friday, August 5

9 am Global Leadership Summit, Fellowship Area

Saturday, August 6

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Patio

Sunday, August 7

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Mission Endowment Scholarship Presentation, Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Cupcake party

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Mission Endowment Scholarship Presentation, Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Backpacks, Sanctuary & livestream

11 am Cupcake party

Monday, August 8

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

Tuesday, August 9

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 10

9 am Quilting Group, 404

11:30 am PHW, Century Park, VH

7 pm Church Council meeting, 208

Saturday, August 13

9 am PHW, Spring Grove Fish Hatchery, Spring Grove

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

Sunday, August 14

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, Drive-In

11 am Taco Sunday Fellowship Tailgate

Monday, August 15

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, August 16

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 17

9 am Quilting Group, 404

Saturday, August 20

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Patio

Sunday, August 21

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, August 22

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, August 23

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 24

9 am Quilting Group, 404

11:30 am PHW, Century Park, VH

Thursday, August 25

7 pm Book Club, In-Person at Nancy Joiner's home or via Zoom

Saturday, August 27

9 am PHW, Spring Grove Fish Hatchery, Spring Grove

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

Sunday, August 28

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, Drive-In

11 am Fellowship Tailgate

Monday, August 29

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium

6:30 pm BSA Court of Honor, Fellowship Area

Tuesday, August 30

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 31

9 am Quilting Group, 404

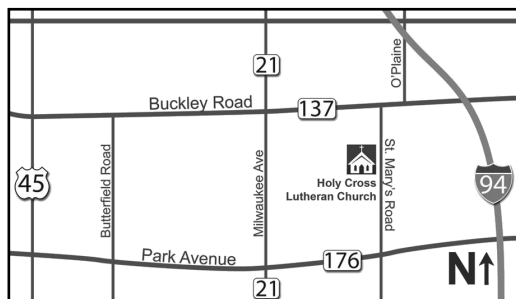
Altar Flowers



Purchase flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings in memory of a loved one or to celebrate with joy a birthday, anniversary, baptism, wedding or other event. For convenience, **altar flower order options are offered online where you now have the opportunity to select your desired date (by the 25th of the month prior)** and craft a dedication which will appear in the bulletin on your chosen day. The price for an arrangement including delivery is \$50 per bouquet. You are welcome and encouraged to take the flowers home to enjoy following the 10 am service on the day you donate. (We ask that the vases be returned during the following week or on the next Sunday so that we can continually rotate them back to the florist.) It is our hope that the altar flowers will be a visible reminder in our lives and in our worship setting of the beauty, the joy and the love that God has given to each of us. **To order, visit bit.ly/orderaltarflowers**

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

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



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

August Worship Schedule

Saturday Evening Worship

5:30 pm

August 6 - Patio

August 13 - Sanctuary

August 20 - Patio

August 27 - Sanctuary

Sundays

August 7

August 7 - 8 & 10 am

Sanctuary & livestream

August 14

8 am - Sanctuary & livestream

10 am - Drive-In

August 21 - 8 & 10 am

Sanctuary & livestream

August 28

8 am - Sanctuary & livestream

10 am - Drive-In

View the full summer worship schedule
and fellowship events calendar on page 2



Summer Fellowship Events

Sunday, August 7 at 9 & 11 am

Cupcake party and fellowship following both worship services

Sunday, August 14 at 11 am

Taco Sunday fellowship tailgate following the 10 am drive-in
worship service

Sunday, August 28 at 11 am

Fellowship tailgate following the 10 am drive-in worship service

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 7 at 8 & 10 am worship

Students, bring your school backpack to worship
and receive a special blessing and backpack tag
that reminds you of the love of Jesus and the care
of your church family. *Details on page 7.*



Backpack Drive

Donate a new backpack or contribute to
supplies online to support LSSI.

More information on page 7.



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

