

Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry

by Pastor Chris Neptun



“The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” – Ephesians 4:11-13

As we continue our journey together as a community, it is vital that we embody the values of Invite, Nurture, Equip, and Serve. Our church's vision calls us to extend invitations, care for one another, equip ourselves for ministry, and serve with love and passion. However, we acknowledge that sometimes we need clarification or support to fulfill these responsibilities fully.

As your pastor, I am committed to helping you discover your calling and equip you to fulfill God's purpose. Ephesians 4:12 reminds us that we are called to “equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” This equipping process is a growing edge for each one of us and for our Holy Cross community. We are continually striving to grow and improve, ensuring that every member feels confident and capable in their ministry.

I want to hear from you. How can I help you connect with God and people in meaningful ways that utilize your unique gifts, talents, and passions? How can I empower you to do the same for others? My desire is to equip you to lead, and in turn, for you to equip others, creating a ripple effect of servant leadership throughout our community. We can build a strong foundation where leaders empower others to serve and lead.

Sometimes, even seemingly small tasks can prevent others from stepping up and sharing their gifts. Take, for example, our coffee hour at Holy Grounds Café. While it may seem like a simple routine, the commercial coffee maker might inadvertently discourage someone who had signed up to host. To address this, we have made efforts to leave instructions next to the coffee maker and create YouTube videos demonstrating its operation. However, I believe that personal teaching and hands-on guidance foster deeper relationships, conversations, questions, and confidence for those who want to serve.

Are there areas where you have wanted to serve but have yet to feel equipped? What tasks are you currently engaged in where you hope others might step in as well? Let us share our experiences and knowledge to help one another become valued and integral parts of our community.

Throughout our journey, Holy Cross has equipped congregants for various ministries, including acolytes, assisting ministers, youth leaders, and those involved in tasks around our property and drive-in worship attendants, ushers, greeters, and coffee hour hosts, to name just a few. We recognize the importance of training and equipping and aspire to enhance our efforts in these areas.

I invite you to reflect on your talents, skills, and abilities. What would you like to do but currently feel unequipped for? What areas are you already serving in but desire to improve? Have you considered becoming a small group leader, leading book studies, Bible studies, social groups, service groups, or affinity groups? Equipping one another will grow us as individuals and a community of faith more completely. Our focus, however, must always remain grounded in why we equip one another.

As Christians, our ultimate purpose for equipping and being equipped is “for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” Everything we do, from the simplest task to the most complex teaching, is rooted in our love and devotion to Jesus Christ.

Lastly, let us remember that our journey as a church is a journey of relationships. We are called to communicate, interact, and relate to one another in healthy and transformative ways. While we strive for this ideal, we understand that cultivating healthy Christian relationships requires continuous learning and growth. We want to build and sustain these relationships, following Jesus's example of love and grace.

Therefore, this fall, I am excited to announce that I will be leading a course titled “Healthy Christian Relationships.” This course will be open to all congregation leaders and anyone who desires to join. It will explore the core of Jesus's message of good news, centered around God's love and our relationships with God and one another. Through this training, we will be equipped by God's Word and empowered to equip others in cultivating healthy and thriving relationships within our church and beyond.

For more information on this exciting opportunity, please refer to page 6 in this newsletter or contact the church office directly at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060. It is my prayer that we are united in this effort, ready to learn, grow, and build a stronger, more vibrant community of faith.

In Christ's love,

CONGREGATIONAL
LIFE
Pages 1 - 5

RELATIONAL MINISTRY
Pages 6 - 7

YOUTH MINISTRY
Pages 8 - 9

BEYOND THE
CONGREGATION
Page 10

CALENDAR
Page 11

AUGUST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENINGS 5:30 pm

August 5 - *Patio*

August 12 - *Sanctuary*

August 19 - *SNLOP*

August 26 - *Sanctuary*

SUNDAYS

August 6, 13, 27

8 & 10 am

Sanctuary & Livestream

August 20

8 am - Sanctuary &

Livestream

10 am - Drive-In

View livestream at
[HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](https://www.holycrosschurch.org/sermons)

Summer at Holy Cross

What's happening this summer at Holy Cross? We've got you covered for worship, fellowship, and faith formation!

Hey Kids! Messy Church is back. Join Deaconess Katie outside for Drive-in Worship which is perfect for Messy Church! See page 8 for more details.

Pastor Chris is hosting a Watch Party and discussion for Season One of "The Chosen" series. We gather on select Thursday evenings. Each session we will watch an episode and discuss correlating Bible passages. We will also discuss differences between the Bible and each episode. See the article on page 3 for more information.

If you're looking for a chance to catch up with friends or make new ones, there will be fellowship events to come together for food, music, and conversation. We'll provide food unless otherwise specified, and the patio will be available for fellowship space as needed on Sundays.

Worship is essential to community life at Holy Cross. During the summer months, worship with Holy Communion will be offered every Saturday evening at 5:30 pm. Sunday Worship will be at 8 and 10 am. Services will primarily take place in the Sanctuary with select services held as drive-ins, and on the patio. Livestream worship will also be available on Sundays when held in the Sanctuary. Past recorded worship services are always available on the church's website for on-demand viewing at HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons



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
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 Wee, Organist

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Samantha (Sam) Cooper, 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

August

Saturday, August 5

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, PATIO

Sunday, August 6 - Mission Endowment & Graduation Recognition Day

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Saturday, August 12

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 13

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Saturday, August 19

5:30 pm Saturday Night Live on the Patio

Sunday, August 20

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, DRIVE-IN, followed by Messy Church

Saturday, August 26

5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 27

8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream



Join Pastor Chris on the following Thursday evenings for the final two sessions of a watch party and discussion of season one of "The Chosen" drama television series about the life of Christ, portrayed through the eyes of those who met Jesus. We'll gather to watch each episode and discuss correlating Bible passages. We will also discuss differences between the Bible and each episode.

The Chosen - Watch Party and Discussion

Time: 7 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

August 3 - Episode 7 "Invitations"
August 10 - Episode 8 "I Am He"



Fellowship Events



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR
SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
9 AM

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



SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE ON THE PATIO
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

WORSHIP AT 5:30 PM, DINNER AT 6:15 PM
 Please join us as for worship on the patio with dinner, and live music following. We'll provide the entrée. You're invited to bring a salad or dessert to share.



Servant (Volunteer) Recognition Day

On Sunday, August 20 after the 10 am worship service, the Church Council will be hosting a fellowship event for all members and their guests. The Council will provide a fried chicken entrée. You are encouraged, but not required, to bring a side dish to share with the attendees.

At the event, all members, who served (volunteered) in some capacity to assist in our ministry, service projects, or in other ways will be able to participate in a raffle. Attendees may submit one ticket for each way of serving. For example, if you served communion, ushered, and helped serve a meal for PADS, you would receive three raffle tickets. There will be four \$25 gift cards to local businesses raffled off.

Thank you to all of our members who have served over the last year. We look forward to seeing you serve again. In addition, we would love for more members to help serve in some capacity to help strengthen our church community. To connect with service and volunteer opportunities, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060.

Thank You Worship Volunteers

by Therese Delli Paoli

Thank you to our worship volunteers who graciously and consistently donate their time to assist at each of our church services. You are superstars and we sincerely appreciate your help and support for worship. Now that it is summer, more individuals are taking advantage to vacation with family and friends. This is the perfect time of year to get away! However, many of our volunteer positions may not be filled due to lower attendance. Please, if you are in town, we ask that you consider filling an open worship volunteer position when others are gone. It is easy and if you have never assisted in that position, we are here to give you support so that you are confident while being a worship volunteer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060. Enjoy your summer! Thank you!

A Year of Holy Days: Loaf Mass

by Deaconess Katie Freund

Happy bread day! That's right, bread. Historically, August 1 has been an often overlooked holy day known as Loaf Mass. The old English morph would be "Lammas"; and in *ye olde* times this would have been when a community celebrated the first harvest by baking the first loaf of bread with this year's new grains. That special first loaf, made of the "first fruits" of the field was then brought to be blessed at the local parish.

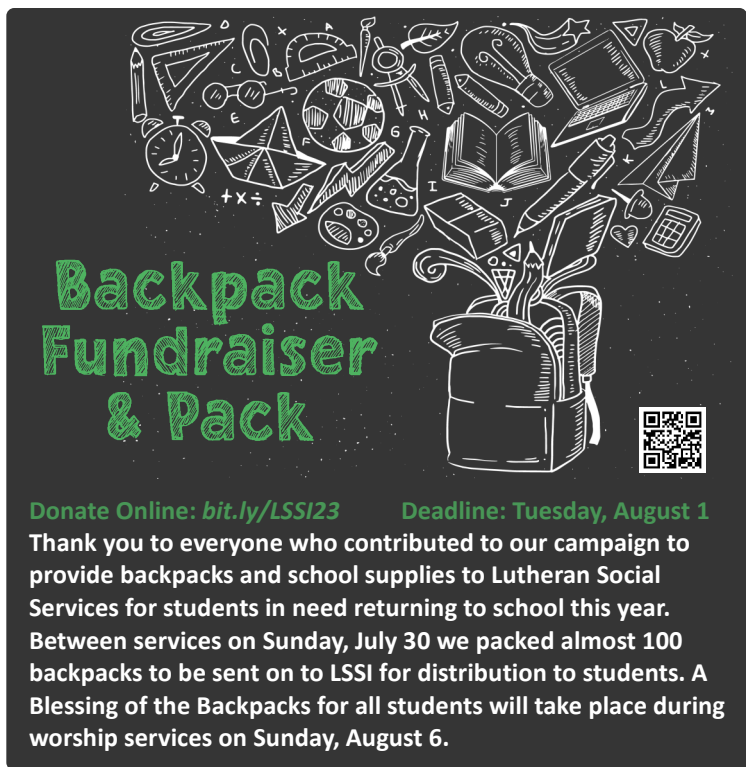
How we experience time and the movement of the seasons is deeply personal. It's unique to how we live our lives. For generations your ancestors may have been farmers and time was marked by lambing or calving, by planting seeds, the ripening of berries, or harvesting and preserving food for colder weather. Chances are, if I wanted to get you in a sentimental frame of mind, I'd have a better chance of doing that today by bringing up summer days spent at the pool or the start of a specific sport season. We still move through the year, even if the markers we use have changed.

So wherever it is you find yourself this last month of summer, take a moment to consider what in your life is in need of blessing. What makes you feel grateful, as though you have enough? What are the first fruits you can offer to God?

I know the danger in leaving this too open-ended is that you won't know how to apply it in your life in a meaningful way. But your life is different from mine. Who knows, maybe you still have that sourdough starter from 2020...




MESSY CHURCH
Summer Faith Formation
 During and following 10 am Drive-In Worship
Sunday, August 20 - A New Beginning (Isaiah 43:18-19)
 All ages welcome! See more on page 8.



Backpack Fundraiser & Pack

Donate Online: bit.ly/LSSI23 Deadline: **Tuesday, August 1**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our campaign to provide backpacks and school supplies to Lutheran Social Services for students in need returning to school this year. Between services on Sunday, July 30 we packed almost 100 backpacks to be sent on to LSSI for distribution to students. A Blessing of the Backpacks for all students will take place during worship services on Sunday, August 6.



Coffee Hosting Is Back!

We are grateful for everyone who volunteers to participate during worship services at Holy Cross. We have once again added the role of coffee hosting to our worship volunteer team.



If you were a host in the past and would like to continue OR if you have never hosted before but would like to learn more or participate in this fellowship ministry, please contact the church office at (847) 367-4060 or office@holycrosschurch.org to connect to the worship volunteer team.

Introducing Our New Choir Director Darrin Rose

Hello church, my name is Darrin Rose and I am excited to have been given the position of choir director at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I am a music educator from the Chicagoland area and also serve at some area churches in music leadership, including clinics, fine arts planning and worship consulting. Below you'll find my professional bio if you'd like to read it. You can reach me by email at darrin@holycrosschurch.org



With the choir at Holy Cross, I'm hoping to engage singers of all ages, and want to make sure that people feel welcomed into a safe space. I'm encouraged to work with so many sensitive, empathetic, and self-aware musicians, and can't wait to see what we can all accomplish together. If you're on the choir email list, you'll receive an email with information about our upcoming rehearsal schedule. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all!

Whether or not you're in the choir, I would love to tell you all a little more about myself, other than "I do music." I'm an avid bike rider, and I've recently learned that there are miles and miles of trail in this area that I can't wait to explore. I am also very into cooking, especially soul food. My specialty is gumbo, and I'll be looking for an excuse to share some with the church at one of your many shared meal experiences—I've heard you love to eat.

Darrin Rose is a K-12 music educator with a philosophy of culturally responsive teaching and passion for program building. He is an active choral educator and collaborative artist in the Chicagoland Area. His professional affiliations include National Association of Negro Musicians, American Choral Directors Association, and the National Association for Teachers of Singing. Rose's research areas include African-American music and access in music education.

Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

Cultivating Well-Being for All of Life by Steve Oelschlager

God desires our well-being and flourishing, and to that end, invites us to faithfully reflect on life itself. When we think about what makes life worth living, how do we identify what is life-giving, and what is not? Sometimes our deliberations can be both uncomfortable and challenging. In his book *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, Dr. Atul Gawande examines two such adversities: illness and aging. Dr. Gawande makes the case that life needs to be stewarded thoughtfully and honestly to the very end by everyone, including health care professionals. Here is an excerpt from his compelling book.

"Being mortal is about the struggle to cope with the constraints of our biology, with the limits set by genes and cells and flesh and bone. Medical science has given us remarkable power to push against these limits, and the potential value of this power was a central reason I became a doctor. But again and again, I have seen the damage we in medicine do when we fail to acknowledge that such power is finite and always will be.

We've been wrong about what our job is in medicine. We think our job is to ensure health and survival. But really it is larger than that. It is to enable well-being. And well-being is about the reasons one wishes to be alive. Those reasons matter not just at the end of life, or when debility comes, but all along the way. Whenever serious sickness or injury strikes and your body or mind breaks down, the vital questions are the same: What is your understanding of the situation and its potential outcomes? What are your fears and what are your hopes? What are the trade-offs you are willing to make and not willing to make? And what is the course of action that best serves this understanding?

The field of palliative care emerged over recent decades to bring this kind of thinking to the care of dying patients. And the specialty is advancing, bringing the same approach to other seriously ill patients, whether dying or not. This is cause for encouragement. But it is not cause for celebration. That will be warranted only when all clinicians apply such thinking to every person they touch. No separate specialty required.

If to be human is to be limited, then the role of caring professions and institutions—from surgeons to nursing homes—ought to be aiding people in their struggle with those limits. Sometimes we can offer a cure, sometimes only a salve, sometimes not even that. But whatever we can offer, our interventions, and the risks and sacrifices they entail, are justified only if they serve the larger aims of a person's life. When we forget that, the suffering we inflict can be barbaric. When we remember it the good we do can be breathtaking.

I never expected that among the most meaningful experiences I'd have as a doctor—and, really, as a human being—would come from helping others deal with what medicine cannot do as well as what it can. But it's proved true, whether with a patient like Jewel Douglass, a friend like Peg Bachelder, or someone I loved as much as my father."

Please see Welcome Center in the Gathering Space for copies of the New York Times bestseller *Being Mortal*. Also, pick up the booklet *Five Wishes* as a guide to these important conversations and decisions.



**LEAD
WHERE
YOU
ARE.**

**THE GLOBAL
LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**
Thursday-Friday, August 3-4, 2023



For over 25 years, The Global Leadership Summit has been inspiring, developing, and connecting people from all over the world! Over the course of two days, GLS provides world-class speakers who display grit, innovate opportunities in their industry, and push boundaries and barriers to influence others. Recognized as a transformative experience, the GLS provides immeasurable potential to all those who attend.

Schedule: globalleadership.org/summit/schedule-2023-main

Register at bit.ly/GLSatHCLC **CODE:** 23PHSHOST

2023 Vacation Bible School

by Samantha Cooper
Director, Early Childhood Ministry

In late June, CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare participated in Vacation Bible School: Changemakers Lab! With help from Deaconess Katie and Mr. Dale, we had engaging bible stories and groovy music to start off each day of the week. We also had themed crafts, snacks, games, and science fun throughout the day!



**CARE OF
CREATION**

A Land Ethic

by Leo Karris

In *A Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold writes, “Ethics rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The individual’s instincts prompt the individual to compete for a place in the community, but the individual’s ethics prompt them also to cooperate. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, and animals, or collectively: the land.” A land ethic then requires an awareness of our responsibilities to the land, our relationship to it, our recognition of it, and an understanding of the land.

It is in Genesis we hear told numerous stories of the relationship between God, humans and the land. In *The Hebrew Bible and Environmental Ethics*, eco-theologian and Old Testament scholar Mari Joerstad argues that what we read and hear in Genesis chapters 1-10 gives us all what we need to know that we are people in relationship with and dependent on the land and that is what connects us to God. And specifically in Genesis chapters 1-2, the creation story tells us of God's love of the land, God's love of all its creatures both human and non-human. And in that goodness, beauty and abundance of the Garden God commanded of us our very first and original vocation to be good stewards and caretakers of the land to till and keep it.

Pictured at the top: In June the Care of Creation Team and members of the Saturday morning men’s group participated in a roadside clean-up along St Mary’s Road.



**Did you know August is
National Make-A-Will Month?**

With a legal will, you can approach the future with peace of mind by having a plan that communicates your wishes, provides for your loved ones, and sustains the causes you believe in. Holy Cross has partnered with FreeWill to make it easier than ever to start your will and make your most important plan for the future.

Start your free will today at freewill.com/holycrosschurch



PASTORAL ACTS

FUNERAL

Connor Leden
July 1, 2023

**CrossWays
Preschool**

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

**Celebration!
Childcare**

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

New Training Opportunity

by Pastor Chris Neptun

We invite you to “Fostering Healthy Christian Relationships” a transformative one-day training that offers essential tools and insights necessary to nurture and strengthen our community.

Date: Saturday, September 9

Time: 9 am – 4 pm (snacks and lunch will be provided)

Venue: Holy Cross Lutheran Church

RSVP: bit.ly/relateRSVP



We have curated a diverse range of sessions to delve into and practice core elements that contribute to fostering healthy Christian relationships. Some of the key topics that will be covered include:

- Biblical Foundations for Healthy Relationships Within Our Christian Communities.
- Developing Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills
- Understanding Healthy Boundaries and Accountability
- Forgiveness and Reconciliation
- Authentic Community Building

This training is for anyone seeking to deepen their understanding of Christian relationships.

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience to secure your spot.



MP3

MEN of
PURPOSE
PRINCIPLE
PRAYER

MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle, & Prayer

Date: Tuesday, September 19 - Session 2

Time: 6 - 8:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Cost: Free. Please RSVP at bit.ly/MP391923



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. This will be a six-part series. Our third session will be held on November 7 with 2024 dates to be announced.

Our plan is to deconstruct the idea of ‘sacred’ into six components. In 2023 we will focus on three of the components: **S** for sanctuary/refuge/safe place; **A** for ancient philosophies/lessons passed on from previous mentors; and, **C** for ceremony/milestone moments/rites/traditions. In 2024 we will finish with **R** for relational, **E** for emptiness and **D** for deeper.

Men (21+) please mark your calendars and plan to join in the journey.



Women's Ministry News

by Beth Ann Koenemann

Ravinia Outing

Kenny Loggins Concert

Date: Saturday, August 19

Ravinia Gates Open: 5 pm

Concert Time: 7 pm

Location: Ravinia Festival, 201 Ravinia Park Rd, Highland Park

Cost: \$50

RSVP and purchase tickets at:

bit.ly/LIFTravinia



LAST CHANCE Ladies! Register TODAY! There are a few tickets left and we want you to come! On Saturday, August 19 we will be meeting on the lawn at Ravinia to socialize and enjoy Kenny Loggins: This Is It! His Final Tour 2023 concert. Friends are always welcome.

There are a limited number of tickets available for purchase through Holy Cross and they are available on a first come first serve basis. Once the tickets through Holy Cross are sold out, contact Beth Ann to be added to a waitlist. RSVP and purchase tickets at bit.ly/LIFTravinia. Ticket purchases are non-refundable.

The show will run rain or shine, so please plan accordingly. An email will be sent out to participants in early August with more of the specifics that you will need for that day. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Ann Koenemann at bethann@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 997-9937.

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



Save the date for the 2023 Women's Retreat!

Our retreat theme will be “Women Talking”. The movie titled *Women Talking* was the runner-up for our movie night back in May. We wanted to continue your enthusiasm, so we will be showing and talking about the movie along with ways women of faith can talk, care and support one another and ourselves. Our retreat will be at Lutherdale Ministries in Elkhorn, WI in the new HOPE Conference Center, which offers hotel style accommodations.

If you would like to help plan the retreat, we will be meeting Thursday, August 10 at 6 pm in Room 208, please let Beth Ann Koenemann know if you plan on attending the meeting at bethann@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 997-9937.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

TUESDAYS, AUGUST 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 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 pastorchrish@holycrosschurch.org

**SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5 & 19 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.

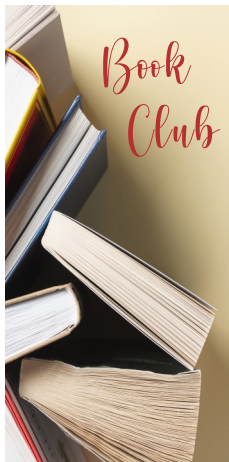
Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

**STRENGTH & CORE (FORMERLY PILATES)**

MONDAYS, AUGUST 7, 14, 21 & 28 AT 6 PM

LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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

**BOOK CLUB**

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24 AT 7 PM

VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

In August we will discuss *Quiet Until the Thaw* by Alexandra Fuller. Lakota Oglala Sioux Nation, South Dakota. Two Native American cousins, Rick Overlooking Horse and You Choose Watson, though bound by blood and by land, find themselves at odds as they grapple with the implications of their shared heritage. When escalating anger toward the injustices, historical and current, inflicted upon the Lakota people by the federal government leads to tribal divisions and infighting, the cousins go in separate directions: Rick chooses the path of peace; You Choose, violence. Years pass, and as You Choose serves time in prison, Rick finds himself raising twin baby boys orphaned at birth in his meadow. But when You Choose returns to the reservation after three decades behind bars, his anger manifests, forever disrupting the lives of Rick and the boys. Our discussion host will be Stephanie Warner.

If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com

**PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO**

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 9 & 23 AT 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTURY PARK, VERNON HILLS

EVENING SESSION: SATURDAYS, AUGUST 12 & 26 AT 9 AM TO 12 PM

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

COST: \$5 PER CAR TO ENTER THE PARK

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 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 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**

ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11

We will be taking a break from meeting through the summer. You may continue to knit and crochet on your own and we'll meet again on the second Monday of each month starting in September. 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.

SCHEDULING NOTE: Women's Discussion Group and Grounded in Grace will be on hiatus until September 2023

Family Ministry Calendar

Please make note of these important upcoming events and dates:



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 6 during 8 & 10 am worship
Students of all ages! Bring your backpack to worship for a special blessing before the start of the new school year.



Rally Day - Sunday School Kickoff

Children aged 3 years to 5th grade
Sunday, September 10 at 9:45 am
See details to the right.



Blessing of Teachers

Sunday, September 17 at 10 am worship
We honor and lift up the service of teachers, coordinators, helpers, shepherds, and staff in our Sunday School, Confirmation, and Early Childhood Ministry programs.

MESSY CHURCH Summer Faith Formation

Following 10 am Drive-In Worship

Sunday, August 20 - A New Beginning (Isaiah 43:18-19)

We start a new school year with a fresh start, letting go of what happened before and trusting in God to lead us in new and wonderful ways. The wilderness is messy; God doesn't promise to clean up the mess but to lead us through it.

During worship we'll write our prayers on disappearing paper! Following service we'll dig into fried chicken, learn about finger labyrinths, make marble runs and recycled crafts, and have a blast trying "something new" with snacks from around the world.



CONFIRMATION

by Deaconess Katie Freund

We're getting ready for this year's confirmation classes for students in 6th - 8th grade! Choose one 6-week session, either in the fall or spring.

Fall 2023 Session Dates:

Registration & Orientation: Sunday, September 10, 5 - 6 pm
Sessions 1 - 6: Sundays, September 17 & 24, October 1, 8, 15 & 22, from 5 - 8 pm, dinner provided.

Affirmation of Baptism: Sunday, October 29 at 10 am worship

Spring 2024 Session Dates:

Registration & Orientation: Sunday, February 4, 5 - 6 pm
Sessions 1 - 6: Sundays, February 11, 18 & 25, March 3, 10 & 17 from 5 - 8 pm, dinner provided.

Affirmation of Baptism: Sunday, March 24 at 10 am worship

Details about our new program schedule can be viewed online at HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation. Questions? Contact Deaconess Katie at deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org

Rally Day

Sunday, September 10 at 9:45 am

We're kicking off on our Journey!

We're starting this year's Sunday School with a yard party (indoors or out) for the kids! While the adults attend 10 am worship, our kids will have games, songs, and learn the story of the parting of the Red Sea in a live Bible story. Kids will be brought in to join families at the passing of the peace during the worship service. Yard games start at 9:45! Fun snacks for the whole family to follow after worship!

Would you like to help host a game for Rally Day? Contact Deaconess Katie at deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org



Sunday School Come JOURNEY with us!

This year we're streamlining your Sunday morning experience:

- Sunday School check-in will be at 9:45 am in the Celebration! Childcare atrium. (Enter at the Celebration! Childcare doorway or follow the rainbow footprints from the gathering space!)
- With Sunday School happening simultaneously alongside the 10 am worship service, we'll open with Carrie Mack leading music and Deaconess Katie teaching the day's lesson. Then our kids will break into small groups based on their age (3 - 5 year olds, Kindergarten - 2nd grade, 3rd - 5th grade) for crafts and games.
- Kids will rejoin their families in the Sanctuary during the worship service at the sharing of the peace, enabling families to be together for Holy Communion.

Register your kids ages 3 - 5th grade (age on September 10) for Sunday School at this link: bit.ly/sundayschool2324



Sunday School Helpers We need shepherds for the journey!

No one makes the journey of faith alone, help us walk with our youngest church members. Sunday school will start at 9:45 am in the Atrium, take place during the 10 am worship service, and kids will be returned to their families during the passing of the peace (after the sermon and before holy communion).

Carrie Mack will lead us in music and Deaconess Katie will lead the lesson of the day... Can you lead a craft or game? Available to man our check-in table?

We have three age groups in need of shepherding: 3 - 5 year olds, Kindergarten - 2nd grade, 3rd - 5th grade. Complete instructions and all supplies will be provided each week.

We're excited for our Holy Cross community to share their time with God's little ones. Come join us for a Sunday, or a few, or join us for the whole season!

View and sign up for this fall year's schedule and shepherding opportunities online at bit.ly/shepherdsF23 There will also be a table for in-person sign-up available in the gathering space on Sundays, August 20 and 27 between worship services.



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



Middle School Youth Group
August BBQ & Water Wars
Date: Wednesday, August 23
Time: 6 - 7:30 pm
Location: Patio

INVITE EVENT
 (A fun event to *INVITE* a friend to!)
 by Pastor Chris Neptun

Middle School students! You're invited to kick off the year with a cookout and water wars!

Come for grilled burgers with all of the fixings and sides to go with them!

There will be water cannons, two water balloon sling shots and over 1,400 water balloons for a soaking good time.

More will be shared about the weekly events for this new opportunity for you. If you have questions about the new plan for confirmation that will be discussed as well.

"Middle School Youth Group" is kind of a mouth full. We're going to need a name for ourselves. If you have ideas for a name, email Pastor Chris at pastorchrisc@holycrosschurch.org with your idea and we'll choose as a group before the water games begin!

WATER WARS



CROSS
ROADS

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Crossroads High School Youth Group
August BBQ Kickoff
Date: Sunday, August 20
Time: 4:30 - 6 pm
Location: Patio

INVITE EVENT
 (A fun event to *INVITE* a friend to!)
 by Pastor Chris Neptun

It's a new program year and a chance for new opportunities. You're invited to our annual Crossroads BBQ Kickoff!

Catch up with friends, invite a friend to come with you or come and meet new friends!

We'll be grilling burgers and have all of the fixings and sides to go with them!

The yard games will be set up and the fire pit will be burning to make s'mores!

Crossroads is going to meet weekly this year so we have a lot to brainstorm. Pastor Chris wants your ideas for the following:

- INVITE – Fun events & outings to *INVITE* a friend to!
- NURTURE – Topics for faith formation events.
- SERVE – Options for Service Events

If you're interested in leadership, there will be opportunities to serve as class representatives this year!





Saturday, August 12
9 am - 3 pm (Live Auction begins at 10 am)

This is 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.

This outdoor event will have craft and fabric sales, a gift gallery, baked goods, silent auction bidding and a live quilt auction. For more details about the event, go to lutherdale.org/quilt-auction

LUTHERDALE | N7891 US HWY 12 ELKHORN, WI 53121



COOL Ministries
 by Jill McKeon

As always, I want to thank you for your continued support of Cool Ministries. Following is a list of food items that are always in need: cereal, peanut butter, canned vegies, canned fruit, canned beans, canned meat such as chicken or tuna, and soup.

We also continue to take donations for the Veterans throughout the year. Toiletry items are requested such as: shampoo/conditioner, razors/ shaving cream, soap, paper towels, toilet paper, deodorant, and toothpaste/tooth brushes.

Donation bins for these items are located in the hallway across from the Holy Cross kitchen entrance.

The pantry has seen an abundance of need this year especially with food costs continually climbing. Any monetary or food donation is appreciated. You may donate online by visiting donate.holycrosschurch.org or by scanning the code to the right.



Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Jill McKeon, (847) 331-7909, jill.mckeon@att.net

Willow House



Willow House provides free grief support groups to families who have lost a spouse/ child and are actively parenting children ages 3 - 28. They also offer a Survivors of Suicide loss group (this group includes people with varying relationships to the person they lost to suicide). All family members are required to complete an intake process 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 or email info@willowhouse.org

Volunteer Facilitator Training

Willow House has openings for volunteers! To be a part of the monthly support groups to serve those who are grieving, sign up for their upcoming training to teach you the ins and outs of group work and grief support. For more information or to apply, go to: willowhouse.org/volunteer

15th Annual
Walk & 5K Run to
Remember
Sunday, September 10
7:30 am - 12 pm
 Independence Grove
 Forest Preserve
 16400 West Buckle Rd,
 Libertyville



Whether you are honoring a person who is important to you, standing with someone who has experienced loss, or looking for a worthy place to commit to a 5K, you are invited to join this family-friendly event to remember those who are no longer with us and connect with a community, comfort, and support. For more information, go to: willowhouse.org/walk2023

PADS Ministry Update
 by Peg Chartier

PADS operates year-round to support homelessness in Lake County. Just because the church shelter system is not operating again until October 1, doesn't mean that there aren't needs for those in need. This month I'd like to share with you the philosophy PADS uses; it's called "Housing First." Housing First is an approach to housing that seeks to first give someone a permanent home and then to address other concerns like employment, sobriety, and treatment for mental health concerns (among other hurdles). Previous approaches would only offer housing AFTER someone proved sobriety or had begun earning income. Housing First flipped that around noting that it's easier and more humane to first offer housing and then addressing other barriers that are easier to tackle. Getting sober, treating disorders, and getting a job are all more difficult when a person is in a shelter/homelessness situation. You can learn more about it here: endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first

If you know someone who is in need, you can refer them to PADS Lake County: 1800 Grand Avenue, Waukegan IL. This is the fastest way to be entered into the system and start receiving assistance. PADS also goes into the community to meet people where they are.

The PADS Ministry Team continues to work with PADS Lake County throughout the entire year and remains grateful for your support. If you'd like to join the PADS team, contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org or (847) 367-4060. You may also donate to this important ministry by visiting donate.holycrosschurch.org or by scanning the code to the right. Thank you!



August



Tuesday, August 1

LSSI Donation Deadline

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 2

9 am Quilting Group, 404

Thursday, August 3

Global Leadership Summit

7 pm "The Chosen" watch party & discussion, Fellowship Area

Friday, August 4

Global Leadership Summit

Saturday, August 5

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Patio

Sunday, August 6

Mission Endowment & Graduation Recognition Day and Blessing of the Backpacks

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
9 am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, August 7

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

Tuesday, August 8

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 9

9 am Quilting Group, 404
11:30 am PHW Day Program, Century Park, Vernon Hills
7 pm Church Council, 208

Thursday, August 10

6 pm Women's Retreat Planning Meeting, 208
7 pm "The Chosen" watch party & discussion, Fellowship Area

Saturday, August 12

9 am PHW Evening Program, Spring Grove Hatchery
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 13

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, August 14

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

Tuesday, August 15

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 16

9 am Quilting Group, 404

Saturday, August 19

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208
5 pm LIFT: Ravinia Outing
5:30 pm Saturday Night Live on the Patio: Worship followed by fellowship with music and food

Sunday, August 20

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Drive-In followed by Messy Church with food and activities
11 am Volunteer Recognition Fellowship Event
4:30 pm Crossroads High School Youth Group BBQ Kickoff

Monday, August 21

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

Tuesday, August 22

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, August 23

9 am Quilting Group, 404
11:30 am PHW Day Program, Century Park, Vernon Hills
6 pm Middle School Youth BBQ & Water Wars, Patio

Thursday, August 24

7 pm Book Club, Zoom

Saturday, August 26

9 am PHW Evening Program, Spring Grove Hatchery
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Sunday, August 27

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, August 28

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium
6 pm BSA Court of Honor, Fellowship Area

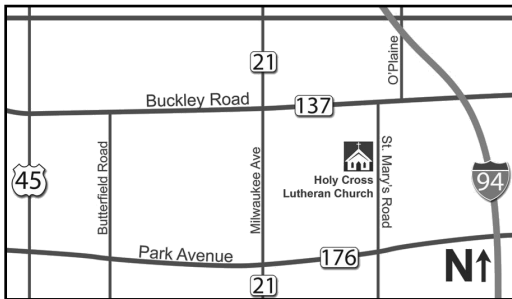
Wednesday, August 30

9 am Quilting Group, 404

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 19

WORSHIP AT 5:30 PM DINNER AT 6:15 PM

Please join us as for worship on the patio with dinner and live music following. We'll provide the entree You're invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. All are welcome! *Details on page 3.*



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 6
during 8 & 10 am worship

All students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship!

More details on page 8.



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

9 AM

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

See page 3.



Servant (Volunteer) Recognition Day Sunday, August 20 at 11 am

Fellowship event hosted by the Church Council for all members and their guests.

Details on page 3.