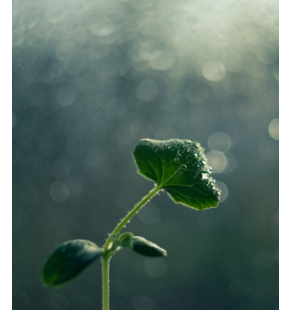


Creating Space to Grow in Faith

by Pastor Chris Neptun



The month of May seems to be a month of hope and anticipation, at least for me. Perhaps it is because the school year is close to ending. The promise of summer and warmer temperatures is in the air. There is May Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day. This year both the Day of Ascension and Pentecost fall in May. Perhaps I feel a sense of impending freedom or opportunity to rest, play and grow. It seems easier in May to feel good about what may come.

May is a time of year in the Midwest when the trees really start to leaf out and flower. Plants begin to burst out of the ground. The promise of produce begins to come alive and the likelihood for plants to thrive increases and temperatures warm up with temperatures cool enough to keep plants watered. Perhaps it's a month where a little bit of work can hopefully turn into an abundant harvest for the time ahead.

Many times, Jesus uses examples related to farming to describe the Kingdom, for example, the parable of the Sower from Mark 4, Luke 8 and Matthew 13. Also, in Matthew 13 he talks about the weeds among the wheat. In John, Jesus explains unless a seed falls into the soil and dies it cannot produce fruit. Today, stories about farming and growing plants aren't as widely relatable as they were in Jesus' day.

Brittany and I have started vegetable gardens in our yards before. She always hopes for enough tomatoes to can and last through the winter. That hasn't happened yet but the fresh produce in the later months of the summer is a treat. All the work needed to even experience our small harvests is a reminder that the fruit of our faith is rewarding but also requires effort, patience, trust, attention and help from others.

Brittany and I didn't become gardeners on our own. She grew up gardening with her mom and grandma. My parents, aunts and uncles also gardened. We also picked up ideas, tips and methods from other gardeners. Gardeners talk too. If conditions are dry, too wet, too many pests or fungus or blight, we are eager to share insights or ask others what might be helpful. Within the community of gardeners there is a community of learning.

Although farming examples may be less relevant to us as we have the convenience of supplying our need for food from grocery stores for our households, in many places around the globe and even in parts of the U.S, some families still depend on a garden to help provide food for the table. It is a community effort to provide food in many cases.

Providing faith is similar in many ways. The primary place for a person to practice their faith is within the home. Faith practices are passed down from generation to generation. A life of faith is very much a community effort in that we rely on one another to gather for worship, help us through hard times and celebrate when there is joy. When we are not sure what to do because our faith seems to be languishing, we turn to family, friends and the church community for help, support, and advice.

Like gardening faith is not something we just pick up. We learn the practice and share the practice with others. We share the knowledge, the practices, and the fruit from our labors. There are many things we can do to help the plant grow but we don't make the plant grow. God is responsible for that. The same is true with our faith. We are invited to take part with God forming relationship with God and with each other to enjoy a harvest of joy and peace.

At Holy Cross we enjoy the fruits of ministry and share those in many ways. We have some great small groups centered around age, gender, activity, interest, or study. We also have relational groups to support us and give us a sense of belonging to feed us spiritually.

Like gardening and farming, the practice of faith needs to be shared and spread for many to be fed. To feed everyone (physically or spiritually) there is a need for more leaders. Those leaders then lead others to become leaders, who become leaders. It is a cycle which Jesus models with his disciples. He INVITES them to follow. Then they are NURTURED and cared for by him. Next Jesus begins to EQUIP them for ministry. Finally, the disciples are sent out to SERVE others and the cycle starts again when they INVITE others to follow Jesus.

This has been the sustaining model which has allowed humans to thrive while being physically fed. This also is how communities of faith have passed on their trust in God from generation to generation: INVITE, NURTURE, EQUIP, and SERVE. I plan to model this type of leadership and hope it continues to take root in our community. Imagine how individuals can grow as leaders and others might gain faith as small groups multiply, relationships grow and many gain trust in the God who creates in love and desires relationship with us.

Peace to you all,

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Pages 1 - 4

RELATIONAL MINISTRY

Page 5 - 6

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Page 7

YOUTH MINISTRY

Page 8

BEYOND THE CONGREGATION

Pages 9 - 10

CALENDAR

Page 11

MAY

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY EVENING

May 6 at 5:30 pm

Sanctuary

SUNDAYS

May 7, 14, 21, 28

8 & 10 am

Sanctuary & Livestream

View livestream at

HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons

Easter Sermon Series

A sermon series helps to focus our thoughts and prayers around one specific topic area. As the series progresses, larger ideas can come into focus. Holy Cross has a history of walking with children and young believers as we all share the journey of faith. This series will explore our walk together with these young members who represent the growth of our congregation.

- May 7: It's about showing them there's a place for them (again & again & again)
- May 14: It's about returning to them again and again so they know you are with them
- May 21: It's about them, that they may know...



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christopher P. Neptun, Senior Pastor
 Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis (on sabbatical leave until 6/1/23)
 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
 Paul Vander Weele, Organist

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

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

Fellowship Events



FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR
 SUNDAY, MAY 14
 9 AM

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



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION & RECEPTION
 SUNDAY, MAY 21, RECOGNITION DURING THE 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE WITH A CUPCAKE RECEPTION FOLLOWING BOTH WORSHIP SERVICES.

Please join us as we celebrate our High School graduates.



CELEBRATING PASTOR BOB

TAILGATE PICNIC
 SATURDAY, JUNE 3
 FOLLOWING THE 5:30 PM DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

Pastor Bob will return from his three month sabbatical leave on June 1. To welcome him back and thank him for his 32 years of dedicated ministry at Holy Cross, we will honor him and his family with a celebration including dinner, live music, games for the kids, and special guests. All food will be provided. There is no cost to attend. **To help us plan for the event, please RSVP at: bit.ly/tailgate6323**

UPSCALE COFFEE
 SUNDAY, JUNE 4
 FOLLOWING THE 8 & 10 AM WORSHIP SERVICES

To continue our celebration of Pastor Bob's return, please join us for upscale coffee receptions.



MESSY CHURCH Summer Faith Formation

Following 10 am Drive-In Worship

Sunday, June 25 - *Rooted, Built Up and Overflowing (Colossians)*

Sunday, July 16 - *Do. Love. Walk. (Micah 6:8)*

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

All ages welcome! See more on page 8.

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 returning monthly starting on June 25. Join Deaconess Katie outside for Drive-in Worship which is perfect for Messy Church! See page 8 for more details.

Pastor Chris will be hosting a Watch Party and discussion for Season One of "The Chosen" series. We'll 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 4 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 at HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons

June

- Saturday, June 3**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **DRIVE-IN Celebration of Pastor Bob's 32 years of service at Holy Cross with dinner included. Please see page 2 to for details, and to RSVP.**
- Sunday, June 4**
8 & 10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream including continuation of celebration for Pastor Bob with upscale coffee hour
- Saturday, June 10**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- Sunday, June 11**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, June 17**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
- Sunday, June 18**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, June 24**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
6:15 pm **Saturday Night Live on the Patio** (main dish provided)
- Sunday, June 25**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, **DRIVE-IN**
11 am **Messy Church**

July

- Saturday, July 1**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
- Sunday, July 2**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, July 8**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
- Sunday, July 9**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

July

- Saturday, July 15**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
6:15 pm **Saturday Night Live on the Patio** (main dish provided)
- Sunday, July 16**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, **DRIVE-IN**
11 am **Messy Church**
- Saturday, July 22**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- Sunday, July 23**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, July 29**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- Sunday, July 30**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

August

- Saturday, August 5**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
- Sunday, August 6**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, August 12**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- Sunday, August 13**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
- Saturday, August 19**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, **PATIO**
6:15 pm **Saturday Night Live on the Patio** (main dish provided)
- Sunday, August 20**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, **DRIVE-IN**
11 am **Messy Church**
- Saturday, August 26**
5:30 pm Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
- Sunday, August 27**
8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

PASTORAL ACTS FIRST COMMUNION

The following young person received Holy Communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday. We pray that you will forever feel the love and presence of the Lord as you come to the Lord's table.

Mackenzie Moore

CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare



Wishes can come true, thanks to you! A heartfelt thanks to all that contributed to the Crossways Preschool and Celebration! Childcare Wishes campaign.

We were able to purchase many new toys, books, games, and new items for use by our students and staff in our classrooms. We appreciate all of your contributions, great and small. Thank you everyone so much for your generous support of the Early Childhood Ministries, we couldn't do what we do without your support!



Join Pastor Chris on the following Thursday evenings at 7 pm for 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 in the Fellowship Area to watch each episode and discuss correlating Bible passages. We will also discuss differences between the Bible and each episode.

June 1 - Introduction and Episode 1 "I Have Called You By Name"

June 8 - Episode 2 "Shabbat"

June 22 - Episode 3 "Jesus Loves the Little Children"

June 29 - Episode 4 "The Rock On Which It Is Built"

July 6 - Episode 5 "The Wedding Gift"

July 13 - Episode 6 "Indescribable Compassion"

August 3 - Episode 7 "Invitations"

August 10 - Episode 8 "I Am He"

Easter Eve Festival Recap

Our first ever Easter Eve Festival on Saturday afternoon, April 8 was a great success! Around 150 people attended, including many families with young children, infants, Early Childhood Ministry families, and even members without children.

Our time together began outside where a fire was lit from the evergreen boughs used at Christmas. A candle was marked for the light of Christ that continues in 2023. We shared that light with one another to bring the new Easter light into the church.

As we moved throughout the building, Bible stories including Creation; Noah and the Flood; Abraham and Isaac; Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones; Jonah and the Big Fish; Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego and the Fiery Furnace; and The Resurrection were brought to life through amazing sets, creative displays and fantastic music.

Thank you to all of the talented, imaginative artisans who created the elaborate sets to bring the stories to life, our musicians and actors, storytellers and worship leaders including Dan and Sarah Accettura; Daria Bach; Terry and Ryan Berger; Darin and Corbin Chartier; Mike and Carol Dikelsky; Deaconess Katie Freund; Diane Hinman; Marshall Jowers; Leo and Karen Karris; Carrie and Jamie Mack; Pastor Chris, Brittany, Abby, Anika and Kathy Neptun; Justin Smith; Dale Tippett, Jr.; Rob and Joyce Twardock; Andrea Young, Penny and Lucy Earls; and Ryan Young. A special thank you also to Shirley Schmidt who donated all of the stuffed animals that filled Noah's Ark.

The afternoon ended with an ice cream social sponsored by our Grounded in Grace group to celebrate the end of Lent. In addition to ice cream, a yummy selection of toppings and whipped cream was provided. It was a great way to end a very special day! Thank you to all of the ladies who supported the social including Terry Berger, Heidi Dinter, Leslie Hasbrouck, Gail Kelly, Beth Ann Koenemann, Amanda Komashka, Patty Moyer, and Lori Rosten.



Women's Ministry News

Ladies, you're invited to join us for the following events:



Movie Discussion Night

Date: Friday, May 19
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Area
Cost: Free
All ladies welcome!
RSVP: bit.ly/MOVIEDiscussion



RSVP online at the link above or on Sundays in the Gathering Space and vote for the movie you would like to watch and discuss. The choices are: *Women Talking*, *Wild*, *Joy*, and *Still Alice*. View descriptions and a trailer for each movie at the RSVP link above. We will start at 6:30 pm and wrap up at approximately 9:30 or 10 pm. Pizza, popcorn and beverages will be provided.

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: See ticket options below
RSVP: bit.ly/LIFTravinia



Ladies, on Saturday, August 19 we will be meeting on the lawn at Ravinia for social time and to enjoy a concert by Kenny Loggins. Tickets are expected to sell out quickly, so please act fast! Friends are welcome. There are two ways to reserve your spot for this exciting event.

Ticket Purchase Option 1 - Holy Cross Group Purchase.

Cost: \$50 Purchase your ticket through Holy Cross. There are a limited number of tickets available through this option and they are available on a first come first serve basis. Once they are gone, please purchase your own ticket through Ravinia (see option 2).

Ticket Purchase Option 2 - Purchase your own General Lawn Admission ticket from Ravinia. Cost: \$46, plus service charge. Purchase can be made online starting May 1 on Ravinia's website at ravinia.org or via phone to the Ravinia Box Office at (847) 266-5100. **Even if you're purchasing your own ticket, please RSVP at bit.ly/LIFTravinia to indicate your plans to attend this event.**

Tickets purchased through either option are non-refundable. The show will run rain or shine, so please plan accordingly. More event details to come, the important thing to do right now is to reserve your spot by purchasing your ticket asap!

If you have any questions about any of these events, please contact Beth Ann Koenemann at bethann@holycrosschurcg.org or (847) 997-9937.

MP3

MEN of
PURPOSE
PRINCIPLE
PRAYER

MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle, & Prayer
Date: Tuesday, July 11 - Session 1
Time: 6 - 8:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Area
Cost: Free. Please RSVP at bit.ly/MP371123



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 our next MP3 season will be "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 held on July 11, September 19, and 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. More details to follow in June.

Croatia and Slovenia – Treasures of the Adriatic April 20 – May 1, 2024

Join Pastor Bob and Nancy Davis and Pastor Chris and Brittany Neptun who will co-host this trip. An informational and interest meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 7 pm at Holy Cross. We will review the itinerary of the trip and answer any questions you may have. Printed material will be available.

We depart Saturday, April 20, 2024 from Chicago O'Hare arriving on Sunday, April 21 in Dubrovnik, Croatia. Dubrovnik was founded as the Republic of Ragusa. It survived as a city-state due to the ambitions of both Venetians and Turks through the centuries. The earthquake of 1667 resulted in the creation of the old city. While in Dubrovnik we will visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's third oldest pharmacy, the Rector's Palace and the Cathedral.

Our time in Croatia will include time in the cities of Trogir, Split, Zadar, Plitvice Lakes, and Zagreb. We will enter Slovenia through the city of Ljubljana and visit the Postojna Caves, Lipica, and reach our final destination of Venice.

City tours, historical sites of interest and churches and cathedrals will all be part of our journey. The beauty of the countryside will also be enjoyed as we explore a different part of God's creation. A detailed daily itinerary will be available on May 23, 2023. We hope you will join us if you are interested in an adventure of exploring the treasures of the Adriatic.



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

TUESDAYS, MAY 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 AT 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 Chris at pastorchrish@holycrosschurch.org



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

SATURDAY, MAY 13 & 27 AT 7 - 8:30 AM

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

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517

In May we will continue discussion of *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr. Copies are available from the church office. Rohr suggests that all of us have the opportunity to grow and mature throughout our lives to incorporate a more profound sense of purpose and meaning. Rohr writes that this growth typically follows from dealing with adversity or challenge, leading to a feeling of falling upward. Please join us. Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager at steve@holycrosschurch.org

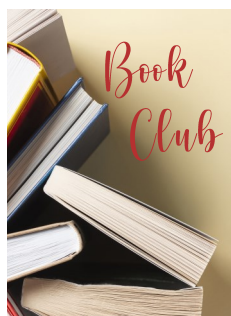


PILATES

MONDAYS, MAY 1, 8, 15 & 22 AT 6 PM

LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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



BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, MAY 25 AT 7 PM

VIA ZOOM

 holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

In May we will discuss **Where the Red Fern Grows** by Wilson Rawls, a classic read for school age youth. Billy has long dreamt of owning not one, but two, dogs. So when he's finally able to save up enough money for two pups to call his own—Old Dan and Little Ann—he's ecstatic. It doesn't matter that times are tough; together they'll roam the hills of the Ozarks. But tragedy awaits these determined hunters—now friends—and Billy learns that hope can grow out of despair, and that the seeds of the future can come from the scars of the past. Our discussion host will be Felicia Brandt. If you have any questions, please email Melanie Houser at housermd@comcast.net



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSIONS: WEDNESDAYS, MAY 10 & 24 AT 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTURY PARK, VERNON HILLS

EVENING SESSION: SATURDAY, MAY 27 AT 9 AM TO 12 PM

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

COST: \$5.00 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, MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 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

MONDAY, MAY 8 AT 1 - 3 PM

LOCATION: FELLOWSHIP AREA

We meet on the second Monday of each month 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.



CrossWays Preschool



Celebration! Childcare

by Samantha Cooper

Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

It's a Wrap!

The school year has come to an end! Our students will be finished with class in just a few short weeks. There have been so many memories, and friendships made this year. Our teachers and students have enjoyed celebrating holidays together, learning about various topics, and meeting educational, emotional, and social goals. There isn't a better feeling in the world for an educator than watching students grow and succeed throughout the year.

One of my favorite memories from this year was our Thanksgiving Feast! Enjoying each other's company at an event we couldn't host in a few years was a blessing for me. It was a happy sight to see families, staff, and students mingling. Ms. Courtney, the Bumblebees' teacher, loved the Valentine's Day party the best! She had a fun time making games and centers for her students, teaching them about friendship and kindness, and seeing all of her students dress up in their holiday best!



Ms. Sarah, the Caterpillar's teacher, won't be able to forget our Trunk or Treating event for Halloween. Dressing up in matching teacher costumes, seeing the decorated vehicles, and being a part of a program-wide event was a special celebration. Ms. Sarah thought it was a rewarding experience for teachers and parent helpers. The year wouldn't have been the same without the airport dramatic play center, according to the Ladybugs' teacher, Ms. Andrea! For the Things That Go Unit, Ms. Andrea created an airport using borrowed luggage, a cardboard airplane, plane tickets, and more! The students visited Germany, Disneyland, and finally, Hawaii! Ms. Andrea enjoyed watching her students use their creativity, imagination, and social skills to bring the airport center to life!

Of course, our CrossWays Preschool staff and families look forward to our preschool graduation ceremony! All of our students who will attend Kindergarten in the fall will participate. The rest of the students in our program will be there to watch and support our graduating class. Last year was our first ceremony for our soon-to-be Kindergarteners. The event was a beautiful way to celebrate every student's growth within our programs and wish them the best of luck in Kindergarten.

Next up is our Little Sprouts summer camp! Many of our current students will be joining us for camp. Attending camp three days a week, our students will have a blast with in-house activities, special snacks and ice cream days, and engaging crafts and lessons. I am most looking forward to The Frog Lady! Ms. Deb will return with her cute and cuddly reptiles and amphibians, educating our staff and students on these beloved creatures.

For more information, please contact Samantha Cooper at crossways@holycrosschurch.org.

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

Growing Meaningful Experiences

Summer is here, and the start of our child-led garden is underway. At Celebration! Childcare we believe outdoor time is a huge benefit to children during the early years. Introducing gardening to children is a way to teach them various skills and lessons. According to the article "*Benefits of Gardening in Early Childhood Settings*" from Little Sprouts Learning, gardening with children encourages curiosity, provides physical development activities, supports healthy eating habits, and so much more! In addition, children are exposed to fresh air, weather patterns and changes, and natural life cycles.

One of the essential benefits of gardening is the lessons you can teach children through emotional learning. Christina, from Little Sprouts Learning, says, "Gardening teaches a lot of emotional development as they learn about failure and disappointment as well as success. They also learn about the plant's needs which helps them learn about other living things' needs. Learning to take care of a living thing has untold benefits."

Throughout the spring and summer months, our classrooms nurture the shared outdoor classroom by weeding, planting, watering, and harvesting the vegetables. Last summer, we added two additional planter boxes underneath the classroom windows. The new boxes allow us to plant extra vegetable seeds instead of flowers. By far, tomatoes are a center favorite to grow and eat! The students enjoy watching the tomatoes turn from green to orange to red! In addition to the color change, students have fun guessing if the tomatoes will be small cherry tomatoes or large heirlooms.

Last year, we planted a lilac bush in our garden to honor the memory of one of our former students. Rae passed away from an unexpected brain tumor in July 2022. Rae was a shining light that touched many hearts during her time at Celebration! Childcare. Her laugh was contagious, and her dancing was infectious. You could not help but love her spirit. Rae was taken from our world too soon, but she left with us the beauty and magic she brought to it. Our center garden was one of her favorite places to be when she was at Celebration! Childcare. We look forward to watching Rae's lilac bush bloom with beauty and fragrance this spring.

Libertyville Days Parade

CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare will be participating in the parade again this year. We will ask staff and families to join us in the marching unit to represent our programs. We will have an internal wagon/stroller decorating contest to keep things fun! Any of our families that decorate a wagon or stroller will be entered to win a summer beach basket! Please help support our programs by watching us in the parade on Saturday, June 17.

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

MESSY CHURCH

Summer Faith Formation

Following 10 am Drive-In Worship

Sunday, June 25 - *Rooted, Built Up and Overflowing* (Colossians)

Sunday, July 16 - *Do. Love. Walk.* (Micah 6:8)

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

Some of our families might remember our “messy church” series from last summer. This year, it’s going to be a little different. Once a month, we’re bringing our messy selves into Sunday morning worship service!

The Messy Church movement is out of the UK, and emphasizes hospitality, creativity, and celebration in worship for everyone. It’s more than just fun science experiments with kids, but can actually change the way we do a worship service.

This year, we’re integrating these principles with our summer Drive-In Worship Sundays, and making an even bigger mess. Built around and following after our 10 am drive in worship service, we’ll worship together, share food, and have activities for all ages. In true Holy Cross fashion, all are welcome.

All ages welcome!



CONFIRMATION

6th - 8th Grade Confirmation

The warm weather season has arrived, and we hope all of our confirmation families are enjoying the break!

The class schedule for the 2023/24 school year will be shared via email in May. As always, please reach out to us if you haven’t been receiving our emails throughout the year (and also check your spam filter). We’ll see you on Rally Day, Sunday, September 10 for our kick off for next year!



Milestone Ministries

2023 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RECOGNITION & RECEPTION

Sunday, May 21 during 10 am worship with cupcake reception following both worship services.

Graduation from high school is an important milestone and a time of transition for students and families. This year we will celebrate this milestone during the 10 am worship service with prayer and a blessing of all those who graduated and their families.

Seniors, please submit the following to office@holycrosschurch.org by Monday, May 8:

1. Graduation/senior photo (or similar photo)
2. Your full name and the name(s) of your parent(s)
3. Name of your high school
4. A note about your post-graduate plans

CROSS
ROADS

High School Youth Group

Escape Room Experience at Escape Artistry

Sunday, May 7

Time: TBD

Location: 1342 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago

High School students, join us on Sunday, May 7 for a trip to Escape Artistry in the Wicker Park neighborhood of Chicago. We’ll carpool from Holy Cross to Escape Artistry for a game and pizza from Pequod’s! We’re still working with the owner on which room we’ll play and what time it will be available. Watch your email, Instagram and Remind for more updates! Here’s a link to Escape Artistry’s website to check out what they have to offer: escape-artistry.com

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris, Becky or Nikki
 Pastor Chris pastorchrist@holycrosschurch.org
 Becky Sawle becky.earthlaughsinflowers@gmail.com
 Nikki Spencer nikolspencer@gmail.com



HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads



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 details on specific spring and summer programming, meeting dates and more information about Willow House, visit willowhouse.org or email info@willowhouse.org



Save The Date
Willow House 25th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, May 20
6 - 11 pm
 Winnetka Community House
 620 Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka

Food, open bar, music and dancing, a "Golden Ticket" raffle for a fabulous trip, and opportunities to connect (or reconnect) with the Willow House family. For more information or to register, go to: willowhouse.org/25thgala



Save The Date
Donna Panfil Remembrance Retreat
Saturday, July 15
9 am - 2 pm

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods
 21850 Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods

A day for adolescents and adults to find support, comfort, connection and spaces for healing through a day of nature and creativity. This retreat is for those coping with the death of a parent, sibling, spouse/partner, or child.

Register at: bit.ly/2023griefretreat

CARE OF CREATION



Bee Engaged by Leo Karris

Have you heard the Buzz? The news is sweet! The United Nations designated May 20 as World Bee Day giving us all a chance to celebrate the pollinators in our lives and all the wonderful things they do for God's creation.

Pollination is a fundamental process for the survival of our ecosystems. Nearly 90% of the world's wild flowering plant species depend on animal pollination, along with more than 75% of the world's food crops and 35% of global agricultural land. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, but they are key to conserving biodiversity. (Source: *un.org*)

Bees and other pollinators, such as butterflies, bats, and hummingbirds, are increasingly under threat from human activities. Their decline impacts the global food supply and world hunger.

Here are some fruits and veggies that rely on and benefit from bee pollination: almonds, apples, blueberries, cucumbers, onions, pumpkins, strawberries, and coffee crops.

How can we do more?

The Illinois Extension encourages the planting of Pollinator Pockets

What is a Pollinator Pocket?

Pollinator Pockets are gardens of native plants that are pesticide-free and provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. Even the smallest garden spaces, like flower boxes, can become pollinator pockets. You can help:

- Rethink your lawn (does it protect and feed bees, butterflies, and birds)
- Plant native plants and wildflowers
- Avoid pesticides, fungicides, and herbicides in the gardens!
- Buy raw honey from local farmers
- Protect wild bee colonies and biodiversity
- Go to this link for more information and ideas: extension.illinois.edu/cook/pollinator-gardens

Bee engaged. Just imagine what the world would look like without bees and other pollinators.

But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. (Job 12:7-8, NRSV)

Please email me your thoughts and questions at leoekarris@gmail.com

PADS Ministry Update

by Peg Chartier

For the month of May I'd like to focus on a statistic Eric Foote, Interim Executive Director PADS Lake County, shared with us in his talk on March 29 at the Lenten service. 80% of the clients served by PADS are new to PADS. 80%! That made me pause. This told me a couple of things, for the vast majority, homelessness is not a habitual situation and PADS works. Think about how many people they get back on their feet and back to being able to support themselves and their families through their programs and assistance they are able to help people get in touch with. The \$2,000 in gift cards we gave Eric to perpetuate this work absolutely blew him away and will go even further to propel individuals and families forward. This summer it is my hope to focus on the families in need. I hope your hearts will be open to helping us meet the next challenge that PADS needs our help with.

Make your donations online to benefit PADS at donate.holycrosschurch.org



COOL Ministries

by Jill McKeon



Thank you for the generous Easter Baskets and canned ham donations! What a way to celebrate and spread the joy of Christ's resurrection!

We have some summer fun events coming up to support COOL Ministries. Mark your calendars for the following events and watch for more details in the June newsletter:

- Food Stock on the Lake Bluff Green – Sunday, June 25
Free concert to all who come. Food and monetary donations are appreciated and will benefit COOL Ministries.
- The Annual COOL Golf Outing will take place again on Friday, July 14.

As always, COOL is in need of food and monetary donations. In particular, this month they need side dishes such as Mac-n-Cheese, instant potatoes, and pasta. Thank you for your continued support!

You may continue to support COOL Ministries by donating online at donate.holycrosschurch.org



Save The Date Hidden Gems Garden Walk

The Town & Country Garden Club of Libertyville is hosting a "Hidden Gems Garden Walk" on Saturday, June 24 from 10 am to 3 pm.



Proceeds from the Walk fund community plantings, Libertyville Food Pantry, and scholarships for Lake County students studying Horticulture.

See towncountrygardenclub.com/gardenwalk or fb.com/TownCountryGardenClubLibertyville for details.

#GLS23

REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN

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

REGISTER NOW & SAVE »

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.

The full schedule of events will be available in July 2023.



Visit bit.ly/GLSatHCLC to register at the discounted rate of \$139 until May 3, 2023 using the code: 23PHSHOST

24th Annual COOL Plant & Flower Sale



Order Pick-Up: Saturday, May 13
Volunteers Needed for Plant Pick-Up

Thank you for all the flower orders that our Holy Cross family submitted for the COOL Plant and Flower Sale! If you did not place an order, you may wish to stop by the plant sale pick-up on Saturday, May 13 from 11:30 am to 2 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 5110 Grand Ave, Gurnee, and see the selection of plants that will be available for cash and carry. We always have extra hanging baskets, flowering plants, vegetables, and herbs available.

We also need volunteers! No gardening knowledge is needed, and volunteers have a good time working together to benefit the ministries of COOL. We will have multiple shifts on Saturday, May 13 between 6:30 am and 2:30 pm, all taking place in the Bethel parking lot. Benefits of volunteering include early plant pick-up (late morning), fellowship, service, and light refreshments.

To volunteer, sign up online at bit.ly/COOLpickup or contact Patty Moyer, Jeri Powers, Terry Berger, or Diane Rammelsberg at plantsale@coolministries.org

Flowers make great gifts for Mother's Day!





May

Monday, May 1

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium
6:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area

Tuesday, May 2

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
7 pm Reimagining Team meeting, via Zoom

Wednesday, May 3

9 am Quilting Group, 404
10:30 am CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare Chapel, Sanctuary
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

Thursday, May 4

7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Saturday, May 6

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

Sunday, May 7

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
11:30 am Wright Baptism

Monday, May 8

1 pm Common Threads, Fellowship Area
6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium
7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, May 9

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

Wednesday, May 10

9 am Quilting Group, 404
11:30 am PHW Day Program, Century Park, Vernon Hills
4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402
7 pm Church Council, 208

Thursday, May 11

7 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal, 402

Saturday, May 13

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

Sunday, May 14

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, May 15

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium
7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, May 16

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, May 17

9 am Quilting Group, 404

Thursday, May 18

7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Friday, May 19

6:30 pm LIFT Movie Discussion Night, Fellowship Area

Sunday, May 21

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
9 am Graduation Reception, Fellowship Area
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, and High School Graduation Recognition, Sanctuary & livestream
11 am Graduation Reception, Fellowship Area

Monday, May 22

6 pm Pilates, Celebration! Childcare atrium
7 pm BSA Troop 194 meeting, 404

Tuesday, May 23

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, May 24

9 am Quilting Group, 404
11:30 am PHW Day Program, Century Park, Vernon Hills

Thursday, May 25

7 pm Book Club, Zoom

Friday, May 26

9:15 am CrossWays Preschool Graduation, Sanctuary

Saturday, May 27

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208
9 am PHW Evening Program, Spring Grove Hatchery

Sunday, May 28

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream
10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, May 29

Memorial Day
Church Office closed
Celebration! Childcare closed

Tuesday, May 30

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

Wednesday, May 31

9 am Quilting Group, 404

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**Easter
Sermon Series**

Exploring our walk together with the young members who represent the growth of our congregation.
Details on page 2.

May 7 - May 14 - May 21

— Women's Ministry —

Movie Discussion Night

Date: Friday, May 19
Time: 6:30 pm
Location: Fellowship Area
Cost: Free
All ladies welcome!

More info on page 5.

MESSY CHURCH
 Summer Faith Formation

Following 10 am Drive-In Worship
 Sundays, June 25, July 16, August 20

All ages welcome! See more on page 8.

**Milestone
Ministries**

High School Graduation Recognition and Reception
 Sunday, May 21 during 10 am worship

See page 8 for more information.

CELEBRATING PASTOR BOB
TAILGATE PICNIC
 Saturday, June 3 following the 5:30 pm drive-in worship.
UPSCALE COFFEE
 Sunday, June 4 following the 8 & 10 am worship services.

See page 2.