HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE CROSS CONNECTION

Providing Strength for the Faith Journey

February 2019

CONGREGATIONAL Life Pages 1-8

BEYOND THE Congregation Pages 9

Youth Ministry Pages 10-11

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY PAGE 12

RELATIONAL MINISTRY PAGES 13-14

> CALENDAR PAGE 15

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MORNINGS 8, 9:30 & 11 AM

FIRST SATURDAY EVENINGS
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
OCTOBER - MAY

FEBRUARY 2 AT 5:30 PM
WORSHIP WITH
HOLY COMMUNION

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

e·pis·tle /əˈpisəl/ noun

- 1. A letter, missive, communication, dispatch, synonyms: note a poem or other literary work in the form of a letter or series of letters.
- 2. New Testament Epistles: A written communication; a term inclusive of all forms of written correspondence, personal and official, in vogue from an early antiquity.

As applied to the twenty-one letters, which constitute one-half of the New Testament, the word "epistle" has come to chiefly have a technical and exclusive meaning. It refers, in common usage, to the communications addressed by five (possibly six) New Testament writers to individual or collective churches, or to single persons or groups of Christian disciples. Thirteen of these letters were attributed to Paul; three by John; two by Peter; one each by James and Jude; one—the epistle to the Hebrews—by an unknown writer.

These beautiful letters, now scripture, are instructive in what it means to be a Christian. They contain prayers and directions for how to live a Christian life, they include words of encouragement to those being persecuted for their beliefs, they are words of longing to be reunited with the people the authors have preached to and pastored, and they are love letters—expressions of love for their fellow believers, and they are especially, expressions of love for Christ. There is wisdom to be found today in these ancient scriptures, for God is still speaking through these words.

Letters, for those of us who have been fortunate enough to have received them understand the importance of receiving a message in someone's handwriting. We understand that we can often only express what we truly and deeply feel in the form of a letter. And, we know how precious those letters become over the years—especially being able to read a letter from someone we have lost. Seeing their handwriting, reading words long forgotten, and even the smell of the paper can bring memories rushing back. Relationships are everything, and who you spend your time with is one of the more important things in the world. But corresponding with people is oftentimes distracting and half-hearted. Today's relationships are built around convenience. We speak with people in person and turn to our phones, we write messages to one another on social media and only talk about ourselves. Writing letters has tendency to keep things more authentic.

When did we stop writing letters? Technology has taken over and communication can now be made in an instant. But it's important to remember that it hasn't always been like this. The letter is a simple thing. Blank paper, with your words, thoughts and opinions. My communications are now usually constricted to 140 characters, influenced by outside determinates and pressures. The idea of putting pen to paper is limited to scribbled notes and to do lists. Perhaps it's time to return to the fully fledged hand written letter. No more autocorrect. No more relying on a keyboard to do the work for us.

I am proposing a Lenten devotional habit that involves each of us. Think about a letter that you may have received at a critical moment in your life. Why was it meaningful to you? Or, maybe you may want to think about a moment when you wish you had written a letter to someone. Or, on a more personal level, is there a letter you've been meaning to write, but have put off? Might the theme of such a letter involve the act of forgiving or being forgiven? Would a letter let someone know how you feel about them? Is there a letter in your thoughts to let someone you know that they are missed?

You get the idea. If each of us were to write one letter during the 40 days of Lent think about the significance of that kind of gift. Lent begins on March 6 and leads up to Easter. The 40 days of Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection. In many traditions, it is a time of fasting and giving up something. But this year, I am inviting you to take something on—remembering and even practicing the art of letter writing.

Peace,

Pader Bob

Worship Participant Ministries

Share your time and talents with your Holy Cross family by serving as a worship participant. The schedule for the next six months will be opened on February 15 at the following link: bit.ly/WPS4919

See page 7 for details about available opportunities.



29700 N. Saint Mary's Road Libertyville, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060 office@holycrosschurch.org

HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor Rev. Sally Hanson, Associate Pastor Sarah Accettura, Receptionist & Office Support Katie Bernabei, Congregational Activities Randall Casey, Director of Music Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians Roxanne (Rocky) Kupfer, Nursery Attendant Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries Beth Malecha, Handbell Choir Director Steve Oelschlager, Director of Engagement and Generosity Mike Price, Business Director Jennifer Radtke, Nursery Attendant Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Contemporary Music Tom Zombolo, Property Beth Zupkus, Financial Administrator

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES STAFF

Elizabeth Moy, Director of CrossWays Preschool Kathy Pfister, Director of Celebration! Childcare

CHURCH COUNCIL

Katie Ormson (*President*), Eric Christensen (*Vice President*), Jessica Brown, Barb Cannon, Andy Eidson, Lori Fedyk, Mick Garrison, Beth Ann Koenemann, Bill Miksch, Karl Nygard, Maria Roberts, Rich Yocius *Secretary*, Lisa Dunbar; *Treasurer*, Mark Fedyk *Financial Secretary*, Tom Miller *Note: Newly elected Church Council members will be listed in the March 2019 newsletter*.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Sunday School Coordinators:

Felicia Brandt, *age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (Core Stories)* Volunteers requested, *grades 1 - 5 (Deep Blue)* Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw; Greeters: Therese Delli Paoli

The Cross Connection, parish newsletter of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, is published monthly and is available online for viewing in full color. Articles should be submitted by the **1st** of the month to <code>office@holycrosschurch.org</code>



How should we regard the cross? Is it a sad tragedy that we should grieve? Is it the moment of God's victory and redemption that we should celebrate? Is it the place where we stand in awe to see God's incomprehensible love poured out for us? Is it some combination of these, or something we haven't named altogether?

Why is it even important to consider such questions? Because, the way we understand the cross very much shapes the way we regard God. At the heart of the cross is an element of mystery that can't be resolved either easily or entirely.

There are many different and strong views about the nature, purpose, and effect of the cross. In fact, there have been moments where some Christians have actually made certain propositions about the cross—the litmus test for measuring "true" faith. Given the complexity of the biblical and theological witness about the cross, this is both unnecessary and unwise. If we believe the Bible is best understood as a collection of all kinds of different confessions of faith, then, these confessions of faith tell the story of God and God's people. What binds these confessions of faith together is that all of them were offered by individuals so gripped by an experience of faith together they had to tell others.

Theology at its best helps us to make sense of the many rich and varied stories and confessions of faith in the Bible. It pulls the important themes from these confessions to help us see a larger story among all the many different ones. When theology is primarily about "believing the right things," in fact, it quickly becomes dry and dusty. However, when theology helps us make sense of scripture and our lives, it is remarkably helpful.

We invite you to join us for our midweek Lenten worship services and conversations as we discern together the role of the cross in our lives.





Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers

Every Wednesday before our Midweek Lenten Worship service, we will gather for fellowship and share a meal. These are intended to be relaxed and provide some time for us to slow down and care for one another. Soup Suppers will be offered on the following Wednesdays starting at 6:30 pm: March 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10.

We invite five attendees each week to provide a gallon of soup for the evening. The remainder of the attendees provide either bread, salads, fruit or desserts and/or help clean up after the soup supper. Beverages and table service will be provided.

A sign up board will be available in the gathering space or you can sign up online: **bit.ly/LENTSS19**

Please join us!



Decluttering Your Heart

by Rev. Sally Hanson

After the first of the year, all of the shelves that were once filled with Christmas goods are immediately filled with Valentine's candy and organization containers. Clearly, the stores are telling us that it is time to clean up after a season of excess. I find that come the early months of the year, I have a strong pull to organize and clean out things as well. Whether it's the cold weather for inside projects, or just trying to get a handle on things after the holidays, I'm not sure. But what I do know, is that for a few weeks everything in the house just looks like "stuff." And it is perhaps "stuff" I could live without.

A friend of mine recently started working on a blog called "It's all just stuff..." that looks at "stuff" from a new perspective. Stuff can be possessions, opinions, assumptions, habits and distractions—all things we accumulate, sometimes without even being aware of it. We carry all of this stuff around with us. No, I don't mean like you're a turtle that carries their home with them wherever they go; but, all of those internal things—opinions, desires, assumptions, dreams, habits, aspirations, and distractions—that we carry within us.

In this season of "cleaning out," what needs to be cleaned out of your head and heart? What are you hoping to fill in those empty spaces? Love? Understanding? Patience? Maybe what we need most in those spaces, is for God to come and dwell within and fill us from this inside out. I think the psalmist experienced this as well in his own way as he cried,

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.

— Psalm 51:11-13

This cleaning out of one's heart to rid the clutter and "stuff" is not just something that we do because it is a new year; it is something we are called to do spiritually, and is lived out in our everyday lives in stores of storage containers and organizers. In fact, it is a spiritual practice for many just like adding or taking something away at Lent might be. While we may find ourselves doing this kind of work, there is a promise that comes with it... to be filled with the Holy Spirit and restore our joy—our inner joy where our heart and the Spirit are one. And as verse 13 says, it's free. Wow. It is truly a gift, grace in action within our lives filled with "stuff."

Happy Cleaning!

Blessings,

Pastor Sally

Be Still: A Moment for Mindfulness

Women's Retreat



"Be still, and know that I am God" - Psalm 46:10

Date: Friday, February 22 at 6 pm to Sunday, February 24 at 12 pm.

Location: Lutherdale Bible Camp,

Watson Retreat Center (Elkhorn, WI) **Cost:** \$200 per person (scholarships are available)

There's still space!

Contact the office or Pastor Sally ASAP if you're interested at office@holycrosschurch or pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org

Our lives are filled with so much stuff—possessions, assumptions, habits and distractions. This stuff often leads us to feeling as though we are running ragged. Do you feel like you just need a break from all of it, all the "stuff" that consumes our time and energy? Join us for a chance to experience a little personal Sabbath time to step away from the "stuff" and reconnect with God. Join us in this chance for a little stillness in this fast paced world by engaging all five senses in a new way, experiencing yoga nidra, a little art, a little fun, and a lot of laughter. Perhaps a weekend with the girls is just what you need as we collectively take Psalm 46 to heart to "Be still and know..."

Deb Hornell returns as our facilitator to explore mindfulness as it relates to our wellness and well-being in all aspects of our life; spiritual, personal, professional, relational and physical. The focus of this retreat is a chance to practice being fully present in the moment, to be still and notice God in the every moment, to cultivate an internal stillness to help create and envision the life you want to lead.

The retreat gathers Friday night around 6 pm at Lutherdale Bible Camp as people's schedules allow. Deb will be teaching on Saturday with times of reflection, mediation, yoga, art, fun, games and snacks mixed together. We conclude our retreat after Sunday worship. You can expect to be back in the Libertyville area by noon on Sunday.

Cost includes four meals (three Saturday and Sunday breakfast), housing—single twin beds in a shared room of 2 - 3 with common bathrooms and supplies. Friends are welcome to join us!



Journey faith, discipleship, generosity

The Refreshing Gift of Eating Together

by Steve Oelschlager

There are over 860 passages in the Bible that reference a meal or eating, highlighting how important food is to our existence. It would be a mistake though to think that these passages are only about people addressing their daily need for sustenance. When Jesus mentions hungering and thirsting no more, he isn't just alluding to our physical appetites, but also our spiritual cravings, human frustrations, and discontent.

Soon after we are born, most of us are blessed to receive the first gifts of life: love, a smile, a hug, eye contact, and food. While simple, these gifts satisfy on many different levels that are not just physical. In some respects, we spend the rest of our lives yearning for these same basic things: unconditional affirmation of who we are, belonging, and heartfelt connection to others.

What is it about eating together and sharing a meal that promotes bonding and well-being? When we take in food in the presence of another person, amazingly, we seem to take in something of that person too. Not surprisingly, mealtimes were when Jesus chose to communicate some of his most important teachings to his followers. Of all the things Jesus could have been doing with his disciples the night before his crucifixion, eating supper is what they did. The sacrament of Holy Communion is derived from that Last Supper, tapping into the mysterious relationship between Jesus, food, community, and salvation.

Perhaps it isn't a shock what social science tells us about the value of eating together with our children. Kids who regularly eat dinner with their families have lower probabilities of drinking, smoking, drug use, pregnancy, suicide, and eating disorders. It's profound that many of the things we worry about as parents can be positively affected by something as straightforward as preparing a meal, and then sitting down and eating together. Most likely, these benefits are not just reserved for kids but are there for adults as well.

I hope this year affords you more chances to be blessed by sharing meals with others. Please watch the Holy Cross newsletter and calendar for table fellowship including men's breakfasts, soup suppers, the MP3 event for men on March 19 and more. This month, we have our first At The Table of the year, and we would love to see you there.



Through conversation we share our thoughts about life and faith. All are welcome to join, including friends!

We meet on the second Tuesday of most months from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at a restaurant in one of our surrounding communities. Individuals are responsible for their own meal charges.

As we gather At The Table:

- All thoughts are welcome without judgement.
- We practice community: we are all in this together.
- God is present and ready to connect in a fresh way.
- There is no pressure to talk. Listening brings renewal and insight.

DATE: Tuesday, February 12

TIME: 6:30 to 8:30 pm

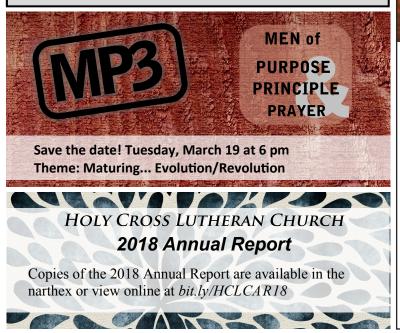
LOCATION: The Liberty Restaurant

419 S Milwaukee Ave Libertyville, IL 60048

Please RSVP by Friday, February 8 at bit.ly/ATT212

February Topic: Hospitality in Daily Life

Restauranteur Danny Meyer says that while people expect good food when eating out, what people remember is how you make them feel.





MEMBERSHIP AT HOLY CROSS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Holy Cross? To learn more about membership, please contact the church office at *office@holycrosschurch.org* or (847) 367-4060. Individuals and families who are interested in joining Holy Cross are invited to our next New Member Breakfast and Reception.

NEW MEMBER BREAKFAST Saturday, February 9 at 8:30 am RSVP to the church office by Friday, February 1. NEW MEMBER RECEPTION Sunday, February 10 during 9:30 am worship

PASTORAL ACTS

MEMORIAL

Harold Williamson January 19, 2019



Holy Land & Jordan Pilgrimage Tour October 27 - November 8, 2019

This is the place where God became known through Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was born, lived, taught, died and rose here.

This trip will provide you with the experiences of standing where the shepherds stood when the angels sang of Christ's birth. You will visit the site where Jesus shared the principles of the Sermon on the Mount with the crowds. We will visit the places where many of the miracles and teaching moments occurred. The Garden of Gethsemane, the West Wall, Via Dolorosa, the Holy Sepulchre, the Dead Sea, and an evening in Aqaba on the Red Sea are a few of the historical places we will visit. In addition, we will spend time in the following cities: Jerusalem, Petra, Nazareth, Jericho, Bethlehem, Amman.

Brochures of the itinerary are available at the church office.

Questions? Email Pastor Bob at pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org



Beauty

by Randy Casey

"Beauty awaits our notice... speaking to us one by one, soul by soul." Those words are found on page 132 of a book of essays entitled "What Are We Doing Here" by Marilynn Robinson, published by Farrah, Straus and Giroux in 2018. For the moment I would simply ask you to personalize the sentence and think something like, "Beauty awaits my notice, in order to speak directly to my soul." The good news, of course, is that beauty is profoundly subjective. So, instead of having to visit the Art Institute in Chicago or the Grand Canyon in search of beauty, one may simple read a poem, take a walk in the woods, or listen to a piece of music in order to be potentially uplifted by the wonder of God's creation.

When I think of beautiful music you might like, pieces such as the Rachmaninoff "Symphony #2 in E Minor" and the "Adagietto" from the Mahler Symphony #5 come to mind. Or, I think of Debussy's "The Girl with the Flaxen Hair" and the "Pavane for a Dead Princess" by Ravel, both being short works of piano. Or, I recall moments in the Ralph Vaughn Williams "Fantasia on Christmas Carols" and the "The Blessed Son of God" from his HODIE.

Of course, the beautiful music most on my mind at present is that which the Holy Cross Choir is singing during Epiphany now, and later during Lent. Some months ago, I wrote about "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree" by Malcolm Archer. Another piece you would not want to miss is "Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day" arranged by John Rutter. The setting we are singing is actually for ladies only, and will be presented on two Sundays in late February. Otherwise, among the seven anthems the choir is singing, on Good Friday are two spirituals, an acappella setting of "Were You There" and an arrangement with cello and piano of "He Never Said a Mumbalin' Word." Both are lovely.

On page 123 of the same book referenced above is the sentence, "Those ideas that have so far held us together are very beautiful." The author is writing about various, potentially divisive, aspects of Christianity. One could extrapolate from this thought in God's creation, beauty is ubiquitous. So, if one is not musical, for example, beauty can be found elsewhere.

Please know, however, that one can indeed find beauty from being in the Holy Cross Choir, from both the music experienced and the friendships formed. The good news is that this is not just my opinion, but happens to be the truth. And so, I conclude the familiar line of poetry by John Keats, which may be particularly uplifting during these troublesome times in which we live:

"Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty—that is all you know on earth, and all you need to know."

COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT

THE MOJO DADDIES

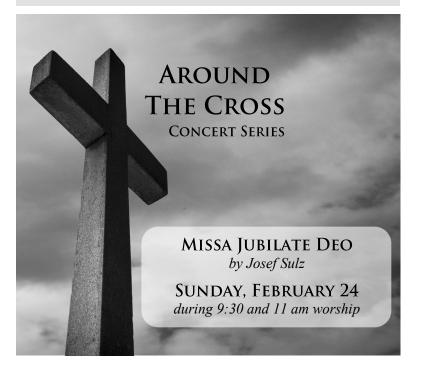
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2 7:30 - 9:30 PM



The Mojo Daddies, otherwise known as Mike Dikelsky and friends (Holy Cross member Mike Dikelsky and his friends), will provide the delightful entertainment for this annual benefit concert.

Light refreshments and snacks will be served as people come together in an informal setting to hear The Mojo Daddies sing and play a variety of fun music, including familiar favorites as well as several new tunes from their second album "A Long Road."

This concert is a benefit for the youth of Holy Cross Lutheran Church who will be traveling to the Two Strike Reservation in South Dakota for a mission trip this summer. No tickets are required and there is no admission fee, but free will donations will be accepted.



Worship Participant Opportunities at Holy Cross

Worship Participant Openings

We are grateful for everyone who volunteers to participate during worship services at Holy Cross. Coming up this month, there will be a worship participant sign up for the months of March through September.

Have you thought about joining a worship participant roster to enhance your worship experience? Please contact the staff in the office if you would like to be added, or if you have any questions. You can email *office@holycrosschurch.org* or call (847) 367-4060.

Worship Participant Ministries include:

- Acolyte and Assistant Acolyte (see page 11 for details)
- Altar Care (sign up at bit.ly/AltarCare)
- Assisting Ministers
- Coffee Hosts
- Communion Assistants
- Communion Bread Bakers
- Counters
- Greeters (see adjacent for sign up link)
- Prayer Assistants
- Readers
- Ushers

Descriptions for each position exist in our *Worship Participant Ministries* booklet, located in the kiosk near the church entrance, or online at *bit.ly/WPatHC*

The schedule for the next six months will be opened on Friday, February 15 and will be available until Friday, March 8 if you would like to select your own dates/times. bit.ly/WPS4919

After March 8, open spots will be filled from all names from existing Worship Participant lists.

Acolyte and Assistant Acolyte Schedule

As part of Christian Education at Holy Cross, all youth in grades 3 - 8 are automatically scheduled to be worship participants as acolytes and assistant acolytes. (See page 11 for full schedule information.) Many families choose to volunteer alongside their children as communion assistants, readers and ushers. Sign up online starting Friday, February 15 at bit.ly/WPS4919

Please contact the church office if you have any questions at (847) 367-4060 or office@holycrosschurch.org

Become a Greeter!

Greeters are an essential function of Holy Cross. Our hope is that every member household at Holy Cross takes a turn several times a year being our Sunday morning greeters.

The job requirements are easy!

- Arrive 15 20 minutes before the service you will greet for.
- Bring your caring smile!
- Provide a firm handshake or a fist bump or even a high five!
- Invite visitors to sign in at the welcome center.
- And... state a warm greeting such as: "Hello!" or "Good Morning! Welcome to Holy Cross!"

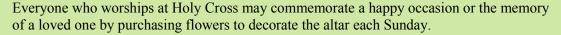
If you believe you possess these exceptional qualifications, we want YOU! This is a great way to learn the names and faces of other members and visitors who worship at Holy Cross.

Please sign up online using your email address by entering this case-sensitive link: bit.ly/GreetersHCLC

Questions? Contact Therese Delli Paoli at (847) 921-4223 or dpchitown@yahoo.com

Altar Flowers

The altar flowers were given today by...



Note your request on the Altar Flowers calendar located on the bulletin board across from the church office or send an email to *office@holycrosschurch.org*. A donation of \$35 per arrangement can be made online *donate.holycrosschurch.org* or by check payable to Holy Cross with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line.

You are most welcome to take the arrangement home to enjoy following the last service the Sunday you sponsor. Please return the clean vase to the church office the following Sunday.



Cookie Walk Update

The 10th annual Cookie Walk was once again a festive success! A special thank you to all of our bakers, our valuable volunteers, and those who came back to purchase items at the Cookie Walk. From your overwhelming and generous donations, we raised over \$4,700!

We could not have accomplished this effort without you. These funds will be used for projects on the Rosebud reservation, and to support our missionary, Dorothy Peterson. From your valuable donations, Holy Cross sent 150 blankets to our Lakota friends on the Two Strike Reservation in Rosebud, SD. We are confident that these blankets will bring them much warmth in the chilly South Dakota climate.

Our raffle this year was very popular, and our winners are listed below:

- Susan Beck and Linda Norby: "Baker Thank You" gifts
- Lisa Dunbar: "Winter Treats" basket
- Jean Moyer: "Silver Anniversary" basket
- Susan Ingold: "All Wrapped Up for the Holidays" basket
- Karla Johnston: "Ladies Night In" basket
- Roberta Froemke: "Peace & Wine" basket
- Ellen Stelter: "Winter Wonderful" basket
- Stephanie Suo: "Baby It's Cold Outside" basket
- Evan Dunbar won the beautiful "Gingerbread House" created and donated by Kris DeGregor.

Also, a big thank you to our additional volunteers who graciously donated their time on the day of the Cookie Walk: Ana Boucek, Susan Beck, Julie Eberspacher, Beth Ann Koenemann, Pat Komaschka, Barb Sargent, and Mae Sprenger!

It was a fun event, and we are so thankful that we can carry on this tradition at Holy Cross. Special thank yous to Pastor Bob, Pastor Sally, Sarah, Ellie, and Katie who so graciously supported our effort.

We wish you God's blessings and peace throughout this year.

Thank you,

The Cookie Walk Team

(Karla Boucek, Therese Delli Paoli, Gail Kelly, Carole Kenney, Amanda Komaschka, Patty Moyer, Joyce Kveton, Melody Schneider, and Karen Yocius)



Evan, Lisa and Hailey Dunbar were excited about winning the beautiful Gingerbread House!

Rosebud News

by Dorothy Peterson, Lay Minister to the Two Strike Community at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota



Below are pictures from the Trinity Lutheran Christmas Party at Rosebud with the Two Strike Families on December 15. We shared a wonderful Christmas turkey dinner with all the trimmings. A gift for each child was provided by TLC, Barb Fox from Colorado, and her ministry group from Wisconsin. For many of these children, this will be the only gift they receive. We finished the day bringing food and gifts to the White Buffalo Women's Shelter in Mission. It was a wonderful time for all of us.

Please continue to pray for our friends at Rosebud as they face another harsh winter.









Jen and Kayla Schmidt with their "Ladies Night In" basket!



Purging Pointless Plastic

by Marge Stueckemann

Are you able to drink water or another cold drink without a straw? Most of us can do that just fine, so that plastic straw is really kind of pointless, wouldn't you agree?

The Lake County Green Congregations group consisting of eleven faith communities in our area, including Holy Cross, has made it a goal to reduce the number of plastic straws being given out at area restaurants. If you would like to help, on February 10, we will have a table available with business cards to give to restaurants when you eat out. One says, "Thank you for not giving me a straw." The other reads, "Please tell the owner to stop automatically giving out straws." I have tried using them, and have had very interesting conversations with the servers.

The Shedd Aquarium's push to "Shedd the Straw" has promoted the fact that single-use plastic straws cause great problems when they are found in the ocean, harming wildlife and breaking up into microparticles that can be eaten by the various creatures. Please join in the campaign to "purge this pointless plastic" to help Care of Creation.

Scout Sunday February 10 during 9:30 am worship

Holy Cross is the charter organization for Troop #194, and we are pleased to celebrate Scout Sunday with the troop on February 10 during the 9:30 am worship service. The Boy Scouts of America designates the Sunday that falls around February 8 (Scouting Anniversary Day) as Scout Sunday, which is the primary date to recognize the contributions of young people and adults to Scouting. All varieties of scouts (girl scouts, etc.) are invited to wear their uniforms and receive a special blessing that morning.

If you or your scout is interested in serving in worship that morning, please contact the office at *office@holycrosschurch.org* or at (847) 367-4060.



- **Breakfast items** are the non-perishable food items of the month in February. Please place your contribution in the COOL collection cart outside the church office or in baskets during the children's message.
- Please check expiration dates! COOL Food Pantries will not dispense expired food to their clients.
- Helping Veterans COOL Food Pantries helps food stamp eligible veterans each month, not only with food, but also each qualified veteran family receives a large box loaded with soap, paper goods, toiletries and more. Toiletry items for veterans in need are accepted daily whenever pantries are open.
- Family Housing Needs: COOL is in need of twin sheet sets (teen boy and girl), pots/pans and cookware, and silverware.

Volunteer at FMSC



Wednesday, February 28 from 12 - 2 pm Location: 742 East Park Avenue (Hwy 176)

Register here: bit.ly/packFMSC



Feed My Starving Children's permanent packing facility in Libertyville offers volunteers a year round, one-of-a-kind experience. You'll hand-pack rice, soy, dried vegetables and a nutritionally complete blend of vitamins and minerals into bags which are then sealed, boxed, placed on pallets and shipped to reach the neediest children around the world. Pre-register to pack meals with other Holy Cross members on this particular Wednesday or on other days using the link above. Minimum age to volunteer is 5 years. Student/adult ratio applies. For more information, visit *fmsc.org*



Holy Cross members will once again provide breakfast and lunch food items for guests of the PADS shelter at Shepherd of the Lakes in Grayslake on the fourth Monday of every month, October - April. Watch for the sign up board in the gathering space this month for the opportunity to donate food items by **Sunday, February 24 at noon.** Please place donations in the Holy Cross kitchen.

SUNDAY -

Sunday School at Holy Cross

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





Ages 3 - 5/Kindergarten

In February, we finish up our third rotation, God Calls Samuel, and begin our fourth rotation, The Woman at the Well.

Jesus did some very unusual things, and one was when he spoke with a Samaritan woman at a well after appearing at a wedding. Since Samaritans and Jews did not get along, it was a big deal for a Jew, let alone a Jewish man, to talk to a Samaritan woman.

The woman was getting water when she encountered Jesus, and she heard Jesus' words about receiving living water so she would never be thirsty again. Their conversation included Jesus letting her know that he was the Messiah, and she spread her experience, showing that Jesus would meet and welcome people of all kinds into God's presence.

If you would like to help teach or assist for this rotation, please sign up at bit.ly/SSvolunteers18

Contact Pastor Sally with any questions or for more information at (847)367-4060 or by email at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org.

Dates to Remember

Sunday, March 24 - No Sunday School

Sunday, March 31 - No Sunday School

Sunday, April 21 - No Sunday School (Easter)

Sunday, May 5 - Spring Sing

Sunday, May 12 - Field Day (Last day of Sunday School)

Sunday School Coordinators: Ages 3-5/K: Felicia Brandt (847) 362-0924 Grades 1-5: Volunteer Requested



Support for their faith journey...

Our faith journey occurs from birth through life eternal. Milestone Ministries serve as an important way of connecting, supporting, and equipping families and the congregation to pass on the faith, to live out the promises that are made when someone is baptized and to provide strength for their faith journey.

Fourth Grade: Ten Commandments Saturday, February 9 from 9:30 - 11 am

The Ten Commandments are one of the things that parent(s), sponsors and the congregation promise to place in each baptized person's hands. What are the Ten Commandments really all about? How does that apply to your family or the life of a fourth grader? Join us as we explore these guestions and dive deeper into scripture.

RSVP by February 4 to office@holycrosschurch.org

16 year olds*: Blessing of the Keys Saturday, February 10 from 6:30 - 8 pm

Conversations about faith and the responsibility of driving, with youth and their parents/guardians.

Sunday, February 17 at 9:30 am worship

Special blessing of new drivers and their parents.

* and older teens who received their license in the last two years and didn't participate in this milestone previously.

RSVP by February 5 to office@holycrosschurch.org

Baptism

For most of us, the formal beginning of our faith journey occurred at the baptismal font. Through the waters of baptism, we are publically claimed as a Child of God and become a part of God's family.

If you have not yet been baptized, or are interested in having your child baptized, we promise to support you in this way to grow in age and wisdom through God's love. Please contact the church office for more information at (847)367-4060 or office@holycrosschurch.org

2019 High School Mission Trip to Rosebud

Date: June 22 - 29, 2019
Cost: \$500 per person
Open to current 9th – 12th graders and chaperones.

Two Strike, South Dakota is one of the poorest towns in the United States, yet the people there are filled with hope and dreams. For the last 20 years, Holy Cross has been in relationship with the folks at Two Strike, working to be the hands and feet of Christ. Here is your chance to join the mission we've shared for years, and serve alongside your peers at the Rosebud Indian Reservation with the Lakota people of Two Strike, South Dakota.

Important Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 1 - \$200 payment due

Saturday, February 2 at 7:30 pm - Coffeehouse Concert

Sunday, February 10 at 1 pm - Prep session, room 402

Friday, March 9 at 6 pm - Group Fundraising Dinner

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, March 9 – Rosebud Fundraising Dinner Ticket sales to come. Stay tuned for more information.

Acolyte & Assistant Acolyte Schedules

As part of Christian Education at Holy Cross, all youth are automatically scheduled to be worship participants as acolytes (grades 6 - 8), and assistant acolytes (grades 3 - 5). Being an active participant in church life helps children learn they are an important part of the church family.

If you prefer to choose the Sundays your child(ren) serve(s), you may do so starting Friday, February 15 at the following online link: bit.ly/WPS4919
The sign up will close on Friday, March 8.

A new acolyte and assistant acolyte schedule for the months of April 2019 - September 2019 will be finalized for release in March. When the schedule is released, please enter dates in your calendars right away. If you need to make changes to the calendar, please use the contact list that will be provided with the schedule to make your own trades and contact the church office with new information.

Many families choose to volunteer alongside their children as communion assistants, readers and ushers. Please contact the church office if you would like to be added to a worship participant roster at office@holycrosschurch.org

Confirmation

Confirmation instruction at Holy Cross is for all students who are in grades 6, 7 & 8. Affirmation of Baptism/Confirmation occurs in the fall of 9th grade year.

Important Dates

Confirmation Sessions

Sunday, February 3 NO Confirmation

Sunday, February 10 Icons and the Holy Cross Mosaic

(see below)

Sunday, February 17 NO Confirmation

Sunday, February 24 Session 16

Confirmation Service Opportunities

Sunday, February 24 7th grade girls PADS Pack following

9:30 am worship. Families welcome.

Sunday, February 24 7th grade boys assist at Winchester

House. Please arrive by 2pm.

Missed your session to help pack meals or assist at Winchester House? Join us for a date that works for you!

Upcoming Speakers

Sunday, February 10 - Icons and the Holy Cross Mosaic

Pastor Bob will lead a conversation on the spiritual practice of the use of icons to connect with God. What are icons and how are they used as a part of the Christian faith? This conversation will feature a detailed history and explanation behind the images of the Holy Cross Mosaic located in the sanctuary.

Sunday, March 10 - Faith & Sports

Come join us for a conversation with Coach Randy Kuceyeski on how faith and sports interact with each other, and how faith informs our athletics. Coach Kuz coached football in Libertyville for a number of years, and is also an active member at Holy Cross.

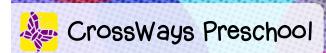


Peer Ministry continues to grow leaders for today. These leaders are using their skills in churches, schools, on teams, and in their communities. Leadership skills and the ability to incorporate one's faith appropriately are life skills we all need. We are honored to have trained more Peer Ministers here at Holy Cross!

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 24 from 6 to 8 pm in the youth room.



Pictured: Amanda Komaschka, Lisa Dunbar, Pastor Sally, Hailey Dunbar, Andrew Oelschlager, Grace Boileau, Ana Boucek and Zoe Boileau.





Being Careful for Your Own Good

Spend some time at any playground around town, and you might hear parents saying things like "Don't climb so high," "That's dangerous," or "if you spin around too much you'll get sick." As adults, we see the potential dangers in plenty of activities that children do. Have you ever stopped and thought that maybe those potentially dangerous behaviors actually have benefits for children? Children need to develop two inter-related and often overlooked senses: vestibular and proprioception. The proper development of these two senses directly affects a child's ability to listen, focus, and have a calm body. Proprioception refers to knowing where your body is in space without looking, and vestibular sense refers to where your body is in relation to other things. Children naturally explore physical challenges to help develop these senses, without being aware they are even doing it. This is, in part, why young children love to spin on a swing, help you rake leaves, or dig in the sand or dirt.

Helping children develop these senses is a worthy cause. Some things you can encourage your young child to do include: rolling down a hill, spinning in circles, using the monkey bars, dancing, pulling or pushing a wagon, shoveling snow/raking leaves, kneading playdough, and picking up/putting down heavy sticks. Of course, we do not want to let our precious children run wild and put themselves in situations of real danger, but there is something to be said for letting them explore the world in such a physical way. At CrossWays Preschool, we try to recognize this need and foster this development in a safe environment. One activity our students really enjoy is rolling down the berm at the back of the Holy Cross campus - we are so blessed to have such a space to enjoy!

During February, we are enjoying the winter, and focusing on love and family, and continuing to collect plastic caps (we're over halfway to our goal!)

We will also be collecting items for troops serving overseas through Operation Support Our Troops. Sending these brave men and women a few comforts of home will go a long way in making them feel appreciated. Please visit osotamerica.org for more information. Collection bins will be place about the building if you desire to help out.

Additionally, registration is in full swing for the 2019/20 school year, and summer camp information is coming soon. View more information about program options on our website at cpreschool.org Please see me if you need help enrolling your child in any of our programs!

Elizabeth Moy, CrossWays Preschool Director crossways@holycrosschurch.org (847) 367-4367 cpreschool.org

Summer is Coming...

While it doesn't seem like it with the temperatures staying cold outside, summer will be here right before we know it. Celebration! Childcare is beginning to start to plan for all of the exciting programs we will be hosting this summer.

There will be opportunities to enjoy pony rides, a trackless train, water days, the mini golf course, bowling, a magic show, the frog lady visit, the ice cream cart, a puppet show, and many more fun activities. Information will be coming out in the next few months, so please stay tuned. Registration forms will be posted on our website at cchildcare.org. There will be full day Monday through Friday programs available again, as well as part-week programs. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Roxanne.

> Kathy Pfister, Celebration! Childcare Director celebration@holycrosschurch.org (847) 367-6208 cchildcare.org



We're collecting 100 lbs + of plastic caps for a school wide recycling project. Collected caps will be turned into a bench! YOU can help! Please donate your washed plastic caps.

Acceptable plastic caps and lids: milk jug caps, drink bottle caps, toothpaste caps, flip top caps, yogurt lids, peanut butter jar lids, detergent caps, medicine bottle caps, spout caps, shampoo caps, mayonnaise jar lids, Pringles lids, apple sauce pouch caps, baby food lids, caps and lids with Recycle # 2, 4 & 5

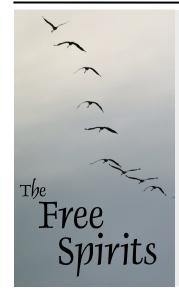
UNacceptable: Metal caps, plastic containers, plastic that is not a cap/lid, fast food drink lids, K-Cups, pump and spray triggers, dirty caps.

Cap collection bins are located at CrossWays Preschool, Celebration! Childcare, Holy Cross church office and in the fellowship area.

Thank you for your help!







THE FREE SPIRITS CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21 AT 10 AM

The Free Spirits are a group of retirees and others age 55 and more who enjoy participating in outings together.

You are invited to the Free Spirits outing to the Chicago Botanic Garden for the "Orchid Show: In The Tropics" on Thursday, February 21. This year, morning music with orchids has been added Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 am. The cost for seniors (62 years plus) is \$8 for members, and \$10 for non members. Members park free. After the show, we plan to go to lunch at the Lake House in Lake Bluff. Meet at the Holy Cross parking lot to car pool. Please respond by February 17 if you plan to attend. If you are a member and are willing to drive, please let Carol know ho many passengers you can take so car pools may be arranged.

Questions? Contact Carol Wasemiller clinnea@yahoo.com (847) 625-0046 home (847) 651-4694 cell



Parents of Children with Special Needs Sunday, February 17 at 4 pm, Room 208

This small group is for parents who have children with any special need (whether or not formalized by 504 or IEP). They typically meet once a month (September - June) to offer ideas, guidance or prayer. Open to all members of the community regardless of religious affiliation. For more information, please contact Terry Berger (224) 775-1479 or Lisa Dunbar (847) 309-6035.

Snacks are furnished by the Lexi Kazian Foundation for the members who attend.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 11:30AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 7 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

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



Grounded in Grace: Friday Night Women's Group Friday, February 1 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Room 207

"Evil, suffering, and a God of love"— If God is all powerful, all loving, and all good, how do you explain and respond to the existence of so much suffering and evil in the world? For some, the reality of evil is the best argument against God's existence. "With all the evil in the world, how can you believe in God?" How can it be so?

Come join us as we unpack all of the things about our *all*-God. Bring a friend, a snack, or a drink to share if you wish.

Please contact Pastor Sally with any questions at pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org



PILATES

MONDAYS, FEBRUARY 4, 11, 18 & 25 6 - 7 PM, CELEBRATION! ATRIUM

We will meet each Monday starting at 6 pm. Not sure if pilates is for you? Try one class for free. Questions about pricing may be directed toward the organizer, Jodi Zombolo, at

(224) 595-8573.



BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: HOME OF CAROL WASEMILLER, 4694 MIDDLE RD GURNEE IL

This month we will discuss *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAY. FEBRUARY 12 & 26. FROM 10 AM - 11:30 PM. FELLOWSHIP AREA

Throughout the year, this Bible study meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Biblical scholarship is not required. All you need to join the conversation is an open heart and any translation of the Bible.



COMMON THREADS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 1 PM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

This group of our congregation knits or crochets blankets and shawls. Each blanket or shawl is then dedicated at a worship service and presented to the prayer recipient. These prayer blankets offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. To request a prayer shawl for a loved one, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org.



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AND 19, FROM 9:30 - 11 AM, FELLOWSHIP AREA

We're continuing to discuss Dr. Chris Thurman's, *The Lies We Believe about God: Knowing God for Who He Really Is.* Books are available for purchase in the church office for \$15.

February 5 - Ch. 6: When a Speeding Ticket Is a Good Thing – *The Lie: God Ignores Our Disobedience* **February 19** - Ch. 7: Santa Claus Isn't Coming to Town – *The Lie: God Gives Us Everything We Want in Life*



MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

TUESDAYS, FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 AM

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

This is a wonderful way to begin the day. We promise to provide you with thought-provoking and stimulating fellowship and conversation. All men are welcome to join us.



CARE OF CREATION

If you missed bringing in your corks before the end of January, please bring them with you to the Annual Green Living Fair on March 16 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Libertyville Civic Center, and sponsored by the Libertyville Civic Center Foundation in partnership with Lake County Green Congregations and Faith in Place. The free event will showcase interesting displays, speakers on environmental topics, and an opportunity to recycle items like Christmas lights, corks, DVDs, gym shoes, and inkjet cartridges. Watch for more information on the Care of Creation kiosk and in the March newsletter. We are also glad to support the plastic cap collection project from CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare. See page 12 for collection details.



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

Saturday, February 9 and 23 at 7 am, Fellowship Area

Join us as we take in ideas and inspiration from a variety of Ted Talks. Each Saturday, we will look at different topics as a way to launch our conversation.

Please join us. All men are welcome!



Friday, February 1	
•	March newsletter content du
6:30 pm	Grounded in Grace
Saturday	, February 2
5:30 pm	First Saturday Worship with

7:30 pm Holy Communion
Around the Cross Coffeehouse
Concert - The Mojo Daddies

Sunday, February 3

8:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
9:30 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion
6:00 pm No Confirmation

Monday, February 4

6:00 pm Willow House meeting, fellowship area

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

Tuesday, February 5

7:00 am Men's Breakfast, The Liberty 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group 4:00 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, February 6

9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404
7:30 pm Terre Fair meeting, fellowship area
7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, February 7

7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal, 402

Friday, February 8 RSVP for At The Table

Saturday, February 9

7:00 am
8:30 am
8:30 am
Saturday Men's Discussion
New Member Breakfast,
Fellowship Area
9:30 am
Milestone Ministry: Ten
Commandments (Fourth
Grade), fellowship area

Sunday, February 10

8:00 am Worship Worship with Reception of 9:30 am New Members 9:45 am Sunday School Worship 11:00 am 1:00 pm HS Mission trip to Rosebud prep meeting, 402 2:00 pm BSA Court of Honor, fellowship area 6:30 pm Confirmation Session 15 6:30 pm Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Keys Conversations

Monday, February 11

1:00 pm Common Threads 6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

(16 y/o +), 402

Tuesday, February 12

6:30 am Men's Breakfast, The Liberty 10:00 am Adult Bible Study 4:00 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 6:30 pm At The Table, The Liberty

Wednesday, February 13

9:00 am Quilting & More group, 404 11:30 am PHW day program 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:00 pm PHW evening session 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, February 14

7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal, 402 7:00 pm ECM Board meeting, 208 7:00 pm BSA Troop #194 Committee, 207

Sunday, February 17

8:00 am Worship w/ Holy Communion
9:30 & 11 am Contemporary Worship w/ Holy Communion
9:30 am Milestone Ministry: Blessing of the Keys (16 y/o+)
9:45 am NO Sunday School
4:00 pm Parents of Children with Special Needs, 208
6:00 pm NO Confirmation

Monday, February 18

6:00 pm CrossWays Preschool closed Pilates, Celebration! atrium

7:00 pm BSA Troop 194, 402

Tuesday, February 19

7:00 am Men's Breakfast, The Liberty 9:30 am Women's Discussion Group 4:00 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404

Wednesday, February 20

9:00 am Quilting & More Group 3:30 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 & 404 7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, February 21

7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal7:00 pm Church Council, fellowship area

Friday, February 22

6:00 pm Women's Retreat begins, Watson Retreat Center, Elkhorn, WI 7:00 pm BSA Wood Badge set up, 402 Kitchen & Fellowship Area

Saturday, February 23

7:00 am Saturday Men's Discussion

Sunday, February 24

PADS donations due by noon

8:00 am Worship
9:30 & 11 am Worship & Around The Cross
Concert: Missa Jubilate Deo
9:45 am Sunday School
10:30 am PADS 7th grade girls pack

lunches, kitchen
12:00 pm Women's Retreat returns
2:30 pm Winchester House Worship
6:00 pm Peer Ministry meeting, youth rm

Confirmation, Session 16

Monday, February 25

6:30 pm

6:00 pm Pilates, Celebration! atrium

Tuesday, February 26

6:30 am Men's Breakfast, The Liberty
10:00 am Adult Bible Study
4:00 pm Red Rose Children's Choir,
402 & 404
7:00 pm Book Club, Wasemiller home

Wednesday, February 27

9:00 am Quilting & More, 404
12:00 pm Feed My Starving Children pack,
Libertyville location
4:00 pm Red Rose Children's Choir,
402 & 404

7:30 pm Holy Cross Choir rehearsal

Thursday, February 28

CrossWays Preschool Men's Day 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal, 402

Newsletter Assembly

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 29700 N. SAINT MARYS ROAD LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 – 1575

Postmaster: Request in home by FEBRUARY 1

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



Buckley Road

Bu

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 6, 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion

Full Lenten schedule on page 2

If you would like to receive a paper copy of this monthly newsletter, The Cross Connection, mailed to your residence or place of business please contact the church office.

Phone: (847) 367-4060 Email: office@holycrosschurch.org

You may also view the current newsletter online at: HolyCrossChurch.org



AT THE TABLE

& CrossWays Preschool

Preschool registration is now open for

2 - 5 year olds attending the

2018/19 school year.

More information on page 12.

Tuesday, February 12

CURRENT EVENTS

February 2019

- 2 First Saturday Worship 5:30 pm Around the Cross Concert Series: Coffeehouse Concert - The Mojo Daddies 7:30 pm
- 9 Milestone Ministry: 4th Grade: Ten Commandments 9:30 am
- 10 Milestone Ministry: 16 year olds: Blessing of the Keys 6:30 pm
- 12 At The Table, The Liberty 6:30 pm
- 17 Milestone Ministry: 16 year olds: Blessing of the Keys 9:30 am
- 22/24 Women's Retreat 6 pm
- 24 Around the Cross Concert Series: Missa Jubilate Deo 9:30 & 11 am

March 2019

- 2 First Saturday Worship 5:30 pm
- 6 Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30 pm
- Rosebud Fundraising Dinner 6 pm
- 10 Around the Cross Concert Series: Trio in D Minor 4 pm
- 12 At The Table, Chocolate Sanctuary
- 13, 20, 27 Midweek Soup Supper and Midweek Lenten Worship
- 19 MP3 6 pm