



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

# THE CROSS CONNECTION

*Providing Strength for the Faith Journey*

May 2020

CONGREGATIONAL  
LIFE  
PAGES 1-7

YOUTH MINISTRY  
PAGE 8-9

BEYOND THE  
CONGREGATION  
PAGES 10-11

VIRTUAL WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE

[HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/  
SERMONS](http://HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG/SERMONS)

SUNDAY MORNINGS  
MAY 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

*A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America*

## ***The Days After...***

As I listen to different conversations, the one constant seems to be captured with the words “I don’t know what life will look like after this.” There is the unknown about work, school, gatherings, celebrations, church and life in general. What will the new normal look like? Even though we are resurrection people, we are still hurting. The world we know is wounded. Regardless of where on the planet we live, we are experiencing grief on a scale most of us have never experienced before.

Personally, there is a strangeness about all of this. It is strange to me that we would even consider that we are on our own. It is strange to me that we might contemplate that we have been forgotten and abandoned. It is strange to me that it takes a moment like this to bring into focus how interconnected we truly are and that no one lives unto themselves. It is strange to me that it takes something like social distancing to bring us closer together. It is strange to me how relevant Jesus’ words are when he says time and time again... “Do not be afraid.” It is strange to me how quickly we confuse what is essential with what is necessary, what is significant with what is correct, what is compassionate with what is charity, what is forgiveness with what is justice, and, what is redemption with what is grace.

I wonder, how quickly we might forget. Once we return to our routines and patterns, will we still be mindful of God’s promise and presence? Will we appreciate what it means to dwell in those uncertain moments as they surface in the future? Or, will we be in a hurry to forget and move on? What lessons will become woven into the fabric of our lives in those days after? Will we choose to ignore the lessons learned in moments like these because we believe our way is better?

I am writing this article during the week *after* Easter Sunday. We still profess the pattern of death to life. Sorrow to joy. At times like these, the wisdom lesson that God invites us to contemplate is the wonderful truth that our Christian faith is filled with paradoxes: as people of faith we live by dying, receive by giving, and rule by serving. These experiences may be initially disempowering and sometimes scary in their immediacy. However, it is through our reflecting upon them that we are able to discover and incorporate any new learning.

The movement and transition that the resurrection asks of us feels harder this year? Harder to grasp? Harder to celebrate? I believe the tomb is empty, death has been defeated, our sins are forgiven, and love wins. I believe all of this. And yet, I wonder what we need to be open to learning about living, trusting and loving in these days after.

Richard Rohr writes about the foundation of faith as the ability to reflect upon God’s promise in these moments and with clarity recognize the pattern of God’s presence. Wounds and doubts. Doubts and wounds. Welcome to life the week after Easter. The pattern of God with us and accompanying us provides us with the strength and courage we need to continue with hope. We discover what it means to trust that this pattern would never, could never, change! It is largely *after* the fact that faith is formed and transformed into hope for the future. Only *after* the fact can we see that we were being held and led during those moments of uncertainty and fear. Jesus honors our desire to see more, experience more, and encounter more. He blesses us in our struggles and brokenness as we cry out in various ways. Then God, for some wonderful reason, is able to fill moments like the one we are living right now, with unconditional love that we may find solace, hope and courage in a wounded and risen Christ.

Peace,

*Pastor Bob*



## In Person Activity Suspension

The church council at its April 16 virtual meeting voted to extend suspension of in person activities at Holy Cross through May 31.

The church council will continue to monitor the unfolding situation relying on credible sources to make thoughtful and informed decisions that provide for the safety and health of all involved. A work group has been created with the purpose of developing strategies that will enable us to be prepared when the time presents itself for us to resume in person ministry. We appreciate the church council's leadership in these matters and if you have questions you may reach out to the officers and church council members.

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

(847) 367 - 4060  
OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG  
HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG

### PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Sally Hanson, Associate Pastor  
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator  
Katie Bernabei, Congregational Activities  
Randall Casey, Director of Music  
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians  
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  
Manny Rivera, Property  
Dale Tippet Jr., Director of Contemporary Music  
Tom Zombolo, Property  
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator

### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

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

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Sonny Randall (*President*), Katie Ormson (*Vice President*),  
Andy Eidson, Mick Garrison, Sarah Grayer, Bill Miksch,  
Karl Nygard, Amy Sekili, Jim Smalley, John Villani, Rich  
Yocius  
*Secretary*, Terry Berger  
*Treasurer*, Eric Ormson  
*Financial Secretary*, Lori Fedyk

### VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Sunday School Coordinators:  
Felicia Brandt, age 3 - age 5/Kindergarten (*Core Stories*)  
Patty Moyer & Teri Chadd, 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 at [HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters). Articles should be submitted by the 1st of the month to [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org)



## Online Ministry is Possible because of...

Since March 15, we have been providing online worship videos while our in person worship services have been suspended. The church council has extended suspension of in person activities through May 31. We will continue to provide you with Sunday worship video offerings for as long as we need to. Please check them out at [holycrosschurch.org/sermons](http://holycrosschurch.org/sermons)

A "HUGE THANK YOU" goes out to some individuals who have blessed us all with their gifts.

We appreciate the creative and technical efforts of Dale Tippet. Dale is our Director of Contemporary Music at Holy Cross but he also brings talents in the area of video production and editing. Dale has been working tirelessly to not only produce and edit the worship videos but also contribute musically as well. He orchestrated the amazing rendition of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" incorporating home made videos from various members.

Randy Casey is our Director of Music and has been providing music through his offerings on the pipe organ and the piano. He has also coordinated with soloists who have added to the video offerings. We thank Barb Cannon, Julie Mattson and Dave Stueckemann who added some amazing music for our Good Friday video offering.

There have been individuals who have participated and provided support in some of the worship videos. A thanks goes out to Darin Chartier, Jeri Powers, Izak Hanson, Diane Rammelsberg, and Mike Price. We have always practiced 'social distancing' in recording these worship videos.

As always, we appreciate everything that our church office staff (Sarah Accettura, Ellie Rautenbach, Katie Bernabei) are doing. Sarah continues to resource and provide the liturgies, prayers, readings and other support materials to make the online worship videos what they are. Ellie has not only been responsible for the videos being posted to our website but she has been very instrumental in all of our online offerings through the Church's email contacts, website and Facebook. Katie has assisted with the data needed to implement the Caring Circle contact initiative and the technical support of making the robo calls announcing the Holy Week offerings. The monthly newsletters are online because of Katie and Ellie's efforts. Steve Oelschlager has been working tirelessly with our Zoom subscription and developing new virtual opportunities for us to connect. Those are highlighted on pages 6 and 7 of this month's newsletter as well as online at [holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings](http://holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings) Pastor Sally has been working on youth and family online opportunities that provides the opportunity for us to feel less isolated and connected.

The message in all of this is that while we may not be able to be together in person, Holy Cross Lutheran Church is not closed. We are creating new opportunities to be the church in these unusual times.



## Cultural Sabbath

by Rev. Sally Hanson



I don't know how long I've heard the sentiment, "I wish I had more time at home." Often, it came from over scheduled families who struggled to get uniforms washed between games as they chased around their kids from one field to another. Families like this, like mine, welcome the "rain-out" weekends as they provide us a break to catch up on laundry, cleaning, organizing, planting or the lists we keep on the counter for "when we have time." When I would hear all of these requests, I often related with them, and then would say, "Wow, we all need some sabbath. Some time with God. Downtime to dwell in grace and mercy."

Well, it happened. We have abundance of that time now. And yet, all we want to do is leave the house. Ironical how that works...

While I have been home social distancing and quarantining, I have come to think about this time as a cultural sabbath. American culture is one that is on the move all the time: we are constantly moving on to the next thing, overbooking ourselves, and leaving ourselves little time to... be a family... be a child of God... be outside... be home... be in the presence of God.

A handful of people have jokingly told me, "Sorry, I prayed for this..." because they wished they had time. Time to be home as a family, time to get house projects done, enjoy their garden, to go about life at a slower pace. So now that we have this time, what are you doing with it?

I wonder if after this time of quarantine, where all group events are canceled or postponed, how many of us will run blindly back into our old routines. Go back to that pace of life that leaves us strung out, exhausted, and overwhelmed and the reason some of us wished for a break in the first place. How many of us will think twice before we say yes to so many things? Will we remember how nice it was to be home without running off to the next thing? Will we forget what it was like to have a home cooked meal as a family and a commute from the home office or kitchen table?

Believe me, the routine of "normal and predictable" will be welcome, but what can we learn in this time of cultural sabbath where we are all called to pause, think, discern, and evaluate?

Blessings,

*Pastor Sally*

## Introduction to Women of the Bible

by Rev. Sally Hanson

How many women of the Bible can you name? Ten? Fifteen? Well, there are definitely more than that!

May is often associated with Mother's Day, and women who have had an impact in our lives. What about the women of the Bible? For the thirty-one days of May, you are invited to explore and discover women of faith and become acquainted with their stories. You will learn, or maybe recall, who the mother of humanity is, who offered up her son to serve in the temple, who saved her brother, who honored her aging mother-in-law, and many more.

Each day, read the passage corresponding with the day of the month and discover a woman of faith. Write the name of the woman next to the scripture passage as a way of remembering all of these amazing women. To help guide your reading, use these questions:

- What was the background of this woman?
- Why was she considered remarkable and worthy of being noted by name in the scriptures?
- In what ways did she put God first? How does God or Christ treat her?

- 1 2 Samuel 6: 16-23
- 2 Genesis 18: 1-14
- 3 Esther 2
- 4 Genesis 2: 15-25
- 5 Judges 4: 1-15
- 6 Judges 4: 16-24
- Bonus: Deborah's Song Judges 5: 2-31
- 7 1 Samuel 25
- 8 Exodus 15: 20-21
- 9 1 Samuel 1
- 10 Exodus 1: 8-21
- 11 1 Kings 1: 11-31
- 12 Genesis 16 : 1-16 & 21:8-21
- 13 Judges 16: 1-22
- 14 Ruth 1: 1-19
- 15 Ruth 1: 19-22
- 16 Luke 10: 38-42
- 17 Hebrews 11:23 , Exodus 2: 1-11
- 18 John 11: 17-45
- 19 Joshua 2
- 20 Genesis 29: 17-35
- 21 Genesis 38: 1-30
- 22 Genesis 35:1-4
- 23 Luke 1: 39-45
- 24 John 4: 5-30
- 25 Luke 2: 9-21
- 26 Song of Solomon 6
- 27 Luke 2:36-38
- 28 2 Timothy 1: 3-7
- 29 Acts 9: 36-43
- 30 Mark 5: 22-43
- 31 Acts 16: 14-15



**Journey** faith, discipleship, generosity

## Being a Lightbulb

by Steve Oelschlager

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells his followers that they are the light of the world. Anglican cleric Desmond Tutu has a provocative interpretation of this declaration that all of us are in the light business. Tutu shifts the emphasis of our involvement when he says, “we are only the light bulbs, and our job is just to remain screwed in!” The implication seems to be that shining is our intended fate, if only we can find a way to stay connected to the energy source that powers us. In other words, to be at our best, we need to maintain contact with spirit, and that requires discipline and intentionality.

What then is our program for “remaining screwed in” so that we may be as bright as God made us to be? Here are a few ideas.

At the highest level is to trust, love, and commit to the big picture beyond ourselves: family, community, a pro-social value system, vocation (making a difference in real life), and creation. As humans, we will worship something, and devotion to these things is consistent with directing our praise at God.

Within our commitments, both action and contemplation are necessary. Action is about doing, our behaviors and choices to multiply kindness, compassion, justice, acts of hospitality and generosity. Contemplation is about the mental work we need to recharge, stay inspired, and grow in wisdom. Given our culture and Lutheran heritage, we might believe thinking is more critical than doing. Social science, however, tells us that we are more likely to act ourselves into new ways of thinking than think ourselves into new ways of acting. Following Jesus is about both action and contemplation.

The meaning of the word religion is to rebind or reconnect. At its best, a life of faith and organized religion provide both a program and a community so that we might “remain screwed in” and joined to the ultimate source of life.

I hope and pray that Holy Cross might challenge you to work on staying connected to God and that your lives might shine brightly as a result.

## Manage Your Electronic Giving Online or Via Smartphone

To continue your financial support of the ministries of Holy Cross, we encourage you to move your giving to online giving through our website at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](http://donate.holycrosschurch.org) or on the Give Plus app. The app is compatible with Apple or Android smartphones. For those of you who have created an online account already through our website, your same username and password will work with the Give+ app as well. Advantages of the app include:

- Quickly and easily donate using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account
- Make one time donations or set up recurring giving to multiple funds
- Choose to create an account or donate as a guest
- Securely and conveniently manage donations using Touch ID/fingerprint, PIN or password

Please use the QR codes or links below to download and install the Give+ app.

**GIVEPLUS<sup>+</sup>**



[bit.ly/GIVEPLUSappstore](http://bit.ly/GIVEPLUSappstore)



[bit.ly/GIVEPLUSgoogleplay](http://bit.ly/GIVEPLUSgoogleplay)

Then locate Holy Cross as your congregation (zip code 60048) and continue from there.

If you have any questions or problems, contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)

**amazon**smile

## Donate through AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service. It just uses the money saved on advertising to help fund donations to charitable organizations.

Setting up automatic donations is easy. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) before you shop and select Holy Cross Lutheran Church as your charitable organization. Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to create a shortcut to quickly return to AmazonSmile from your computer or mobile browser every time you shop at Amazon and 0.5% of your purchase amount will be donated.

As of the end of March, over \$500 has been donated through the AmazonSmile program to Holy Cross! This is an easy and wonderful way that you can support Holy Cross' ministry and work in our community during these trying times.

*Amazon Charity Lists is an additional donation option offered by Amazon, however, Holy Cross does not currently participate in Charity Lists.*



## ***An Attempt at Remembrance***

*by Randy Casey*

The event which has affected me most during these uncertain days has been the death of Donny Fostner (July 14, 1985 - April 2, 2020). At the time of his death, Donny was working at the New York Stock Exchange, after having previously worked at the Chicago Board of Trade. According to his obituary, he was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin where he had a double major in nuclear engineering and physics.

Donny's parents are Rod and Jenny Fostner, and they have two other children, Megan and Jake. The Fostner family were members of Holy Cross in the late 1990s for a year or so, and Jenny sang in the choir. They moved to Libertyville from the Milwaukee area, and then moved back there when Rod was Chief Financial Officer of Harley-Davidson.

I will confess that I did not really know Donny, but from reading his obituary that speaks of his many friends and interests, it is clear that he inherited his delightful personality from his mother. Jenny and I kept in touch after the family moved back to Wisconsin. We would meet at the restaurant, Chances Are, off of the 27th exit south of Milwaukee where she would talk about her family and I would talk about Holy Cross. At one point, she told me that Donny had a very specialized job at the Chicago Board of Trade. He could apparently read some figures and make sense of them instantly, something his bosses could not even do as well.

Once, my sister and I even drove to Brookfield and enjoyed a delightful lunch which Jenny had prepared. The last time I actually talked to Jenny was when I had received two tickets to the Milwaukee Symphony from former Holy Cross member Randy Montgomery, the tuba player in the symphony. Jenny could not join me, but we had a delightful phone conversation just catching up a bit.

I learned of Donny's death because Jenny and I are Facebook friends. Her announcement of his passing was accompanied by a picture of her holding him just after he was born. Jenny's next posting showed a picture of friends, family, and neighbors who had gathered on the Fostner lawn and surrounding lawns holding candles, expressing their support for Jenny and Rod during their time of unspeakable grief. A heart made of 34 candles was formed on the grass in memory of the years of Donny's life.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing I have seen online in regard to Donny's passing was the interview by a Milwaukee television station of Rod and Jenny. Their poise was profoundly impressive.

In all of Jenny's Facebook postings, her faith as a lifelong believer in the love of God has been made abundantly clear. It has been nothing short of humbling to read her elegant prose and then ask myself if I could be so gracious. I say "gracious" because Jenny proclaims proudly that she has ever been blessed by the grace of God.

I feel so inadequate to simply express sympathy and best wishes to all who have experienced the death of loved ones during these terrible days. Nevertheless, if we all join in prayer for those who are suffering, perhaps our united offerings will comfort our friends now and in the days ahead.

## **PASTORAL ACTS**

### **FUNERAL**

**Carol Murphy**

April 3, 2020



## ***New Address for Holy Cross***

Due to a recent ordinance to standardize the street address system in Lake County, Holy Cross has been assigned a new address. The new address will help dispatchers and first responders when responding to an emergency as well as to avoid other issues with mail delivery, navigation systems and the retrieval of county records that can complicate business transactions. Please update your records to the following:

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
1151 N. Saint Mary's Rd  
Libertyville, IL 60048**

Mail addressed to our old address will still be delivered by USPS for the time being. Thank you for your assistance as we transition to the new address.

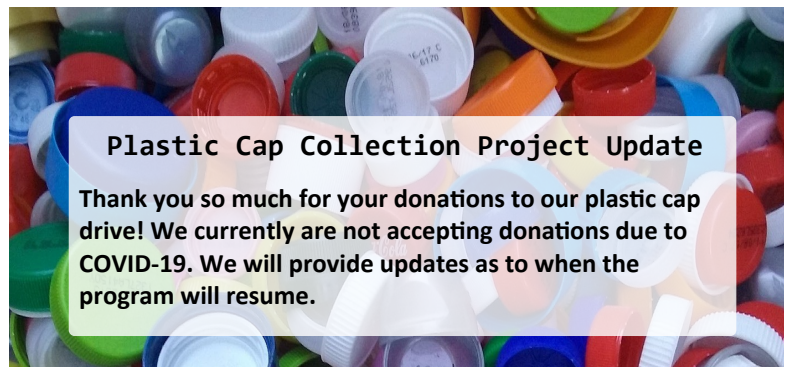
## *Daily* **Visual Faith Practice**

We are continuing to offer a Daily Visual Faith Practice through the end of May. As before, a new image along with content to enhance a spiritual life will be offered on a daily basis.

The Daily Visual Faith Practice is accessible on our website at [HolyCrossChurch.org/dvfp](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/dvfp) and on our Facebook page at [fb.com/holycrosslibertyville](https://fb.com/holycrosslibertyville)

## **Plastic Cap Collection Project Update**

**Thank you so much for your donations to our plastic cap drive! We currently are not accepting donations due to COVID-19. We will provide updates as to when the program will resume.**



## Virtual Meetings for Relational and Small Group Ministries

At this time, all in-person meetings for small group and relational ministries have been canceled or moved online. We encourage you to continue to be in contact with the members of your different groups or to explore new groups. It is important to still have community in these times. If you are in need of contact information for someone in your group, please feel free to reach out to the church office staff at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) or at (847) 367-4060.


Some groups are offering virtual meetings via Zoom, by phone or in Facebook groups. New participants are always welcome! Please see below or check the Virtual Meetings page on our website for updates, meeting dates and times and the links to connect to the meetings at [holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings](http://holycrosschurch.org/virtualmeetings)

Not familiar with Zoom? Zoom is a free app for your desktop/laptop, smartphone, or tablet to connect multiple people. Zoom uses the camera, microphone and speakers on your device. If you can't connect to a meeting via a device, you can also call in to join the group meeting by phone. To join a Zoom meeting by phone, dial: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) and enter the meeting ID (digits at the end of the link url). Questions about Zoom? Contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)

 **Meets online**



**MP3: MEN OF PRINCIPLE, PURPOSE & PRAYER**  
**MONDAY, MAY 4 FROM 6:30 - 8:30 PM**  
**TOPIC: WHAT ARE WE LEARNING BECAUSE OF COVID-19?**

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/95455711459](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/95455711459)

Men, please join us for a virtual experience of MP3. BYOB for social time from 6:30 - 7 pm, with special music and meaningful discussion to follow. As we enter another month dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, the disruption to life as we knew it is raising lots of questions and creating an environment for learning and growth. What are we learning about the value of routine, and what feeds, sustains, nourishes us? What are we learning about loss, grief, and uncertainty? What are we learning about coping? The evening will include both large and small group conversations (using breakout rooms in Zoom) so that we might benefit from each other's wisdom. Please contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.




**LETTER OF HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY - 6 WEEK SESSION**  
**TUESDAYS, MAY 5 - JUNE 9 AT 10:30 AM**

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98132171302](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98132171302)

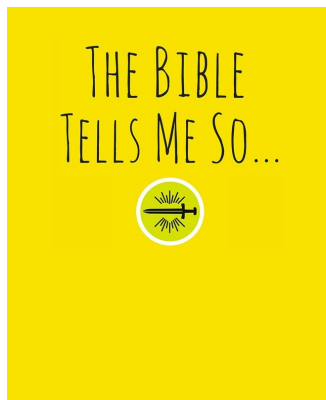
Perhaps there is no better time than now for us to study gratitude and grace. This six week Bible study traces these themes through the book of Hebrews, helping us to see the connection between God's grace in our lives and the gratitude we can express for our salvation when we answer the call to invest ourselves in God's mission in the world. We will learn and discover a bold perspective on the meaning and significance of Jesus' death and resurrection in light of the Old Testament, allowing us to hear afresh God's call to a life of faithfulness. Please contact Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.



**SOCIAL (HALF) HOUR**  
**EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY FROM 9 - 9:30 PM**

 [zoom.us/j/815992814](https://zoom.us/j/815992814)

During these days of social distancing and shelter in place, connect virtually with Holy Cross friends for a little end-of-day conversation and sharing. Come prepared for nothing more than familiar faces, stories, smiles, and the warmth of others. All welcome! Contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.

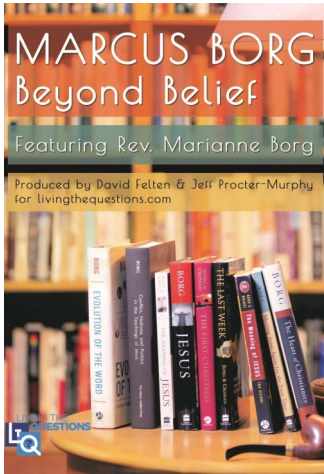


**THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO - 7 WEEK SESSION**  
**MONDAYS, MAY 11 - JUNE 29 (NO MEETING ON JUNE 15) AT 7 PM**

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93762733367](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/93762733367)

The biblical scholar Peter Enns asks, "What if the Bible is fine just the way it is? Not a well behaved Bible, where everything lines up and makes sense, but the messy, troubling, and weird Bible we actually have? What if the Bible doesn't need to be protected and defended, but understood—just as it is? What if the real problem isn't the Bible but the false expectations we sometimes bring to it? Perhaps, when we let the Bible be the Bible rather than what we expect it ought to be—or need it to be—we will find a deeper faith in the process." Peter Enns' book, *The Bible Tells Me So* provides the structure for a seven part video series. Please join Pastor Bob for the opportunity of viewing each of these sessions followed with a time for discussion. The hope is that these videos will stir our imagination, deepen our trust in God, and that the Bible comes alive in new ways for us. Please contact Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.





## MARCUS BORG BEYOND BELIEF - 6 WEEK SESSION SUNDAYS, APRIL 26 - MAY 31 FROM 10 - 11 AM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92436870621](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/92436870621)

What if the Christian life is not ultimately about believing, or about being a good person, but instead a relationship with God that involves us in a journey of transformation? That is the claim of theologian and Jesus scholar Marcus Borg. Borg was raised as a Lutheran in North Dakota, became a Lutheran pastor, but had too many questions about faith to settle for an understanding based on his upbringing. Borg spent his adult life contemplating who Jesus is, and what faith is all about, resulting in insightful perspectives, and more than a few challenges to how many of us learned the faith. Borg taught as a professor of religion and philosophy, wrote about 15 books, and was a frequent speaker before he passed away in 2015. This study series contains favorite moments, core teachings, and extensive never-before-seen material of Marcus Borg, plus commentary from his wife, Rev. Marianne Borg. View the trailer here: [vimeo.com/364098337](https://vimeo.com/364098337) (The Saturday Men's Group and Grounded in Grace group will also use the Borg study series as their topics.) Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)

## GROUNDING IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMENS GROUP FRIDAY, MAY 1 AT 6:30 PM

 [zoom.us/j/284195825](https://zoom.us/j/284195825)

Grounded in Grace is an opportunity for women of faith to connect together in fun, fellowship, and learning. We will start the Marcus Borg Beyond Belief video session at the June 5 meeting. Please contact Pastor Sally at [pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.




## PILATES MONDAYS, MAY 4, 11, 18 & 25 AT 6 PM

 [via zoom](#)

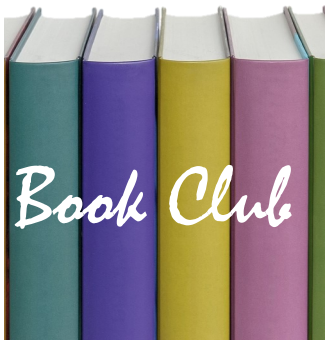
To join this group, please contact Jodi Zombolo at (224) 595-8573.



## BOOK CLUB TUESDAY, MAY 19 AT 7 PM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98597172346?pwd=c0dkVEM1UIB6REs2TXcraEhCTlcwUT09](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/98597172346?pwd=c0dkVEM1UIB6REs2TXcraEhCTlcwUT09)

The book club is discussing *My Life in France* by Julia Child., the best-selling story of Julia's years in France, and the basis for the movie *Julie & Julia*. The story of Julia Child's years in France, where she fell in love with French food and found "her true calling." From the moment she and her husband Paul arrived in the fall of 1948, Julia had an awakening that changed her life. Soon this tall, outspoken gal from Pasadena, California, who didn't speak a word of French, was steeped in the language, chatting with purveyors in the local markets, and enrolled in the Cordon Bleu. Contact Susan Williamson at [swilliamson630@yahoo.com](mailto:swilliamson630@yahoo.com) with questions.




## SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP SATURDAYS AT 7 AM

 [zoom.us/j/301891517](https://zoom.us/j/301891517)

This group is for men of faith to come together throughout the year to share their faith and thoughts about topics that are challenging. We support one another through our personal journeys. All are welcome. On Saturday, April 25 we will start a 6-week series on the theology of Marcus Borg. (See description of the series above.) Please contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org) or Pastor Bob at [pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorbob@holycrosschurch.org) with any questions.



## COLLEGE STUDENTS STUDY BREAK SUNDAYS, MAY 3, 17 & 31 AT 7:30 PM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97264327783](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/97264327783)

College students, please gather via Zoom every 2 weeks to catch up with friends (and the pastors!) We hope this will be a time for students to breathe, support each other as they navigate online classes and campus closures, and think about what faith looks like right now. We hope you can join us to reconnect and take a study break! Contact Hannah Oelschlager at (847) 502-5006 or Sam Randall (408) 614-4981 with any questions.



## Virtual Christian Education Opportunities

### Family Faith Walks:

Read together: Psalm 145 “... let every creature praise...”

Go for a walk as a family. As you are walking, begin to notice all the wonderful creatures and plant growth that have come out this month. Are there birds chirping? What kind? Are the buds on the trees opening? Have the flowers started to bloom? Maybe a bird pulling a worm out of the soil or chipmunks digging for seeds...

Psalm 145 tells us that all creatures praise God. How were each of these parts of nature praising God? Did the tree stretch out its branches in prayer? Did the dog lapping water give thanks and praise? These creatures praise God by simply being. Our uniqueness proclaims and praises God’s creativity, power, and grace.

Fun things to try: Take pictures of creatures and nature praising God by simply being. Make a collage. Try practicing yourself praising God by simply being.

Prayer: *God, creator of all things—the animals, the water, the plants, the sky, moon, and stars—we praise you and thank you for your amazing creation. Amen.*

### Bible Movie Night:

Pick a video from [BibleProject.com](http://BibleProject.com) to learn more about books of the Bible, biblical themes or characters. Most are under ten minutes.

### Children’s Chapel:

Watch the recorded chapel services that we often do for our early childhood ministry. Have a chance to see what we do or play it for your younger kids who are missing chapel at Holy Cross. View at: [HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/sermons)

### Morning Watch & Morning Watch KIDS!:

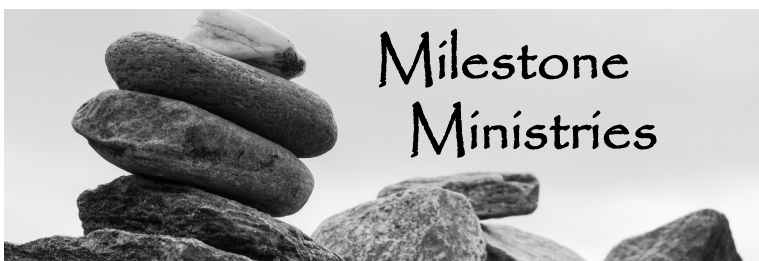
A daily Facebook video that is live each morning at 7am and 7:15 am (kids) to begin our day with God. It is created and posted by two ELCA pastors (brothers) who offer music and faith-based commentary on things happening in the world today utilizing a sock puppet named Nathaniel. Check it out! [fb.com/MorningWatch20/](https://fb.com/MorningWatch20/)

### Sunday School

As life came to an abrupt halt mid-March, so did our Sunday school program. Children were preparing for the spring sing music event with Mrs. Mack and finishing up a rotation looking forward to the last one of the year—People Welcome Jesus. This rotation lifts up the Palm Sunday story as Jesus comes to Jerusalem anticipating that he would become the new political king. Little did they know, that isn’t exactly what happened...

If you would still like to share this last rotation with your children, we have emailed the lesson plans for the entire rotation from Deep Blue to all Sunday school families and Joe Taylor has graciously also provided the science rotation into videos. Joe is often our science rotation teacher and misses seeing all the kids too!

Additional free Sunday school resources for families: [WeAreSparkHouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/](http://WeAreSparkHouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/)



Support for their faith journey...

### 2020 High School Graduation Recognition Sunday, June 7 during virtual worship

Graduation from high school is an important milestone and a time of transition for students and families. This year we will celebrate this milestone in a recorded worship service with prayer and a blessing of all those who graduated and their families. The recorded worship service will be available to view at [holycrosschurch.org/sermons](http://holycrosschurch.org/sermons)

**Seniors, please submit the following to [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) by Monday, May 18:**

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

### Intergenerational Vacation Bible School



**Tuesdays, June 9, 16 & 23  
at 6 pm**

You can do hard things—even make it through quarantine! The world has its ups and downs: today more than ever. But, what’s the one thing we can always count on?

Jesus.

We can count on Jesus to pull us through all of our ups and downs. This summer, our intergenerational VBS will be held virtually and will feature videos, learning conversations, craft ideas to do at home, and fantastic music about how and when we put our trust in God, all things are possible! Music will include favorites like “The Old Rugged Cross,” “This Train is Bound for Glory,” and new favorites like “In You Alone” and “Lions!”

Our conversations will stem from the idea that Jesus’ power helps us to do hard things, and that our hope is in Jesus. Our ability to be bold all comes from the power of Christ through the Holy Spirit.

Watch for more information in the June newsletter regarding the layout of this virtual VBS, but for now, mark your calendar for Tuesday nights June 9, 16, & 23 as we embark on this new journey together!







## CONFIRMATION

### Attention 9th Grade Confirmands

As we head toward the culmination of your confirmation with the Affirmation of Baptism on **Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2020** we invite you to put these dates on your calendar. There will be more additions to our list of dates in the future, so please keep an eye out for those.

**June/July** Expect an email with materials for your Confirmation service as well as the Confirmation Faith Statement packet in preparation of your Confirmation Conversation with one of the pastors.

**July/August (before school starts)** Schedule and complete your Confirmation Conversation with the pastoral staff. There will be instructions on how to do this in your mailing.

<b>September 26-28</b>	9th grade retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp
<b>October 24</b>	Confirmation dress rehearsal and Pictures (8:30 am)
<b>October 25</b>	Confirmation service (11 am)

### High School Mission Trip Update



Thank you for all those that have supported the 2020 youth mission trip to Chattanooga.

With Covid-19, the sites and service partners we were using in Chattanooga are no longer available and our trip for summer 2020 has been cancelled.

Watch the newsletter in upcoming months for more information regarding the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering open to all 8-12 graders in the 2020/21 school year.

All mission trip funds that were raised in 2019/20 will be put toward the ELCA Youth Gathering held in Minneapolis on June 29 - July 3, 2021.

**2021  
ELCA  
Youth Gathering  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN**



**Sundays, May 3 & 17  
6:30 - 7:30 pm**

[zoom.us/j/317045894](https://zoom.us/j/317045894)

5G HSYG is open to students in grades 8-12. 5G High School Youth Group will meet virtually via Zoom on May 3 & 17 beginning at 6:30pm. We expect this to be around an hour long but we are leaving room for flexibility. This will be a time to play games together, catch up with one another, have a time to see what God has been up to since we were last together.

If you have questions, please contact Dale Tippet at [dale@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:dale@holycrosschurch.org) or Sonny Randall at [mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com](mailto:mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com)

The Zoom meetings will be open 10 minutes early to start gathering.



**Tuesdays, May 5 & 19  
7 - 8 pm**

[zoom.us/j/9261386227](https://zoom.us/j/9261386227)

This is a group for parents of 8-12 grade students. It is an opportunity to connect with other parents who are experiencing the same things you are and discuss things from a faith perspective.

#### 5G Parent Connection Themes:

May 5: Time + Teenagers = Parenting Comedy  
May 19: Parenting with Purpose: Your way or the Highway!

If you have questions, please contact Dale Tippet at [dale@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:dale@holycrosschurch.org), Sonny Randall at [mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com](mailto:mlsonnyrandall@gmail.com) or Pastor Sally at [pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorsally@holycrosschurch.org)

## Holy Cross' Community Outreach

During the COVID-19 health crisis, Holy Cross is continuing to practice support of our community partners. Through the generosity of members of Holy Cross, we have been able to respond to some special opportunities and needs in our larger community. We are continuing to practice these acts of kindness in the coming weeks.

### Pizza for Health Care Workers

In March, Holy Cross provided 20 pizzas to the Emergency Department personnel at Advocate Aurora Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. The pizzas were delivered to show our support to the medical staff who are providing critical health care while making personal sacrifices with their own safety and time away from their families. It is a small way to let them know that they are appreciated, we are thinking of them and they are in our prayers.

### Donuts for First Responders

On Easter Sunday, 16 dozen donuts were delivered to the three fire houses in Libertyville. We made arrangements with Donut Lee in Libertyville to deliver these donuts at 6:00 am so that the shift finishing and the shift coming on might enjoy a small treat. Heidi from Donut Lee was phenomenal and she shared with us that the firefighters were very moved by Holy Cross' thoughtfulness. It is amazing how some as simple as a donut given from a heart of gratitude and appreciation can have such a profound impact.

### Fabric Masks

Members of Holy Cross are literally making 100s of fabric masks for those essential workers and vulnerable groups who are struggling with having adequate health safety items. The masks are being distributed through various outlets to benefit those who continue to work and provide essential services for the common good and to at risk individuals. If you are interested in participating in this effort please contact Katie Ormson at [katherineormson@yahoo.com](mailto:katherineormson@yahoo.com) or see the Facebook group called Frontline Fabric Masks at [fb.com/groups/FabricFaceMasks/](https://fb.com/groups/FabricFaceMasks/)

## Inspirational Yard Signs

Sometimes we just don't have the words to express our thoughts and prayers. Holy Cross is creating three different versions of inspirational yard signs.

You probably have seen some around your neighborhood or the community thanking essential workers and expressing other encouraging words. Sidewalk or driveway chalk art has been another form of expression. Displays of art work in windows facing the sidewalks brightens our day.

We are ordering 300 of these signs and will make them available for members to pick up at Holy Cross in May. If you would like a sign for your yard (free of charge, one per household, local pick up only) please complete this form:

[bit.ly/orderyardsign](https://bit.ly/orderyardsign)



As you may imagine, the number of individuals and families who need assistance during these difficult times is increasing. COOL Food Pantry has changed its operating procedures. Staff only are working at the pantry. COOL patrons may come by appointment only and the food is packaged and brought out for curbside pickup. The needs have grown exponentially. Again, Holy Cross is responding. We donated food items from our Easter Baskets. Additionally, through the generosity of Holy Cross members we have received over \$3,000 in monetary donations that we have made available to COOL to purchase food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank. You may continue to donate online towards the needs of COOL Ministries at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](https://donate.holycrosschurch.org)

The COOL Plant and Flower Sale is a staple at Holy Cross. This year through orders we almost matched what we ordered in previous years. We supported COOL in the amount of \$1,978 which is in addition to the \$3,000 mentioned above. Thank you for your support! **Reminder: Plant order pick up is on May 9 from 11 am - 2 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 5110 Grand Ave, Gurnee.** (No early pick ups.)



PADS has made special arrangements for the PADS guests during this health crisis. This a part of our population that is at risk due to unique circumstances in their living arrangements. Local hotels are providing safe housing options so that our sisters and brothers who struggle with a permanent residence may be safe and practice social distancing. Instead of large groups of individuals sharing common space at area churches this approach is being offered. PADS is extending their housing season into May through a special program partly being funded by the State of Illinois.

Because of this, the usual menu options have changed. Holy Cross is adapting to the new needs of our PADS guests. Instead of asking for donations of food, we ask that you donate online at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](https://donate.holycrosschurch.org)

We will use these donations to shop for the needed items, and then bring them to our PADS site. If you have any questions, please contact Peg Chartier, Pat Chianelli, or the office at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) for additional information.



## Can You Volunteer?

If you are willing to help out in any way, please contact the church office by email at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) or phone (847) 367-4060 with your name and what you are willing to do. We are compiling a list in order to connect people that may need assistance.



## Resuming Church. Preparing for a Return to a New Normal

by Sonny Randall



The church council extended the suspension of in person use of the Holy Cross facility through Sunday, May 31. The council will continue to monitor the state of Illinois' stay at home order and restrictions and will make a decision in May about how to proceed.

In the meantime, four working groups have been formed to begin preparing for the eventual resuming of church operations. The groups are as follows:

- **Restart Working Group:** This group is made up of four council members, one Early Childhood Ministries (ECM) representative and church administrative staff. This group will focus on worship, faith formation activities, some Early Childhood Ministry functions, and community groups.
- **Finance Committee Working Group:** In this group, church council officers and Finance Team members will continue to monitor current income and expenses, as well as establish projections based on current trends.
- **Early Childhood Ministry Interim Leadership Team:** Early Childhood Ministry board president and the Interim Leadership team are establishing a reopening plan and revising standards to ensure the safety of teachers, students, and parents.
- **Virtual Worship and Visual Arts Working Group:** Dale Tippet and four members of the congregation make up this group. They will continue to expand the church's ability to provide worship opportunities that are supported through the audio and visual arts.

It is not possible for Holy Cross to eliminate the risk of infection from COVID-19, but through careful consideration and planning we can minimize the risk to our staff, members, Early Childhood Ministry staff and students, and all other community members who utilize our facility.

It is our intention to provide clear and defined procedures and processes so that everyone can make informed choices and have access to alternative methods of worship and faith formation based on their personal comfort levels.

In the weeks to come, we will provide you with additional information about the distinct phases related to the "restart" of our church.

I pray that you continue to stay safe and be well, and take comfort and joy in our online offerings. While we are not able to be physically together, we are all still connected and a part of a wonderful community.



## COVID-19 Grief Support

Willow House provides grief support services to children, families, schools and communities coping with the death of a loved one. We understand that for those grieving during COVID-19, a sense of isolation and uncertainty can compound the already challenging feelings of grief.

Willow House offers free virtual support groups for all ages, grief consultation, education and resources. A dedicated email, [griefsupport@willowhouse.org](mailto:griefsupport@willowhouse.org) is available for families to contact us during this time for extra support. Additionally, our team is available by phone at (847) 236-9300 during our normal office hours, 9 am - 4 pm. For more information on our available services amid COVID-19, see our website at [willowhouse.org](http://willowhouse.org)



## Welcome Spring!

by Marge Stueckemann

As I write this in early April, we are still on lock down without knowing when we'll be able to ditch shelter in place. But even if the order isn't lifted by May, the wonder of spring will renew the landscape and give us all an occasion to remember how blessed we are to live in our beautiful God-created world! Take time to get outside. Notice the birdsong in the morning, the birds flying overhead, the flowers bursting out of the soil. We found a crocus, a rather weak-seeming flower, that had actually poked a hole in an oak leaf left from last fall, and grew right through it!

This year is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day (April 22), but due to COVID-19, the events planned were all cancelled. Fifty years ago, this huge upswelling all over the US led to 20 million Americans marching and demanding better environmental policies. In December, Congress passed the Clean Air Act with only one dissenting vote! Also passed was the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and the establishment of the EPA. Now it is up to us to advocate for protecting the many environmental successes that these acts began.

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

