

CONGREGATIONAL  
LIFE

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YOUTH MINISTRY

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BEYOND THE  
CONGREGATION

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CALENDAR

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## JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY EVENINGS

5:30 pm

July 1 - *Patio*

July 8 - *Patio*

July 15 - *SNLOP*

July 22 - *Sanctuary*

July 29 - *Sanctuary*

### SUNDAYS

July 2, 9, 23, 30

8 & 10 am

*Sanctuary & Livestream*

July 16

8 am - *Sanctuary &*

*Livestream*

10 am - *Drive-In*

View livestream at

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

A congregation of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in America

## Nurture - "Put It in Your Hearts"

by Pastor Chris Neptun

*"Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts, sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God" – Colossians 3:14-16*

It's instinctive when we encounter new life to help it along. Whether it's a newborn baby, a kitten, a puppy, a rabbit, or a young plant, something moves us to act in a way that will help it grow. New mothers instinctively feed and provide comfort to their newborns. When given a plant or a seed, something urges us to help it reach its potential. Children want to help animals when they feel it needs to be cared for. We want to provide just the right elements to foster growth.



Last month we focused on "INVITE," one of the four pillars of living together in a faith community that I introduced in the May edition of *The Cross Connection*. "INVITE, NURTURE, EQUIP & SERVE." (If you haven't already, you can visit our website to read those in past editions at [HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters](https://www.HolyCrossChurch.org/newsletters)) When we invite others to know God, we offer them an opportunity to be nurtured by God's love.

The verb "nurture" can mean "to supply with nourishment, to educate, or to further the development of."<sup>1</sup> We understand this regarding children and human development, which may be a simple metaphor for our life of faith. In a community of faith, we are nurtured by God's Word. This happens in many ways. One of those is through the study of the scriptures. Another is by hearing God's Word proclaimed through worship and sermons. We are also nurtured through the promises of Holy Communion. God's Word is nurturing when it causes someone to act on behalf of us (or others) to encourage them through kind words, providing for physical needs, and protecting others from harm, to name a few.

Just as nurturing our physical bodies doesn't end as we enter adulthood, neither does being nurtured in matters of faith. Perhaps you have heard a sermon on confirmation Sunday when a pastor reminds the confirmands (and us), "This is not an ending but a beginning."

When children are baptized, their parents are "entrusted with responsibilities: to live with *them* among God's faithful people, bring *them* to the word of God and the holy supper, teach *them* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in *their* hands the holy scriptures, and nurture *them* in faith and prayer, so that *your children* may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace."<sup>2</sup>

As those children affirm their baptism at confirmation, they promise "to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth." We are invited to be nurtured but also to care for others. We practice faith in community, being cared for, and caring for others with God's help and guidance.

God invites us into the project of creation. The reason God creates is to have a relationship with all God has created. Also, intrinsic in God's character is the act of caring for all of it. God calls us to nurture creation as well.

We do this in many ways. First, we nurture and are nurtured by hearing God's Word. The easiest way to do this is to gather for worship, where we hear God's word and share in the Lord's supper. Gathering for study in groups like Men's Discussion, Women's Discussion, MP3, LIFT, Crossroads, Men's Breakfast, and many other small groups are ways to be fed, cared for, educated, and have our faith developed.

As your pastor, I want to help you understand and live as a nurturing congregation. This can happen in many ways. As mentioned, it can happen in Bible studies, small groups, service organizations, groups gathered around social activities, and even groups centered around specific care needs such as grief, addiction, or being a caregiver for another person.

There may be an existing group you hope to connect with. Maybe the group you want to be part of doesn't exist yet. Perhaps you have a group you would like to start. I hope to help you connect and equip you to nurture one another to experience God's loving care. As written in Colossians, we "teach and admonish" or "place in each other's minds" or, as the German language says so beautifully, (*an das Herz legen*) "put to the heart." When we forget or are unsure, we depend on one another to be reminded of God's care for us.

Peace to you all,

<sup>1</sup> [merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nurture](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/nurture)

<sup>2</sup> Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p.228. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2009

## Summer at Holy Cross

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

Hey Kids! Messy Church is back. Join Deaconess Katie outside for Drive-in Worship which is perfect for Messy Church! See page 12 for more details.

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

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

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

### HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048

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[OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@HOLYCROSSCHURCH.ORG)

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

#### PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christopher P. Neptun, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Pastor Emeritus  
Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator  
Janet Carr, Congregational Activities  
Carmen & Abel Cervantes, Custodians  
Beth Fashimpaur, Handbell Choir Director  
Deaconess Katie Freund, Director of Early Faith Formation Ministries  
Beth Ann Koenemann, Financial Administrator  
Carrie Mack, Director of Youth Music Ministries  
Steve Oelschlager, Director of Operational Ministries  
Ellie Rautenbach, Congregational Communications  
Manny Rivera, Property  
Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Contemporary Music and Worship Technical Arts  
Paul Vander Wee, Organist

#### EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

Samantha (Sam) Cooper, Director  
Roxanne (Rocky) Lamont, Assistant Director  
Tania Zombolo, Assistant Director

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

Andy Eidson (*President*), Darin Chartier (*Vice President*),  
Karla Boucek, Wendy Brewer, Nicole Drake, Ralph Freye,  
Karen Karris, Gail Kelly, Jeannine Phillips, Harold Sargent,  
Joe Taylor, John Villani  
*Secretary*, Kathy Pritts  
*Treasurer*, Lori Fedyk  
*Financial Secretary*, Ryan Young

#### VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiv  
Worship Volunteers: Therese Delli Paoli

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

### July

<b>Saturday, July 1</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, <b>PATIO</b>
<b>Sunday, July 2</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
<b>Saturday, July 8</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, <b>PATIO</b>
<b>Sunday, July 9</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
<b>Saturday, July 15</b>	5:30 pm	<b>Saturday Night Live on the Patio</b>
<b>Sunday, July 16</b>	8 am 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream Worship, <b>DRIVE-IN</b> , followed by <b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Saturday, July 22</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, July 23</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
<b>Saturday, July 29</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, July 30</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

### August

<b>Saturday, August 5</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, <b>PATIO</b>
<b>Sunday, August 6 - Mission Endowment &amp; Graduation Recognition Day</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
<b>Saturday, August 12</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, August 13</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream
<b>Saturday, August 19</b>	5:30 pm	<b>Saturday Night Live on the Patio</b>
<b>Sunday, August 20</b>	8 am 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream Worship, <b>DRIVE-IN</b> , followed by <b>Messy Church</b>
<b>Saturday, August 26</b>	5:30 pm	Saturday Evening Worship, Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, August 27</b>	8 & 10 am	Worship, Sanctuary & livestream



## Fellowship Events



**FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 9**  
 9 AM  
 Please join us for fellowship, and beverages and refreshments between worship services. All welcome!



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

# MESSY CHURCH

## Summer Faith Formation

**During and following 10 am Drive-In Worship**

**Sunday, July 16 - Do. Love. Walk. (Micah 6:8)**  
**Sunday, August 20 - A New Beginning (Isaiah 43:18-19)**

**All ages welcome! See more on page 12.**



Join Pastor Chris on the following Thursday evenings for a watch party and discussion of season one of "The Chosen" drama television series about the life of Christ, portrayed through the eyes of those who met Jesus.

We'll gather to watch each episode and discuss correlating Bible passages. We will also discuss differences between the Bible and each episode.

### The Chosen - Watch Party and Discussion

**Time: 7 pm**

**Location: Fellowship Area**

July 6 - Episode 5 "The Wedding Gift"

July 13 - Episode 6 "Indescribable Compassion"

August 3 - Episode 7 "Invitations"

August 10 - Episode 8 "I Am He"

## Backpack Fundraiser & Pack

**Packing Day: Sunday, July 30 at 9 am**  
**Donation Deadline: Tuesday, August 1**

We would like to help Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) by providing backpacks and school supplies to kids in need. We welcome suggested financial contributions of \$35 per backpack to cover the cost of these supplies. Supplies will be purchased in bulk by Holy Cross.



Donate online at: [bit.ly/LSSI23](https://bit.ly/LSSI23)

Join us on Sunday, July 30 between worship services as we prepare backpacks for their return to school. Many hands are needed to help assemble the supplies, and pack into backpacks. We will pray a blessing over the backpacks before sending them to LSSI.



### Servant (Volunteer) Recognition Day



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

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

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

## Celebrating Pastor Bob!

Pastor Bob returned from his three month sabbatical leave on June 1. To welcome him back in his new role as Pastor Emeritus and to thank him for his 32 years of dedicated ministry at Holy Cross, we honored him and his family with a celebration on Saturday, June 3. The festivities began with a drive-in worship service, including special musical selections from the Praise Band and the Holy Cross choir led by Dale Tippett, Jr. and the handbell choir led by Beth Fashimpauer. Pastor Chris ended worship with a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of Pastor Bob.

The evening was blessed with perfect weather for outdoor worship, followed by an outdoor catered dinner, live music, and games for the kids. The celebration continued on Sunday, June 4 with upscale coffee receptions after the 8 and 10 am worship services.



## A Grateful Life...

by Pastor Emeritus Bob Davis



The word gratitude is derived from the Latin word *gratia*, which means grace, graciousness, or gratefulness (depending on the context). In some ways, gratitude encompasses all of these meanings. Gratitude is a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible. With gratitude, people acknowledge the goodness in their lives. In the process, people usually recognize that the source of that goodness lies at least partially outside themselves. As a result, being grateful also helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals—whether to other people, community, nature, or God.

Gratitude is foundational to life. I am grateful for how my days are filled with opportunities to share life with others. I am grateful for the undeserved gift of God's grace and love in my life. I am grateful for my family and friends. I am grateful for health, a curious spirit and the energy to be sustained as I navigate life's challenges.

I am also grateful for Holy Cross and the relationships I have with all of you. I cannot imagine where I would be without the time we have shared. We have accompanied and discovered a life of faith together. Our conversations, the shared experiences, the support, the challenges, and the dreams are woven into the past 32 years that I have had the privilege of serving at Holy Cross.

Saying "thank you" is another expression of gratitude. So, thank you for inviting me into the life moments that we have shared. Thank you for caring for me and my family in so many ways. Thank you for a wonderful celebration on the first weekend in June as I returned from my sabbatical leave and the congregational gift. Thank you for being the kind of congregation that is intentional about being vital and relevant. Thank you for allowing me to enter into those faith conversations that remind us what it means to be children of God, created in God's image and loving one another. Finally, thank you for the opportunity to walk together into the next chapter/season of Holy Cross' ministry and my life.

Peace,

*Bob Davis*

## A Year of Holy Days

by Deaconess Katie Freund



Since the Middle Ages, there has been a tradition of celebrating not only birthdays, but name days. A "name day" would be the feast day of the saint a child is named after. Marking these days is a tradition that has hung on especially in predominantly Catholic and Orthodox countries.

For example, July 22 is the feast day for Mary Magdalene. After naming our firstborn after this historical figure, we decided to have her baptized on this day. Other ways to mark a saint's feast day as the "name day" of an individual could include small tokens given, specific prayers said, or a full birthday-like celebration.

These traditions are not ones that would make or break the vitality of a family's faith life, but they are fun to look up and be curious about. Since Christianity has been practiced for thousands of years around the globe, there's so many fun obscure facts to discover! There are differences between the catholic and the orthodox calendar, and on top of that you can always look up important dates of cultural heritage from your own family traditions.

So this is my invitation for you to get curious. I was a young adult when I bothered to ask what date I was baptized; and lo and behold, it was also the date of a unique holy day I had never heard of before. Now I actually remember it. Everyone's brain works differently and sometimes tying in these little stories helps make this world of faith real for our youth and children.

Want some help Googling and seeing what happened on your birthday or baptismal day in the history of the church? Send me an email at [deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org), and I'll help point you in the right direction.

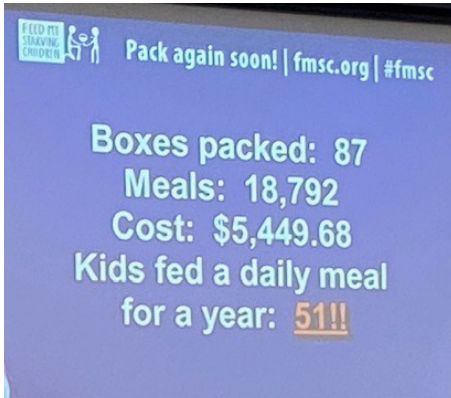


## Women's Ministry News

by Beth Ann Koenemann

A wonderful group of ladies turned hunger into hope at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in June! When we pack meals, we are feeding kids, feeding spirits and empowering communities around the world!

We were all grateful that we took time, spent it in community with each other, and made a difference in the lives of others (and in ourselves). Many thanks to Karen Karris for organizing this experience for us! Serving at FMSC is a very moving event. We encourage you to experience the change and impact that you can make in the world; FMSC is always in need of our help. Check out their website for ways that you can contribute: [fmsc.org](http://fmsc.org)



### Ravinia Outing

Kenny Loggins Concert

Date: Saturday, August 19

Ravinia Gates Open: 5 pm

Concert Time: 7 pm

Location: Ravinia Festival

201 Ravinia Park Rd, Highland Park

Cost: \$50

RSVP and purchase tickets at: [bit.ly/LIFTravinia](http://bit.ly/LIFTravinia)



Ladies, on Saturday, August 19 we will be meeting on the lawn at Ravinia for social time and to enjoy a Kenny Loggins concert. Friends are welcome.

**Update from prior communications:** Tickets through Ravinia are currently sold out. There are a limited number of tickets available for purchase through Holy Cross and they are available on a first come first serve basis. Once the tickets through Holy Cross are sold out, contact Beth Ann to be added to a waitlist. RSVP and purchase tickets at [bit.ly/LIFTravinia](http://bit.ly/LIFTravinia)

Ticket purchases are non-refundable. The show will run rain or shine, so please plan accordingly. Reserve your spot by purchasing your ticket(s) asap! An email will be sent out to participants in early August with more of the specifics that you will need for that day. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Ann Koenemann at [bethann@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:bethann@holycrosschurch.org) or (847) 997-9937.

### Women's Retreat

Friday, October 20 at 4 pm - Saturday, October 21 at 4 pm

Our retreat this year will be at Lutherdale Ministries in Elkhorn, WI in the new HOPE Conference Center (hotel style accommodations). Our theme will be announced in the August newsletter, along with additional information—stay tuned!

If you would like to help plan the retreat, please contact Beth Ann Koenemann at [bethann@hoilycrosschurch.org](mailto:bethann@hoilycrosschurch.org) or (847) 997-9937.

# MP3

MEN of  
PURPOSE  
PRINCIPLE  
PRAYER

**MP3: Men of Purpose, Principle, & Prayer**

Date: Tuesday, July 11 - Session 1

Time: 6 - 8:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Cost: Free. Please RSVP at [bit.ly/MP371123](http://bit.ly/MP371123)

*Men of Purpose, Principle & Prayer* is one of our men's ministries at Holy Cross. We meet on select Tuesday evenings for fellowship, food and conversation. The evenings begin with fellowship at 6 pm and conclude by 8:30 pm.

The theme for our next MP3 season will be "*sacred moments*". In Celtic spirituality there is the concept of 'thin places' where the everyday/ordinary moments intersect with the sacred/holy. We will explore this notion and how it actually presents itself in our life and faith journeys. This will be a six-part series held on July 11, September 19, and November 7 with 2024 dates to be announced.

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

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



**MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP**

TUESDAYS, JULY 11, 18 &amp; 25 AT 7 - 8 AM

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

This is a wonderful way to begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us. Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at [pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org)

**SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP**

SATURDAY, JULY 8 &amp; 22 AT 7 - 8:30 AM

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

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

The Saturday Men's Group will start a new book in July as the basis for our conversation and learning. Please pick up a copy from the church office of *Faith After Doubt* by Brian McLaren to access the reading for our sessions. In his book, McLaren proposes a four-stage model of faith development in which questions and doubt are not the enemy of faith, but rather a portal to a more mature and fruitful kind of faith. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)

**STRENGTH & CORE (FORMERLY PILATES)**

MONDAYS, JULY 10, 17, 24 &amp; 31 AT 6 PM

LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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

**BOOK CLUB**

THURSDAY, JULY 27 AT 7 PM

VIA ZOOM

 [holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417](https://holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417)

In July In July we will discuss *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Based on the true story of a forgotten hero, *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* is the triumphant, epic tale of one young man's incredible courage and resilience during one of history's darkest hours. Pino Lella wants nothing to do with the war or the Nazis. He's a normal Italian teenager—obsessed with music, food, and girls—but his days of innocence are numbered. When his family home in Milan is destroyed by Allied bombs, Pino joins an underground railroad helping Jews escape over the Alps. Our discussion host will be Nancy Joiner.

If you have any questions, please email Felicia Brandt at [felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com](mailto:felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com)

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

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, JULY 12 AT 11:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

LOCATION: CENTURY PARK, VERNON HILLS

EVENING SESSION: SATURDAYS, JULY 15 &amp; 29 AT 9 AM TO 12 PM

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

COST: \$5 PER CAR TO ENTER THE PARK

We always welcome more volunteers to help with hospitality. If you would like to help in this way, please contact [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org)

**QUILTING GROUP**

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 5, 12, 19 &amp; 26 AT 9 AM - 12 PM

LOCATION: ROOM 404

We gather on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in the Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need. Questions? Contact Deb Sherrock at [debs695@aol.com](mailto:debs695@aol.com) or (630) 267-7802.

**COMMON THREADS**

ON HIATUS UNTIL SEPTEMBER 11

We will be taking a break from meeting through the summer. You may continue to knit and crochet on your own and we'll meet again on the second Monday of each month starting in September. No prior crafting experience necessary. Each blanket or shawl created is dedicated at a worship service and then presented to the prayer recipient. These pieces offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. Request a prayer blanket or shawl for a loved one by contacting the church office at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org). Questions? Contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.

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

## More Ways to Give, Fund Ministry, and Save on Taxes

by Steve Oelschlager

Good news! More and more of our members are making tax-smart gifts to contribute to God's mission through Holy Cross Lutheran Church—*instead of donating cash*. We have added new tools and capabilities to the Holy Cross' website to simplify the gifting process for these situations. Please see [holycrosschurch.org/giving](http://holycrosschurch.org/giving) to explore these options that may benefit you.



### If you own stocks or mutual funds and want to avoid capital gains taxes:

By donating appreciated assets, you can save on two types of taxes by avoiding capital gains tax *and* often getting a full deduction for the value of your gift. **Note:** When you donate stock, please use the tool on our giving page so we can track your donation and send you the correct receipt, and you can get the tax savings you deserve.

### If you're 70.5 or older and want to lower your taxable income:

Donations from your IRA to Holy Cross Church may reduce your taxable income and help meet a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). **Note:** When you make an IRA gift, please use the tool on our giving page so we can track your gift and thank you appropriately.

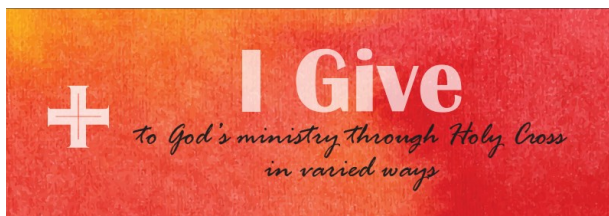
### If you want to make the most of your Donor-Advised Fund (DAF):

With a grant recommendation today, you can give from the money you've already set aside without spending an additional cent! The tool on our giving page integrates with your DAF custodian and takes just a few minutes to use (and helps us track your gift—thank you!).

### If you want to make an impact with your cryptocurrency:

Donating appreciated cryptocurrency in support of Holy Cross Lutheran Church can help you avoid capital gains taxes *and* get a significant tax deduction. Please use the cryptocurrency giving tool on our giving page.

We also have new "I Give" cards in the back of the pew chairs for use during the offering to accompany these additions to our website. Giving is a spiritual practice, and participating in the offering helps remind us of our reliance on God and God's call to faithfully steward the resources entrusted to us. When your offering happens without physical checks or cash going into the offering plate, please use the redesigned cards in three bright colors to witness the importance of generosity and giving in your life.



Hopefully, this information is helpful to you as you consider how to steward your resources best and increase the ministry of Holy Cross Church. For more information, please get in touch with Steve Oelschlager at [steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org). Thank you for your continued support and the impact you make possible.

## Coffee Hosting Is Back!

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



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



LEAD  
WHERE  
YOU  
ARE.

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

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

The full schedule of events will be available in July.

Register at [bit.ly/GLSatHCLC](http://bit.ly/GLSatHCLC) CODE: 23PHSHOST



## Save The Date

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

This is Lutherdale's largest annual fundraiser. Lutherdale has a policy that no child will ever be turned away from summer camp for financial reasons. The quilt auction makes it possible for youth to attend summer camp and experience God's love in a powerful way at Lutherdale.

This outdoor event will have craft and fabric sales, a gift gallery, baked goods, silent auction bidding and a live quilt auction.

For more details about the event, go to [lutherdale.org/quilt-auction](http://lutherdale.org/quilt-auction)





## Mission Endowment Fund

### 2023 Mission Endowment Fund Scholarship Awards

Sixteen of our college-bound and currently-enrolled college students will be presented with scholarships. **We will honor these recipients on Sunday, August 6 during the 10 am worship service, with hospitality following the 8 am and 10 am services.** As a congregation, we should be very proud of them as they are exemplary, having received recognition in many areas—not only here at Holy Cross—but at their schools and within the community. Let us join in congratulating them as they pursue their endeavors.

The Review Committee was very impressed with the sincere and personal responses of these young women and men as they completed the “Faith Statement” portion of the Mission Endowment Scholarship Application. Here are selected thoughts from the Faith Statements:

#### **Kara Cannon**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

“...my sophomore year of college, I found a campus ministry that I was able to get involved in. God answered my prayers of finding a Christian community that I can grow in. I have grown in so many ways this year, especially in my knowledge of how faith plays out in my life. I have countless people supporting my walk with Jesus, especially my bible study leader who I have grown close with. I know that she will always be there to answer my questions, encourage my growth, and support me in any way she can.”



#### **Ashley Cervantes**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

“...if I were not to have any faith, I would not have gotten to where I am today. Faith has helped me get closer with Jesus and God to where whenever I need to talk to someone, I have Jesus and God with me. Being able to speak to God as not just my Father but as a best friend has allowed me to become a strong independent woman. He has also made me believe that if I dream of something, He makes me be able to achieve those dreams if wanted.”



#### **Aubrey Cervantes**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

“Before starting my second year of college, I made it a goal of mine to excel in school and become an instrument of God. I wanted to draw closer to God and become an example of God's love towards others because I felt that I was becoming shy about sharing my religion while being in an environment that is diverse in many backgrounds. ...By being an instrument of God, I have been able to spread the love, joy, and remarkable blessings that God has destined for us.”



#### **Kevin Cervantes**

*University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

“During the school year, I was looking for internships for the upcoming summer. ...I asked God to help me seek at least an interview opportunity. In the second semester, I received a call from one of many internships from a company. After the interview process and time went by, I got the offer to take the internship, and I took it. With a job over the summer, God has a plan for me and guides me step by step the plan he has for me. Faith will always be by my side by having a good community around me and continuing to communicate with God.”



#### **Alexander Delatorre**

*Purdue University*

“God helped us—my family, our country and humanity—through the COVID crisis. He kept my family safe and sane. He helped me to cope with remote learning when I struggled, deal with loneliness when I couldn't see my friends, and kept me from getting (too) depressed. ...No matter what happens in the future, I have my foundation of faith and it will anchor me through my life.”



#### **Katherine Haidvogel**

*Iowa State University*

“Last semester, I decided to participate in study abroad program where I was taking classes in Florence, Italy, rather than at Iowa State I didn't have the support of my friends, family, and my community from back home. ...I relied heavily on God and my faith during this challenging time. ...My faith helped me persevere through a tough time in my life and God blessed me with an amazing experience and awesome new friends.”



**Daniel Koenemann***Carthage College*

“What makes me a Christian is described in 2 Corinthians 10:5, ‘Take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ,’ and Romans 12:2, ‘Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing in your mind.’ In this modern world, it’s important to keep Christ and faith in the front of my mind, not to fall into temptation, but to do what is right for me, and by doing so, I’ll be following God’s will. Going forward in my final year of school and beyond, I will try to glorify God in everything I do.”

**Abigail Neptun***Gustavus Adolphus College*

“My faith is very important to me. I knew from the start of my college search that I wanted to go to a Lutheran school, and that I wanted to find places on campus where I could grow my faith and lead others as well. At Gustavus, I have done just that. Every year I grow closer to God, and I continue to find ways to foster my faith on my own.”

**Anika Neptun***Northwestern Michigan College*

“I believe that God has called me to pursue a career in culinary arts. I see cooking as a way to express my creativity and to serve others, both of which are important values in my faith. I believe that God has given me the passion and talent for cooking, and that by developing my skills in culinary school, I can use this gift to bring joy and nourishment to others. ...I trust in God’s guidance and provision, and I pray that he will bless me with success and fulfillment in this journey.”

**Lindsey Partlow***Wisconsin Lutheran College*

“...throughout this school year, my faith has been growing more and more the closer it gets to me going off to college. I have been able to realize how helpful the people around me are because they want me to be successful just as much as I would like to be. One of the most important times of my life is coming up, so I really just need to trust God in the process of getting through it and being successful. ...I am truly going to trust the process God hands to me, and let my faith determine how things go for me in the future with my career.”

**Robby Partlow***Illinois State University Bloomington*

“My faith has grown so much over this past year due to the amount of support I have gotten through this difficult time of changing my (career) path. I could not be more grateful for the people I have in my life and how much they have been supportive. I know my faith will continue to grow as I am trying to figure out what career path is in my best interest. I thank God every day for the opportunities I am given and will continue to do so as I continue my college career and try to figure out what it is I want to do with the rest of my life.”

**Sarah Rosten***University of Tampa*

“To help manage my stress levels breathing and listening in on church on Sundays from Florida helped to clear my head leading into the next week. The lessons that Pastor Chris and Pastor Bob were sharing through Lent and other seasons were major help. ...Praying in the evening before bed allowed me to release that stress and pent-up energy toward something that helped to heal my mindset and allow me to breathe a little bit easier.”

**Mark Samonds***Purdue University*

“...Campus Outreach has really motivated me and helped me build a better relationship with God. The students in this group have become my close friends. From weekly Bible studies to attending conferences with college students around the Midwest, I have had many opportunities to continue to develop my relationship with God over the past 8 months. I could have not asked for a better answer to my prayers. I am grateful for the foundation that I gained growing up in Holy Cross, and I look forward to seeing what is in store for my faith over the coming years.”

**Ryan Schlitt***Arizona State University*

“Praying daily has changed my life for the better, most importantly creating a stronger relationship with God. Prayer has helped me manage stress and make tough decisions knowing God has a path for me. From thirty second prayers to three minute prayers each one is as important as the last. Praying every night clears my mind and helps me reset and start fresh each day knowing God will lead me through the ups and downs.”



**CJ Villani**

*Purdue University*

“Church and my faith have helped me to take a breath and enjoy God’s great creations such as the tall oak trees by my house or Butler Lake near my school. Going out in nature and giving time to thank all of what I have been given from God and my faith has let me enjoy the smaller moments of my life. Overall, faith has grown to be so much more than going to church on Sundays and participating in Communion. It has become a voice of reason in my head and place I can go mentally to see the good in everything around me.”



**Sarah Villani**

*Augustana College*

“Faith has played a large role in my life deciding how I want to go about my sophomore year college experience. It has mainly just helped me figure out how I want to go about socializing as well as what clubs in the school I want to join. During the beginning of the school year God really helped me decide what clubs to join in order to help me grow, learn and meet new people who I will know for the rest of my life... Overall, God has impacted my life in a major way with the many decisions I have had to make during college.”



**Mission Endowment Scholarship Fund Gifts**

The Holy Cross Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Fund, established in 1999, provides resources to enhance the ministry of Holy Cross, apart from the general operations of the congregation. These resources, divided equally three ways, are allocated annually in the following areas: music ministry opportunities within the congregation; ministry opportunities beyond the congregation/pastoral discretionary fund; and in scholarship support for members of Holy Cross.

Please feel free to speak to Pastor Chris ([pastorchrist@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:pastorchrist@holycrosschurch.org)) or Steve Oelschlager ([steve@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:steve@holycrosschurch.org)) about making a gift to the fund.



Thank you again to everyone who contributed to the Crossways Preschool and Celebration! Childcare Wishes campaign this year. Here are photos of just some of the many new toys, books, games, and items that we were able to purchase for use by the students and staff in our classrooms. We couldn't do what we do without your support of our Early Childhood Ministries!



## Preschool Graduation 2023

by Samantha Cooper

Director of CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare

Celebration! Childcare's Green Room and CrossWays Preschool's Ladybug Room graduated from our programs on Friday, May 26. 38 students received their preschool diplomas for all of the hard work they achieved. Each classroom sang a special graduation song and ended the ceremony with a group song called "Moving Up to Kindergarten".



CrossWays  
Preschool

[crossways@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:crossways@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-4367  
[cpreschool.org](http://cpreschool.org)



Celebration!  
Childcare

[celebration@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:celebration@holycrosschurch.org)  
(847) 367-6208  
[cchildcare.org](http://cchildcare.org)

# MESSY CHURCH

## Summer Faith Formation

### Following 10 am Drive-In Worship

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

Micah 6:8 give us a direction, a guide for how God wants us to live. When we ask "What does God want from us?!" God's answer is: Do justly. Love kindness. Walk humbly with God. The children's sermon will point the way and kids will help us with an interactive poster for offering. After worship we'll have food, a pipe cleaner craft, and play an "unfair" game!

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

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

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

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



## CONFIRMATION

by Deaconess Katie Freund

Last month we sent families details on the changes made to our confirmation program. Can't find that letter or email? Don't panic, the information is also available on our website at [HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation) and we're here for any questions that come up.

If you did not receive these communications last month via email and post please contact the church office at [office@holycrosschurch.org](mailto:office@holycrosschurch.org) or (847) 367-4060.

### Attention 9th Grade Confirmands

This year's 9th graders are finishing their confirmation journey! Confirmation packets were mailed to families in June and are also available online at [HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation](http://HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation) The deadline for the included registration forms and the student's "Faith Story" assignment is Monday, July 31.

**One-on-one faith conversations are being scheduled with Deaconess Katie and Pastor Chris for the week of August 7. Please select a 30 minute slot by Monday, July 31. You may sign up using the following link: [signup.com/go/nCLVZmF](http://signup.com/go/nCLVZmF)**

Worship for Affirmation of Baptism of 9th grade confirmands will be on Reformation Sunday, October 29 at the 10am worship service.

# MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# WATER WARS



CROSS  
ROADS

# HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Willow House



Willow House provides free grief support groups to families who have lost a spouse/child and are actively parenting children ages 3 - 28. They also offer a Survivors of Suicide loss group (this group includes people with varying relationships to the person they lost to suicide). All family members are required to complete an intake process before attending a group. Willow House is available for consultation, as well as to offer additional resources depending on the individual/family's needs.

For details on specific summer programming, meeting dates and more information about Willow House, visit [willowhouse.org](http://willowhouse.org) or email [info@willowhouse.org](mailto:info@willowhouse.org)

### Volunteer Facilitator Training

Willow House will be holding its bi-annual Volunteer Facilitator Training this August in preparation to help support the monthly family peer grief support groups from September through May. To apply, please visit: [willowhouse.org/volunteer](http://willowhouse.org/volunteer)



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

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods  
21850 Riverwoods Road, Riverwoods

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

Register at: [bit.ly/2023griefretreat](http://bit.ly/2023griefretreat)

## COOL Ministries

by Jill McKeon



The COOL Ministries food pantry has been especially busy this year. Shelf stable/non-perishable donations are urgently requested for items such as pasta, peanut butter, side dishes, canned fruits and vegetables to name a few. Please check expiration dates before donating. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

### 19th Annual COOL Golf Outing

Friday, July 14

Bonnie Brook Golf Course  
2800 N. Lewis Avenue, Waukegan

Final days to help us celebrate COOL Ministries 40 years of serving our community at this year's Golf Outing! July 14 at Bonnie Brook Golf Course in Waukegan.

Register at [coolministries.org](http://coolministries.org). \$175 per golfer or \$600 for a foursome. Don't golf? Then you can donate a tee sign for just \$125. All monetary donations accepted.

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



## 24th Annual COOL Plant & Flower Sale

### Thank You for Supporting the COOL Plant Sale!

Thank you to all who volunteered, purchased plants, and supported COOL Ministries! The 24th Annual COOL Plant Sale was a resounding success in raising \$6,000 to benefit the programs at COOL. The rain held off, and we had excellent foot traffic at our May 13 plant pick-up at Bethel Lutheran in Gurnee. Special thanks to the 17 volunteers (wow!) from Holy Cross who helped make the plant pick-up run so smoothly. It was a great day, and we are already looking forward to next year!

*The COOL Plant Ladies: Diane Rammelsberg, Jeri Powers, Terry Berger, and Patty Moyer*

## PADS Ministry Update

by Peg Chartier

Thanks to all of you, this year's PADS season was a huge success. While nightly hosting has wrapped up until October 1, the need of the homeless population is year round. Holy Cross is fortunate to have a relationship with PADS Central. Therefore thanks to your year round donations, we can reach out to them and they can reach out to us to fulfill upcoming and ongoing needs that are not seasonal.

As we grow the PADS ministry here at Holy Cross, it is my hope to try and include the family aspect of homelessness to benefit the numbers of children supported by PADS as well as the registered adults. Thanks to all of you, what we do now is so generous, but wouldn't it be incredible to start to support the families as well.

Monetary donations for PADS may continue to be made online on the Holy Cross website at [donate.holycrosschurch.org](http://donate.holycrosschurch.org)



**PADS**  
LAKE COUNTY



# July

**Saturday, July 1**

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

**Sunday, July 2**

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

**Tuesday, July 4**

**Independence Day**  
Church Office closed

**Wednesday, July 5**

9 am Quilting Group, 404

**Thursday, July 6**

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

**Saturday, July 8**

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

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

**Sunday, July 9**

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

9 am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

**Monday, July 10**

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

**Tuesday, July 11**

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

**Wednesday, July 12**

9 am Quilting Group, 404

11:30 am PHW Day Program, Century Park, Vernon Hills

7 pm Church Council, 208

**Thursday, July 13**

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

**Saturday, July 15**

9 am PHW Evening Program, Spring Grove Hatchery

5:30 pm Saturday Night Live on the Patio: Worship followed by fellowship with music and food

**Sunday, July 16**

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Drive-In followed by Messy Church with food and activities

**Monday, July 17**

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

**Tuesday, July 18**

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

**Wednesday, July 19**

9 am Quilting Group, 404

**Saturday, July 22**

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

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

**Sunday, July 23**

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

**Monday, July 24**

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

**Tuesday, July 25**

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

**Wednesday, July 26**

9 am Quilting Group, 404

**Thursday, July 27**

7 pm Book Club, Zoom

**Saturday, July 29**

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

**Sunday, July 30**

8 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

10 am Worship, Sanctuary & livestream

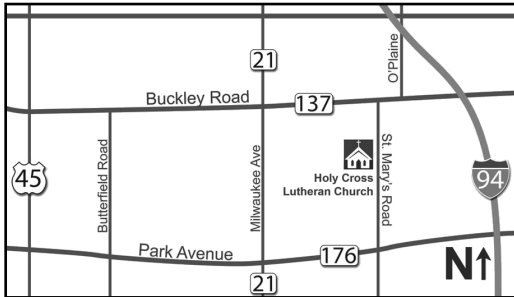
**Monday, July 31**

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

7 pm BSA Troup 194 meeting, 402

**HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
 1151 N SAINT MARY'S RD  
 LIBERTYVILLE, IL 60048 -1575  
 Postmaster: Request in home by **July 1**

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**MESSY CHURCH**  
 Summer Faith Formation

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

All ages welcome! See more on page 12.

**SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE**  
*on the Patio*

JULY 15 & AUGUST 19  
 WORSHIP AT 5:30 PM    DINNER AT 6:15 PM

Please join us as for worship on the patio with dinner and live music following. We'll provide brisket. You're invited to bring a salad or dessert to share. All are welcome!  
*Details on page 2*

**Backpack Fundraiser & Pack**

Packing Day: Sunday, July 30 at 9 am  
 Donation Deadline: Tuesday, August 1

*Details on page 3*



**FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR**  
 SUNDAY, JULY 9  
 9 AM

Please join us for fellowship, and beverages and refreshments between worship services. All welcome!  
*See page 3*