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APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST SATURDAY EVENING April 6 at 5:30 pm Sanctuary

SUNDAYS April 7, 14, 21, 28 8 & 10 am Sanctuary & livestream



Dear Members of Holy Cross,

For decades, The Cross Connection has been a vital pillar of communication within our congregation. It has been a beacon, guiding us through events, fundraisers, faith formation schedules, and more. Each month, as it arrives in our mailboxes, it keeps us tethered together as a community, informed, and connected.

Yet, as times change and technology evolves, we must evaluate whether The Cross Connection still serves as the most effective means of communication for Holy Cross. As your Senior Pastor, I deeply value your support and our shared ministry, so I am writing to you today to share some important updates regarding our communication strategy.

The publication of The Cross Connection will be paused for May, June, and July. During this time, our staff and leadership will carefully consider whether continuing the newsletter in its current capacity is the best path forward for our community. Whatever is decided, we will communicate how you can receive information, news, and updates from Holy Cross.

We understand many of you value receiving news and updates through printed publications to stay informed. For those who wish to continue receiving information this way, the weekly bulletin will be available to pick up on Sunday morning during this three-month pause. However, we recognize the importance of embracing new forms of communication to suit the needs of our congregation and partners in ministry better.

In place of The Cross Connection for the upcoming months, we will continue to provide regular updates and information through various channels:

Weekly Worship Bulletin: The worship bulletin, containing the weekly calendar and announcements, will continue to be printed each week and available on Sunday mornings or to pick up from the church office for one week after it is printed.

Weekly Emails: Beginning in May, you can expect to receive emails every Monday, summarizing the events and highlights from the weekend at Holy Cross. Additionally, on Thursdays, you will receive emails outlining what's coming up for the weekend ahead, providing a three to four-week lead time for events. Please be sure the church office has your most current email address. You can call the church office or check your Church Community Builder profile. You can sign in to check at holycrosschurch.ccbchurch.com/

Holy Cross App and Website: We encourage you to download the Holy Cross App and visit our website *(holycrosschurch.org)* for the latest information and events within our community. You can find the app by searching "Holy Cross – Libertyville" in the Apple Store or on Google Play.

We understand that change can be challenging, and we want to assure you that your feedback is important to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or the church council leaders. We are here to listen and work towards providing you with the best information possible in the most effective ways we can.

Yours in Christ,

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Waster Chris Pastor Chris Neptun



1151 N. Saint Mary's Road Libertyville, IL 60048

(847) 367 - 4060 office@holycrosschurch.org



HolyCrossChurch.org

PASTORS AND CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christopher P. Neptun, Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Robert A. Davis, Pastor Emeritus Sarah Accettura, Administrative Coordinator Edwin Andrade, Director of Youth and Family Ministry 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, Finance, Facilities, and IT Manny Rivera, Property Darrin Rose, Choir Director Dale Tippett Jr., Director of Worship Arts Paul Vander Weele, Organist

EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRY

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

CHURCH COUNCIL

Darin Chartier, *President*Ralph Freye, *Vice President*Kathy Pritts, *Secretary*Lori Fedyk, *Treasurer*Ryan Young, *Financial Secretary*Karla Boucek, Wendy Brewer, Lori Fedyk, Karen Karris, Gail Kelly, Jeannine Phillips, Joe Taylor, Donna Thomey John Villani, Joe Young

VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS

Altar Care: Julie Luczkiw

Worship Volunteers: Therese Delli Paoli

Easter Generosity Thank You!

Through the generosity of Holy Cross members, we received more than 25 Easter Bagskets and monetary donations for Easter Bagkets and canned hams. Holy Cross has collected over \$3,000 in gifts for COOL so far this year.

Thank you for your help in partnership with COOL Ministries to bless the Easter tables of others here in Lake County.



New Learning Opportunity "Liturgy and the Natural World"

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) has an exciting new program beginning in April. Join LSTC faculty member Rev. Dr. Benjamin M. Stewart for an inspiring fourpart series on nature and liturgy. Rev. Dr. Stewart serve as Distinguished Affiliate Faculty at LSTC and as Pastor to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Two Harbors, Minnesota.



According to the Bible, the universe is like a cosmic choir where stars sing for joy, trees clap their hands, and waters roar hymns of praise. Humans - among the youngest of earth's species - are sometimes like latecomers to choir practice, learning from other creatures how to "join their unending hymn." In this crucial ecological moment, we take a journey to four destinations to help us reimagine our communal liturgies and our daily rituals for the life of the world: the whole cosmos, the cycle of night and day, the sacraments, and our bodies themselves as sacred ground.

Rev. Dr. Stewart will lead four Sunday sessions beginning April 7 from 6 - 7:30 pm, and four Wednesday sessions beginning April 10 from 7 - 8:30 pm. If you can't attend, recordings of Sunday's sessions will also be available.

Session 1: Trees Clap their Hands, Stars Sing for Joy How can humans find our appropriate place in the cosmic choir?

Session 2: Each Day is a Gift: Ancient and Contemporary Rituals for Sunrise, Sunset, and Night

Did you know that the oldest Christian prayer outside the Bible is still sung as day turns to night in the Holden Evening Prayer?

Session 3: A Sacramental World: Baptism and Communion How can baptism and communion lead us deeper into love for the earth?

Session 4: Earth to Earth: Theology and Spirituality of Green Funeral Practices

What is the green burial movement, and how is it deepening Christian faith and practice related to death - and the life of the world to come?

Register at LSTC.EDU/learningcommunities/

Worship Volunteer Opportunities

We are grateful to God for providing us with the best volunteers in town! Every one of you who serves as a worship volunteer helps to make Sunday worship a positive experience for so many.

With that said, there are always opportunities for additional volunteers to serve as greeters, readers, acolytes, assisting ministers, coffee hosts, altar care, AV tech assistants, communion assistants, worship coordinators and ushers. Serving the congregation in any of these ways helps to make our inperson services run smoothly and helps us livestream our services to those who cannot be with us that day.

If you are thinking about becoming a worship volunteer, please reach out to the church office (847) 367-4060 or email office@holycrosschurch.org so that we can connect you to the service position of your choice!

Organizational Changes at Holy Cross

by Pastor Chris Neptun

As we continue to transition, Holy Cross is undergoing some staffing and role adjustments. Here are the updates:

Steve Oelschlager - Finance, Facilities & IT Consultant

Steve, who has been pivotal in managing finances, property, and IT, has transitioned to a consulting role from a full-time position. This change allows him to prioritize self-care and family while supporting Holy Cross as needed. He will collaborate closely with Beth Ann Koenemann and the Property and Custodial Team.

Beth Ann Koenemann - Administrator of Finances and Human Resources

In addition to overseeing daily finances, Beth Ann will update HR documents and procedures to ensure a conducive work environment and optimal ministry experience.

Congregational Communication

Beginning April 1, the Congregational Communications position for Holy Cross will be vacant as we review our current communications and what will be most effective for our church moving forward. Elizabeth Rautenbach has been a consultant for Holy Cross since 2017, providing much-needed changes, beautiful graphics, and final editing touches on most of our communications. We are grateful for her partnership and wish her the best in her future career.

Dale Tippett Jr. - Director of Worship Arts

Dale, previously leading Contemporary Music, now assumes the role of Director of Worship Arts, overseeing music and technical aspects. He will continue to manage the AV team, video production, and staff musicians, with Darrin Rose and Beth Fashimpaur reporting to him.

Paul Vander Weele - Organist

Paul, a longstanding presence in our midst, now holds the title of Organist without the "Interim" label, reporting to Dale.

Carrie Mack - Sunday School Coordinator

Formerly the Director of Youth Music, Carrie now coordinates Sunday School alongside Deaconess Katie, leading music and supporting volunteer shepherds. She reports to Deaconess Katie.

Pastor Bob – Pastor Emeritus

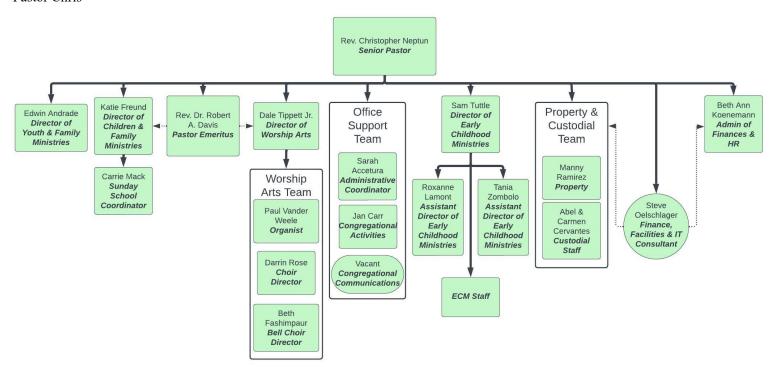
Entering his second year in this role, Pastor Bob will devote more time to coaching staff members. He remains involved in preaching, faith formation, and pastoral care, working closely with Pastor Chris.

Organizational Chart

Our organizational chart has been updated to reflect a more distributed ministry model. Your ongoing support through prayers, resource-sharing, and time is invaluable. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you for partnering with us in ministry.

In Christ,

Pastor Chris





The Science of Generosity

by Steve Oelschlager

.Holy Cross is dependent on your generosity. Everything that happens because of our congregation, the vision and mission we try to live into are only possible because of the investments you continue to make. Suppose you like the idea of promoting the values of Jesus, passing on the faith to younger generations, fostering healthy community, and working to make the world a better place for all people. In that case, Holy Cross is a logical recipient of your generosity.

I want to suggest that in addition to all these impactful reasons to give, there's another crucial dimension to your generosity that needs mentioning: it's beneficial to you. Jesus was pretty clear that he wanted something *for us* when he promoted lifestyles of kindness, hospitality, and generosity. Jesus promised a sense of meaning and purpose and fulfillment, calling this way of living, the life that truly is life. Social science is now able to confirm that what Jesus was saying is, in fact, true.

Would it surprise you that generosity has strong associations with psychological and physical health, well-being, vitality, quality of life, and self-esteem? Are you aware that engaging in small acts of kindness makes the people doing those deeds feel happy? Did you know that generosity in the workplace reduces burnout, and that generosity fuels contentment and longer-lasting romantic relationships? There are a whole host of reasons that pro-social behavior is a win-win strategy for how to live life, benefiting others as it also rewards the giver. This is the kind of abundance that Jesus inspired and multiplied in his ministry.

If you would like to learn more about the "science of generosity," please check out this eighty-page report (bit.ly/ScienceGenerosity) from the John Templeton Foundation. The PDF provides a high-level overview of more than 350 studies and meta-studies published in nearly 200 refereed publications between 1971 and 2017.

Thank you for your continued support and generosity. May it bless your life just as it makes good things happen through Holy Cross.

Embracing legacy:

This spring, plant roots and form a strong foundation for the people and causes you love

by Steve Oelschlager

As we journey through life, our faith calls us to consider our present actions and the lasting impact we leave behind. Holy Cross invites you to explore the profound opportunities of planned giving, estate planning, wills, and gifts of appreciated assets in the spirit of stewardship and foresight.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is a thoughtful approach to donating that allows you to contribute significantly to the causes you care about most, even beyond your lifetime. It involves intentional financial planning to leave a lasting legacy that reflects your values and beliefs.

Estate Planning and Wills

Crafting a will and engaging in estate planning helps ensure your assets are distributed according to your wishes. By establishing a will, you can designate how your estate will bless beyond your days, providing peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Additionally, estate planning allows you to minimize taxes and administrative costs, ensuring more of your assets go towards supporting the people, causes, and organizations dear to your heart.

Gifts of Appreciated Assets

One impactful way to support Holy Cross and its ministries is through gifts of appreciated assets, such as stocks, mutual funds, IRAs, real estate, or other investments. By donating appreciated assets, you may receive tax benefits now while making a meaningful contribution to the future of Holy Cross

The Impact of Planned Giving

Planned giving benefits Holy Cross and provides opportunities for personal reflection and spiritual fulfillment. By considering how you want to be remembered and the legacy you wish to leave behind, you can profoundly impact future generations and ministry.

How You Can Get Involved

If you are interested in exploring planned giving options or have questions about estate planning, wills, or gifts of appreciated assets, please reach out to one of the pastors or Steve Oelschlager. Also, look at the Holy Cross website (holycrosschurch.org/giving) and the tools and information we have there. Together, we can help you create a plan that aligns with your values and supports the mission of our congregation.

What would it mean to leave a lasting legacy supporting Holy Cross's ministries and mission for generations to come? Let us embrace this opportunity to make a difference and sow the seeds of hope and faith for the future.

Music Ministry

by Darrin Rose

On Saturday, March 2, the Waukegan Concert Chorus, and choirs from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Shiloh Baptist Church Waukegan and Second Baptist Evanston collaborated to proudly present Robert Ray's Gospel Mass, and had a celebration of hope and spirituality through music. Under the direction of Darrin Rose, choirs, instrumentalists, and vocalists came together showcasing a broad spectrum of African American music ranging from the negro spiritual to contemporary gospel.



Lutheran Campus Ministry Dinner

Wednesday, April 17 Carpool at 4 pm Dinner at 6 pm

2204 Orrington Avenue, Evanston

Holy Cross members will be returning to Evanston on Wednesday, April 17 to host our popular "Breakfast for Dinner" meal for the college students who attend the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern. All are welcome to attend or contribute part of the meal for the students.



We will meet at Holy Cross at 4 pm, carpool (or drive separately) to Evanston, and serve dinner at 6 pm for LCMNU's Wednesday night supper worship. Join us for a fun dinner with the students and a short, student-led worship service at the end of the meal.

If you are interested in volunteering or donating food for the meal, please contact Patty Moyer at patty@concertedsystems.com or (847) 502-3196.

Women's Ministry News

by Beth Ann Koenemann

Please join us for our April event:

Bingo, Bunco, and Bites

Date: Friday, April 26 Time: 6:30 - 9 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Cost: Free





We will be playing Bingo and Bunco, and sharing our favorite appetizer "bites" with each other. Bunco (and Bingo) will be taught—no prior experience is necessary. Please bring your favorite appetizer to share.

If you would like to come but would prefer not to drive at night, please let Beth Ann know at (847) 997-9937 and we will make arrangements for a ride. We hope you will join us, it is sure to be a blast!

Please RSVP to help us plan for the evening.



Mission Endowment Scholarships

Applications Due April 30

Through the Holy Cross Mission Endowment Fund, Holy Cross provides scholarships to assist and encourage post high school education for its members.

These scholarships may be used at an accredited college, university or vocational technical school. Requirements are that you be an active member of Holy Cross and that you submit an application form including a thoughtful faith statement.

The Mission Endowment Fund was established in 1999 and it 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.

Applications are available online at *HolyCrossChurch.org/resources*



Holy Cross' Vineyard

by Pastor Bob Davis

Have you noticed the grape arbor on the western

berm of Holy Cross' parking lot? It is on the top of the berm to the left (south) of the wooden cross. It was built by Noah Claus for his Eagle Scout project. The idea was developed with the help of Leo Karris and through conversations about Holy Cross stewarding the acreage that the church occupies on St. Mary's Road. Holy Cross is blessed with over 10 acres. We have been dreaming about other creative usages for our property that might be more sustainable than simply mowing the grass. This arbor represents the idea of establishing grape arbors on the berms that occupy the western and northern borders of our property. This type of planting may be observed in Europe and in vineyards throughout the USA. We have ordered four different varieties of grapes which are due to arrive at the beginning of April 2024. We will plant them and care for them to get them established. It will take a few years before they produce grapes on a scale that we hope for. There are plans to replicate the current arbor model at other locations along the berms to continue to cultivate grapes and increase the

Why would Holy Cross be involved in an initiative like this? The obvious answer is the connection with the sacrament of Holy Communion. We think the idea has merit and could become a component in a more wholistic educational curriculum. This may also provide individuals the opportunity to explore how they could be stewards of their land at their homes. This ministry endeavor fits within the "Care of Creation" vision at Holy Cross.

quantity to eventually harvest and use the fruit.

Video Storytelling

by Pastor Bob Davis

Are you curious about exploring a faith that embraces our everyday lives with reverence and humility? Do you find yourself thinking about the Christian faith as an invitation to notice the stories about life together and the presence of the sacred and holy in those moments? The community of faith that we know as Holy Cross Lutheran Church has been on a journey of asking these kinds of questions since it was formed in 1980. There are many variations in the way that the world experiences the Christian faith today. Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of human communication and the stories are gifts we pass on. Stories hold memory and identity, seasons of joys and sorrows. The Biblical stories create texture, depth and meaning in our individual lives and in our communal life together.

Beginning in June 2024, we will be introducing a series of video offerings capturing the ideas, thoughts, questions, vision and hopes that have shaped our shared experiences at Holy Cross. We believe that it is important to articulate those teachings that define the Christian enterprise but if those teachings are void of the stories of our lives then they may not be enough. We are invited to live with agency and meaning in a story where God's presence is experienced through moments of grace, forgiveness, transformation and love. Have you ever wondered how Holy Cross became the kind of congregation it is today? Please join us as we explore how we navigate the complexities of life and the story of faith we inhabit together.

CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare





On Sunday, April 14 and Sunday, April 21 between worship services you will find an exciting display in the fellowship area of available Wishes items to choose from. This year we are hoping to get new bikes and trikes to replace the ones purchased when the Celebration! Childcare center opened almost 18 years ago, as well as other items for the children to play and learn from.

Your monetary donations will be used toward the purchase of one or more items on your behalf. Checks may be made payable to Holy Cross with "Wishes" in the memo line or donate online at bit.ly/wishesCPCC

Following is a list of some of the items on the 2024 Wishes

- Radio Flyer Rider Trike (need 8): \$50 each
- Kids Balance Bike (need 5): \$100 each
- 3-in-1 Tricycle Bike (need 8): \$70 each
- Radio Flyer Big Wheeler (need 3): \$80 each
- 3-Wheel Scooter (need 5): \$60 each
- Cozy Coupe (need 5): \$65 each
- Pretend Play Sets (need 3-4): \$30 each
- Kid's Play Kitchen Sink (need 3): \$40 each
- Tinker Toys (need 1): \$40
- Indestructibles: Toddler Books (need 10-12): \$5 each























Make a wish come true!

Stephen Ministry at Holy Cross

by Tim Ness

Now that Holy Cross has four Commissioned
Stephen Leaders, they will be *Inviting*, *Equipping*,
Nurturing and Serving hurting people in our congregation and the community. How will this work? Let us look at some frequently asked questions about Stephen Ministry.

What Is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a ministry in our congregation in which trained and supervised laypeople, called Stephen Ministers, provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals facing life challenges in a completely confidential way to support them emotionally and spiritually.

Who Is Involved?

- Stephen Leaders are the ones who oversee and direct our Stephen Ministry. They recruit, select, train, organize, and supervise our Stephen Ministers; identify people in need of care; and match them with a Stephen Minister. We have four Stephen Leaders: Tim Ness, Joe Young, Ryan Young and Marshall Jowers.
- **Stephen Ministers** are lay caregivers. They will engage in high -quality training in Christian caregiving, including topics such as active listening, feelings, boundaries, and assertiveness. We will begin recruiting Stephen ministers very soon.
- Care receivers are the recipients of Stephen Ministers' care. They are people from our church or community who are experiencing grief, loss of a job, divorce, loneliness, illness, or other life difficulties. Stephen Ministers meet with their care receivers once a week for about an hour for as long as the care receiver needs it.

What Do Stephen Ministers Do?

Stephen Ministers are caring Christians who listen, understand, accept, and pray for and with care receivers who are working through a difficult time in life.

Are Stephen Ministers Counselors?

Stephen Ministers are not counselors; they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care, not to give advice. Stephen Ministers are also trained to recognize when a care receiver's needs fall outside what they are equipped to provide—at which point they help connect the care receiver with the appropriate outside resource(s).

Why the Name Stephen?

The name *Stephen* comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson Commissioned by the apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need (Acts 6).

Curious or interested in being Equipped to Serve as a Stephen Minister? Please talk to Tim, Marshall, Joe or Ryan.



Columbarium Ministry

To the right of the main entrance to the sanctuary is the Holy Cross Resurrection Garden. It is an important ministry of ours that often goes below the radar.

Why does Holy Cross have a Resurrection Garden? As people of faith, the promise of the resurrection brings comfort at the time of death. Just as each individual constructs their life in a unique way, our attitudes towards death are also unique. Our Garden consists of a Columbarium, Remembrance Wall, and Meditation Garden. The Columbarium is a dedicated structure containing niches for interment, while the adjacent Remembrance Wall contains plaques to memorialize those who are interred elsewhere. The Garden provides a quiet courtyard for prayer, reflection, and meditation.

Our Columbarium currently houses 144 niches, with room to expand to up to 400. Current and former members of Holy Cross and their families may be interred, while others may also be interred upon request.

If you would like more information, please contact the church office at *office@holycrosschurch.org*. For more information about the Columbarium, the Remembrance Wall, or the Meditation Garden, visit *holycrosschurch.org/resurrectiongarden*

The church office also has a publication available entitled "Five Wishes" that is a thought-starter for communicating with your family, friends and doctors about things like your wishes for medical care if you can't make those decisions for yourself, choosing the right person to be your health care agent, and sharing your end of life wishes. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org







MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

TUESDAYS, APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 AT 7 - 8 AM

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

Begin the day with coffee, breakfast, fellowship, and thought-provoking and stimulating conversation. All men are welcome to join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



SATURDAY MEN'S GROUP

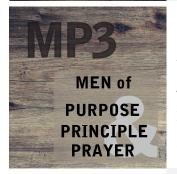
SATURDAYS, APRIL 6 & 20 AT 7 - 8:30 AM

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

holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/301891517

David Brooks has been a favorite author of the group. We are beginning his latest book, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen*. David Brooks is one of the nation's leading writers and commentators. An op-ed columnist for The New York Times, he appears regularly on PBS NewsHour and Meet the Press. He is the bestselling author of The Second Mountain, The Road to Character, The Social Animal, On Paradise Drive, and Bobos in Paradise. Please feel free to purchase a copy or let Pastor Chris know if you would like a copy. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



MP3: MEN OF PURPOSE, PRINCIPLE, & PRAYER

MONDAY, APRIL 15 AT 6 - 8:30 PM LOCATION: FELLOWSHIP AREA THEME: SACRED MOMENTS

COST: FREE

To help us plan for food, please RSVP at bit.ly/MP341524

Men (21+) are invited to attend for an evening of fellowship, food, music, and conversation. The April session will cover discussion of **R** for relational from our theme "SACRED moments." Questions? Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org



HELP TURN HUNGER INTO HOPE BY PACKING MEALS

FRIDAY, APRIL 12 AT 5 - 6:30 PM

LOCATION: 742 E PARK AVE, LIBERTYVILLE

PLEASE IOIN US FOR A GROUP DINNER AT PIZZERIA DEVILLE AFTER THE PACKING SESSION!

Volunteers age 5 and over and any ability levels can make a difference, as standing, heavy lifting, and seated jobs are all needed to pack and ship meals. You're invited to join Emily Young and other volunteers on one or more days ahead to serve together.

To sign up for one or more group packing sessions, please contact Emily Young at emily.young@allstate.com



BOOK CLUB Thursday, April 25 at 7 pm Via Zoom holycrosschurch.zoom.us/j/94321824417

Due to a scheduling conflict in March, we will be discussing two books in April: *Cold Sassy Tree* by Olivia Ann Burns and *Land of Milk and Honey* by C Pam Zhang. *Cold Sassy Tree* is the undeniably entertaining and extraordinarily moving account of small-town southern life in a bygone era. Sensuous and surprising, joyous and bitingly sharp, told in language as alluring as it is original, *Land of Milk and Honey* lays provocatively bare the ethics of seeking pleasure in a dying world.

Our discussion hosts will be Heidi Dinter and Felicia Brandt. If you have any questions, please email Felicia at felicia.s.brandt@gmail.com



STRENGTH & CORE

MONDAYS, APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 AT 6 PM LOCATION: CELEBRATION! CHILDCARE ATRIUM

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

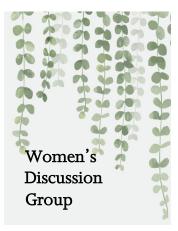


HOLY CROSS CHOIR

REHEARSALS: TUESDAYS, APRIL 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: SANCTUARY

We welcome singers of all ages to join the choir. For more information about joining, and to be added to the choir email list, contact Choir Director, Darrin Rose at darrin@holycrosschurch.org



WOMEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP TUESDAYS, APRIL 9 & 23 AT 9:30 AM

LOCATION: ROOM 208

The Women's Discussion Group at Holy Cross meets on the 2^{nd} and 4^{th} Tuesdays of each month.

The ongoing discussion topics are being taken from 'A' is for Alabaster: A Preacher's Alphabet by Anna Carter Florence, the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University and Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div. and Ph.D.). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Dr. Florence served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Copies of the book are available on the welcome center in the Fellowship Area. All women welcome.

Contact Pastor Chris at pastorchris@holycrosschurch.org with any questions.



GROUNDED IN GRACE: FRIDAY NIGHT WOMEN'S GROUP

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 AT 6:30 - 9:30 PM

LOCATION: HARBOR BREWING COMPANY, 136 CEDAR AVENUE, LAKE VILLA

Grounded in Grace is a social opportunity for women to connect together in fellowship.

Hoping for beautiful weather as they have a very nice patio. Please feel free to bring a snack to share if you'd like - and the facility is very dog friendly if Fido needs a night out as well.

Contact Terry at *terryberger*.08@gmail.com with questions or to be added to the Grounded in Grace Messenger group.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS (PHW) FLY FISHING NORTH CHICAGO

DAY SESSION: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 AT 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVENING SESSION: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10 AT 7 - 9 PM

LOCATION: HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



QUILTING GROUP

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 3, 10, 17 & 24 AT 9 AM - 12 PM

Location: Room 404

We gather on Wednesdays to sew as a group. Completed quilts are donated to COOL Ministries for families residing in the Family Housing program or to Project Linus, an organization that provides blankets to comfort children who are seriously injured, traumatized, or in need.

Questions? Contact Deb Sherrock at debs695@aol.com or (630) 267-7802.



COMMON THREADS Monday, April 8 at 1 pm Location: Fellowship Area

We meet on the second Monday of most months to knit, crochet and visit. No prior crafting experience necessary. Each blanket or shawl created is dedicated at a worship service and then presented to the prayer recipient. These pieces offer the healing power of prayer, crafted as an expression of God's love. Request a prayer blanket or shawl for a loved one by contacting the church office at office@holycrosschurch.org Questions? Contact Judy Luplow at (847) 367-0242.



HANDBELL CHOIR

REHEARSALS: THURSDAYS, APRIL 4, 11 & 18 AT 7 PM

LOCATION: BASEMENT

We welcome all to join the Holy Cross Handbell Choir. If you can read music, you are in! Rehearsals are in the church basement on the first three Thursdays of each month.

Questions? Contact Beth Fashimpaur at elizabeth.malecha@gmail.com



by Deaconess Katie Freund

Can you believe it? We're wrapping up the year!

April is the last month before releasing for summer break. Sunday School lessons for this month include:

April 7: Doubting Thomas

April 14: The Road to Emmaus

*April 21 - Spring Sing - Jesus the Good Shepherd

April 28: Philip and the Ethiopian



*This month we're having our "Spring Sing" on April 21, Jesus the Good Shepherd Sunday. Our kids will lead the congregation in songs and showcase highlights of Bible stories from this year!

If you haven't registered your child(ren) aged 3 - 5th grade for Sunday School, please use this link: bit.ly/sundayschool2324



Spring Shepherds



We are truly blessed with a vibrant community, and we're continuing to ask parents to come join us for a few Sundays this spring as Shepherds. We have great kids, fun games, and clever crafts with all the supplies provided.

The spring Sunday School season will continue through April 28. Some people can give a single Sunday, others sign up for a whole month at a time. Whatever works for your schedule, we'd love to have you join us as we shepherd kids on their journey through Lent.

Sign up at this link: bit.ly/shepherdsF23





by Deaconess Katie Freund

Details about our confirmation program schedule can be viewed at *HolyCrossChurch.org/confirmation*

Here's a look ahead to the dates for Fall 2024:

Fall 2024 Registration & Orientation: Sunday, September 8
Sessions 1-6: Sundays, September 15, 22 & 29; October 6, 13 & 20
Celebration and Affirmation of Baptism: Sunday, October 27

Questions? Contact Deaconess Katie at deaconesskatie@holycrosschurch.org



by Deaconess Katie Freund

Our second Easter Eve family event was a blast. While last year's program brought the Biblical stories for the classic Easter Vigil church service to life, this year we focused on the stories of Jesus' path through Holy Week. Within an hour and a half, families "made the pilgrimage" from Palm Sunday, through the events of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, before finishing with a reception for Easter Sunday! Watch for photos to be posted to the website.

This was a great undertaking, and having the support of over **40 people** made all the difference! There truly are more people to thank than I could list here, but I want to say our station leaders were amazing! What a blessing to be part of a community that loves and values bringing the faith of our children alive.

This event meant that children had the opportunity to see the love of Jesus in action, like when families learned about our call to service in washing feet and prayed alongside Jesus for the brokenness in the world at the garden of Gethsemane. We shared the story of Jesus' death via an old-school radio broadcast "Live from Golgotha" that invited kids into the reality of Christ's death in a way that was age appropriate for our younger participants. Our pilgrims then prepared spice bundles to bring to the tomb, only to pass through to find the joy of Easter! The tours finished with an Easter reception that served "Easter breakfast" for dinner, had live music, crafts, and activities for kids.





Middle School Youth Group

Fueling Curiosity, Nurturing Faith

Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in April. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

INVITE: Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend! **NURTURE:** These are faith-formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.

SERVE: We'll roll up our sleeves for a service project.

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

- Friday, April 12 at 5 6:30 pm Serve Event Feed My Starving Children, Libertyville
 - Join us for food after the Serve Event at Pizzeria DeVille, 404 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville
- Sunday, April 21 at 10 10:45 am Nurture Event
 - Room 208

As always, we'll share some snacks, check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event! View more information at *HolyCrossChurch.org/emerge*

CROSS HICH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Hey Crossroads! Here's what's coming up for our *weekly events* in April. Each week will be focused on one of the following types of events:

INVITE: Join us for a fun event or outing and *INVITE* a friend!

NURTURE: These are faith formation events. We'll check in, explore a Bible story and pray.

SERVE: We'll roll up our sleeves for a service project.

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar:

- Friday, April 12 at 5 6:30 pm Serve Event Feed My Starving Children, Libertyville
 - Join us for food after the Serve Event at Pizzeria DeVille, 404 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Libertyville
- Sunday, April 21 at 11 am 12 pm Nurture Event
 Room 208

As always, we'll share some snacks, check in with each other and with God! Friends are always welcome at any event!

For more information about the Crossroads High School Youth Group, visit *HolyCrossChurch.org/crossroads*

Emerge & Crossroads Youth News

by Edwin Andrade

Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday, March 9 and joined for the Chicago Wolves game! For my first hockey game, it lived up to the hype and then some. The players' introductions felt like we were at a wrestling match or a Taylor Swift concert. In addition to family and faith night, it was adopt-a-dog and Polish Heritage night at the arena. The game had something for everyone! It's safe to say, I left the game as a hockey fan.

If you have any questions about the Emerge Middle School Youth Group, or the Crossroads High School Youth Group, please email Edwin at *edwin@holycrosschurch.org*







2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

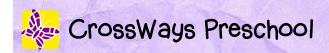
Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people



grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

The 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering will take place July 14 - 21 in New Orleans, Louisiana for youth currently in grades 8 - 12. Thank you for your support with our fundraising efforts.

For any questions, please reach out to Edwin Andrade at *edwin@holycrosschurch.org* or (520) 370-9572.





by Samantha Tuttle Director of CrossWays Preschool & Celebration! Childcare

How We Are Doing!

Our programs are off to a great start this year. Little minds have been hard at work learning new things and improving on existing skills. It was a cold and snowy start to the year, having to close due to poor weather conditions. However, that didn't stop our students from getting out there and enjoying some snow play! Students and staff have enjoyed celebrating the holidays, as well. Valentine's Day was full of extra love for our families and friends. We celebrated by having a classroom party with a valentine card exchange and special goodies. We spent time during Chapel talking about the meaning of Easter and getting ready for the Easter Bunny to visit!









Coming up in May, students who will be heading off to Kindergarten will be participating in our Preschool Graduation Ceremony. This will be our third year of hosting a graduation event for our students. Families and friends are invited to attend the event and watch as their children sing songs and receive a preschool diploma. We are proud of the hard work and growth of each child who has completed our program. We look forward to celebrating their success and new beginnings!

Summer Camp Programs

Summer is on our minds as we get ready for our summer camp program! We have lots of new and exciting in-house activities, such as a bug show, a wind tunnel, and Hawaiian dancers. We will also be having a few of our yearly favorites, such as pony rides and ice cream days. Furthermore, we are most excited about our new Infant/Toddler Playground!

As you can recall, we have been fundraising to turn the old garden space into a space for Infants and Toddlers to play and explore freely in a safe environment. We began working on the space by adding more grass for sensory play. With the help of a few congregation members, the deck will be updated to make it functional and safe. A gate will be installed, enclosing the space, to keep children from wandering away. Finally, we will be purchasing fun and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment. The goal is to have everything completed and ready to use by the first day of summer camp!





CrossWays Preschool and Celebration! Childcare need your help with purchasing much needed, and wanted, items for our classrooms and students. This year, we hope to get new bikes and trikes for outdoor gross motor play. The bikes and trikes we have are the original ones purchased when our center opened almost 18 years ago! We hope we are able to update the selection we have now, and possibly add new gross motor toys to our outdoor selection for both older and younger students.

CrossWays Preschool 2024-25 Registration

We are currently enrolling for the upcoming school year for CrossWays Preschool. Ages two through five, we offer stimulating activities during our two and a half hour program. We also offer a Lunch Bunch Program that extends the day for additional educational and social fun! If you, or someone you know, is interested in attending CrossWays Preschool next fall, please contact Samantha Tuttle at sam@holycrosschurch.org.



HIDDEN GEMS GARDEN WALK

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

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



Join Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern for its annual Showcase on Saturday, May 4 from 2:00-6:30 pm at Parkes Hall in Evanston or via online streaming. The LCMNU Showcase fundraiser will feature student panels discussing various topics related to faith, a program featuring student talent, music and special guests, and, of course, food and fun, as we celebrate what makes Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern University special. For more details and a link to register, visit the LCMNU website

https://www.lcmnorthwestern.org/2024showcase info.

If you would like to join the Holy Cross group at this event, contact Patty Moyer at patty@concertedsystems.com.



Blanding's Turtles Sponsored by Holy Cross Having An Impact!

by Marge Stueckemann

A few years ago we collected funds and had a naming contest to help restore the numbers of native Blanding's turtles in Lake County, a program run by the Forest Preserve. It cost \$50 to "adopt" each turtle, and we chose one male, naming him



Seymore (see more Jesus) and one female, Katie, after Martin Luther's wife. We even got to go and meet our turtles, identified by a painted mark on their shell in the big kiddie pool where they were being raised. Once they were big enough and more able to survive, they were released in a wetland near IL Beach State Park in Zion.

Among other conservation initiatives, this effort has helped so we now have the largest Blandings turtle population in the state! If either Seymore or Katie are spotted by workers at the wetland, we will be notified. So far, no notifications, but it is surely rewarding to think we helped with this attempt to help God's creation!

Grief Support



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 programming, meeting dates and more information about Willow House, visit willowhouse.org or email info@willowhouse.org

Willow House now offers a monthly Spanish Speaking Family Grief Support Group at Cristo Rey in Waukegan. For more information, please contact Agi Corona Semrad at 312-809-0208, extension 2 or agisemrad@willowhouse.org

Save The Date Fundraiser



Join Willow House for its Melodies of Hope Dueling Pianos fundraiser on Saturday, April 27 from 6 - 10:30 pm at Loft 24 in Lincolnshire. Open bar, hors d'oeuvres and dinner, raffle tickets and prizes! Visit willowhouse.org for more information.

Let's Fill The Pantry!

by Peg Chartier

What is the most effective way to serve the over 430 PADS clients (half of whom are under the age of 18)? We can fill their pantry! From April 14-21 Holy Cross, Celebration! Childcare and CrossWays Preschool will be collecting shelf stable food, kid friendly food, baby food, diapers and Clorox wipes. On April 24 we will deliver all donated items to the First Presbyterian PADS pantry. First Presbyterian works directly with PADS of Lake County and the hotels housing the clients and families to pull from their supplies to deliver what is needed week to week. Please consider adding a few items to your next shopping trip. Bulk items from Sam's and Costco are also welcome! Items can be put into the PADS bin in the gathering space.

For any of you who donate monetarily, this thank you picture is for you! Look at what we can do week to week to address specific needs! We are fortunate to be able to work closely with the First Presbyterian PADS Ministry team to purchase specifically



requested items. Thanks to you, Holy Cross has also contributed over \$1,000 in much needed gas and grocery gift cards.

The PADS Ministry team continues to deliver 60 meals every second and fifth Monday to the Super 8 in Mundelein. The clients are lining up in anticipation of our deliveries. Thanks to all of your efforts, the PADS Ministry team at Holy Cross continues to thrive and make a difference for our Brothers and Sisters in need. In April, we will be providing meals on April 8 and 29. We'd love to have you along with us.

LAKE COUNTY

Please visit *donate.holycrosschurch.org* or use the QR code to support the PADS ministry at Holy Cross.



Help Turn Hunger Into Hope

by Emily Young



Our Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) ministry is back in action, with monthly packing sessions for our congregation and guests! FMSC provides a fantastic ad hoc volunteer and fellowship opportunity for people of all ages! Please join us for any of the upcoming packing sessions listed below and participate in one of three volunteer activities—whether you prefer to sit, stand, or move around, you will be in good company with our rotating group of volunteers. Please contact Emily Young at emily.young@allstate.com if you'd like to join us for an upcoming session. New to Feed My Starving Children? Learn more about their mission at finsc.org

Upcoming Meal Packing DatesLocation: 742 E Park Ave, Libertyville

- Friday, April 12 from 5 6:30 pm (group dinner at Pizzeria DeVille in Libertyville after packing session)
- Saturday, May 4 from 11:30 am 1:15 pm

25th Annual COOL Plant & Flower Sale









Order Pick-Up: Saturday, May 11 Volunteers Needed for Plant Pick-Up

Thank you for all the flower orders that our Holy Cross family submitted for the COOL Plant and Flower Sale. Orders will be available for pick-up on Saturday, May 11 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church, 5110 Grand Avenue in Gurnee. If you did not place an order, we also will have extra hanging baskets, flowering plants, vegetables, and herbs available for cash and carry at the plant pick-up.

Interested in volunteering? We have a great team from Holy Cross and would love to have your help! No gardening knowledge is needed, and volunteers have a good time working together to benefit the ministries of COOL. We will have multiple shifts on Saturday, May 11 between 6:30 am and 2:30 pm, all taking place in the Bethel parking lot. Benefits of volunteering include early plant pick-up (late morning), fellowship, service, and refreshments. To volunteer, sign up in the

Questions? Contact Terry Berger, Patty Moyer, Jeri Powers, or Diane Rammelsberg or email us at *plantsale@coolministries.org*

gathering space or online at bit.ly/COOLplanthelp.

Flowers make great gifts for Mother's Day!



COOL Ministries

by Jill McKeon



Exciting opportunities coming in the near future so mark your calendars! Holy Cross is leading the way for the 25th anniversary COOL Plant sale (see details above). In June, the Food Stock Concert will be happening at the Lake Bluff Village Green on Sunday, June 23 from 3-7 pm. Bring a food or monetary donation and listen to live music on the green. Finally, our annual golf outing will be on July 19. So many ways to enjoy time together in support of our local community.

The pantry continues to see more and more people. The recent need that they are really short on is cereal. However, the pantry always appreciates any non-perishable donations.

Alternatively, you may donate online by visiting *donate.holycrosschurch.org* or by scanning the code to the right. Thank you for your generous support.



If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Jill McKeon at *jill.mckeon@att.net* or (847) 331-7908.



Monday, April 1 **Church Office Closed**

Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium 6 pm

6:30 pm Willow House, Fellowship Area

Tuesday, April 2

Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 7 am

Red Rose Choirs, 402 4 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 pm

Wednesday, April 3

Young Life Capernaum Meeting, Fellowship Area 9 am

9 am Quilting Group, 404 Red Rose Choirs, 402 4 pm

Thursday, April 4

7 pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402

Saturday, April 6

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

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

Sanctuary

Sunday, April 7

Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream 8 am

9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium

Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream 10 am

Monday, April 8

Common Threads, Fellowship Area 1 pm

Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium 6 pm

BSA Troop 194 Meeting, 402 7 pm

Tuesday, April 9

Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 7 am

Women's Discussion Group, 208 9:30 am

Red Rose Choirs, 402 4 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 pm

Wednesday, April 10

Ouilting Group, 404 9 am

11:30 am PHW Day Session, Fellowship Area

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

PHW Evening Session, Fellowship Area 7 pm

8 pm Church Council, 208

Thursday, April 11

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402 7 pm

Friday, April 12

Monthly Meal Packing Session at Feed My Starving 5 pm

Children, Libertyville

Sunday, April 14

Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream 8 am

9 am Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area 9:45 am Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium

10 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Monday, April 15

Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium 6 pm

MP3, Fellowship Area 6 pm

BSA Troop 194 Meeting, 402 7 pm

Tuesday, April 16

Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 7 am

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary 7 pm

Wednesday, April 17

Quilting Group, 404 9 am

Young Life Capernaum Meeting, Fellowship Area 9 am

Red Rose Choirs, 402 4 pm

Thursday, April 18

Handbell Choir Rehearsal, 402 7 pm

Friday, April 19

6:30 pm Grounded in Grace, Harbor Brewing Company, Lake Villa

Saturday, April 20

7 am Saturday Morning Men's Group, 208

Sunday, April 21

8 am Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream

Fellowship Coffee Hour, Fellowship Area Worship with Sunday School Spring Sing & Holy 9 am

10 am

Communion, Sanctuary & livestream Emerge Middle School Youth Group, Room 208 Crossroads High School Youth Group, Room 208 10 am 11 am

Monday, April 22

Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium 6 pm

7 pm BSA Troop 194 Meeting, 402

Tuesday, April 23

7 am Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant

9:30 am Women's Discussion Group, 208

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402 7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 24

9 am Quilting Group, 404 4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

Thursday, April 25

7 pm Book Club, Zoom

Friday, April 26

6:30 pm LIFT Bingo, Bunco & Bites, Fellowship Area

Sunday, April 28

Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream Sunday School, Celebration! Childcare Atrium 8 am

9:45 am

Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary & livestream 10 am

Monday, April 29

6 pm Strength & Core, Celebration! Childcare atrium

7 pm BSA Troop 194 Meeting, 402

Tuesday, April 30

Men's Breakfast Group, The Liberty Restaurant 7 am

4 pm Red Rose Choirs, 402

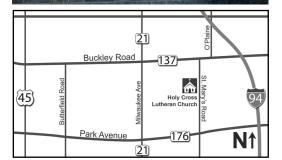
7 pm Choir Rehearsal, Sanctua

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

Postmaster: Request in home by April 1



& CrossWays Preschool * Celebration! Childcare



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



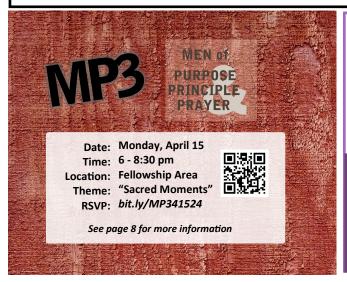
Mission Endowment Scholarships

See page 5 for more information

Applications Due April 30

Through the Holy Cross Mission Endowment Fund, Holy Cross provides scholarships to assist and encourage post high school education for its members. Applications are available online at *HolyCroissChurch.org/resources*





Bingo, Bunco, and Bites

Date: Friday, April 26 **Time:** 6:30 - 9 pm

Location: Fellowship Area

Cost: Free

RSVP: bit.ly/LIFTbbb



We'll be playing Bingo and Bunco, and sharing our favorite appetizer "bites" with each other. We hope you will join us. Please RSVP to help us plan for the evening.

See page 5 for more information

