



CROSSlink

A monthly publication of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

September 2010

Worship and Education

Worship Services:

Saturdays 5:30 PM (Sanctuary)

Sundays 8:30 AM (Sanctuary)

Sundays 10:45 AM (LOFT)

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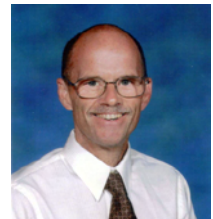
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From the Pastor's Desk...

Pastor Bill Metzger

THE ONE THAT DIDN'T GET AWAY -A FISH STORY



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

Most fish stories begin with “Did you hear about the one that got away?” There is a much better fish story - it’s in the Bible - and it’s about the one that did NOT get away. It’s the Gospel of Jonah. The Gospel of Jonah? I thought Jonah was an OLD Testament book. How could it be called the GOSPEL of Jonah?

Well, it’s not actually called the Gospel of Jonah. It’s the name I attach to this wonderfully written, yet little known and poorly understood book of the Old Testament. I call it the “Gospel of Jonah” because this little, four chapter book is all about me and my running away from God; my fears and anxieties; the excuses I make and the way I rationalize my disobedience to God’s Call; my need to be brought very low by God until I have no choice but to rely on Him and Him alone radically as my All; and how God relentlessly pursues me, finds me, cleanses me, restores me, empowers me, and then uses me for His plan, purpose and glory.

The Gospel of Jonah is a “CATCH AND RELEASE” fish story. God catches me with the net of the Grace of Jesus; then He releases me for service to Him. Actually it’s a “CATCH AND CLEAN” fish story, as God takes me into protective custody, cleans me from every failure, sin and stain, and calls me His own.

Jonah’s story is OUR story. We find his story compelling because all of us hesitate to follow God from time to time. But the main point of the Gospel of Jonah is NOT our disobedience, but God’s persistent, unending, boundless Grace.

The Gospel of Jonah is a powerful journey through unforgettable events and imagery that reveals how God pursues rebels - a category that ultimately includes everyone - even though He has the right and plenty of reasons to give up on us all.

“The Gospel of Jonah” is our first topic of discussion in Adult Bible Class this Fall. Class begins SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 at 9:45 AM. We meet in the FELLOWSHIP HALL in the lower level of church. Join us for a challenging time in God’s Word that will open your eyes wider than ever to see God’s relentless, purposeful and inexhaustible Grace. As always - INVITE AND BRING A FRIEND! I look forward to seeing YOU in Adult Bible Class for “The Gospel of Jonah” beginning September 12 at 9:45 AM.

On another note this is our ANNIVERSARY YEAR and Holy Cross is 100 years old this coming year. The celebration begins SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12. Pastor Robert Hess, long time pastor at Holy Cross, will be pointing us to Jesus. Pastor Hess will be preaching at all three services that weekend. Please join us as we begin our year-long anniversary celebrating 100 years of God’s blessings on this congregation. Invite and bring a friend!

In His Grip,

Pastor Bill Metzger

Greetings from the Preschool and Kindergarten:

Jean Hoger, Preschool/Kindergarten Director

It’s simply wonderful to have the staff back at school. We had an in-service led by Tammy Spoor from District 26 Special Services. She spoke to us about Autism & Asperger’s syndrome. She kept us engaged for over an hour and we learned that there is so much to learn!

Today was our first day of school here! Seventeen kindergarten students came today, with parents carrying loads of supplies, cameras hanging from the shoulder, hugging old friends and meeting the new friends! It’s counted as a great day, as there were no tears from either the kids or the parents.

The first day of September we meet with preschool parents. This will be a great time to discuss what Holy Cross Preschool is all about. We’ll take a day with both parents and kids and meet at Lion’s Park just to play and meet the children before our first day.

This month the 4s and Pre-K will be going the Hollows for a field trip. The children will have a chart of several items that they will find while exploring the prairie and pond. As they discover these things, they will color the pictures.

Our Guest Readers will get to meet their new classes near the end of the month. For our “Small Children: Big Community Helpers” project for September we will be collecting food items for the Cary-Grove Food Pantry. The children will bring in their items on our Chapel day which will be the last two days of the month. We hope the kids learn that although they are small, they can still make a big difference!

Youth News

Jeff Kuester, Youth Ministry Director

The fall is finally here! It’s hard to believe that another school year has started. Pretty soon the Cary sky will be lit up by the football stadium lights. The leaves on the trees will start to turn beautiful shades of colors that only God could imagine.

Fall brings about change. Students change grade levels and schools. College students travel to their respective universities to learn more about who they are and explore life as adults. Families who were together all summer long on vacations suddenly see less of each other due to the daily grind of school, studying, extra-curricular activities, clubs, social events and more.

God has been challenging me these past few weeks. As our lives get busier and more “stuff” comes our way, where does God fit? Is He one of many things on a long list of things to do? Does he make your daily schedule? Weekly? Monthly? Yearly?

God has been challenging me to make Him the only thing on my list. Every second of every minute. Every hour of every day. He desires and deserves the first, the last and everything in between. That

thought will continue to shape our ministry this school year. The running theme for this school year will be: "Where does God fit in your life?" Is He one of many things OR is He the only thing?

New For This Year

We will now have a high school Bible study on WEDNESDAY Nights from 7:15pm-8:30pm in the lower level of the LOFT. This will coincide with Confirmation class.

Our annual Incite retreat will be from September 10-12 at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. You aren't gonna want to miss this! This retreat is the kick off to our ministry year. It will be the biggest, most challenging and best retreat we have done so far. For more info, go to www.fuseministries.com for a permission form. Look under the "Forms" link.

September Schedule:

September 5: 6:30pm -8:30pm Fuse at Fellowship of Faith in McHenry, IL

September 10-12: Incite 2010 Retreat at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI

September 12: **No Fuse.** Get some rest!

September 15: 7:15pm-8:30pm High School Bible Study LOFT Lower Level

September 19: 9:45am-10:30am Jr. and Sr. high Bible Study in the "old" youth room

September 19: 6:30pm -8:30pm Fuse at Holy Cross in Cary, IL

September 22: 7:15pm-8:30pm High School Bible Study LOFT Lower Level

September 26: 9:45am-10:30am Jr. and Sr. high Bible Study in the "old" youth room

September 26: 6:30pm -8:30pm Fuse at Holy Cross in Cary, IL

September 29: 7:15pm-8:30pm High School Bible Study LOFT Lower Level

Music News

Laura Schmuldt, Music Ministry Director

Choirs starting up in September! Not only an important service within the church, but a fun one as well. We will be gearing up for important church festivals such as Reformation Sunday and of course, Advent and Christmas.

Adult Choir meets at 7:00 PM on Wednesdays. We can always use more singers, even if you can only commit to singing through Christmas. *Begins September 8.*

Handbell Choir meets at 4:00 PM on Saturday evenings. Handbells is a perfect opportunity for those who do not want to sing to provide musical leadership to the church service. We'll teach you how to play - we'll even teach you how to read music! *Begins September 11.*

Both choirs meet in the balcony of the Sanctuary.

Grace Lutheran Church's (River Forest 7300 Division Street River Forest) Bach Cantata Vespers present the cantatas of J. S. Bach within the context of congregational worship. The new season begins September 26th at 3:45 PM with Cantata 19: Es erhub sich ein Streit (There arose a great strife) The homilist will be Marcus J. Miller of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and the organ prelude give by David Christiansen, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Park Ridge. Come experience a minor taste of what worship included in Bach's time, within the setting of evening prayer.

From the Board of Human Care

Barb Molzer, Interim Chairman

On July 30 visits were made to Turning Point, Faith in Action of McHenry County, Home of the Sparrow, and a tour of the Queen Ann group home in Woodstock for Pioneer Center for Human Services. The visits were made to present Holy Cross's donation of \$250 to each organization. It was very informative and encouraging to see how much our contributions are needed and appreciated so these organizations can continue to provide services to the local communities. Holy Cross has received thank-you letters from these organizations for our contribution and continued support. The Giving Funds are 50% of the yearly interest received from the sale of the parsonage.

From the Board of Evangelism

Diana Kuester, Interim Chairman

1st Annual Block Party

A Big Thank You to our Supporters!

A+ Plus Towing and Recovery	Dominick's	Nielsen-Massey Vanillas – Dan Fox
Avon – Renee Glosny	Dominos Pizza	Papa John's Pizza
Burrito Grande	Eugenio's	Papa Saverios Pizza
Brunch Café	Harris Bank	Periwinkle Florals
Cartridge World	Hot Rod Music	Prayer Bears – Ellen Gezella
Carniceria Los Mendez	Galati's Restaurant	Romanesco's Italian Eatery
Cary's Bakery	Jetstream Car Bath	Rosati's
Cary Coffee Station	Jewel Osco	Scentsy – Jodi Bauman
Cary's Family Restaurant	Joan Adams Cleaning & Organizing	Sparrow's Nest
Cary's Laundromat	Johnson Eye Care	Snap Fitness
Cary Nails	Lady Joan Golf Accessories – Joan Adams	Subway
Cary Travel Express	Kojaks	Tastefully Simple – Linda Seilheimer
Cary Tire and Auto Center	Louisiana Dan's Cheesecakes	Thornton's
Coldwell Banker – Ken McCoy	Mary Kay Cosmetics – Nancy McCoy	WG Salon
Catalysts of McHenry County	McDonalds	Wendy's
Dairy Queen	Modern Wave Salon and Spa	Wool Street Grill and Bar
Dollar General	7-11 Store	

These are the local business that either provided prizes or posted our flyer in their windows for our 1st Annual BLOCK PARTY.

Please support them as much as possible in appreciation for their generosity.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped out with the block party. This block party wouldn't have been as successful if it wasn't for the serving hearts of the congregation. It truly was amazing to see new faces from the community.

Also, if you see them, give Ellen Gezella, Jeff Kuester and Nancy McCoy a big hug for all their hard work in the preparation for this block party! A special thanks to the local Cary and Fox River Grove businesses that contributed to the many raffle prizes that were given out that day. Make sure you see the banner by the elevator that shows all of the businesses that made a contribution. So, the next time you stop at their businesses, thank them on behalf of Holy Cross. Can't wait until next year!

Back to School!

By now, most students have begun a new year of learning and exploration. Teachers spend countless hours preparing lesson plans and activities to engage their students. In supporting the Cary and Fox River Grove schools, we are continuing our back to school supply drive until September 12. Please donate a few school supply items (pencils, glue sticks, markers, etc.) to local schools that will use the supplies when their students need them. It's our "random act of kindness."

Do you feel joy in serving others?

Do you wonder how you can show and be a witness to others about what Jesus has done in your life?

Do you love meeting people?

Do you enjoy working as a team for a great cause?

Then, maybe you should think about being on the Board of Evangelism!

If you are interested, contact Diana Kuester at sonrisa24_7@hotmail.com or call at (847) 219-8069

From the Board of Education

Wendy Harmon, Chairman

FISH Club

FISH Club begins again on Sunday, September 12 at 9:45 AM in the lower loft. All children ages 3 to 6th grade are WELCOME. We are looking forward to rolling out a new curriculum this year where every child gets their own club handbook/workbook. The curriculum ties in with KFC (Kids for Christ) allowing continuity of learning about Jesus. So come and sign up to join our FISH Club!

Kids for Christ (KFC)

Kids for Christ is a new ministry that is being rolled out for our 3rd through 6th graders. They will be meeting on most Wednesday evenings. The start-up date is Wednesday, September 22 at 7:00 PM. Fun activities, crafts and games will surely make kids want to bring their friends.

If you have any questions about any of our education classes or ministries, please don't hesitate to contact Wendy Harmon at 815-477-0490. There is something for everybody and we would be happy to help you find "your thing".

From Our Christ Care Groups

Linda Sorensen, Christ Care Coordinator

The disciples and early Christians spent time together praising God and discussing the words and stories or parables that Jesus had taught them. Our ChristCare Small Groups are fashioned after these groups. The members study Jesus' words together. They spend time in prayer together. They worship and praise God together. The time spent together brings them closer to each other, like family members. Holy Cross has two ChristCare Small Groups that have continued to meet during the summer months. The Thursday Women's Group will start again in October, and Jim Deasy is determining his Group's particulars. If you are interested in getting to really know other members of Holy Cross and your Lord, consider joining a Small Group! Contact the leader of the group or Linda Sorensen (847-639-4286).

Women's Small Group leader: Wendy Harmon (815) 477-0490 *Beginning in October*

Men's Small Group leader: Gary Rintz (847) 639-3982 *Ongoing*

Prayer Shawl small leader: Pat Suffield (847) 639-8682 *Ongoing*

LOFT – Living Our Faith Together

Linda Sorensen, Communications Team Member

Well, our Summer has zoomed by ☺. We wait all winter long for the warm weather so we can do all those things we missed doing last summer. And, we may have missed doing them again this summer...; however, here at Holy Cross, we did get a number of "things" done. We started just before the summer months by rejoicing in the Dedication of the LOFT, our new facility. The LOFT also was the host location for a Youth PAUSE Retreat. By the end of May, our congregation had reached \$100,000 of pledged funds for the LOFT and we celebrated with the LOFT TUBE and the Dunk-a-Dollar Thing-a-ma-jig. In June, our Youth participated in a Mission Trip to Red Lake, MN, and we also added the Taize' service to our schedule of worship services. Vacation Bible School was the highlight of July, along with several movie nights. And then there was the delightful Block Party in August! Just as these events have not happened on their own, but come about through planning and organizing, our God has planned wonderful things for each of us. "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11. Let's take the time to listen to God and not miss all the wonderful things He has planned for us!



Living Our Faith Together!!



From the Anniversary Committee

Bev Zimmermann, Committee Chairman

We promised a preview of what will be happening during “The Year of our 100th Anniversary”. The time has come.

On September 11/12, we kick off our “100th Anniversary Year” with Pastor Hess preaching at all three worship services. There may be a few more surprises. In September, our new historical calendar will be introduced and the first of the monthly historical displays will also be on tap.

In October, a new custom-designed Christmas ornament will arrive. Addresses of homes where the first Holy Cross worship services were held will be available for “drive-by”. A map will be provided.

On November 14 we will host a men’s fashion show the like of which you may never see again. The models will be gentlemen from of our congregation.

Enjoy December as we display a Christmas tree with old-fashioned ornaments.

As we begin 2011, Pastor Dan Gilbert, President of the Northern Illinois District, will be our guest preacher for the worship services on January 8/9. On January 30, the Metzgers will present “Cabin Fever”. It’s a complete secret as to what will happen on that occasion.

On March 5 we will be at the Community Show Case at Cary Grove High School with an anniversary theme.

Our Preschool/Kindergarten program has completed its 20th year. To celebrate, Jean Hoger is hosting a Preschool/Kindergarten Alumni reunion with an Open House on April 30.

To celebrate Mother’s Day we are hosting a Mother/Daughter fashion show featuring old wedding gowns.

On July 17, the Anniversary Committee together with the Board of Human Care will hosting an old-fashioned ice cream social.

Do you remember when Holy Cross had fish boils? In August we will bring back this fun event from the past. This time we will have chicken too.

Finally, on September 11, 2011 our 100th year celebration culminates with a banquet luncheon at D’Andrea’s on Route 14. Details are still being finalized.

Other events may work themselves into the schedule so it will be a busy and exciting year to celebrate our 100th Birthday.

From the Organ Committee

Mel Molzer, Chairman

During the past several months, the Organ Committee has been at work establishing a program that will keep you informed in the funding of our pipe organ repair/renovation as we try to reach our goal of approximately \$300,000 so we can begin this important project for our congregation. This month, you will be receiving a letter and brochure explaining this program and how you can help in reaching this goal. Look in your mailbox at church for this information. Should you not pick up this information, it will be mailed to you later in the month. Keep in mind that we are under financial obligations in the funding of the LOFT and that we need to keep focused in paying off this debt, but also remember that our pipe organ is in need of attention and must also be repaired. We have received over \$50,000 in our organ fund, thanks to many of you who have made contributions to this fund. The Organ Committee THANKS YOU for your generosity. Should you have any questions, please contact any member of the Organ Committee: Mel Molzer, Laura Schmuldt, Helen Miller, Al Israel, Steve Olson, Mike Kawasaki, Gary Rintz, or Wes Eaton.

From the Constitution Review Committee

Phil Stanko, Chairman

The Constitution Review Committee is bringing to completion one of the major parts of their work. The documents that have been revised are up for approval at the September meeting of the District. The approval of the documents will permit us to move forward to the next steps in the process. First, informational meetings will be held in September and October to discuss with the congregation the documents and how the changes affect the way we govern. The committee will take questions on specific documents at that time. The constitution and by-laws will be discussed in September and the policy based governance document with its policies and mission & vision will be discussed in October. In November, at the Annual Voters Meeting, a budget for the following year will be approved as usual. No officers will be elected at this meeting. Instead, several motions will be made to approve documents, call for a special election of officers and to designate when the new documents will take effect.

Your opportunity for input is during the informational meetings. Your opportunity to ask questions so you can understand what we are doing will be at the informational meetings. During the Annual Meeting, we will not be able to provide the same kind of time and opportunity to answer questions. To get your questions answered and to understand the documents, you need to read them and come to the informational meetings.

Tuesday Morning Adult Bible Study

The biblical Book of Exodus contains the account of God's deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt. It's considered God's great salvation event in the Old Testament. It introduces to us Moses, a great prophet in the Bible. We read of the giving of the moral law on Mt. Sinai. It helps us understand the nation of Israel as a people of God chose to be the people through whom God would send His Son as the Savior of mankind. Beginning on September 7, the Tuesday morning Bible class will resume with a study of the Book of Exodus. Please consider attending this class as a way of furthering your knowledge of the scriptures. Invite and bring a friend.

Mission Trip – Guatemala

On October 23, Jeanne Donahue and Linda Sorensen will depart for Guatemala for their week-long Women's Mission Trip. This is Jeanne's seventh trip and Linda's sixth trip with a group of women from Illinois who head to Central America to provide ministries and necessities to the less fortunate people there. This year's trip will again bring the Gospel of God to children, women, and families in the Guatemala City area. Holy Cross members have generously supported Jeanne and Linda in these endeavors. The gift of one pair of glasses or funds for a food basket could be God's means to expose one more person to His love and bring them into His family. Jeanne and Linda thank you for providing them with encouragement and prayers so they can share your gifts and God's Word during their time in Guatemala. We know that Jesus is the Way to eternal life in Heaven. Just think how exciting it will be in Heaven to meet those who have come to Christ on a path that He cultivated with your gift of love!

Needed Items:

Children's Flip-Flops (Any size)	Band-Aids
Hair Accessories (Headbands, barrettes, etc.)	Hard Candies
Matchbox Cars	

We will be distributing Food Baskets with \$20 worth of items. Any monetary amount towards a Food Basket is greatly appreciated. Checks can be made to Holy Cross with a "Guatemala Food Basket" notation.

We will also be presenting Prayer Bears to children and aprons to women. Please contact Jeanne (847-639-1011) or Linda (847-639-4286) if you are interested in sewing either of these items!

Dartball

What scores like baseball, but is played with darts? Dartball of course! It's a low impact sport filled with high impact fellowship! Great fun with great people!

Fall Dartball league starts this September. Holy Cross will join three area churches in this league. Each church will take turns hosting the games on two Tuesdays each month. The games start at 7:30 PM. Anyone from high school to age 100 is welcome to play.

Practice will begin before the league starts. We are able to get started due to the generosity of South Elgin United Methodist Church. They donated 2 game boards, 2 stands and 4 dozen darts to get us playing.

Sign up today to get your spot reserved! For questions or information call Mike Gezella at (847) 639-5664.

New Thrivent Program

Brian Rintz, Representative

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans you have a new, easy way to help support what matters most to you.

Through Thrivent ChoiceSM, a new charitable grant program, members can help choose where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable funds each year. The program has two components: Voting Events and Choice DollarsSM.

Thrivent members who are eligible to participate in Choice DollarsSM program will be receiving a letter from Thrivent. We know that some members have already received their letters. Thrivent has money they'd like to donate and they want you to help them decide where it should go. The database of registered Lutheran organizations includes thousands of Lutheran organizations nationwide – **Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Cary and Holy Cross' Preschool are each registered with the Choice Dollars program.** That means you can direct Thrivent money to be given to Holy Cross Church or Holy Cross Preschool if you'd like. To find out more or to find out how you can become eligible for Thrivent Choice, you can always contact me as well. My number is (847) 553-8698.

Lutheran Home Fall Festival

Come join the fun at the Lutheran Home's 113th Annual Family Fall Festival on **Sunday, September 12** on the Lutheran Home campus at 800 W. Oakton Street in Arlington Heights. The day begins with a worship service in the Chapel of St. John the Beloved at 10:00 AM. The festivities follow from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM and admission is free. Enjoy a variety of food, live music, crafter booths, TV Sports Tent, bingo, a children's book sale, vintage car show, and activities for all ages. Free parking is available at St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Olive Street and Highland Avenue) with free shuttle throughout the festival. For more information contact the Lutheran Home at 847-368-7400.

September

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 7:00P OA 7:00P Board of Trustees	3	4 4:00P Handbell 5:30P Worship
5 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Table Talks 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 6:30P FUSE at FOF	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7 10:00A Adult Bible Study	8 7:00P Choir 7:15P Confirmation 7:15P Sr. High Bible Study	9 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA 7:30P LWML	10 "Incite" Youth Retreat at Lake Geneva through Sunday	11 4:00P Handbell 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
12 RALLY DAY 6:30A Men's Small Gp 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT) No FUSE	13 6:30P Board Of Elders	14 10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Cultured Purls	15 7:00P Choir 7:15P Confirmation 7:15P Sr. High Bible Study	16 7:00P BOHC 7:00P OA	17	18 4:00P Handbell 5:30P Worship
19 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 6:30P FUSE at FOF	20 7:00P Board of Directors	21 10:00A Adult Bible Study	22 7:00P Choir 7:15P Confirmation 7:15P Sr. High Bible Study	23 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA	24	25 4:00P Handbell 5:30P Worship
26 6:30A Men's Small Gp 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 6:30P FUSE at HC	27	28 10:00A Adult Bible Study 2:30P Board of Youth	29 7:00P Choir 7:15P Confirmation 7:15P Sr. High Bible Study	30 7:00P OA		

2010