



# CROSSLink

A monthly publication of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

February 2012

### Worship Services:

Saturdays 5:30 PM (Sanctuary)  
Sundays 8:30 AM (Sanctuary)  
Sundays 10:45 AM (LOFT)

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### From the Pastor's Desk...

*Pastor Bill Metzger*

"How's It Going"



Dear Fellow-Redeemed,

"How's it going?" I've been asked that question a million times. And every time I answer "OK" or "Just fine" or "Great". More often than not, I'm NOT really OK or fine or great, but I answer in the affirmative because that's what you say when someone asks you "How's it going?" They're not interested in an honest answer. They're simply making conversation.

The answer I would LIKE to give to that question is: "I'm really not sure". How many of us really know how things are going? On what do we base our answer to that question? If things LOOK GOOD, does that mean everything's OK? If things FEEL GOOD, does that mean all is well? If you are IN PAIN, does that mean things are going bad? If something didn't go the way you wanted it to, does that mean everything's falling apart?

The reason I bring this up is because the Lenten Season is drawing near. During this special time of the Church Year we focus our attention on the CROSS. What does the CROSS have to do with the question, "How's it going?"

Think about it- if someone had arrived on the scene at Calvary on the day Jesus died on the CROSS and had asked "How's it going?"- the answer would probably have been: "How do you think things are going? Look at that CROSS! Things are going horribly wrong! A man is dying and He's too young to die! This

man did nothing wrong; in fact, He did everything RIGHT, and look what it got Him! The physical pain! The emotional pain! The mockery and rejection! The unfairness of it all! THIS MUST BE THE WORST DAY IN HISTORY!"

Now, that answer might be a LOGICAL answer, but is it an ACCURATE answer? How were things going that day? The ACCURATE answer is: things were going remarkably well on that Friday we call "Good". The problem is that the "goodness" is HIDDEN UNDER THE SURFACE; it's invisible goodness. That's how the CROSS is and that's what the CROSS does. At the CROSS God is working good UNDER THE APPEARANCE of suffering, pain, loss and unfairness.

That famous Bible verse (Romans 8:28) can ONLY be understood at the CROSS. God can take even the most evil and painful events in our lives and turn them around - AT THE CROSS. Paul writes, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." That only makes sense at the CROSS!

At pastor's conferences I am usually asked, "So, how are things going at Holy Cross?" I'm TEMPTED to say, "Just great!" That answer is usually based on attendance and financial figures, how many people are smiling and other SURFACE things. If those SURFACE things are down, or people are giving me ugly looks, I might answer "Things are not so great". But HOW DO I KNOW HOW IT'S GOING? I have no idea what God is accomplishing under the surface. I simply have to trust Him!

The point of all this is simple: stop trying to measure "how things are going" by what you see and feel. Simply trust that God is Present, that He loves you and forgives you as you are, and that He alone has all the power to accomplish what He desires - even if it hurts! Trust Him. After all, He gave His only Son to give His life for you ON THE CROSS. And that is what makes GOOD Friday so GOOD!

Secure in His Love,

Pastor Bill Metzger

1 Corinthians 1:18

**Pastor's Book Recommendation:** "Eat This Book" by Eugene Peterson –  
growth through praying the scriptures

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## Exodus for Lent

EXODUS FOR LENT. The theme for this year's Lenten Midweek Series is "Exodus for Lent". There are many amazing parallels between the Old Testament Book of Exodus and the Passion of Jesus! Join us as we explore these wonderful parallels and their application to us as the Children of God! The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 PM with Holy Communion. The series "Exodus for Lent" begins on Wednesday, February 29 at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. The series will cover Jesus' birth and rejection, God's coming to be with us and rescue us, the struggles of living the Christian life, Jesus' death and Resurrection - All from the Book of Exodus with many Gospel/New Testament parallels!

Join us for EXODUS FOR LENT beginning February 29. Invite and bring a friend.

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## New Lutheran Service Book Hymnal (LSB)

A NEW HYMNAL is available from Concordia Publishing House. This hymnal, called "Lutheran Service Book" (LSB) is an excellent resource for worship. LSB features more variety and worship settings than our current hymnal. LSB features the best of old and new. A special presentation concerning the new Lutheran Service Book is Sunday, February 5 at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The entire congregation is invited to attend.

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## News from the Preschool/Kindergarten

*Jean Hoger, Director*

LOVE-That's the theme for the beginning of February. We love because God first loved us. We show and share love by serving/helping others. We even tell each other, "Jesus loves you!" How awesome that we are able to love so freely!

We are learning how Jesus performed miracles because He loves. Not only does He heal our bodies, he forgives our sins. Our chapel in January was about dirt, grease and grime. We are able to clean our clothes with detergent, our bodies with soap, and our homes with vacuums/mops. Our sins are so very dirty and only one person can take care of washing those away - Jesus! He died on the cross for our sins since we were born, right now and our future sins!

We are having several visitors in our classrooms. Prospective students and their parents come and stay as long as they wish. February 1<sup>st</sup> was our Open Registration. We are thankful for the young families that come to us! We will continue enrolling until classes are filled.

In the middle of the month we will have Parent/Teacher Conferences for the 4s and Pre-K kids. We are so proud of how the kids are turning the corner at this time of year. They rhyme all the time. It can get silly but it's so important! All the pre-reading, pre-math fun we are having is showing great results.

We are into the “heart health” month of February. We are making time to do jumping jacks, push-ups, sit ups and the ladder drill in the gym. At this time of year the kids are so eager to wiggle! It is such a necessity with young kids!

We look forward to sing in the LOFT on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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## Senior High Youth

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*From Pastor and Lavonne Metzger*

Pastor and I started with the Senior High Youth in a big way – an overnight lock-in! Wow, a real challenge for us oldies, but we all had a great time. We loved getting to know your teens better! The highlight of the night was our scavenger hunt – it took us over 1 ½ hours to find 20 locations in the entire building. We all got to know our church facility a bit better and I think it’s made us be more aware of what we have in the church.

The youth are excited about some new areas of serving at Holy Cross. They are now included in our leadership meetings (rotational basis), will be serving at services with Scripture readings on the weekends and in participating in church work days.

Our teens like to fellowship, too, so we are asking for parents to help! Mark your calendar for **February 6 at 7:00 PM** – we would like **all Senior High Youth and parents** to meet us at the lower level of the LOFT to plan and schedule for open gym days and events that interest our teens. Please make every effort to be there.

Thank you for the opportunity to grow with Holy Cross Teens!

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## FISH Club

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*Wendy Harmon, Director*

The FISH Club enjoys doing what it does best...helping others! In December at our Happy Birthday Jesus party, the kids gave gifts that, in turn, will be given to kids in Guatemala. And now into February, we continue to collect for the Cary-Grove Food Pantry. On February 5 we will be going on our first fieldtrip after our Sunday meeting to visit the food pantry to take our donations and help stock the shelves. A big thank you to Melody Stanko who will be giving us the tour.

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## Kids for Christ

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*Lavonne Metzger, Director*

We are more than half way into our class year at Kids for Christ. The learning and the enthusiasm of the kids has been great! I know I look forward to each Wednesday evening to talk about Jesus and His salvation for us.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade have been seeing how God is freeing the Children of Israel from the captivity of the Egyptians – amazing, just like how God frees us from the captivity of sin! Our 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades have been learning how God saves us through Holy Baptism giving us forgiveness of sins, rescuing us from death and the devil and promising us eternal life.

During our activity time we worked on a mission project of cutting and stuffing Prayer Bears and also cleaning eyeglasses for Jeanne and Linda’s upcoming mission trip to Guatemala. The kids are also working on the names and locations of the Book of the Bible. In time, we will become “pros” at our Bible verse locations, without asking for page numbers.

Thank you, parents, for allowing me to take your children to visit our shut-ins and “More senior members” at Christmas. I believe they all enjoyed it, in fact, the kids have asked to visit again in the spring and hopefully we can take more kids to visit.

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## Blood Drive

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*Barb Molzer, Human Care Director*

The Board of Human Care is sponsoring a blood drive for the Aurora Heartland Blood Center on **February 20, 2012 from 3:30-7:30PM** here at Holy Cross. There is always a shortage of blood after the holidays and during the winter months the Blood Center is short of donations every week. Please consider donating and inviting a family member or friend to join you. By donating just one pint of blood, you could help as many as 3 patients in need. Our blood drive goal is to collect 33 pints of blood which potentially can help as many as 99 people. Start the New Year by giving a FREE GIFT of donating blood so that another may live and regain their health. February is National Heart Month so all donors will receive a T-shirt in honor of their good health and donation!! Call Barb Molzer at 847-639-8024 anytime to schedule your donation or with any questions. Watch the News/Notes for more information and appointment sign-up times. Your continued support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at the blood drive. Walk-ins are always welcome but if donors schedule an appointment time it helps to keep the process of donating move along more smoothly. Remember blood can't be manufactured so we all must continue to be regular blood donors and encourage someone to be a NEW DONOR with you. Mark your calendar to give your FREE GIFT on February 20th!!!!

**When you give blood you give another birthday, another anniversary, another day at the beach, another night under the stars, another talk with a friend, another laugh, another hug, and another chance!!!**

## Ushers Needed

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The Elders are looking for additional ushers to help both in the sanctuary and in LOFT worship services. You can choose the service time that works for you. If you can't commit to serving monthly but could help with extra services at the holidays, please contact Brad Miller at [bradfordmiller2001@yahoo.com](mailto:bradfordmiller2001@yahoo.com) or 847-639-5264.

## OWLS Hoots and Happenings

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The Owls have events planned for the coming month. Please check the News/Notes weekly for updated information.

### FEBRUARY 2

Join us in the lower level of the LOFT at noon with your sack lunch. After lunch at 1pm Three Oaks Assisted Living will be presenting information about the new facility being built at Three Oaks Road and Silver Lake Road. Plan now to attend & bring your questions.

### FEBRUARY 16

It's a Valentine Party/ Spaghetti Cook-Off with Club 55 from St. John's in Algonquin joining us. We will also view the movie "Walther: The Film ". Six further presentations with commentary will follow at Holy Cross with dates to be announced. A sign-up sheet for the spaghetti cook-off is on the OWLS bulletin board in the narthex. Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends, food, fun and a film.

## Guatemala Mission Trip

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February 4 -12!! Those are the dates of our Guatemala Mission Trip and we will probably be on our way, or be there, when you read this! We will be ministering in several areas including Tecojate and La Nueva Concepcion. We'll try to give you the pronunciations during our Mission presentation, which is scheduled for Saturday, March 3rd, after the 5:30PM worship service. We both feel so blessed to be members of such a loving and giving congregation. We have received flip flops, ties, school supplies, toys, candy, children's short sets, over 150 Prayers Bears, and so much more. God continues to shower this Mission with so many provisions! We thank you for all the donated gifts and your support!! We also thank you for prayers during our trip so that those to whom we minister will believe the Word of God and joyfully accept His Son as their Savior so we will all be together in His Heavenly Kingdom!! To God be the Glory!!

## **Take Me Out to the (Hockey) Game**

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Great seats (section 105, rows 2-5) have been reserved for Holy Cross at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates for the Friday, February 17 hockey game of the Chicago Express vs the Gwinnett Gladiators. Doors open at 6:30PM, Game time is at 7:30PM. Group tickets are priced at \$13 for adults; \$11 for kids and seniors. **Payment is due by February 10.** Discounted food vouchers are available at time of ticket purchase for \$6 for pizza or hot dog and soft drink. Great family fun!!! Surprise extras!! !For tickets or questions: call Mike or Ellen Gezella 847-639-5664 or email mikellie84@sbcglobal.net. Check the bulletin board outside the coatroom for an informational flyer.

## **Three Oaks Assisted Living**

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The new Three Oaks Assisted Living facility being built on the corner of Three Oaks and Silver Lake Road will be holding three informational meetings at Holy Cross. The meetings will take place in the fellowship hall on February 16 and March 15 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM. On February 2 at 1:00 PM, Three Oaks Assisted Living will be presenting information to the OWLS in the lower level of the LOFT. If you'd like to learn more about the new facility, please plan to attend one of the presentations.

# February

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P Vine Life KFC	2 9:00A Women's Small Gp 12:00P OWLS 7:00P Board of Trustees 7:00P OA	3 Leadership Retreat 7-9P	4 Leadership Retreat 8A-2P 5:30P Worship
5 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	6 7:00P Senior High Youth and Parent meeting	7 10:00A Adult Bible Study	8 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P Vine Life KFC	9 9:00A Women's Small Gp. 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA	10	11 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
12 6:30A Men's Small Group 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	13 6:30P Board of Elders	14 10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Alzheimers Group 6:30P Cultured Purls	15 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir 7:00P Vine Life KFC	16 9:00A Women's Small Gp. 12:00P OWLS 7:00P OA	17	18 5:30P Worship
19 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	20 3:00-8:00P Blood Drive 7:00P Governing Board	21 10:00A Adult Bible Study	22 5 30P Light Dinner 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Lenten Worship 7:45P Vine Life & KFC Choir ASH WEDNESDAY	23 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA	24	25 5:30P Worship
26 6:30A Men's Small Group 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Education Hour 10:45A Worship (LOFT)	27	28 10:00A Adult Bible Study	29 5 30P Light Dinner 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Lenten Worship 7:45P Vine Life & KFC Choir			

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