



CROSSLink

A monthly publication of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

March 2010

Worship and Education

Worship Services:

Saturday Evenings 5:30 PM
 Sunday Mornings 9:00 AM
 Education Hour 10:30 AM

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
 2107 Three Oaks Road
 Cary, IL 60013-1626

847.639.1702 Church Office
 847.639.6533 Preschool Office

www.holyCrossCary.org

What's inside this issue?

From the Preschool Director	3
From the Music Ministry	3
Youth News	3
Board of Youth	4
LOFT	5
Board of Human Care	5
Board of Elders	6
Board of Education	7
Prayer Shawl Small Group	7
Men's Small Group	7
Board of Evangelism	8
From Our Thrivent Rep	8

From the Pastor's Desk...

Pastor Bill Metzger

Dear Fellow-Redeemed,



Two very important mile-stones are about to be reached in our congregation: the opening of our new building addition - the LOFT - and the addition of a new worship service - Contemporary Worship.

Along with these "additions" is a CHANGE OF WORSHIP TIMES on Sunday mornings. The LOFT will be used for worship for the first time on Easter Sunday, April 4. Our worship schedule for Easter Sunday will be:

Sunrise Communion Service	6:30 AM	Sanctuary
Festival Communion Service	8:30 AM	Sanctuary
Contemporary Service	10:45 AM	LOFT

Beginning Sunday, April 11, and for all weekends following, our schedule will be:

Saturday Communion Service – Sanctuary	- 5:30 PM
Sunday Communion Service – Sanctuary	- 8:30 AM
Coffee/Refreshments - Fellowship Hall	- 9:30-9:45 AM
Fish Club-LOFT Lower Level	- 9:45-10:40 AM
Youth Bible Class - Youth Room	- 9:45-10:30 AM
Adult Bible Class - Fellowship Hall	- 9:45-10:30 AM
Contemporary Service - LOFT Upper Level	- 10:45 AM

Again, please note the time change for the early service on Sunday: 8:30 AM.

Adding a worship service and changing worship times are two of the most momentous events in a congregation's history. These changes indicate that THE CONGREGATION IS GROWING AND ANTICIPATES FUTURE GROWTH. Growth and the changes that growth brings can be a scary thing. But through it all, remember that THE CHURCH STILL BELONGS TO JESUS. He remains in control of all that happens. And He alone is the One who PRODUCES and CONTINUES the growth.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church now has a GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY to reach out to our community in new and exciting ways. We will continue to offer Tradition/Liturgical worship in the sanctuary each weekend, and we will now offer Contemporary Worship every Sunday in the LOFT. This “best of both worlds” approach will allow us to reach segments of the community we are not currently reaching with any consistency.

Along with this GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY comes GREATER RESPONSIBILITY. We must continue to handle the things of God carefully and thoughtfully. When PREACHING and TEACHING GOD’S WORD, it must continue to center on Jesus and His life-giving Grace. BAPTISM and HOLY COMMUNION must be offered freely to people who are broken and burdened by sin, guilt and shame; PEOPLE WHO NEED JESUS AS THEY ARE.

Our RESPONSIBILITY does not end there. We are also responsible for HOW WE PRESENT OURSELVES TO THE COMMUNITY OF CARY. This can be accomplished by the way in which we MAKE THE LOFT AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY. By handling this in a responsible way, we are telling the members of our community that, as followers of Jesus, WE ARE HERE FOR THEM.

With this in mind, circle **SUNDAY, APRIL 11** on your calendar. At 2:00 PM that day we will OFFICIALLY DEDICATE THE LOFT TO GOD’S GLORY. This will be followed by AN OPEN HOUSE and MINISTRY FAIR for the members of our community. We will send special invitations to area congregations of all denominations, as well as to the Cary’s mayor and city council and Chamber of Commerce.

Family of Holy Cross, THESE ARE EXCITING TIMES, but let’s REMAIN GROUNDED in the humble worship and adoration of the One who was fixed to the wood of the HOLY CROSS for us.

Under The Mercy,
Pastor Bill
Zephaniah 3:17

Greetings from the Preschool and Kindergarten:

Jean Hoger, Preschool/Kindergarten Director

During the past two months “In House” and “Open” Registration took place. We are happy to report that we have 73 children enrolled for next year and will keep preschool registration open until classes are filled.

To begin March, we celebrate Lutheran Schools Week by singing in church on the 7th. We will sing “Put Your Faith in Action” and “Love the Lord”. Our special week will include the entertainer, Geoff Akins, of Bubble Wonders. Holy Cross is joining other Lutheran kids from McHenry County, ages preschool through 2nd grade, at Immanuel for his presentation. We will end the week with our Dad’s Night; this year’s theme is Winter Olympics. Together the kids and dads (or another significant male) will make a craft, enjoy a cold treat, compete in a winter relay and enjoy a story about the Olympics. This is a memorable night for everyone!

We will not be in school the week of March 29-April 2 because of Spring Break.

From the Music Ministry Director

Laura Schmuldt, Music Ministry Director

Farewell to Alleluia

*Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions make us for awhile forgo;
For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin must flow.*

On the weekend of February 13/14 we celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, the feast day which falls on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. If you were clever, you probably noticed we sang “Alleluia” a lot of times throughout the service – *84 times*, to be precise.

So why so many alleluias? Lent is the time when we put our “alleluias” away for a time. Not because we don’t wish to praise God, but because of the penitential nature of the Lenten season, when images of our crucified Savior fill our worship: the rejection, the suffering, and finally, death on a cross. We reflect on this and wait in anticipation for Easter Sunday when our alleluias are freely sung once again.

*Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, grant us, blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter with Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.*

Handbell Choir

Holy Cross Bell Choir is looking for more ringers. No music reading skills required! We will train you on the spot. We rehearse on Saturdays at 4:00 PM. Come join us!

Concert

The Bach Institute at **Valparaiso University** will be performing J.S. Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. This monumental work, rarely performed, will be offered on Saturday, March 20 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University. The university will welcome the distinguished maestro Hermann Max to lead the VU choral and instrumental forces and guest musicians. Director of the Bach Institute, Christopher M. Cock will sing the role of the evangelist. Call 219-464-5162 for tickets/information or visit the web at www.valpo.edu/luca/ticket.

Youth News

Jeff Kuester, Youth Ministry Director

Well, it looks like the LOFT will not be completed in time to do a few of the youth events that were planned in March. If you received a ONEighty calendar earlier, please be sure to pick up a new one. It will say “REVISED” on it. I will email them out, or feel free to pick one up on the youth bulletin board.

Personally, I cannot wait for the LOFT to be completed. There are so many new events that will be taking place once we have our Grand Opening: movie nights, game nights, open gym, retreats, Sunday night service, and anything else you can think of.

The youth will be hosting the Lenten dinner on March 3. We will be serving hot dogs with a variety of sides. If you can help with set up, serving or clean up, please let me know.

We will also have an open gym at Prince of Peace on March 10. I can't wait to host our own open gyms, but this month we will be getting together with our friends at POP to fellowship in their building.

Also, April 3 will be our Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Donations of small toys and candy that can fit into plastic Easter eggs would be much appreciated. Last year, 40 local children came to this event with their families and heard the good news of Christ and had a lot of fun.

April 4 will also be our annual Easter Breakfast. Please contact me to schedule a time when you can help serve our congregation. Last year we raised almost \$1,000! This is a great time of service and fellowship!

Here is what is going on in March:

March 2-Discipleship Group 7:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Holy Cross Youth Room

March 3- Serve Lenten Dinner before the service

March 7- Fuse 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at Holy Cross

March 9-Discipleship Group 7:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Holy Cross Youth Room

March 10-Open Gym 3:00 PM-5:00 PM at Prince of Peace in Crystal Lake

March 14- Fuse 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at Holy Cross

March 16-Discipleship Group 7:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Holy Cross Youth Room

March 21- Fuse 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at Fellowship of Faith 6120 Mason Hill Road McHenry

March 23-Discipleship Group 7:00 PM-8:00 PM in the Holy Cross Youth Room

March 28- Fuse 6:30 PM-8:30 PM at Fellowship of Faith 6120 Mason Hill Road McHenry

March 30- No Discipleship Group (Spring Break)

From the Board of Youth

Sue Krammen, Chairman

Youth-Hosted Easter Breakfast

Easter Sunday brings so many memories flooding back. One of those memories is having breakfast in the Church basement with all of our family in their Easter finest and having a great time with our fellow church family. Easter morning at church always smelled REALLY good and not just because of the lilies!

This year will not let you down. The Youth of our congregation are planning to host yet another delicious fundraiser breakfast. Once again, we will be serving pastries, scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon and sausage along with juice, milk, tea and coffee. Those smells will be wafting through the building and inviting all worshipers to join us in the Fellowship Hall after celebrating Christ's victory over the grave or joining us to start off your morning before moving to the sanctuary to celebrate Christ's triumph.

In the past, we have always "guessed" how many are coming to breakfast AND we had to guess what time they were coming to try to have plenty of fresh food ready upon their arrival. We are trying something new this year in hopes of having the food and service as superb for the last guests as it is for the first guests. To accomplish this, we are asking that you **sign up for a "breakfast seating"** – a "reservation to dine" so-to-speak. Two dining time options are available, serving from 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM for those exiting the Sunrise service or coming to the 8:30 AM service or serving from 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM for those exiting the 8:30 AM service or coming to the

10:45 AM service. **Please stop by the Youth bulletin board just outside the Church Office to sign up for your choice of dining times.**

Don't worry, we won't turn anyone away even if you don't sign up NOR will we chase you out of the Fellowship Hall after the serving times if you want to sit and chat with your Holy Cross family as long as there is room for the later guests to sit and dine.

Please join us for this free-will donation breakfast raising funds for our youth mission trips and other expenses for this year. Thank you all for your generous support of our ministry!

L.O.F.T. – Living Our Faith Together

Linda Sorensen, Communications Team Member



Happy St. Patrick's Day!! Yes, it's almost that time again. Green, green, green. Green rivers. Green clothing. Green anything. The grass is always greener on the other side. Green with envy. Go Green! And, of course, green pastures. Green pastures remind us of the 23rd Psalm. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want." Due to our human nature, though, we do want. We want to live by our rules. We want to control everything in our lives. We want to want! God wants also. He wants to protect us, to guide us, and He wants us to know how much He loves us! That's why He gave us the Bible and His Son. The Bible tells us our story from the beginning of creation. It also tells us of the beginning of our saved lives. Jesus died on the cross to save everyone. Then He rose from the dead so that everyone could come to faith in Him - which leads us into next month. Happy Easter!!

Our LOFT building is almost ready! A few more weeks and the contemporary services will be held there. The Augustana College Symphonic Band's Spring Tour was just a bit too early for us to host them in the new LOFT on February 26. (Is someone checking into the Band for next year?). There's also talk of members getting together to 'walk' in the LOFT to avoid this colder weather. And, did someone say "basketball" ??? The hoops are in place and the flooring installation is completed. How about a game between the ushers and the acolytes?! In the meantime, watch for other important LOFT events coming in April. Events that will bring our Holy Cross family closer to each other, to those in our communities, and to God!

Living Our Faith Together!!

From the Board of Human Care

Barb Molzer, Interim Chairman

The Board of Human Care long with Aurora Heartland Blood Center wishes to THANK everyone who donated at the blood drive on February 22. **"SOME PEOPLE REALLY KNOW HOW TO GIVE"**. Because of your kindness and generous donations, many patients will be given another chance for a healthier life!!! The Next Blood Drive here at Holy Cross will be August 16. See you then and remember you can be a donor every eight weeks so continue to donate regularly. **THANKS AGAIN!!!**

From the Board of Elders

Al Israel, Chairman

Ushers and Chair Set Up Volunteers Needed

With the opening of the LOFT and the addition of a new worship service comes the need for more ushers and for volunteers to set up chairs in the LOFT prior to the contemporary service. Any members, confirmed and older, male or female, are asked to prayerfully consider serving as an usher. Ushers can choose which service they'd like to serve in. Please consider serving in this way. A sign up sheet is on the table at the back of church or contact Brad Miller, Al Israel or the church office.

Volunteer teams of 4-5 people will need to have chairs set up in the LOFT on Sunday morning before 10:00 AM. The more volunteers we have, the fewer times each team needs to set up. This is a great servant opportunity for individuals, couples or families. If you would like to serve in this way, please sign up on the sheets available at the back of church or contact the church office.

Lenten/Easter worship services:

Lenten services	March 3, 10, 17, 24	7:00 PM
Maundy Thursday	April 1 Passover meal	6:30 PM
Good Friday	April 2	Noon and 7:00 PM
Saturday	April 3	NO WORSHIP SERVICE
Easter Sunday	April 4	6:30 AM Sunrise service 8:30 AM service in the sanctuary 10:45 AM service in the LOFT

There will be a light meal served before all Lenten services beginning at 6:00 PM.

Maundy Thursday Worship/Passover Meal

When Jesus gathered with His disciples in the Upper Room, they came together to celebrate the Passover meal in remembrance of God's Old Testament redemption. Redemption is deliverance from sin and its consequences by means of a sacrifice offered for the sinner. In the context of that celebration, Jesus gave His followers a new celebration of redemption, the Lord's Supper.

On April 1, Maundy Thursday, we will follow the model established by our Savior. At 6:30 PM we will gather in the fellowship hall to celebrate a Passover meal. We will include the symbolism which helped God's people remember their deliverance from slavery in Egypt.

The entire worship/meal will take place in the fellowship hall. The Lord's Supper will be offered. It will be the first communion for those confirmands who were confirmed on March 28. There will be no other Maundy Thursday worship service. A sign up sheet will be available as we get closer to the date so that we can better prepare for food and seating.

A sign up sheet will be posted closer to the date so that we can better plan the food and seating.

From the Board of Education

Wendy Harmon, Chairman

FISH Club

Our FISH Club kids donated \$89.25 to help the people of Haiti. What a great group of kids! In March we will be making care packages for some of Holy Cross' own college kids. We will not meet on Easter Sunday. The following week, April 11, we will begin meeting in our new building (the LOFT) on the lower level.

VBS

The dates for Vacation Bible School have been set so mark your calendars and volunteer your help! The dates are July 12-16 from 6:00-8:15 PM. Join us for our High Seas Expedition.

Summer Sunday School

The FISH Club will not be meeting during the summer but we are looking for someone who might volunteer to manage a summer Sunday School to run during June and July from 9:45-10:30 PM. The number of children always varies in the summer so group activities tend to work best. There is plenty of material to pull from for ideas, crafts or games. There would be the freedom to pretty much organize it however you wish. If you would like to discuss this further and ask questions, please contact Wendy Harmon at 815-477-0490.

From Prayer Shawl Small Group

The Prayer Shawl Group from Holy Cross recently spent an afternoon with the Good Shepherd Hospital Prayer Shawl group. The two groups met together to knit and crochet shawls that are used by the Chaplains at Good Shepherd in their ministry to the patients. Pictured from left to right are: Dayle Blecke, Diane Perrone, Patricia Suffield, Sue Retzlaff and Mary Jane Kopacek, members of Holy Cross' prayer Shawl small group.



Pat Suffield, Small Group Leader

From Men's Small Group

Gary Rintz, Small Group Leader

The Men's Small Group Bible Study will be holding their annual prayer vigil from the close of Good Friday Service until Easter Sunday morning again this year. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board on March 1 for sign up times in 1 hour increments. Prayer requests should be put in box 165 or given to any of the small group members as we get closer to Holy Week. Thank you very much.

From the Board of Evangelism

Diana Kuester, Interim Chairman

The Cary-Grove Community Showcase is Saturday, March 6, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Holy Cross will have a booth at the showcase and could use some volunteers to man the booth. You may get in touch with Ellen Gezella to volunteer.

If any ministry having an "event" that results in a picture can turn that picture and corresponding information into Bev Zimmermann, mailbox #207, she will submit it to the newspaper. Both the Northwest Herald and the Chicago Tribune are looking for information.

From Our Thrivent Representative

Brian Rintz, Holy Cross Thrivent Representative

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Brian Rintz. I am one of the Thrivent Financial representatives serving Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I live in Fox River Grove and enjoy the opportunity to provide local, personalized service to Lutherans and their families.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 membership organization committed to helping members achieve their financial security and give back to their congregations and communities.

I am excited to be working with Holy Cross and look forward to getting acquainted with many of you personally. I'm also looking forward to sharing information about the fraternal benefits that Thrivent Financial offers. If you have any questions about Thrivent Financial for Lutherans please feel free to contact me.

Thrivent Financial Introducing Thrivent Choice

Thrivent is a membership organization and they want to give members more opportunity to be directly involved. Later this year, Thrivent is launching a new program called Thrivent Choice. The new program is designed to get more members involved in the charitable funding decision-making process.

Main Program Elements

Voting

At least once each year, all adult benefit and associate members will have the opportunity to vote on how Thrivent Financial should distribute at least \$1 million among a short list of national charities – Lutheran and non-Lutheran. Each organization will receive a portion of the funds, based on the percentage of votes they receive.

Choice Dollars

Eligible benefit members will be able to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars awarded on an ongoing basis to thousands of Lutheran nonprofit organizations, including but not limited to: schools, camps, campus ministries, colleges and local Lutheran congregations. Choice Dollars are automatically awarded to eligible members based on their Thrivent Financial life insurance premiums, annuity and life product account value and Thrivent chapter leadership. Most qualifying members will be able to direct between \$25 and \$100 Choice Dollars each year, though some may direct significantly more. The Thrivent Choice program is still under development, so please stay tuned for future updates to learn more as details are finalized.

If you have questions or feedback about Thrivent Choice, contact Thrivent at 800-THRIVENT (at the prompt, say "Fraternal Service Center") or fraternal@thrivent.com. To sign up for monthly e-mail updates log on to https://service.thrivent.com/forms/thriventchoice/email_update.html.

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P ONEighty Youth Ministry	3 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:00P Soup & Sandwich 7:00P Lenten Service 8:00P Choir Practice	4 9:00A Women's Small Group 7:00P OA 7:00P Board of Trustees 7:30P Confirmation Class	5	6 10:00 – 4:00P Cary Grove Community Showcase at Cary Grove High School 4:00P Hand bell Choir 5:30P Worship
7 9:00A Worship – Preschool Singing 10:15A Junior Choir 10:30A Education Hour 6:30P The Fuse at FOF	8	9 10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Board of Elders 6:30P Cultured Purls 7:00P ONEighty Youth Ministry	10 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:00P Soup & Sandwich 7:00P Lenten Service 8:00P Choir Practice	11 9:00A Women's Small Group 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA 7:30P Confirmation Class	12	13 4:00P Hand bell Choir 5:30P Worship
14 7:00A Men's Small Group 9:00A Contemporary Worship 10:15A Junior Choir 10:30A Education Hour 6:30P The Fuse at FOF	15 7:00P Board of Directors	16 10:00A Adult Bible Study 6:30P Board of Elders 6:30P Cultured Purls 7:00P ONEighty Youth Ministry 7:00P Board of Human Care	17 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:00P Soup & Sandwich 7:00P Lenten Service 8:00P Choir Practice	18 9:00A Women's Small Group 7:00P OA 7:30P Confirmation Class	19	20 4:00P Hand bell Choir 5:30P Worship
21 7:00A Men's Small Group 9:00A Worship / Confirmation Rite of Witness 10:15A Junior Choir 10:30A Education Hour 4:00P KFC (Kids for Christ) 6:30P The Fuse at FOF	22	23 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P ONEighty Youth Ministry	24 4:30P Confirmation Class 6:00P Soup & Sandwich 7:00P Lenten Service 8:00P Choir Practice	25 10:00A Prayer Shawl 7:00P OA 7:30P Confirmation Class	26	27 4:00P Hand bell Choir 5:30P Worship
28 7:00A Men's Small Group 9:00A Worship / Confirmation 10:15A Junior Choir 10:30A Education Hour 6:30P The Fuse at FOF PALM SUNDAY	29	30 10:00A Adult Bible Study 7:00P ONEighty Youth Ministry 4:45P Board of Youth	31 7:00P Choir Practice			

2010