



CROSSLink

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www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

November 2021

From Pastor's Desk

Thanksgiving With Joy

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)

Always, the main focus of our thanksgiving is our gracious God and Savior. We are grateful for all God's blessings, starting with forgiveness, salvation, eternal life and God's help and presence for our day to day life. We are thankful that we can count on Him because God's Word and promises never change. But we remember that ministry needs, opportunities and available resources do change. Though it may sometimes feel like it, God does not and will not abandon His people during these seasons of change.

I have had the privilege of being with you and being your pastor for the past year. We have had our challenges:

1. Setting aside a focus on what "I want" and asking ourselves, "What does God desire of us as His people of faith in this time and place?"
2. Covid and all its' related issues...
3. A fractious society...
4. Confronting past hurts and missteps with honesty, directness, confession and forgiveness...
5. Striving continually to deal with one another and the world around us with open hearts, love, patience and respect...
6. Striving to continually be faithful to the Lord and His Word even while we are continually under pressure to acquiesce to a fallen world (and our own sinful nature) and the world's version of what is right and true! Many around us in our schools and at work say that they have a better word than Jesus. They don't! With our recent confirmation class of eleven we join in confirming that we hold all the prophetic and apostolic Scriptures to be the inspired Word of God! Our trust is in Jesus and the Word of God. With Jesus we can also say, as we read in John 17: "Your Word is truth!"

I beseech (beg, implore, plead) you to join me in taking to heart our Lord Jesus and His Words! Ponder and accept Jesus' words and what they mean for us as we read from His 'High Priestly Prayer' to the Heavenly Father in John 17:

When Jesus had spoken these words, He lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son that the Son may glorify You, ² since You have given Him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom You have given Him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent....

..... ⁸ For I have given them the words that You gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. ⁹ I am praying for them. ... ¹³ But now I am coming to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that You take them out of the world, but that You keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify (set apart for holy service to God) them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so

that the world may believe that You have sent Me..... ²⁴ *Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, may be with Me where I Am, to see My glory that You have given Me because You loved Me before the foundation of the world.* ²⁵ *O righteous Father, even though the world does not know You, I know You, and these know that You have sent Me.* ²⁶ *I made known to them Your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*” **John 17 (selected verses)**

Yes, there is change. A pastor retires. There is a time of transition.

The world around us changes and opportunities for ministry change. Dealing with change is never easy, for some more so than others. But change comes to us all, even if it is just the change of aging. We all are different, but God’s love is constant and His Word and promises remain – as we read above, **Your Word is truth**. God’s grace and miraculous power will see us through those times of grief, change, blessing, questions, challenge and opportunity.

Romans 12:1, “I urge you, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.” (This is your ‘part’ and mine!)

“In view of God’s mercy.” It is a good exercise to sit back and count your blessings and remember what we have to be thankful for. I listed some obvious but often overlooked things above. But look around and consider your family and friends.

Looking forward, I see the potential of a lot of good things happening here at and through Holy Cross Lutheran by the power and working of God among us. Know that a key ingredient will continue to be, as many of us shared in our Cottage Groups from Ephesians 4, “From Him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, **as each part does its work.**”

Let us each do our God-given part! We must not wait for someone else to first do their part. We must not sit back and wait to see what the next resident pastor will do. In such an environment, few would do anything. They instead will usually always find an excuse to be ‘waiting.’

Know that Satan will always give us an argument or excuse to not do our part. The key is for us all to remember the reasons we have to be thankful to God. In response to His blessings and calling, we strive to do our part faithfully, in thankfulness to God. In this way we glorify Him and serve the good of those around us. Please prayerfully consider the part that God would have you play, faithfully, at this time and going forward, “in view of God’s mercy”.

Prayerfully consider:

1. Stay connected or become connected with a ministry of the church. Learn of what is happening. Come and share the joy!
2. Continue or start a habit of being in church with your family at Holy Cross every week. Part of the duty that we all share is to encourage one another with our presence. (Hebrews 10:23-25)
3. Say only that which builds up, guides, supports and encourages others in their walk with Jesus.
4. Invite a friend to church. Become involved and join in efforts to help the church respond more effectively to the needs of those we are called to minister to: one another and the community around us.
5. Bring your full tithe into the Lord’s House. Test the Lord in this and do so with joy, trusting in God who will supply all your need. (See Malachi 3:7-10)
6. ⁶The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.** // *Corinthians 9:6-7*

In our report from the Interim Task Force we heard and accepted a picture of what God desires for us going forward in ministry and faithfulness to God.

What is needed to make such things happen? If God indeed desires it, I am convinced God has already provided what is needed. **Is it possible that the key part for Holy Cross, in making this all happen, is coming together as one, trusting our Lord in ALL things, and bringing our tithes as an offering before the Lord.....**

What will it be? Don't wait to watch what others will do first – step forward and take the lead to the glory of God and for the sake of your family and friends now and into the future. Let's just see what God has in mind for Holy Cross Lutheran!

Seek and find joy in your service. "The Lord loves a cheerful giver." I believe such joy comes from a thankful heart that does not forget the blessings that are ours to live and share in Christ.

I love my family, I trust you love your family as well. What we do for family is a privilege given by God. The same is true for our spiritual family, especially the family of faith with which we worship and fellowship each week as health allows.

Across our land so many Christians have withdrawn from active worship of the Lord. It is also true here in our corner of the world and even among those calling themselves members of Holy Cross. Let us all help one another to find ways to worship and serve the Lord with great joy! God's invitation to receive His gifts in worship and fellowship with fellow Christians still stands. What a privilege and honor is ours in Christ to be His people. In Christ we will always have cause for celebration! And we want everyone to know this!

Yes, sometimes His Words are harsh and even bitter to our sinful soul. Yet, even then, God loves us and is seeking to lead us to repentance that we might again experience the joy and sweetness of His amazing forgiveness and grace.

What a privilege is ours in Christ to be able to live and make a difference in the lives of people around us!

What is your God-given part? What will we do in thanksgiving to God and for the good of those around us? What will you do? Whatever it is, do it with faith, joy and in praise to God, trusting in Jesus in ALL things!

In Christ,

Pastor Meyer

Voters' Meeting: Calling a Pastor and Annual Meeting

There will be a voters' meeting on Sunday, November 14 at noon in the sanctuary. **The first agenda item will be voting on a new pastor!** The Call Committee recently concluded their interviews and have candidates to present for vote. On Wednesday, November 10 the Call Committee will email and provide in the office information on the candidates for the congregation to read ahead of the meeting. Thank you to the Call Committee for their amazing work. Please keep Holy Cross in your prayers as we vote and extend a call to one of the candidates.

The second part of the meeting agenda will be a presentation of the 2022 budget and vote. There will be an opportunity to review the information presented and have any questions answered before moving to a vote on the budget. One additional vote will be needed to fill two seats on the Governing Board.

Thanksgiving Worship

This year we will have two Thanksgiving services, both on **Wednesday, November 24** (the day before Thanksgiving) in the sanctuary. The first will be at **noon** and the second will be at **6:30PM**.

Thank You!

The Human Care Ministry would like to thank the congregation for participation in and donations to our College Care Package program. The packages were very well received by the students. They were full to the brim with all your generous donations, and very much appreciated. Thank you for helping to keep our students connected to the church family while they are away from home.

Fish Club Time Change

FISH Club is *Officially*** Moving to Sundays at 11:10AM**

Sunday School is underway! Join us every Sunday in the lower level of the LOFT, ages 3 to 6th grade! This year we are exploring the book of Luke and Matthew. The kids are loving the session - we start with a Bible lesson as a group and then do three activities - craft, snack, game, or journaling each week!

There's even a Bait Shop about every 6 weeks. Kids earn Fish Food every week they attend and get to use it to 'buy' little toys and trinkets at the Bait Shop!

We've had 10 kids join so far and are still looking for more friends. The kids are asking to come back so it's a good sign your kids will love it!

FISH Club will begin immediately following the 10:45 worship service's Children's Sermon. Come join us from 11:10AM - noon!

Sunday School Volunteers Needed - ONLY 1 Sunday Per Month

We are still looking for **four (4) new volunteers this year** -- we are looking for 2 (two) adult volunteers and 2 (two) high school volunteers that only need to commit to one Sunday every month (pick the Sunday that works for you!). It's only 1-1.5 hours per month. The curriculum is organized and set in advance so prep time for before your week is 15-30 minutes!

As of now, we have three adults and one youth volunteer. With about 10 kids attending each week (and praying for an increase in that number), we are hoping for a couple of extra hands!

Questions about the curriculum or interested in volunteering? Contact Tania German 847-400-6213 or ttgerman@gmail.com.

Thank You

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE GARDENING TEAM that kept the flower beds watered and weeded for the last 6 months. Carl Michaelis, Esther Olson and Kaitlin Coffey kept our church property looking pretty through all types of weather during the growing season. Another 'thank you' goes to Larry and Suzie Kujovich who brought perennials from their home garden to plant here so there were lovely lilies this summer that will come back in the spring. Master Gardener Darlene Moslander has given good advice on the planting and care of everything that is growing around our buildings. THANK YOU ALL! Diane Perrone

Special Invitation to the Congregation

VOLUNTEER AT "FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN" at the Libertyville location on Thursday, November 18 from 11:30 to 1:30 PM. This charity uses volunteers to carefully measure and package meal kits that are distributed worldwide through a host of other Christian charities to save the lives of starving children. You can be a big help and have some fun working on our team that day. A sign-up sheet is available on the OWLS bulletin board so we can plan our carpools. Don't pass up this opportunity to share God's love in such a meaningful way during this season of Thanksgiving. Children age 5 and up, teens, adults and seniors are all encouraged to join our team.

Thanksgiving Pie

Join us as we prepare our appetite for Thanksgiving dinners by sharing in some food and fellowship after the Thanksgiving Eve services Wednesday, November 24. A variety of pies will be served along with hot cider and coffee. See you there!

Appalachia Service Project—Mission Opportunity

Appalachia Service Project (ASP) is a Christian ministry, open to all people, that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. In conjunction with Light of Christ Lutheran Church (Algonquin, IL), Holy Cross Lutheran Church would like to send a team this summer to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. If you would like to learn more, there will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, December 5, at 12:00 noon** the Lower Loft. Lisa Franklin and Rick Sullivan from Light of Christ will have a short presentation and provide information as to what to expect during the Mission trip. LuAnn and Keith Toborg are the coordinators for Holy Cross and are working with Lisa and Rick. Feel free to reach out to LuAnn or Keith to hear about their experiences with ASP and to answer any initial questions. If you would like some information about the organization ahead of time please go to www.ASPHome.org.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

As we enter this time of year, we start thinking about helping others. Each year our Human Care Ministry has our Thanksgiving food drive for the Cary Grove Food Pantry. We are going to do it a little different this year to try to include everyone.

We are starting the drive the weekend of November 13/14 and will continue it through December 11/12 in hopes of collecting more food to help more of our neighbors.

If you are attending church, consider bringing one food item every time you come to church during those times as a way to give thanks.

For those who have been staying at home, we do miss seeing you and hope that you can help with the food drive. **Every Saturday, starting on November 13, we will be placing the church shopping cart outside the front doors of the church from about 8:00AM until church starts that evening.** You can drive by anytime on Saturday and stop to put your donations in the cart and be safe doing it. This way we can all help our neighbors with food needs around the holiday.

In case you are wondering, our top 10 items of need right now are:

tuna	boxed potatoes	paper goods
peanut butter	baking products	personal care items
jelly	gravy	
stuffing mix	tomato products	

They also take checks. Thank you from the Human Care Ministry and the food pantry for helping to keep food on our shelves for our neighbors.

Human Care Ministry Christmas Angel Tree Collection

Holy Cross's Human Care Ministry will sponsor an Angel Tree again this Christmas. Instead of taking a tag from the tree, please purchase a toy or book for a child and return it unwrapped to the trees in the narthex or LOFT.

Your gifts must be NEW & UNWRAPPED. Recommended cost of a gift is between \$10 and \$20. **Please return all gifts by Monday morning, December 13.** Thanks for helping us make Christmas special for underprivileged kids. Gifts will be distributed by the Salvation Army of McHenry County.

You can also drop off your gifts in the grocery cart outside the main church doors ONLY ON SATURDAYS from 8:00AM until church starts that evening through December 12. Drive by anytime on

these Saturdays and safely drop your gift donation in the cart. The cart is also accepting any Food Pantry Donations. Both of these Human Care Ministries are very important and we thank you for your support!!

Update on the Upcoming Christmas Decorating

The goal of covering the cost of wreaths and a Nativity set for the lawn has been reached! Thank you to everyone who contributed. Mel Molzer took care of placing the order for the Nativity and solar lighting and they have arrived.

The next step will be installation of the Nativity and HANGING OF THE GREENS on Saturday, November 27 starting in the morning. It will take a crew of teens and men to assemble and set up the scene. Please, put that date on your calendar and come to lend a hand.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS WILL MEET Thursday, November 4 at noon in the lower LOFT. Bring your lunch and join us for an afternoon with friends. Elaine Hagenmueller will host and provide our devotion, dessert and beverages. Elaine will tell us more about the special tradition of 'Hanging of the Greens' that will begin the Advent season. Please bring your favorite game to play and any books or magazines you would like to trade or donate to Bethesda's shop in Crystal Lake. We will be planning the installation of the Nativity scene on our front lawn, planning Christmas bags for shut-ins and a Christmas luncheon.

OWLS WILL VOLUNTEER to pack meals at FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN's Libertyville location on November 18 from 11:30 to 1:30PM. All the church members and friends are invited to work with us. Sign up on the OWLS bulletin board so we can plan carpools. Afterward those who would like to go out for lunch are invited to come along.

November 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		10:00A Adult Bible Study [----- Pastor in Nebraska * -----]	7:00P Choir in Nebraska * -----	Noon OWLS -----]		5:30P Worship
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	6:30P Elders	10:00A Adult Bible Study	7:00P Choir	10:00A Prayer Shawl		10:00-11:30A Confirmation class 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club Noon Voters' Meeting	6:30P Governing Board	10:00A Adult Bible Study [----- Pastor	7:00P Choir at Doxology Retreat ----	OWLS to Feed My Starving Children -----]		5:30P Worship
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) No FISH Club		10:00A Adult Bible Study	Noon Thanksgiving worship 6:30P Thanksgiving worship	Thanksgiving Day Church office closed	Church office closed	5:30P Worship "Hanging of the Greens"
28	29	30				
8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) No FISH Club	[--- Pastor	10:00A Adult Bible Study in Nebraska* -----]		*Pastor available by cell #402-580-2929		