



# CROSSLink

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[www.HolyCrossCary.org](http://www.HolyCrossCary.org)

Worship Services:  
Saturdays 5:30pm (Sanctuary) (2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Sundays 8:30am (Sanctuary)  
Sunday 9:45 am Bible Study/Fish Club  
Sundays 10:45 am (LOFT)

November 2024

FROM PASTORS DESK

“The Funeral as a Christian Victory”

Pastor Zac Patterson

It is our church’s custom each year, and that of many churches, to remember those friends and family members who have died and gone to be with their Lord. We do this on our observance of All Saints’ Day. While this can bring sadness, it also, and primarily, serves as a comfort and a joy; for those who have died have conquered death and live victoriously with Christ in heaven.

Whenever we have a funeral, on the front of the bulletin are the words “A Service of Christian Victory”. To the world, this may seem like an oxymoron. Victory? Someone died! How can that be considered a victory? It is victory because death is not the end but, as Paul Gerhard put it in his hymn Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me, “Christ has made my death a portal From the strife Of this life To His joy immortal!” Death is an enemy, but even in death, it is conquered; first by Christ and then, subsequently, by each Christian. This language is used quite frequently in the Scriptures:

Romans 8:35-39 – “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, ‘For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.’ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Revelation 2:10b-11 – “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.”

Jesus, by His death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, has defeated death and now brings us through the “valley of the shadow of death” into life everlasting with Him. There they experience true rest as they have never experienced before, as we hear in Revelation 14:13, “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’” This is the rest found only in Christ: rest from the labors of life, the stress of the world, the temptations of the evil one, rest from all evil.

It is the mission of the Church, then, to bring people to that blessed end. Jesus gives that mission in Matthew 28, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” In the Church, we baptize people so that they may receive the Holy Spirit. We teach them the truth of God’s Word that they may live in their faith. But just as importantly, we sustain people’s faith until their dying day.

When a member dies, we are often tempted to say things like, “oh that’s too bad” or “we lost a good one.” I would encourage everyone to shift their thinking. Instead, when a member dies in the faith, we should declare “mission accomplished!” When a Christian dies, they are saved forever; no more chance for them to fall away, no more temptation to be knocking at their door. One more soul enters, what the church fathers call it, the Church Triumphant.

Yes, death is an enemy and it is okay to mourn and be sad. But we, as the Church, are also to rejoice. Every member that dies has conquered death and has been brought into paradise with Christ. The Church’s mission is to make eternal disciples. Each funeral is a service of Christian victory: mission accomplished. Blessed are those who die in the Lord! God be praised!

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### **“ASK THE PASTOR”**

"Ask the Pastor" is back on Saturday, November 2, from 11-1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to come ask Pastor any question they have. What's Pastor's favorite color? How can he sleep at night rooting for the Astros? Why did he preach a particular sermon they way he did? How can Christianity be the only true religion? All questions are on the table. We will be having a potluck lunch, so please bring something to share. Invite your church friends, unchurched friends, everyone is welcome!

### **ALL SAINTS DAY**

On November 3, we observe All Saints' Day, we will remember members and family of members who have been called in death since November 5, 2023.

### **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

The next women’s fellowship group will be meeting on Nov. 6 at 6:30pm. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All women are welcome – no need to host to come! We will be doing a short devotional followed by a Thanksgiving craft. The suggested donation to cover the craft materials is \$10 per person. Free babysitting will be provided this night!

### **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS**

This month’s classes are November 5, 19, and 26. (No class Nov. 12 due to HCLC hosting PALS retreat) at 10am. Join in at any time! All are welcome!

### **KIDS FOR CHRIST VOUNTEERING**

Don’t forget to sign up to bring and serve 1 item or more for KFC on Thursday nights. The schedule is for the whole year with easy meals that repeat. Claim a listed item and a time spot to help. An easy small commitment that helps a lot!!!

### **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

Our Human Care Ministry will be holding a food drive Nov. 17-Dec. 8, to help fill the Cary Grove Food Pantry shelves for the holiday season. Please bring shelf-stable food to the worship service for Thanksgiving Eve (or the week before and after). The pantry increases its client number by about 20 percent during the holiday season. Consider donating foods used for holidays. (No cranberry please, we have enough for years!!) If you prefer to make a monetary donation, checks can be made out to the Cary Grove Food Pantry and placed in the collection plate. Thank you in advance for your donations.

**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE** at 6:30pm Nov. 27. Stefinskys will be hosting "Fellowship & Pies" after service in Fellowship Hall. What is your favorite pie? Traditional pumpkin, or chocolate crème?

**SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS** Meets Sundays at 9:45am in the Fellowship Hall.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL- Volunteers Needed!**

**YOU** have the opportunity to help with this. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to help with Sunday School. It is held weekly in the lower LOFT from 9:45-10:30am. We hope for 2-3 volunteers a week with a set curriculum which is easy to follow. For info. call the church office.

*Proverbs 22:6: Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

**OWLS**

OWLS will meet at noon on November 7 in the church library. Bring your lunch. You may bring your favorite board game or card game to enjoy with friends. If you have books or magazines you no longer need, bring them to trade or donate to AbleLight Thrift Shop. Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends.

OWLS will be volunteering at "Feed My Starving Children on November 21.

**LWML** (Lutheran Women in Mission) has resumed monthly meetings on the second Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the church library. November 11 is the next meeting to enjoy fellowship, a Bible study, coffee & tea.

**AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP IL5140.** Our next meetings are Saturday, November 9 & 23 at 2:00 at Holy Cross. Dues are \$180 for local fees and \$40 for the national fee. All girls who are at least 5 years old by October 31st are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Mrs. Chrissy Heiss.

**TRAIL LIFE FOR BOYS:**

We are excited to announce that we have successfully formed our Trail Life Committee for Troop IL5140! Open to boys ages 5-18 and their parents. Meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays 2-4pm.

**PRAYER SHAWL**

This group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 10 a.m. for Bible study and fellowship. Joan Hogarth will be hosting the meetings at her home this fall. Everyone is invited to come. If you enjoy knitting, crocheting or quilting you can contribute to making prayer shawls for our church family and friends to share in their joys and needs with the warmth of God's love. However, needlework is not required to join in our meetings. Call Joan for her address and directions:

**COUNTING TEAM NEEDED- One team is still needed.**

The time commitment is approximately 1 - 1 1/2 hrs. once a month and training will be provided! We are in need of 1 two person counting team (for the second Sunday of every month). Please contact Viki for information.

Thank you so much for considering serving!

**A Note from Joseph- in KFC:**

"Thank you for this beautiful Class I love spending time at Churches it gives us more time with God"

*"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:1*



**A NOTE FROM A NEIGHBOR:**

*Hello,*

*My name is Sheila Wells, and I live across the street from Holy Cross. Two weeks ago, I was home sick and for the first time (in a long time) I heard your beautiful church bells. It made my heart fill with joy. I have lived here for more than twenty years, and the bells used to be heard daily. It was the best part of the day. Needless to say, my neighbors and I have missed the sound of the bells. I hope they will continue to play each day. Thank you for bringing back this tradition to our community. I am truly grateful to God for it. Sincerely, Sheila Wells*

**NOVEMBER 2024**

**What's Happening This Month:**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9:25am Chapel 5:00pm New Member Class	2 "Ask The Pastor" 11-1pm with Potluck Lunch <i>No Worship</i> <i>Time Change →</i> <i>Fall back one hour at midnight</i>
3 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship <b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>	4	5 <b>VOTING-</b> All Day In the Lower LOFT No School 10am Bible Class 7pm Darts Home	6 6:30pm Women's Fellowship 7pm Choir	7 12:00pm OWLS 2:30 "Tune Up" Thursday 4:15-6:30 KFC	8 9:25am Chapel 5:00pm New Member Class	9 2-4pm American Heritage Girls & Trail Life <b>5:30pm Worship</b> <b>Children's Choir</b> 7:00pm Taize
10 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship <i>PALS Retreat →</i>	11 6:30pm LWML <i>← PALS Retreat →</i>	12 <b>No Bible Class</b> 6:30pm Elder's Meeting Panera FRG School Fundraiser <i>← PALS Retreat →</i>	13 5:00pm Finance Meeting 7pm Choir	14 10:00am Prayer Shawl 4:15-6:30 KFC	15 9:25am Chapel	16 <i>No Worship</i>
17 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	18 Backflow Testing	19 10:00am Bible Class 6:30pm Governing Board 7:30pm Darts @ FOF	20 <b>"Crosslink Deadline"</b> 7pm Choir	21 OWLS @ FMSC 4:15-6:30 KFC 6:45pm Trustees	22 9:25am Chapel	23 2-4pm American Heritage Girls & Trail Life <b>5:30PM Worship</b>
24 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School and Bible Study 10:45am Worship	25 Alarm Testing	26 10am Bible Class 6:30pm Gov. Board  Alarm Testing	27 <b>6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship &amp; Fellowship</b> with PIE following worship.	28 Thanksgiving Day  Office Closed	29  Office Closed	30 Church Decorating 9-11 <b>5:30pm Worship</b> "Hanging of the Greens"

