



CROSSLink

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www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

December 2021

From Pastor's Desk

Grace and peace from God our Savior! This is the message we live and proclaim as God's people of faith here at Holy Cross Lutheran! Whether you are a member, friend or in some other way a beneficiary of the work and ministry we are connected with here at Holy Cross..... We welcome you, invite and encourage you to leave the confines of your home, avoid the distractions and pitfalls of the world and sit with us at the feet of Jesus, each and every week!

Let us join together in worship, ministry, fellowship, and encouragement this Advent and Christmas Season! Please make use of the many special worship and fellowship opportunities available for us at Holy Cross this season.

Please ponder and take to heart the following excerpts of the Scriptural eye-witness accounts of the birth of our Savior, Christ, our King...

[Luke 2:1-20] ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "**Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.** ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (peace, good will among men)

*¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, **the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."** ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ **And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.** ¹⁸ **And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.** ¹⁹ But **Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.** ²⁰ **And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.** [Luke 2:1-20]*

*[Matthew 2:1-12] **Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."** ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:*

⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. **And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.** ¹⁰ **When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.** ¹¹ **And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.** Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.....
[Matthew 2;1-12]

good news of great joy that will be for all the peoplethey fell down and worshiped him.

Let us also celebrate the good news of great joy that is indeed for all people.... Don't allow yourselves and others dear to you to miss out on what God offers to all, in Christ.

Please, I implore you, don't be a stranger at Holy Cross. Too many people have been living in spiritual isolation for far too long – and it is inviting spiritual calamity to God's people of faith.

Let us remember that what we live, proclaim and share is the Good News of Jesus and the salvation He brings and offers to all.... Let us encourage one another in our Christian walk with our presence, kindness and care!

I invite you to 'come and see' and join with one another in worshipping Christ, our Savior and King, this Advent and Christmas season, and every other season of life. “Oh come, let us adore Him!!!”

Your friend and Pastor In Christ,
Rev. Glenn Meyer, Intentional Interim Pastor

PS: With you I eagerly await news of whether Pastor Jonathan Vierkant will accept the call we have extended to him to be our next resident pastor here at Holy Cross. We want him to accept, this is our prayer, but we know our prayer must always include, “Lord God, Your will be done!”

Please keep Pastor Vierkant and his current congregation of St. Andrew's in your prayers, even as we continue to pray for one another here at Holy Cross. While we wait, we have work to do..... let us join together in doing that work that God has set before us. Let us encourage one another with our presence, and assist one another in knowing joy in doing our tasks in praise and glory to God!

Let us also: **(make) known the saying that had been told (us) concerning this child. (Let us also return)..... glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them (and that has also been shared with us through God's Word!). Let us also Come and worship Him!**

See you in church..... If for any reason, you are unable to come to worship at church, please let us know and I and the elders will be happy to bring church and the Lord's Supper to your home.

May God keep us all in His grace, and may we continue to encourage and lift up one another in God's love and grace, until that day we shall see Him face to face!

Advent Worship Opportunities

The Postures of Advent: #1 On Your Toes; #2 On Your Knees; #3 With Eyes Wide Open. Advent worship begins Wednesday, December 1 at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Advent services will continue on Wednesdays, December 8 and December 15. Our Head Elder, Pat Donahue and Pastor Meyer will be leading these services. We will be including some elements of our Taize services for a 40 minute time of reflection, encouragement and preparation for the coming of the Christ and the true celebration of Christmas.

Holiday Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve	4:00PM in the LOFT
Christmas Eve	6:00PM in the sanctuary
Christmas Day	10:00AM in the sanctuary
December 26	9:30AM in the sanctuary – only one service

Annual Voters' Meeting Update

Wow! What a great Annual meeting we had on Sunday, November 14. First and foremost the Call Committee did an excellent job of presenting the final list of Pastoral candidates for discussion and consideration. We had a joyful and exciting result to issue a Call to who we hope is the next Pastor of Holy Cross! See additional details in a separate write-up from the Call Committee on this topic. In addition, our annual Governing Board Elections were held and we are pleased to announce that Dori Chianakas and Phil Stanko were elected to a 3-year term beginning January 2022. Congratulations to both! And finally, a motion was passed to approve the 2022 "balanced/break-even" budget as presented by Treasurer, Steve Shaykin.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! We can always be confident that no matter what is going on that God is good all the time, He is always in control, and He has a plan for our lives and Holy Cross! Scripture is crystal clear on this in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." May your hearts continue to be filled with Joy and Peace as we move forward in faith together! In Christ, Holy Cross Governing Board

Pastor Call

At the November 14 Voters' Meeting the congregation voted unanimously to send a pastoral call to Rev. Jonathan Vierkant, from St. Andrews Lutheran Church in West Bend, Wisconsin to be our next resident Pastor. Official Call documents went out to Pastor Vierkant this past week. Please keep Pastor Vierkant and his family in your prayers as he considers the Call to Holy Cross as well as his present call to St. Andrews. Pray also for our congregation here at Holy Cross as we wait for his decision.

Fish Club - Mid-Year Update!

Hello! Sunday School is well underway, and we are still hoping we can add some new faces!

FISH Club has officially moved to the new time at 11:10AM-noon during the 10:45 worship service in the LOFT. The kids start in worship with their parents, sing with the congregation, listen to the Kids Sermon and then head to the Lower LOFT for FISH Club. It's been working really well. We are still looking for an extra volunteer or two. If you are interested or have questions about Sunday School, please contact Tania German, 847-400-6213 or ttgerman@gmail.com.

Here's the schedule through the New Year:

Sunday, December 5 - Regular FISH Club

Sunday, December 12 - Regular FISH Club, Bait Shop is OPEN!

Sunday, December 19 - Happy Birthday Jesus Party! Join us, and bring a friend!

- Please bring a "gift" for Jesus (a donation to the **Home of the Sparrow**). For their most recent Wish List, visit <https://www.hosparrow.org/how-to-help/shelter-wish-list/>.

December 26 and January 2 - No FISH Club, Christmas and New Year

January 9 - Regular FISH Club resumes

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The food drive **will continue through December 12. You can still drop off at the church shopping cart outside the front doors of the church on Saturdays from about 8:00AM until church starts that evening through December 11.** The 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.

Christmas Angel Tree

The Angel Trees are up! Instead of taking a tag from the tree, please purchase a toy or book for a child and return it to the tree in either the narthex or the LOFT lobby. There will also be a grocery cart outside the front doors of the church on Saturdays, December 4 and 11.

Your gifts must be **NEW** and **UNWRAPPED**. The recommended cost of a gift is between \$10-20. Please return all gifts by Monday, December 13. Thank you for helping us make Christmas special for underprivileged kids in McHenry County.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS will meet on Thursday, December 2 at noon in the lower LOFT. Gary Rintz will host and bring dessert, beverages and a devotion to start our time together. Bring your own lunch. After lunch we will be packing Friendship Bags for Holy Cross shut-ins and other friends. A sign-up sheet is posted on the OWLS bulletin board in the church lobby with what is needed for the bags so you can see what you would like to bring. Please join us.

On December 16 we will have a Christmas party at the home of Suzie and Larry Kujovich. The party starts at noon. More details will be posted on the OWLS bulletin board.

January 2022 Human Care Ministry Blood Drive Notice

Early notice to save the date of **January 10, 2022** to donate blood at Holy Cross. Versiti Blood Centers are again short of blood donors to help the people of our community who need blood transfusions. 600 Blood Products are needed each day to cover patient needs!! Due to COVID 19 Pandemic the VERSITI team members follow CDC and FDA guidelines to make donating safe!! Let's start the New Year off with giving A GIFT to someone you'll never know. You can be a BEACON OF HOPE with your gift of donating blood. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO ALL OUR VERY DEDICATED DONORS!!!

Date Change for Mission Trip Information Meeting

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 the week of June 11-18 to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. If you would like to learn more, there will be an informational meeting on **Sunday, January 9 at 12:00 noon in 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.

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 Advent worship [---Pastor in Nebraska*]	2 Noon OWLS -----	3 -----]	4 5:30P Worship
5 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	6 6:30P Elders	7 10:00A Adult Bible Study	8 6:30 Advent worship	9 10:00A Prayer Shawl	10	11 10:00-11:30A Confirmation class 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
12 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	13	14 10:00A Adult Bible Study [- - - - - Pastor	15 6:30 Advent worship In Nebraska* - - - - -	16 OWLS to Kujovichs -----]	17	18 5:30P Worship
19 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	20	21 10:00A Adult Bible Study	22	23	24 4:00P Christmas Eve Worship (LOFT) 6:00P Christmas Eve Worship (sanctuary)	25 10:00A Christmas Day Worship
26 9:30A Worship (sanctuary) No FISH Club	27 [- - - - -	28 Pastor in Nebraska* - - - - -	29 -----	30 -----	31 -----]	