



CROSSLink

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www.HolyCrossCary.org

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

January 2022

From Pastor's Desk

***Now greet the swiftly changing year With joy and penitence sincere.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace Another year of grace.***

***With Him as Lord to lead our way In want and in prosperity,
What need we fear in earth or space In this new year of grace! LSB #896 st.1, 5***

Anno Domini, the year of our Lord, 2022 AD. It's hard to believe that 2022 is just around the corner. I remember when 1981 (the year I graduated from the seminary and received my first pastoral call) seemed to be so very far in the future. Now, 1981 is so very distant in the past! Ancient history even.... How the years have flown by!

A lot has happened over the intervening years, in my life and in the life of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. A lot has happened in the past two years, and now we look at the beginning of 2022.

For myself, it has been an eventful and different past year in many ways. Almost two years ago, because of Covid-19, ministry planning was put on hold by many vacant congregations. Because of that, there were no churches available for me to serve in the Nebraska District as an Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP). (I had served four in a row in NE from July, 2015–August, 2020.) Sue and I pondered if I should retire, but we felt that God still had much for me to do as an IIP. My NE District President (DP) shared my name with other DP's of our LCMS, and the next morning I heard from your DP, Dr. Allan Buss. In late October of 2020, I started work as your Interim Pastor.

We have faced many challenges, prayed many prayers, been fed and nurtured together in God's Word and Sacraments, have said many 'Auf Wiedersehens' and have continually contemplated God's will and purpose for us in this time and place. I have enjoyed the cottage group meetings, the conversations, the visits, the counseling and prayers. There are so many great people active here at Holy Cross, and so many great people who are on the fringes here at Holy Cross, watching, waiting and contemplating....

Many have told me, "I'm sitting back and watching to see what happens..." I understand that feeling, but again I tell you, "What happens when you sit back and wait???? – nothing, at least nothing good!" I again encourage all to prayerfully consider what God has gifted and is calling you to do. In a summary of a devotion I recently read, I share with you: "Be praying; be giving; and be attending!" Step up and help make things happen that you would like to see happen..... AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS, as we trust in the Lord and act on that trust!!!! Whatever you do, do with joy and thanksgiving to God!

We have talked a lot about how we are to love and forgive one another, build up one another, encourage one another, and care for one another. We show this in how we listen to each other and how we in love confront one another when we step out of line in something we do or say..... I know, some have had the habit of not saying or doing anything, because they didn't want to hurt someone's feelings..... But I have observed that this only allows frustrations and hurts to build up, and hurtful behavior to continue. Instead, always be loving, always be caring, but always be willing to say or do what needs to be said or done. And trust one another that what is being done or said is being done in love and compassion for the Lord, for each other and for our Lord and the ministry that He has given us to do together!

I have been with you here at Holy Cross for this entire calendar year of 2021, I have been able to support my family with an entire year's salary, it's not often I can say that – it's the nature of my calling, to have 'gaps in

pay' between churches. I thank you for the love and support shown by so many to me and also, my wife Sue, and your care and compassion has been noticed and greatly appreciated by us both.

In every good development and blessing, to God be the glory! Amid every trial, trouble and challenge, God has been and will continue to be with us to sustain us in His power and grace! What a joy to see and know that God continues to do great things among, within, and through His people of faith who gather around and share His Word and Sacraments.

My intent has always been that I would see you through the Interim Process, the calling process, AND be with you until we know the identity of our next resident pastor who has accepted our call. We don't yet know the identity of our next pastor, but we keep praying about this (and for him and his family), that God's will be done and that it would be done in HIS time! We plan to extend a second call, Sunday, January 9 at 9:45 AM in the church sanctuary.

My permanent call to this temporary situation of being your pastor as we go through this transition process was for 12 (up to 18) months. In October, we affirmed the 18 months extension. If we don't have our next pastor before then, my plan has always been to then be with you through the entire 18 months, which would take me through April of 2022. My last Sunday with you would then be May 1, 2022.

As I shared with the congregation this last weekend, I have received a call to serve at a different church as an IIP. Of course, I also still have the call that I presently serve with you!

I now share what I shared last Sunday (December 18 & 19):

*(words read from the bulletin) **Pastor Meyer has received a call to serve as the Intentional Interim Pastor (IIP) at Eternal Savior Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Colorado. (located between Denver and Boulder) Their current pastor of 26 years is retiring at the end of this month. Pastor Meyer appreciates your prayers and comments as he prayerfully considers God's will for him at this time.***

*(words I then added) **My intent has always been that I would serve as your IIP until we knew who our next Resident Pastor would be – or through April with my last Sunday being no later than May 1, 2022. With this extended call from Colorado, I am being asked to reconsider God's will for me and my plans at this time.***

Please know that in the future, in the shortage of pastors that we presently have in synod, you will have a good pastor who will receive calls to serve elsewhere. We do ask that pastors prayerfully consider the calls extended to them AND it is very important that you, the members of Holy Cross, let your pastor know your thoughts about their calls and what you feel about their work among and with you and why you think they should stay here.

But please know and remember this!!!!, and this is very important: "Until a pastor tells you that he has accepted a call to go and serve elsewhere in God's kingdom, NOTHING HAS CHANGED! he work and ministry that you share together as pastor and congregation continues!!!"

I hope the above is helpful. Again, please know that as far as I am concerned, you are 'stuck' with me until we know who are next pastor is, or until May 1. However, I don't get to control all the details of my calendar and as we all are reminded for this time of year, and always, from Psalm 31:14-15, **"I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hands...."**

What a privilege and honor it is to be your pastor during this time of transition. By God's grace a lot of good things have happened and are continuing to happen. To God be the glory! But as we see the hurts and fears of many around us, as we hear of all the growing loneliness and depression in our neighborhoods and cities, we know there is much more to still do. There are literally so many ministry opportunities being laid at our doorstep, opportunities that Holy Cross is in the PERFECT location to address. So, we strive to move forward, building upon the blessings of the past and thankful for the privilege of continued and growing service to the glory of God and for the good of our neighbors.

Many good ideas are being shared, considered and may yet be acted upon. May we, in all things, continue to ask, "Lord, what would YOU have us do?" And trusting the Lord and His Word, let us continue to move forward in caring ministry and follow where He leads us.

Yes, how quickly the years go by. How quickly things change. How different things look,yet, at the same time, how remarkably, things stay the same. Though our world is changing rapidly, God's love and grace is still constant and dependable for us with all His people of faith. And His love, forgiveness and eternal promises, centered in Jesus, continue to offer and supply what is the most urgent need of all humankind.

Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace..... IN JESUS!

Rejoicing with you in Christ,
Pastor Meyer

THANK YOU

A most sincere thank-you is extended to all who have remembered us with your prayers, cards, gifts, and many other personal kindnesses during the Christmas season and throughout the past fourteen months as I have been serving as your Intentional Interim Pastor.

My wife, Sue, continues to teach preschool and be present for her 98 year-old mother in the Omaha area. Though my wife Sue is not often able to be with me here, she loves the stories and experiences I am able to pass on and share with her. And yes, I 'sometimes' share the edible gifts with her.

I urge you to look ahead with excitement, trusting in the Lord and His plans for all of you! I see people, gifts, experiences and people of vision that God is bringing together in some remarkable ways that is truly unique to Holy Cross.

Yes, we still have much to learn and that will always be true. But remember your love for Jesus and your love for one another. Speak well of one another and put the best construction on everything!

I am excited about what God may indeed have in mind for Holy Cross as we move forward together in God's grace, with love and care for one another AND love and compassion for all around us in our communities. I already see much to interest and excite a pastor and his family to come and join you in the work and ministry that God has in mind for you all going forward. Again, I encourage all to 'step forward' and be engaged and involved in keeping with what you know God is asking you to do, and together let's SEE AND EXPERIENCE what God has in mind for Holy Cross in this coming year, and the years to come!

May God keep and guide us all in His love and grace as we, together, enter "another year of grace".

Pastor Glenn Meyer (& Sue)

January 2 Worship

There will be one service on Sunday, January 2 at 9:30 AM in the sanctuary - "A Service for the New Year". There will be no worship service on Saturday, January 1.

Pastor Call Update

By now most of you have heard that Pastor Vierkant has declined our call to Holy Cross. The Call Committee has already met to plan our next steps. Since we had two other Pastors that we felt would be great for Holy Cross, we are moving forward with them. **A special voters' meeting has been set for Sunday, January 9 at 9:45 AM in the sanctuary.** At that time we plan to decide which of these Pastors we will send a call to. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact any member of the committee.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed from Christmas Day until Monday, January 4. Please contact Pat Donahue if you have a church need. Pastor Schalk will be available for pastoral emergencies.

2022 Giving Envelopes

2022 giving envelopes are now available for pickup in the narthex and LOFT lobby. If you would like envelopes but don't see a box with your name on it, please contact the church office.

Altar Flowers

The 2022 sanctuary altar flower signup sheets are in the binder on the shelf in the narthex. The price is \$25 per vase.

OWLS Happenings

OWLS had a wonderful celebration of Christmas with a party at the home of Larry and Suzie Kujovich. So much good food, so much laughter, so many beautiful and ugly sweaters! Thank you, Larry and Suzie.

Mel Molzer spearheaded the purchase and installation of the Nativity scene on our front lawn. When the wind picked up, he carefully moved the figures to his garage for safe-keeping and then did it all over again. The display was for all our passing neighbors to know we are a church filled with believers, not in Santa, but in the Babe of Bethlehem, our one and only Savior.

On January 6, which is Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas, OWLS will meet at noon in the lower LOFT. Please, bring your lunch and your favorite Bible verse to start the New Year. If you still have sweets and treats around your house (fruitcake supposedly never spoils!) bring them and we will help you with post-Christmas clean up. After lunch, we will hold our annual planning meeting and map out activities for 2022, our 12th year as an organization. Be sure to be there to help with planning.

The second meeting of January will be on the 20th. Watch the weekend bulletins for more information.

Chrismons

CHRISMONS that adorn our Christmas trees will be put away soon. However, some need repair or replacement. There are plans in the works to include everyone in making new Chrismons for church and your home starting now in January with an 'ornament of the month' gathering to enjoy fellowship, learn about the symbolism of the Chrismons and prepare for next year's 'hanging of the greens.'

January 2022 Blood Drive

Our Human Care Ministry is sponsoring a blood drive for the Versiti Blood Centers on January 10 from 3:30-7:30 PM here at Holy Cross. There is a critical shortage of blood during the winter months and flu season, therefore the donations are down by 50 percent. The Blood Center is short of the 600 donations needed every week to cover the 70+ area hospitals. Please consider donating and inviting a family member or friend to join you. By donating just one pint of blood you will help as many as three patients. Start the 2022 New Year by giving A FREE GIFT of blood so that another may live and regain their health. Let's GIVE FROM THE HEART!!! You may call Barb Molzer at with any questions. Watch the News & Notes for more information. Donors can schedule a donation time on line at www.Versiti.org. To honor and respect all donors who schedule a donation time, they will be taken ahead of walk-in donors. We have ALWAYS VALUED our LOYAL Walk-in Donors and hope you will continue to donate with a convenient scheduled time. All donor support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at the Drive on January 10 between 3:30 and 7:30 PM. All donors will be screened prior to donating. It is mandatory that all team members and donors wear masks. Remember, blood can't be manufactured so we all must continue to be regular blood donors. Please encourage someone to be a NEW DONOR with you. Mark your calendar to be A BEACON OF HOPE on

January 10! 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, another Chance!!!

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.

January 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 No worship service
2 9:30A Worship (sanctuary)	3 7:00P Call Committee	4 10:00A Adult Bible Study	5 6:30P Elders	6 OWLS	7	8 5:30P Worship 7:00P Taizé Service
9 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Voters' Meeting 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club Noon Mission Trip Info Meeting	10	11 10:00A Adult Bible Study [- - - - - Pastor	12 7:00P Choir In Nebraska - - - - -	13 10:00A Prayer Shawl - - - - -]	14	15 5:30P Worship
16 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	17 Governing Board 6:30P	18 10:00A Adult Bible Study Dartball away game	19 7:00P Choir	20 OWLS	21	22 5:30P Worship
23 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	24	25 [- - - - - Pastor	2 7:00P Choir In Nebraska - - - - -	27 10:00A Prayer Shawl - - - - -]	29	29 5:30P Worship
30 8:30A Worship (sanctuary) 9:45A Adult Bible Class 10:45A Worship (LOFT) 11:10A FISH Club	31					